

Portugal

The Algarve in Autumn

Tue 2nd – Tue 9th Oct 2018



Trip photos (clockwise from top left): Short-toed Snaked Eagle • Great Skua • Yellow-browed Warbler • Great Shearwater • Western Swamphen • Black-headed Weaver. © tour leader Fernando Enrique/Limosa Holidays

**Report compiled by tour leaders:
Robin Chittenden & Fernando Enrique**

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Tour Leaders: Robin Chittenden and Fernando Enrique
with Laura Bell, Ross Doughty, Di Palmer, Hank & Carolyn Scarth, Jane Taylor, Julia & Pete Turnbull and Juliet Whitten.

This year we had a fabulous time exploring the birdy habitats in southern Portugal and many fantastic birds were seen. I'm sure you will all have your favourites and Caspian Tern, male White-spotted Bluethroat, twenty or so Great Bustards, European Storm Petrels, three Black-bellied Sandgrouse, a grand total of seven Bonelli's Eagles at three locations and five Black-winged Kites may be among them. The hot sunny conditions weren't that conducive for falls of passerines but we did very well with a Common Rosefinch, Yellow-browed Warbler and two Wrynecks.

Daily Diary

Day 1 – Tuesday, October 2nd 2018

Flying into Faro, passengers on one side had spectacular views of the Ria Formosa, its salt pans speckled with Greater Flamingos. We arrived at our first hotel in time for a fine buffet supper. One minibus was lucky to see a Black-winged Kite *en route* and at Tavira salt pans we saw a few Little Stints among the Dunlin plus a Little Owl.

Day 2 – Wednesday, October 3rd 2018

After a gorgeous buffet breakfast we headed out to bird the salt pans around Tavira, but not before enjoying the sight of a confiding Eurasian Hoopoe feeding in the hotel grounds. The pans by the hotel were crowded with Black-tailed Godwits and Black-winged Stilts. As the light was against us we saved the rest for another afternoon, when the sunlight would be behind us. In the opposite direction was a close Kentish Plover in perfect light. In a nearby weedy field were a group of Serins and a Zitting Cisticola perched up for lovely 'scope views. Several Red-rumped Swallows cruised back and forth right by us as we headed to the next salt pans. Here were over one hundred Mediterranean Gulls roosting and, on one of the bunds, a huge Caspian Tern. Walking by the pans we watched a flock of about 20 Spoonbills feeding right by the road. Fernando somehow managed to spot a Western Osprey perched low on a bund. Very close was an elegant Slender-billed Gull and from the same spot about 80 Audouin's Gulls were 'scoped roosting on the bunds.

At the last moment, a White-spotted Bluethroat flew up and landed out of view, but luckily it soon perched in the open, front on, showing its eye-catching plumage. It was a male. We took a look at the Santa Luzia salt pans nearby; here, Red-rumped Swallows cruised about with Common House Martins and a party of Common Waxbills flew past. There were many Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers. Perhaps best of all though was a hunting Black-winged Kite, which we managed to see well through the 'scope every time it paused to hover.

After a light lunch and short siesta we headed to the lake at Quinta do Lago. A walk through the estuarine vegetation there revealed an Egyptian Grasshopper and Praying Mantis. On one of the fairways was a crowd of Eurasian Coots, which were then joined by two Glossy Ibises. At the lake were several Little Grebes, including an adult still with young. It wasn't long before we were enjoying great views of the Western Swamphens. Scanning through the ducks, there were a few early returning Northern Pintails and Eurasian Wigeons, plus a couple of Red-crested Pochard. A Black-headed Weaver was much admired. Eventually we found a Little Bittern perched in the open, but in the most awkward position for viewing. All was saved when a male Little Bittern flew into some reeds just as Fernando was trying to point out a Eurasian Reed Warbler. Dragonflies included a few Long Skimmers and several Lesser Emperors. Other bird seen included two Eurasian Hoopoes, many Iberian Magpies, European Pied Flycatcher, Common Redstart and a few Audouin's Gulls.

