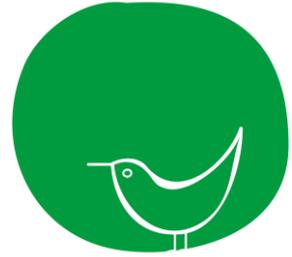


# Southern Portugal

**10-17 May 2014**  
**Laid-back birding**



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Participants: Elaine and Simon Brown, Steve Butler (Sagres),  
Willem Scheres (Lagoa dos Salgados, Ria de Alvor)

Leader: Guillaume Réthoré

## Sunday, 10 May – Arrival and Ludo

For this last “Laid-back” birdwatching week of the spring, I left Cruzinha with nice weather to pick-up Elaine and Simon at Faro airport.

We then drove to Ludo, a complex of salt pans and lagoons behind the airport. We first crossed a pinewood area where we saw the first species of the week: a Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*) perched on a tree by the road. We stopped in front of the first saltpan where a few birds were present but a bit distant: Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Black-winged Stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*) and a Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). The second tank had more birds so we stopped again and had a look at them. Shelducks (*Tadorna tadorna*),



Avocets (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) and Black-winged Stilts were using the deepest part of the lagoon and some of them were nesting. In the shallowest part, many different waders were feeding together. The variety of size and colours helped the identification. The biggest ones were Greenshanks (*Tringa nebularia*) and Redshanks (*Tringa totanus*). Among the smaller waders, the long-billed with an orange belly were Curlew Sandpipers (*Calidris ferruginea*), the ones with a black belly were Dunlins (*Calidris alpina*) and the lightest ones were Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*). Close to us, Simon found a family of Kentish Plovers (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) and some Black-tailed Godwits (*Limosa limosa*). A Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) and a Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) were also flying in the distance, disturbed by a walker. On the other side of the road, White Storks (*Ciconia ciconia*) were soaring and a Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*) flew near us. As we were leaving, a Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) was singing and flying by the car.

The next stop was by a lagoon, usually abundant in ducks, but this time it was quite empty. The only birds present were Little (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) and Great Crested Grebes (*Podiceps cristatus*), Mallards, Pochards (*Aythya ferina*) and Coots (*Fulica atra*). More Storks were on their nests with young in the trees bordering the lagoon. Looking at these birds, we spotted a Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) but it was a quick sighting. Fortunately, it reappeared and started soaring around the trees. Many Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) and House Martins (*Delichon urbicum*) were feeding over the lagoon. A Raven (*Corvus corax*) also appeared and we heard a Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*) singing in the reedbed. On the way to the next stop, we drove in the middle of more salt pans but few birds were in sight.

We parked in the shade of big eucalyptus by a golf course where we had picnic. We had some close views of Azure-winged Magpies (*Cyanopica cyanus*) during our lunch and also saw House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) on the green. As we were leaving, we heard and saw 2 Crested Tits (*Parus cristatus*) in the nearby

pinus. We walked along the green where we saw more Azure-winged Magpies and House Sparrows.

The lagoon next to the golf course is usually a very good spot and has a good bird hide. We went to the first floor where the view is better. Mallards, Pochards and Gadwalls (*Anas strepera*) were sharing the lagoon with Coots and Moorhens (*Gallinula chloropus*). A Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) was pretty far, located along a reedbed but another one showed closer, giving us nice views. Simon spotted a female Black-headed Weaver (*Ploceus melanocephalus*), an exotic species breeding in the area. A female Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*) swam in direction



of the hide so we had a close look at it. A Great Crested Grebe appeared and a pair of Ferruginous Ducks (*Aythya nyroca*), near some Spanish Pond Turtles (*Mauremys leprosa*) sunbathing. Simon also found a male Red-crested Pochard and we saw both sexes together. A Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) flew in front of the hide, landed in the vegetation and disappeared. A few minutes later, it flew again in front of the hide and landed in another patch of vegetation where it was visible for a little while before disappearing again in the vegetation. We

had a closer look at a male Black-headed Weaver and found an Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*) in the back of the lagoon. A Little Tern started fishing in front of the hide but no new species appeared so we moved to the next hide.

On the way, Simon found a pair of Shovelers (*Anas clypeata*) and we had a glimpse of a Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*). On the green, a Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) was feeding. Not many birds were visible from the other hide: a few Dunlins, a Little Egret, a Sanderling, 2 Grey Plovers (*Pluvialis squatarola*), a Ringed (*Charadrius hiaticula*) and a Kentish Plover (these 2 species seen together). Since there were few birds around, we decided to walk back to the car.

A Purple Swamphen was walking on the green and many gulls were flying around the lagoon. We passed near Roman ruins and had a look at a big lagoon nearby. A group of Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*) were resting on an island. Further, we heard a Hoopoe and looked for it. We finally found it standing on a roof, singing with an insect in its beak! Back at the car, we left the area, driving through the salt pans area and the pinewood where Simon found a Bee-eater as we left. When we arrived at the main road, we noticed we had a problem with the car. This meant we had to call the tow-truck and wait for a taxi. So we used this time for more birdwatching and saw another Hoopoe.

We came back to Cruzinha (A Rocha Portugal field study centre) in taxi. There, Simon and Elaine could meet the rest of the team: Paula, Marcial, Jens, Amy and Henrienne.

## Monday, 11 May – Sagres

After a good night's sleep, the birdwatching group headed to the end of the world! Cape St. Vincent in Sagres is the most south-western point of Europe; ancient people believed the world ended here. We left at 8:30 am as another birdwatcher, Steve Butler, came with us on that day.

We saw a Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) perched on a wire as we left Cruzinha. Before crossing Odiaxere, we looked at the many Stork nests by the road and we saw Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) before reaching Sagres.