Day 3 – Thursday, October 4th 2018

We explored the psuedo-steppe of the hinterland by stopping at likely-looking areas by the road between Castro Verde and Mertola. At our first stop was an Iberian Grey Shrike and a couple of Green Sandpipers flew up. At the second, Fernando spotted a Great Bustard, but unfortunately it had the audacity to immediately stroll out of view. The first of a few Red Kites drifted past. The next stop was better with a total of 14 Great Bustards on view, five of which were seen in flight. A few Calandra Larks flew over. Just round the corner, a pair of Bonelli's Eagles was watched soaring and then they joined up with a juvenile. A great lesson in raptor identification, as the juvenile Bonelli's Eagle can look very similar to a juvenile Iberian Imperial Eagle. In the distance were two Black Storks flying about. Helpfully the farmer, driving across a field to check his cattle, flushed three Black-bellied Sandgrouse, which then flew around and in front of us. A little later, Laura spotted two male Great Bustards close to the road. At our final stop before lunch, 11 Griffon Vultures cruised over. They were beautifully illuminated on the underside by the reflected bright light from the cut wheat field. A little later, a Short-toed

Snake-Eagle was watched perched close to the road.

We ate our picnic by a delightfully shady, dried up river valley but which still had a few large pools. These acted as a magnet to dragonflies with a few Violet Dropwings and Migrant Hawkets. Many Iberian Marsh Frogs plopped into the water from all sides. The habitat produced a Subalpine Warbler and Dartford Warbler. Later we stopped at a reservoir nearby and spotted two Little Ringed Plovers and several Northern Lapwings. As we headed back to the main road we came across the Short-toed Snake Eagle again, but this time even closer to the road. Julia spotted three Eurasian Stone-curlews trying to keep cool in the shade of some conifers nearby. Back at Tavira, the saltpans near our hotel were bathed in perfect light. We enjoyed watching the waders, including a Curlew Sandpiper still in partial summer plumage and a peachy Slender-billed Gull.

Day 4 – Friday, October 5th 2018

As we left Tavira, two of the group saw a perched Black-winged Kite by the road and everyone saw another fly over the motorway *en route* to Monchique. When we arrived it was apparent that the mountain had been recently ravaged by fire but, despite this, there were still pockets of vegetation left intact. We saw several Dartford Warblers at the top, plus two or three Blue Rock Thrushes. However, apart from a few Spotted and European Pied Flycatchers and Northern Wheatears there were few other migrants. Rock Buntings proved to be problematic to begin with, being seen in flight only, but as luck would have it a scruffy confiding male was found near the car park, much to the delight of the photographers, who in turn became an entertaining spectacle for the rest of the group, as they lay prostrate on the ground to get the best angle on the bird!

At our lovely regular restaurant stop we found a pair of exquisite Firecrests in the car park and after an enjoyable lunch saw two Crested Tits and a couple of Short-toed Treecreepers, which were slightly more tricky to latch onto. The Eurasian Nuthatch was more obliging. Heading to the coast, a large flock of roosting gulls greeted us from the viewing screen at Lagoa dos Salgados. Scanning through the birds we located three Audouin's Gulls and - fairly scarce in the Algarve - a Common Gull. Water levels were quite high this year so waders were less evident, although we did get good views of Green Sandpipers. As we left, a Black-winged Kite flew over, harried by a Yellow-legged Gull. We then traveled to our hotel at Sagres, in time for a super buffet supper.