Our first stop was in Sagres, at Ponta da Atalaia. House Sparrows were around when we arrived and we started walking towards the trig point. Steve found a Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) which was moulting (many feather missing on the wing). We walked on the new boardwalk and looked at the swifts: Pallid (*Apus pallidus*) and Common Swifts (*Apus apus*). We also found a Thekla Lark (*Galerida theklae*) but it was a bit distant as well as a Kestrel perched on a bush. An Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*) also flew above us, showing its white belly.



When we arrived near the landmark, we had a glimpse of a Sardinian Warbler in the bushes. From there, we could see Sagres fortress where Henry the Navigator had his navigation school. We looked at the sea where some Gannets (*Morus bassanus*) were passing. Many swifts were flying around us, some of them quite low. We looked at the Martinhal islands where some White Storks had built their nest, which is quite unique in Europe. As not many more birds were showing-up, we started walking back to the car. Steve found a Sardinian Warbler and we realized it was actually a family, with one of the parents carrying food. At the same time, Simon spotted a Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) which was seen well. Half-way to the car, we saw a Spotless Starling (*Sturnus unicolor*) and had another look at the Thekla Lark. From this spot, we also saw 2 Red-billed Choughs (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*). The last bird seen from this place was a Zitting Cisticola, flying above us when we left.

Then, we headed to Cabranosa, one of the best spots to watch raptor migration in autumn. We saw 2 Kestrels and a Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*) on the way. We took a dirt track and from the car we saw Stonechats (*Saxicola rubicola*), Goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*) and Corn Buntings (*Emberiza calandra*) on the path. These were the only birds we saw until we stopped for a coffee break. We enjoyed a drink and cookies whilst watching a female Spectacled Warbler (*Sylvia conspicillata*) carrying nest materials, allowing us some nice close up views. Choughs flew above us at the same time. We chose the sheltered side of the path to go to the migration spot. A few metres ahead, we spotted a family of Stonechats. We then reached the pinewood and saw a Bee-eater. A Thekla Lark was spotted in a more

open area. On the way to the migration spot, Steve spotted a Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*). From the migration spot, few birds were visible but we could see the place visited in the morning and the ones we planned to visit in the afternoon. We went around the sheep enclosure and walked behind what was left of the pinewood. It was windy so few birds were in sight, however we still heard a Blackbird (*Turdus merula*), a Stonechat and a Sardinian Warbler. We took a path between pines where only Azure-winged Magpies were seen. When we reached another open area, we had good views of Bee-eaters. A Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) was singing and Steve found a Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*), seen very well. We walked by a Bee-eater nest dug in the ground and went back to the car. On the way, Steve found a Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*) and a White Stork flew above us.

We then went to the picnic spot where it was still a bit windy. During lunchtime, a Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*) showed-up near us, allowing us to see this uncommon spring migrant very well.

We headed to the cape after lunch. We tried seawatching again but only a few Gannets were passing. However, we had a close view of an Audouin's Gull which flew close to the coast. From the other side of the cliff, we saw more Gannets and a Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) quite close. In the distance, we could see another White Stork in its nest on an island. We left the cape and stopped at Beliche fort to look for more birds. From the car park, we searched for the Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*), but without success and only saw a Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*). We then walked to the other side of the fort. A Spotless Starling



passing in flight created a false alert but then a male Blue Rock Thrush appeared and landed on a big rock where it started singing. It kept moving back and forth on the 2 sides of the rock during several minutes so it was not visible the whole time. We left when it seemed it had flown away. Back at the car park, we had a last look around when the Blue Rock Thrush flew in front of us, singing. It landed on the same rock as before where we had more good views. Before leaving, we also saw a Raven and a Chough. We had a drink/ice cream in a local café before continuing.

We went back to Cruzinha via Vale Santo. The first stop was in front of a field where male Little Bustards (*Tetrax tetrax*) usually display. We quickly found one, seen pretty well. Several White Storks were feeding in the same field. From this spot, we also saw Corn Buntings and Choughs. A Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) was singing above us and we even managed to see it! Further along, we had to stop on the road to let a car pass. We used this stop to look around. A mixed flock of Choughs, Spotless Starlings and Jackdaws was feeding in a field. We did another stop near old farm buildings. The place was very windy and few birds were present so we resumed

our journey. However, we had to stop not long after. While we were looking at a Thekla Lark and a Corn Bunting, Steve found 2 birds of prey. One was dark and the other one lighter: 2 Booted Eagles (*Aquila pennata*), and one of each morph! We had good views of them even if they were going away. A few metres down the road, a Bee-eater let us have a good look at it. The rest of the trip towards Vila do Bispo was quiet, with a few stops to look at Corn Buntings, Stonechats, Thekla Larks and Zitting Cisticolas. We stopped near the village to hear a Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) and look at a Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*) perched on a wire.

Since we still had time, we decided to go to Figueira and look for the Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*). We saw a Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*) on the way to the car park. Unfortunately, we did not see the owl despite a thorough research but it was a nice walk to the beach, listening to Cetti's Warbler and Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*)

## **Tuesday, 12 May – Alvor dunes**

On that day, no visit was planned for the morning so everybody had time to relax and rest. We all had lunch at Cruzinha and left afterwards. It was still hot but the wind made it bearable.