Day 5 – Saturday, October 6th 2018

We took an early morning walk near our hotel at Sagres in the hope of finding passerine migrants but it was fairly thin pickings. The highlights were an uncooperative Common Redstart, a showy Eurasian Hoopoe and a couple of fly-by Red-billed Choughs. After a quality buffet breakfast we were luckier with the birding. We explored a belt of mixed scrub and conifer woodland on the edge of Sagres known as Ceramic Wood. There were European Pied and Spotted Flycatchers dotted about, while a flock of European Bee-eaters flew very low over us. Then Fernando stumbled on a Wryneck, which initially was a little frustrating in its views, but then showed wonderfully. There was also another Wryneck there, which was less showy. Looking up, four European Honey Buzzards drifted over, including a pale morph bird, then a juvenile Egyptian Vulture which, having headed off across Sagres Fort, thought better of it and flew back incredibly low, directly over us. Then two pale morph Booted Eagles swung into view! With all this activity we headed to the raptor watchpoint. A couple of European Honey-buzzards, a Black Stork, five Booted Eagles two Hobbies and an adult Bonelli's Eagle were the highlights.

After a light lunch back at our hotel on the balcony with views over the Atlantic, then a restful siesta, we headed to the Vale Santo area, exploring some of the rough habitat on the way. Several Whinchats, Northern Wheatears and three Willow Warblers were the only migrants, but we did enjoy looking at the finer plumage features of the Thekla Larks. The dust-bathing Red-legged Partridges were much admired. At Vale Santo itself, Fernando gave a shout and there was a Little Bustard strolling about. We dropped in at Forte dos Beliche, where there was a brief Blue Rock Thrush and two squabbling Black Redstarts.

Day 6 – Sunday, October 7th 2018

We headed to Cape St Vincent before breakfast. There was a strong northwesterly wind, which made viewing very awkward. Along with a continual passage of Northern Gannets were many Cory's Shearwaters moving, plus a few Balearic Shearwaters which were rather difficult for us to get on too. Three Black Redstarts flitted about the lighthouse. After breakfast, we birded a small scrubby valley, somewhat sheltered from the wind. Many Corn Buntings came to drink. A beautiful winter male Common Redstart posed nicely. A little later, a male Subalpine Warbler did likewise, long enough for everyone to get 'scope views. In all we saw a Garden Warbler, European Pied Flycatchers, Spotted Flycatchers, Blackcaps, two Ravens and a Peregrine. On returning for lunch and a siesta at Sagres, one minibus spotted a Blue Rock Thrush. We had a fabulous lunch at an authentic Portuguese restaurant suggested by Fernando.

Refreshed, we headed to Boca do Rio. On the way, around 20 Red-billed Choughs were watched feeding in a field, while nearby at a small sewage works were a few White Wagtails and a Common Sandpiper plus many

Spanish Terrapins. At Boca do Rio we walked along a cycle track, which was sandwiched between some scrubby woodland and a reedbed. Along this beautiful valley a number of species were seen which were more reminiscent of a walk in the UK: Wren, Robin, Blackbird, Chiffchaff and Kingfisher, but a pair of Bonelli's Eagles sailing over soon put paid to that impression! Latter we saw a Peregrine grappling with a Common Kestrel and Western Cattle Egrets perched 'iconically' on cattle. Photographers were happy with a confiding Thekla Lark at Forte de Almadena.

Day 7 – Monday, October 8th 2018

The next morning for those that desired we took a boat trip out of Sagres harbour on a powerful RIB that took us about thirteen miles south of Cape St Vincent. On the way, we enjoyed the antics of an inquisitive pod of Atlantic Bottle-nosed Dolphins. You could see them underwater and leaping into the air.

At our first chumming spot, a couple of Balearic Shearwaters and European Storm-Petrels flew about but the flock of Yellow-legged Gulls probably prevented them from getting near our boat. A Great Skua had no hesitation in flying straight through the gulls, however. So we headed nearer to land and we were very fortunate to come across a raft of Great and Cory's Shearwater resting on the water. We nudged up to them and chumming brought in a flock of about six European Storm-Petrels, which were watched pattering about. At the last gasp, a Sooty Shearwater joined the activity. Those who stayed on land, explored a local headland seeing a Blue Rock Thrush and Subalpine Warbler in perfect light.