At Alvor, we parked near the beach. We explored the dunes using the boardwalk. The first species sighted were House Sparrows and Zitting Cisticolas. We had good views of this last species, perched in a dry plant. We also saw a Crested Lark. This species is very similar to the Thekla Lark seen the day before. However, the Crested Lark has rust-tinged underwing coverts (they are white for the Thekla Lark) and the bill and crest are longer. We walked a bit on the central path from where we saw Bee-eaters and more Crested Larks. Back on the boardwalk, we



had a different view of Ria de Alvor and Quinta da Rocha. Besides a Crested Lark singing from a plant, few birds were in sight. We looked at the birds on the sand bars in the Ria de Alvor estuary. As the tide was low, some people were cockling and therefore few birds present. On one island, there were 6 Audouin's Gulls with a few Yellow-legged Gulls (*Larus michahellis*), a Little Egret and also some waders but they were hard to identify because of the distance and heat haze. On the dunes side, we heard a Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*). We saw one bird in flight, then 2 more appeared but they were always landing out of sight until one landed in front of us where we saw it well but not for very long. We walked more and had another look at the estuary. This time we managed to identify the waders. It was an interesting flock, with some diversity. Five species were present: Sanderlings, Dunlins, a Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*), a Curlew Sandpiper and Ringed Plovers with 8 Little Terns. A

flock of Oystercatchers (*Haematopus ostralegus*) landed out of sight and a Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) joined the other waders whilst we were chatting with another birdwatcher. In addition, more Crested Larks preening and another Zitting Cisticola singing from a bush were seen before we reached the beach.



We came back by the seaside where we had close views of Little Terns. A few Yellow-legged Gulls were passing at sea. Simon found a small group of Sanderlings, almost all in breeding plumage but they flew away as someone was walking by. Further ahead, we had another look at the sea and saw 2 Whimbrels. We then went back to the boardwalk and walked along the river.

We had another look at the mudflats and Simon found 2 Grey Plovers, one of them almost in breeding plumage, and a male Kentish Plover quite

close to us. We resumed our walk which was quiet and on the way to the harbour, we only saw Crested Larks, Zitting Cisticolas and an unidentified Wagtail. There, we looked at a small lagoon with islands. A Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) was preening and Bee-eaters flying around. These birds landed nearby and we had great views. Barn Swallows were flying around us and House Martins were collecting mud. We came back to the main boardwalk and had a well deserved ice-cream in a café by the sea, looking at House Sparrows.

We then came back to Cruzinha, seeing 2 Hoopoes and a Little Owl from the track.

### **Wednesday, 13 April – Monchique hills**

After spending a couple of days on the coast, Monchique offered a totally different landscape and habitat. We had a look at the Red-necked Nightjar (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*) sleeping in Cruzinha garden, and left afterwards with nice weather.

On the way we saw many Storks, some of them on their nests, and heard Chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*) singing. The temperatures were cooler at Foia, the highest point (902 m). A Corn Bunting was singing as we came out of the minibus. We walked a few metres away from the car park to a viewpoint. While enjoying the view on the coast, we saw a Stonechat. We walked a bit along a small road to avoid the crowd and see more birds. We found Tongue Orchids (*Serapia parviflora*) and met a walker who told us he had seen a Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*), so we went to investigate. A few metres further, we indeed heard this warbler and had quick views of it. We saw a Stonechat well and a Rock Bunting (*Emberiza cia*) passed in flight but then it hid. A Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) flew over us, calling and a Blue Rock Thrush showed-up. After walking a bit more down the road, we

managed to find better views of the Melodious Warbler and heard a Wren. Further, 2 Rock Buntings landed close to us while we were listening to a Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*). At another stop, Simon spotted a Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*) but it was a frustrating sighting as this bird was hiding in the vegetation. The last stop was from a point overlooking another part of the valley. Some cows were present, with some of them trying to sneak away from their owners attention. As no new birds were seen, we went back to the



minibus. However, we had to stop to let the cows pass us. We used this time to look around and found a Dartford Warbler, as shy as usual and a Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*). No more birds were spotted until we reached the top. There, Simon found several birds of prey flying. One of them was an unidentified falcon which disappeared quickly. A Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*) was also soaring with a Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) and showing well. Then, 2 Short-toed Eagles were hunting, hovering not too far away; a good way to finish the walk. Back at the car park, I had a look at a pond, but it had already dried out. A male Blue Rock Thrush was on a rock nearby and it flew close to us. As we left, we also saw a female Blue Rock Thrush.

We then drove to Caldas de Monchique, a small thermal village seeing a Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) on the way. We had lunch there in the shade of big trees, listening to running water. We saw some birds during lunchtime: Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) and Wren and heard a Blackcap singing. After lunch, I went back to the minibus to bring the cooler but forgot the water, so Simon had to go as well! Before going, we had a look at dragonflies' exuvia. Simon saw a Spotless Starling going into a hole, probably its nest. We waited but the bird never showed again. We walked a bit around the town. We heard a Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*) but did not manage to see it as the foliage was abundant. We passed by a Cork Oak (*Quercus suber*) which bark had been removed not long ago. That is where we heard an Iberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus ibericus*). A Blackcap was also singing close by and we tried to see it, but with no luck.

We stopped by a chapel, in the shade. A Wren was calling and then, more birds started appearing; a Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*) showed up in a tree, we had a good view of a Nightingale and a male Blackcap started singing in front of us. An adult Wren was feeding one young in a bush and a Chaffinch showed up while Blackbirds and a Serin (*Serinus serinus*) were singing. We saw another Grey Wagtail when we left and walked back to the centre of Caldas de Monchique where we had a well-deserved drink at a café whilst watching a Blue Tit.

Leaving the town was difficult as a truck was in the middle of the road. After waiting a bit, we tried and managed to pass it but there were more road works further

ahead which was more complicated. We finally managed and drove back to Cruzinha. On the way, we also had a quick view of a Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*).