After an enjoyable lunch overlooking the harbour, followed by the usual siesta, we headed out for a quick look at the Ceramic Wood. No new migrants were found so we then made our way to Figueira. In the Fig Tree valley we saw a Cetti's Warbler, two or so Grey Wagtails and our only Eurasian Sparrowhawk of the tour, but failed to locate the Eurasian Eagle Owl.

Day 8 – Tuesday, October 9th 2018

We had a very exciting last morning at Cape St Vincent. Jane was very happy (and we were equally relieved) to see the red bills of the Red-billed Chough, having missed them earlier in the week. Heading to the 'secret' valley we scoped the birds sunning themselves: Corn Buntings, a few Common Redstarts, a Subalpine Warbler, a couple of Blackcaps and a European Pied Flycatcher. Then I spotted a rather plain looking 'finch' with a dark 'teddy bear' eye in a pale face and two narrow pale wing-bars. It had to be a Common Rosefinch! To double check I waved Fernando over to look through my 'scope and after a few seconds, as I watched his mind churning away, he stepped back and bellowed Common Rosefinch. It was having a wash and brush, but despite that it only remained on view for perhaps half a minute before it took off with another similar-sized and coloured bird. Could there really have been two? They circled over then headed off east.

The excitement wasn't over yet. We were loading the luggage on the minibuses, ready to depart to Faro airport when Fernando discovered a Yellow-browed Warbler right by his minibus in the car park of our hotel. This showed well and close all. What a way to leave Sagres! Our last stop of the tour was near the airport at Ludo Farm. Here we ate picnic lunch as we scanned the surrounding habitat, with the highlights being a Booted Eagle, Western Osprey, at least three Kingfishers, perched Red-rumped Swallows and a male Black-headed Weaver.

Thanks to Fernando for his brilliant spotting and also for his suggestions for 'new' areas to visit around Sagres, including that restaurant.

Annotated List of Birds Recorded

(Total species - 159)

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

Small numbers at Quinta do Lago on 3rd

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

At least 50 birds at Quinta do Lago on 3rd and smaller numbers at Lagoa dos Salgados on 5th.

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca strepera*

Two bird at Quinta do Lago on 3rd.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Noted on five dates.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Half a dozen birds at Quinta do Lago on 3rd.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

Ten birds at Lagoa dos Salgados on 5th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Two were at Quinta do Lago on 3rd.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Ten or so were at Quinta do Lago on 3rd.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

A female seen on Quinta do Lago on 3rd.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Noted on two dates with more than 10 birds around the Castro Verde area.

European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

On our pelagic, we enjoyed fabulous views of at least 16 of these birds around our boat.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis*

More than 100 birds were seen as they passed Cape St Vincent, at least 50 during our pelagic and a few more from the coast on 9th.

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

One was seen amongst a flock of Cory's and Great Shearwaters during our pelagic.

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis*

Fourteen birds resting on the water during our boat trip on 8th.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauritanicus*

Two or three from Cape St Vincent on 7th and another three on our boat trip on 8th.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Small numbers on five dates.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Several birds at Quinta do Lago on 3rd.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

Common around the salt pans of the Algarve with birds seen regularly in such habitats.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Two seen near Castro Verde and another one at Cabranosa on 6th.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Small numbers seen on three dates. Abundant nesting evidences on most days.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Seen well at Quinto do Lago and a few more at Lago dos Salgados.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Common around Tavira salt pans with groups of up to 40 birds some days.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

After a bit of a search, we finally enjoyed some great views of two different birds at Quinta do Lago.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Seen most days.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Small numbers noted almost daily.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Regular in small numbers around wetlands.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Very common offshore around the Cape St Vincent/Sagres area with some great views on our boat trip.

European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Two birds around Sagres harbour.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Small numbers around coastal wetlands during the first four days.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Single birds noted on three dates.