### **Thursday, 14 May – Open Day at Cruzinha and Lagoa dos Salgados**

As Thursday is Cruzinha's open day, everybody could enjoy the activities occurring at the centre: moth identification and a bird ringing demonstration. A lot of birds were caught during the morning (at least for that time of the year), including a Zitting Cisticola. We do not catch this bird very often and Elaine could have the best view of this bird. Another uncommon species was caught: a Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*), as they usually pass through Portugal in autumn. However, the wind had been blowing from East during the last few days and this could have explained the presence of this bird, maybe announcing more uncommon species... Simon and Elaine went for a walk when the ringing was quieter and when they came back, they told me they had seen a Roller (*Coracias garrulus*), a rare species in the Algarve! They showed it to Willem (one of the most faithful visitors of Cruzinha) who had seen 2 Red-footed Falcons (*Falco vespertinus*), an even rarer species! There was an influx of this species in Portugal these days therefore we had high expectations for the rest of the birdwatching week. The activities stopped at 1:00 pm and we had a delicious lunch at the centre.

After another good meal, we went to one of the richest but still threatened Algarvian wetlands: Lagoa dos Salgados. This place is usually good for waders, ducks and herons. Willem also came with us as it was his birthday. On the way, we looked for the Roller but it was gone. When we crossed the Arade river, we saw the Storks nesting on the pillars of the bridge.

When we arrived, we saw that the lagoon had a nice water level and many birds were present. We parked by the beach and walk to the "bird hide", but we passed too close to a Black-winged Stilt which was unhappy with us. Management works have been done in the lagoon in order to improve habitats for birds, diminish their disturbance and offer better observation conditions. Many Gulls, mostly Yellow-

legged were sitting on the dyke in front of the hide. A few Lesser Black-backed (*Larus fuscus*) and Audouin's Gulls were among them. Simon found a Common Sandpiper near the gulls. A few ducks were swimming in the northern part of the lagoon: Pochards, Mallards, Gadwalls and a male Shoveler with Moorhens, Coots and Little Grebes. The different islands were used by Little Terns, Black-winged Stilts and Avocets. Whilst looking at these birds, we found a Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oedichnemus*)



and a Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*) but this bird was far away and it was not a great sighting. Gadwalls and Shovelers flew over us and near an island, a Spoonbill was feeding. Willem spotted a Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) in flight. This bird passed near us, landed in the vegetation where it disappeared and took off again shortly after. At the same time, we heard a Magpie (*Pica pica*) and found it perched on a Fig tree. A 2<sup>nd</sup> Squacco Heron flew by us, allowing us to have more good views. We then decided to walk to the boardwalk to have a different view on the lagoon seeing Crested Larks and Zitting Cisticolas on the way.

We looked again at the islands but did not find any new species, only a group of Spoonbills sleeping. We heard 2 Reed Warblers (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) as we walked by the reedbed and saw a Purple Swamphen swimming along an island where it went to feed. No birds were present at the end of the lagoon, so we walked back to the car and saw a family of Mallards on the way. Near the car park, we stopped to look at a close Black-winged Stilt and Gadwalls, hearing a Short-toed Lark at the same time. We also found a second family of Mallards.

As we still had time, we decided to go back to the hide and it was a good idea since we had great views of a now rare bird: a Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*). Most of the gulls took off and after scanning the flock, we realized a female Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) was at the origin of this panic. Willem found 2 Grey Herons, a Little Tern was fishing in front of the hide and 2 Black-winged stilts were close. After a few minutes, as no new species was found, we came back to the car and to Cruzinha.



### **Friday, 15 May – Castro Verde**

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

We left quite early (about 8:00 am) to be in the field early. The trip went smoothly and quietly, with lower temperatures than the previous days.

On the way, we saw White Storks (some on the nests), and the first birds of prey of the day: Black Kite and Booted Eagle. We arrived at Castro Verde by 9:30 am and drove along a small road leading to the LPN (Liga para a Proteção da Natureza) reserve (also called Vale Gonçalves) centre. We stopped at the beginning of this road to look at passerines perched on a fence: Corn Buntings and we also saw Cattle Egrets in flight. We made use of a higher spot on the road to have a look around. Coots and Cattle Egrets were around a pond in a field on the other side of the road. Carrion Crows (*Corvus corone*) were flying and we heard a Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*). Many Cattle Egrets were feeding by sheep in the field near us. A light morph Booted

Eagle was soaring above us, allowing us some great views. After a little while, we left. The wind was quite strong and it was actually chilly! From the minibus, Simon spotted birds of prey in flight: a Black Kite and an unidentified falcon while a Magpie



was calling. From another high spot, we saw a female Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*) but it disappeared just after we arrived. A few minutes later, it showed up again, with a male and another female. Another male joined them and they all went after 2 Black Kites. Once the kites had gone, the harriers started interacting, possibly fighting for a territory. We had great views of these birds quite close. Elaine also found a Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) in a field. However, it was a bit far away and not a great sighting.

We then turned onto a dirt track leading to the LPN reserve after seeing 2 Buzzards, one of them carrying some prey. On the way to the reserve, we saw these 2 birds again standing on different rocks. They joined on the same rock and seemed to share the prey. Further, we flushed a Stone Curlew along the path. When we arrived at the centre, we saw Lesser Kestrels (*Falco naumanni*) flying around the buildings and a Short-toed Eagle hunting. At the centre, we had a quick chat with the LPN worker and gave a donation. We also got information about a place where Red-footed Falcons had been seen earlier during the day. From the centre, Elaine found a Roller perched on a fence.

After a coffee break, we started walking in the property around the centre. Our first stop was in front of a tower where Lesser Kestrels nest. Nest-boxes have been installed for this species but few birds were flying around. However, we had good views of Rollers in flight. We crossed a dried stream and passed the entry gate. Many Cattle Egrets were feeding with cows in a nearby field. We scanned the surroundings but only found White Storks and a Raven. Further on, a big flock of Bee-eaters were flying around a couple of Eucalyptus trees. Two birds were also perched on the fence along the track: a Corn Bunting, a common bird in the area, and a Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*), an uncommon spring migrant. A few birds were using the Olive trees in the nearby field: 2 Hoopoes, Spotless Starlings and a Roller whilst Lesser Kestrels were mobbing a Raven above old farm buildings. When we arrived there, a Buzzard took off and we found 8 Great Bustards, seen in much better condition than earlier. More Lesser Kestrels were flying around us when a different falcon appeared. A look through the telescope confirmed the identification: an adult male Red-footed Falcon! We had great views of this bird hunting and it even flew above us, so we could see the "red feet" contrasting with the rest of the plumage; all dark grey. Since lunchtime was approaching, we came back to the centre and more Lesser Kestrels were flying around the tower when we walked in front of it.

We had quiet lunch at the picnic tables and saw a Roller perched on a Eucalyptus before we left. We then drove towards Entradas on the old road. After the village, we stopped by a lagoon. A family of Stonechats was in the dam. Few species were on the lagoon: Coots, Mallards, Little Grebes, a White Stork, a Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) and 2 Black-winged Stilts. A Montagu's Harrier was flying above the road. We resumed our journey and took the track leading to the place where the Red-footed Falcons had been seen earlier and indicated by the LPN staff. At first, we only saw a Buzzard and a Raven. Then we spotted 5 birds, all Red-footed Falcons: 2 males and a female hunting, one we did not manage to age or sex and a female perched on a fence. This last bird was the one we saw the best. We stayed a little while, enjoying the show and only left when most of the birds seemed to have disappeared. The next stop was by a river. A White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) was collecting food when we arrived and several birds were heard singing in the vegetation along the water: Nightingale, Cetti's and Melodious Warbler. Another family of Stonechats was present whilst many Bee-eaters, Barn and a few Red-rumped Swallows were catching insects in the air. Looking at the sky, Simon found a female Marsh Harrier, pretty high, and then 2 Hobbies (*Falco subbuteo*) and a Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), what good eyes! Before reaching São Marcos da Ataboeira, we saw the first Azure-winged Magpie of the day.

At the village, we had good views of Red-rumped Swallow, and the main characteristics were well visible. We also tried to see Spanish Sparrows (*Passer hispaniolensis*) looking at Stork nests where they breed. We saw easily a few males and big juveniles were present in most of the Stork nests. Whilst looking at these birds, 2 Black Kites flew low near us.

Then, we drove to a vantage point. On the way, we had a quick view of a male Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hispanica*). We stopped to have a better look at it but it was against the light and we got distracted by another species of bird of prey: a Black (or Cinereous) Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*). More Montagu's Harriers (male and female) and a Black Kite were flying not far from us. At Nossa Senhora de Aracelis, we enjoyed the view and a coffee. Few birds were present, only Barn Swallows flying around and White Storks in the distance. However, we heard a Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*) before leaving.



We came down the hill on a different road. Before reaching another village, Corte Pequena, we stopped to look at a Buzzard perched on a fence. At the same time, some falcons caught our attention so we set up the telescope: more Red-footed Falcons! It was another good view of this species, 3 females this time. Before

reaching the village, we saw a Little Owl on its usual pile of rocks. Elaine also found a Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*) along the road.

Back at the main road, we drove towards Alvares. We saw many Southern Grey Shrikes and some Woodchat Shrikes perched on the wires along the road on the way. A Grey Heron flew across the road and 2 birds of prey caught our attention. They were Black Kites and also flew across the road. We also stopped to look at Storks on their nests. Many House and Spanish Sparrows were using it, so we could see the differences between these 2 species; it was quite noisy at that time. We drove a few more kilometres and took a dirt track. There, we stopped by a lagoon. Two Black-winged Kites (another hovering species) were hunting. We had very close views of Collared Pratincoles (much better than the previous day), with 2 Little Ringed Plovers (*Charadrius dubius*), Black-winged Stilts and 2 White Wagtails. We also saw well a male Black-eared Wheatear and found an unidentified eagle very far away. Unfortunately, this bird kept on disappearing and it was time to leave, so we gave up.

We came back to Castro Verde for dinner, seeing a Great Bustard and White Storks on the way. We ate at a local restaurant where we had local produce: black pork and Alentejo's wine. We were back at Cruzinha around 22:30, all very tired after an enjoyable day, so everybody went to bed.

### **Saturday, 16 May – Silves and Ria de Alvor**

As Friday was a long day, we had a later start on Saturday. This was also a more cultural day as we spent the day in Silves.

We left around 10:00 am and it was already quite hot. We drove to the old capital city of the Algarve. We saw again the White Storks nesting on the bridge crossing the Arade river.

At Silves, we walked by the cathedral and reached the castle. A big statue of Don Sancho I stands in front of the entrance door. He conquered Silves to the Moors in 1189. Many Common and Pallid Swifts were flying at the entrance of the castle and looking for holes.

In the castle, we first had a look at an exhibition about the Iberian Lynx in the old cistern and then walked around the walls. From there we still looked for birds and

found White Storks, Serins, Goldfinches and Greenfinches. Elaine also found a few Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) around a plant by the walls.

After this visit, we walked to the archaeological museum. It keeps items from different periods, mostly from Moorish times (the ceramics collection being one of the largest in Portugal). The museum was built along the medina quarter wall and is organized around the Arabic cistern-well. This was part of a construction set built to provide



water to the city and is quite unique as only one similar to this exists in the world (in Egypt).

We came back to the minibus, drove along the river and parked near a shady place where we had a picnic. We ate listening to Blackcaps and whilst watching Storks and a Monarch Butterfly.