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

A good year for this species with single birds on 2nd and 3rd and three birds on 5th.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

A beautiful juvenile showed extremely well at Pinhal do Ceramica on 6th.

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

We saw 5-6 juveniles around Cabranosa on 6th.

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*

At least 15 birds around Castro Verde area.

Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

Great views of two bird near Castro Verde and a single bird at Cabranosa.

Booted Eagle *Hieraeetus pennatus*

Four light morphs and a dark morph were seen on 6th and a light bird during our last stop near the airport.

Spanish Imperial Eagle *Aquila adalberti*

A beautiful juvenile was seen flying low at Castro Verde area on 4th.

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata*

We had many encounters with these magnificent raptors during the trip. Including 5 different birds near Castro Verde, one adult on 6th and a pair at Boca do Rio on 7th.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

One single bird near Figueira on 8th.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

One to two on three dates.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Five birds on the plains around Castro Verde

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Small numbers seen on four dates.

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*

We had good views of at least 18 birds during our visit to Castro Verde plains.

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax*

A single bird allowed good 'scope views at Vale do Santo on 6th.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Single birds heard squealing away in the reeds on two dates.

Western Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Some great views of half a dozen birds at Quinto do Largo.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Small numbers at freshwater wetland sites on three dates during the week.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

A few birds recorded on three dates.

Eurasian Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Three birds in the Castro Verde area on 5th.

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

A single bird at Sagres harbour.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

A regular and welcome feature of the saltpan complexes that we visited throughout the week.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Good numbers recorded on the first four days of the trip.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Small numbers noted on three dates.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

A dozen birds around Tavira.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

One of the most common waders, seen on most wetlands.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Four on an irrigation pond near Castro Verde on 4th.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Small numbers noted at the salt pans around Tavira on three dates.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Single figures noted at the salt pans around Tavira and a single bird near Sagres.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

A single bird was seen on the first day close to our hotel in Tavira.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

At least 12 at the salt pans around Tavira on 4th.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

At least 10 at the salt pans around Tavira on 4th and one at Lagoa dos Salgados on 6th.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Small numbers noted on four dates.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

A single bird at the salt pans of Tavira on 4th.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Common around the salt pans near Tavira.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Good numbers around the salt pans near Tavira.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Most common wader around coastal wetlands in the first half of the week.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Small numbers around the salt pans near Tavira.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Single birds recorded on three dates,

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Small numbers were seen teetering around the edges of salt pans and ponds on three dates.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Small numbers noted on three dates around coastal wetlands.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Small numbers on four dates at coastal salt pan complexes and wetlands.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

At least four at Tavira on 4th and one at Lagoa dos Salgados on 6th.

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*

Great views of at least 10 bird on 4th and several on 5th.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Small numbers noted on five dates at coastal wetlands.

Audouin's Gull *Ichthyaeetus audouinii*

At least 80 were at the salt pans at Tavira on 3rd and three more at Lagoa dos Salgados on 5th.

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

Small numbers were noted at coastal wetlands on three dates.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

A nice surprise this far south was a single bird at Lagoa dos Salgados on 5th.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Widespread, common and noted every day of the trip.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Widespread, common and noted every day of the trip.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

One roosting with gulls at Tavira on 3rd.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Small numbers noted on three dates.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

We had fantastic views of at least 10 birds during our boat trip, including some aggressive birds chasing gulls and shearwaters and providing excellent photo opportunities.

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*

We saw three birds in flight near Castro Verde on 4th.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Noted throughout the tour with a wide range of colour forms present in towns, while those at the cape showed the plumage characteristics of wild birds.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Two birds in flight were seen by some members of the group near Boca do Rio.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Widespread throughout the area in towns and villages.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

One seen on the first day near the hotel and one seen on the last day at Vale do Santo.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*

Seen at Cabranosa on 6th.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

One to three on four dates around Tavira, Lagoa dos Salgados and Ludo.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

A group of 15 birds or so where seen at Pinhal do Ceramica.