After lunch, we had a look at the river. A Reed Warbler and a Blackcap were singing. We had a glimpse at 2 Waxbills (*Estrilda astrild*) and had a good view of 2 Serins. As it was high tide, there were few birds in sight so we left.

We came back to Cruzinha driving along the river, seeing more Storks. Back at the centre, we had a bit of rest before going to the Ria de Alvor marsh since it was quite hot.

Willem came with us for this last birdwatching outing of the week. The first bird spotted after leaving Cruzinha was a Hoopoe in a field. From there, we also saw a Little Owl perched on a wire. Further on, Cattle Egrets were feeding in a field. At the marsh, the first birds seen were Black-winged Stilts, Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) and Mallards. We also had good views of 2 Red-rumped Swallows flying near us. We started walking on the dyke and had a different view on the Flamingos and Black-winged Stilts; we even managed to see chicks, miniature versions of the adults, already with long legs! Simon found a Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) and Willem, a Moorhen. As the tide was low, we had a look on the mudflats and sandbars at the estuary but few birds were present, only a Little Egret and some Little Terns fishing. A bit further along, we found 3 Sandwich Terns (*Sterna sandvicensis*) in flight but they landed on an island out of sight. On a closer island, a Bar-tailed Godwit was feeding and a group of Sanderlings was even closer. Simon found more waders, however, since they were against the light, only their silhouette was visible.



We had another look on the marsh, finding more Black-winged Stilts, Mallards and a Greenshank. Elaine found a Crested Lark and a Kentish Plover flew from the marsh to the mudflats where we saw it well. There, 4 Bar-tailed Godwits landed not too far away and we had better views than on Tuesday. At sea, Willem also found Gannets. We scanned a group of gulls and found a Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*) with the Yellow-legged and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. A flock of waders was flying by a seashell farm, but since the light was bad, we went closer. Three species were in this group: Sanderlings, a Redshank and 2 Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*). At the same time, Willem found 5 Oystercatchers. We continued the walk along the river and had nice views of a male Kentish Plover which was standing on a small beach nearby.

Reaching the abandoned dried saltpans, we flushed a group of waders which landed further on the mudflats: Dunlins and Ringed Plovers. No birds were using the saltpans but Simon spotted a bird of prey carrying something. It was a quick sighting but according to the colour and size of the bird, we identified it as a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). This identification was confirmed the day after when Simon and Elaine found the remains of the prey, a pigeon. At the same time, Willem spotted a Black-winged Kite but a bit far away. We waited a little while, in case the falcon would fly away, but without any result.

We then started walking the last bit of track around the marsh. A few Flamingos took off and joined the rest of the group. We could appreciate the colour of the wings of these birds in flight. On top of a Fig tree a Corn Bunting was singing. Elaine and I saw a Whinchat perched on a fence while Willem and Simon had



already started walking back. As the track goes uphill, we stopped half-way to look at a tree where it was possible to see a Bee-eater and an Azure-winged Magpie at the same time. Further, these 2 species were perched almost side by side on a wire. In a field, a group of gulls caught our attention but flew as we came closer. They were mostly immature Yellow-legged and Lesser Black-backed Gulls but we heard a different call: an Audouin's Gull was also in the flock. We managed to find it and had good views in flight. Just

before reaching Cruzinha we also had a glimpse of a Stone Curlew in flight.

Our last dinner at Cruzinha was actually a birthday party with a lot of good food!

### **Sunday, 17 April – Departure**

On the last day, we left Cruzinha after breakfast and the traditional goodbyes. We drove to Portimão where I left Simon and Elaine as they were going to Lisbon before another week in the Alentejo. It was time to say goodbye after another great birdwatching week.

## List of species

- Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*): 13 at Ludo.
- Gadwall (*Anas strepera*): seen at Ludo, Lagoa dos Salgados and Castro Verde (2 at Entradas).
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*): seen at Ludo, Lagoa dos Salgados (adults and juveniles), Castro Verde (Entradas), Silves and Ria de Alvor.
- Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*): 2 (1 male and 1 female) at Ludo and 2 males at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*): 4 (2 males and 2 females) at Ludo.



- Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*): seen at Ludo and Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*): 2 (1 male and 1 female) at Ludo.
- Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*): seen at Castro Verde (Corte Pequena, Alvares) and Ria de Alvor.
- Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*): heard at Sagres (1 at Vale Santo) and Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho).
- Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*): seen at Ludo, Lagoa dos Salgados and Castro Verde (Entradas).
- Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*): seen at Ludo.
- Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*): seen from Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, cape) and Ria de Alvor.
- Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*): 3 at Lagoa dos Salgados and 1 at Castro Verde (Entradas).
- European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*): 1 at Sagres (cape).
- Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*): 1 female at Ludo.
- Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*): 2 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*): seen at Ludo (1), on the way to Sagres, at Lagoa dos Salgados, Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Entradas, Nossa Senhora de Aracelis) and Ria de Alvor.
- Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*): seen at Ludo (2), Alvor dunes, Lagoa dos Salgados and Ria de Alvor.

- Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*): 2 at Lagoa dos Salgados and 2 at Castro Verde (Alvares).
- White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*): seen at Ludo (adults and juveniles), Odiaxere, Sagres (1 at Cabranosa, 5 at Vale Santo), on the way to Monchique, at Lagoa dos Salgados (4), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho, Entradas, São Marcos da Ataboeira, Alvares) and Silves (adults and juveniles).
- Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*): seen at Ludo and Lagoa dos Salgados (6).
- Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*): 8 at Ria de Alvor.
- Black-winged Kite (*Elanus ceruleus*): 1 on the way to Cruzinha, 2 at Castro Verde (Alvares) and 1 at Ria de Alvor.
- Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*): 1 at Ludo and seen at Castro Verde (3 at Vale Gonçálinho, 3 at São Marcos da Ataboeira, 1 at Nossa Senhora de Aracelis, 2 at Alvares).
- Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*): 1 at Castro Verde (Entradas).
- Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*): 1 at Castro Verde (Nossa Senhora de Aracelis).
- Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*): 3 at Monchique (Foia) and 1 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho).
- Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*): 1 female at Lagoa dos Salgados and 1 female at Castro Verde (Entradas).
- Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*): seen at Castro Verde.
- Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*): seen at Monchique (1 at Foia) and Castro Verde (5 at Vale Gonçálinho, 1 at Entradas, 1 at Nossa Senhora de Aracelis).
- Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*): 2 (1 light morph, 1 dark morph) at Sagres (Vale Santo) and 2 light morphs at Castro Verde (1 at Vale Gonçálinho, 1 at Nossa Senhora de Aracelis).



- Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho).

- Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*): 6 at Sagres (2 at Ponta da Atalaia, 1 at Cabranosa, 2 at the cape, 1 at Vale Santo), 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados, 1 at Castro Verde (Entradas), 1 at Silves and 1 at Ria de Alvor.
- Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*): seen at Castro Verde (1 male at Vale Gonçalvesinho, 5 at Entradas, 3 females at Nossa Senhora de Aracelis).



- Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*): 2 at Castro Verde (Entradas).
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*): 1 at Ria de Alvor.
- Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*): seen at Ludo, Lagoa dos Salgados and Ria de Alvor (1).
- Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*): seen at Ludo and Lagoa dos Salgados (1).
- Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*): seen at Ludo, Lagoa dos Salgados and Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Entradas).
- Little Bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*): seen at Sagres (1 male displaying) and Castro Verde (2 heard at Vale Gonçalvesinho).
- Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*): seen at Castro Verde (8 at Vale Gonçalvesinho).
- Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*): 5 at Alvor dunes and 5 at Ria de Alvor.
- Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*): seen at Ludo (nests), Lagoa dos Salgados (nests), Castro Verde (2 at Entradas, 2 at Alvares) and Ria de Alvor (adults and juveniles).
- Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*): seen at Ludo (nests) and Lagoa dos Salgados (nests).
- Eurasian Stone-curlew (*Burhinus oedicnemus*): 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados, 1 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho) and 1 at Cruzinha.
- Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*): 2 at Lagoa dos Salgados and 10 at Castro Verde (Alvares).
- Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*): 2 at Castro Verde (Alvares).
- Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*): seen at Ludo (1), Alvor dunes and Ria de Alvor.
- Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*): seen at Ludo (adults and juveniles), Alvor dunes and Ria de Alvor.

- Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*): 2 at Ludo, 2 at Alvor dunes and 1 at Ria de Alvor.
- Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*): 1 at Alvor dunes.
- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*): seen at Ludo, Alvor dunes and Ria de Alvor.
- Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*): 1 at Ludo.
- Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*): 2 at Ludo and 1 at Alvor dunes.
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*): seen at Ludo, Alvor dunes and Ria de Alvor.
- Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*): seen at Ludo.
- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*): 1 at Alvor dunes and 4 at Ria de Alvor.
- Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*): 1 at Ludo and 2 at Alvor dunes.
- Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*): 1 at Alvor dunes and 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*): seen at Ludo and Ria de Alvor (1).
- Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*): seen at Ludo and Ria de Alvor (1).
- Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*): 2 at Ria de Alvor.
- Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*): 1 at Ria de Alvor.
- Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*): seen at Ludo (1), Sagres (1 at the cape), Alvor dunes (6), Lagoa dos Salgados and Ria de Alvor (1).



- Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados and Ria de Alvor.
- Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*): seen at Ludo, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, cape), Alvor dunes, Lagoa dos Salgados and Ria de Alvor.
- Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*): 3 at Ria de Alvor.
- Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*): seen at Ludo, Alvor dunes (about 15, some displaying), Lagoa dos Salgados and Ria de Alvor.
- Black-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles orientalis*): 5 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves).
- Rock Dove (*Columbia livia*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa, Vale Santo).
- Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*): seen at Castro Verde (1 at Vale Gonçalves, 2 at Entradas).

- Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): seen at Ludo, Castro Verde (Entradas, São Marcos da Ataboeira) and Ria de Alvor.
- European Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*): 1 at Lagoa dos Salgados.
- Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*): 1 heard at Cruzinha.
- Little Owl (*Athene noctua*): 1 on the way to Cruzinha, 1 at Castro Verde (Corte Pequena) and 1 at Ria de Alvor.
- Red-necked Nightjar (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*): 1 at Cruzinha.



- Common Swift (*Apus apus*): seen at Ludo, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa), Monchique (Foia), Silves and Ria de Alvor.
- Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa) and Silves.
- Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa).
- European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*): seen at Ludo, Sagres (nest at Cabranosa, Vale Santo), on the way to Cruzinha, at Alvor dunes (4), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, Entradas), Silves and Ria de Alvor.
- European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*): 1 near Cruzinha and seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves).
- Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*): 2 at Ludo, 2 on the way to Cruzinha, 3 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves) and 1 at Ria de Alvor.
- European Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*): 1 heard at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*): 1 at Ludo.
- Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*): 3 at Alvor dunes.
- Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*): seen at Alvor dunes, Lagoa dos Salgados, Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalves, Entradas) and Ria de Alvor.
- Thekla Lark (*Galerida theklae*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo) and Castro Verde (Nossa Senhora de Aracelis).
- Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*): 1 at Monchique (Foia).
- Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*): 1 heard at Sagres (Vale Santo).

- Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): seen at Ludo, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa), Alvor dunes, Lagoa dos Salgados Castro Verde, (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Entradas, São Marcos da Ataboeira, Nossa Senhora de Aracelis), Silves and Ria de Alvor.
- Common House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*) seen at Ludo, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabransa), Monchique (Foia), Alvor dunes, Lagoa dos Salgados, Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Entradas, São Marcos da Ataboeira), Silves and Ria de Alvor.
- Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*): seen at Ludo, Sagres (1 at the cape, 1 at Vale Santo), Monchique (Foia), Castro Verde (Entradas, São Marcos da Ataboeira) and Ria de Alvor.
- Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*): seen at Ria de Alvor.



- Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*): 1 at Ludo and 2 at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*): 3 at Castro Verde (1 at Entradas, 2 at Alvares).
- Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*): seen at Sagres (1 at Cabranosa, 1 at Vale Santo) and Monchique.
- European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*): 1 at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*): 1 seen at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique) and 2 heard at Castro Verde (Entradas).
- Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*): seen at Sagres (1 female at Ponta da Atalaia, 1 male at the cape).
- Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*): 1 at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho) and 1 at Ria de Alvor.
- European Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Monchique (Foia), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Entradas) and Ria de Alvor.
- Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hispanica*): 2 at Castro Verde (1 male at Nossa Senhora de Aracelis, 1 male at Alvares).

- Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*): 1 male at Sagres (cape) and a pair at Monchique (Foia).
- Common Blackbird (*Turdus merula*): seen at Ludo, Sagres (Cabranosa), Monchique, Alvor dunes, Lagoa dos Salgados, Castro Verde (Entradas), Silves and Ria de Alvor.
- Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*): 1 at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*): heard at Ludo and Castro Verde (1 at Entradas).
- Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*): seen at Ludo, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Alvor dunes, Cruzinha (ringing), Lagoa dos Salgados, Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho, Entradas), Silves and Ria de Alvor.
- Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*): 2 at Monchique (Foia) and 1 at Castro Verde (Entradas).
- Eurasian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*): seen at Cruzinha (ringing) and heard at Lagoa dos Salgados and Silves.
- Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*): seen at Monchique (Foia).
- Spectacled Warbler (*Sylvia conspicillata*): 1 female at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*): seen at Ludo, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo) and Ria de Alvor.



- Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*): 1 at Monchique (Foia).
- Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*): 1 at Cruzinha (ringing).
- Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*): seen at Monchique and Silves.
- Iberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus ibericus*): 2 heard at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Common Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapillus*): 1 heard at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*): 1 at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- European Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*): 1 at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- European Crested Tit (*Parus cristatus*): 2 at Ludo.
- Eurasian Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*): seen at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Great Tit (*Parus major*): seen at Cruzinha (ringing).

- Eurasian Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*): seen at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Eurasian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*): 1 at Cruzinha and 1 at Castro Verde (Nossa Senhora de Aracelis).
- Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*): seen at Castro Verde (Nossa Senhora de Aracelis, Alvares).
- Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*): seen at Sagres (1 at Cabranosa) and Castro Verde (Corte Pequena, Alvares).



- Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*): 2 at Monchique (Foia).
- Azure-winged Magpie (*Cyanopica cyanus*): seen at Ludo, Sagres (5 at Cabranosa), Castro Verde (Entradas) and Ria de Alvor.
- Common Magpie (*Pica pica*): seen at Lagoa dos Salgados (2) and Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho, Alvares).
- Red-billed Cough (*Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo).
- Western Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*): seen at Sagres (cape, Vale Santo) and Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho).
- Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho, Entradas).
- Northern Raven (*Corvus corax*): seen at Ludo (1), Sagres (1 at the cape) and Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho, Entradas).
- Spotless Starling (*Sturnus unicolor*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Monchique (Caldas de Monchique), Alvor dunes, Lagoa dos Salgados, Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho, Entradas) and Ria de Alvor.
- House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*): seen at Ludo, Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, cape, Vale Santo), Monchique (Caldas de Monchique), Alvor dunes, Cruzinha (ringing), Lagoa dos Salgados, Castro Verde (Vale Gonçálinho, São Marcos da Ataboeira, Alvares), Silves and Ria de Alvor.
- Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*): seen at Castro Verde (São Marcos da Ataboeira, Alvares).
- Black-headed Weaver (*Ploceus melanocephalus*): seen at Ludo.

- Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*): 2 at Silves.
- Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*): seen at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- European Serin (*Serinus serinus*): seen at Ludo, Monchique (Caldas de Monchique), Silves and Ria de Alvor.
- European Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Lagoa dos Salgados, Silves and Ria de Alvor.
- European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*): seen at Ludo, Sagres (Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Monchique (Foia), Lagoa dos Salgados, Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho), Silves and Ria de Alvor.
- Common Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Monchique (Foia), Lagoa dos Salgados, Castro Verde (Nossa Senhora de Aracelis) and Ria de Alvor.
- Rock Bunting (*Emberiza cia*): 2 at Monchique (Foia).
- Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia, Cabranosa, Vale Santo), Monchique (1 at Foia), Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho, Entradas, Nossa Senhora de Aracelis, Alvares) and Ria de Alvor.
- Tongue Orchids (*Serapia parviflora*): seen at Monchique (Foia).
- Large Red Damsel (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*): seen at Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Emperor sp. (*Anax sp.*): exuvia found in Monchique (Caldas de Monchique).
- Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*): seen at Monchique (Foia).



- Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*): seen at Silves.
- Oil Beetle (*Berberomeloe majalis*): seen at Castro Verde (Vale Gonçalvesinho).
- Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*): seen at Sagres (Ponta da Atalaia).
- Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*): seen at Sagres (Cabranosa).
- Spanish Pond Turtle (*Mauremys leprosa*): seen at Castro Verde (Entradas) and Ludo.

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Bird names according to Crochet P.-A., Joynt G. (2012). AERC list of Western Palearctic birds. December 2012 version.