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Around 10-12 birds on four dates.

Eurasian Wryneck *Upupa epops*

One or two birds seen at Pinhal do Ceramica

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

One seen at Ludo on the last day.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

A regular roadside bird noted daily. Especially common around the cape area.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Two birds seen well at Cabranosa on 6th.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

One or two on three dates around the Cape St Vincent area.

Iberian Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*

Noted on five days, with very good numbers around the Castro Verde area on 4th.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

A single bird on 3rd and two on 5th.

Iberian Magpie *Cyanopica cooki*

An ubiquitous endemic and one of the favourite birds of the trip. Non-breeding flocks were noted daily, with nearly a hundred birds some days.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*

Small numbers on most days

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Common around Sagres. On the last day we managed to get good views of a cooperative group, including the bright red bills, a huge relief for some members of the group. Especially for one of the guides ;)

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Small numbers noted in the Castro Verde area.

Northern Raven *Corvus corax*

Single figures logged on four dates.

European Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus*

Two or three birds seen well at our Monchique lunch stop.

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Noted on a couple of dates.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Only recorded in wooded areas around Monchique on 5th.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

One birds seen at the raptor watchpoint on 6th.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Small numbers heard and seen around Cape St Vincent, around the farm area.

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae*

Seen regularly in good numbers around Cape St Vincent/ Sagres.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

Widespread and common during the first half of the trip, especially around Tavira.

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*

Up to 25 birds seen on the plains around Castro Verde on 4th.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

One bird at Ludo on the last day.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Small numbers noted on three dates.

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

A bird seen briefly near Cape St Vicente

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Small numbers noted on two dates.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

The most common swallow of the trip with several flocks almost daily.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Heard more often than seen, we managed some decent views at Boca do Rio.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

A few noted on 4th.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

A last-minute surprise. A very cooperative bird was found in the pine trees in front of our hotel in Sagres, allowing great views and photo opportunities.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Two or three at Vale do Telheiro and a single bird at Pinhal do Ceramica.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Small numbers noted on the last few days of the trip.

European Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

One at Quinta do Lago on 3rd.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

Common and widespread, small numbers noted on 5 dates.

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Good arrival of birds in the Sagres area with birds noted every day there.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Two birds seen well at Vale do Telheiro.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

One seen in Tavira on 3rd and another one at Vale do Telheiro.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

A couple of birds at lunch in the Castro Verde area and at least 8 birds up in the mountains near Monchique.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

One to two birds noted on four dates.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

Widespread and common, seen daily.

Common Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Amazing views at our Monchique lunch stop on 5th.

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Heard on four dates and seen near Boca do Rio.

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

One showed very well at our Monchique lunch stop on 5th.

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla*

One or two flitted around us at our Monchique lunch stop on 5th.

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*

Widespread and very common, seen daily.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Widespread in small numbers and noted daily.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Common migrant noted on five dates, with up to 5-6 birds on some days.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Heard and seen on four dates.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Great views of an adult male at the Tavira marshes. This adult male showed plumage characteristics of the more southerly 'White-spotted' form, *cyaneacula*.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Common migrant, seen daily in small numbers.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Two to three birds noted daily around the Sagres area.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

One to three birds noted on five dates.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

Small numbers seen on four dates.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Noted on four dates, especially common at Vale do Santo, where we found more than 15 birds one afternoon.

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Very common and seen daily in good numbers on roadside fences, wires and bushes.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Plenty of migrants were around and we recorded this species every day in a range of open habitats. Very common around Castro Verde, with more than 40 birds recorded.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Widespread in urban areas throughout.

Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*

An African species that is now established as an introduction in Portugal. One bird seen at Quinta do Lago and another one at Ludo pools.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

Another African species that is established as an introduction in Portugal. Small numbers seen on three dates.

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Small numbers noted at wetland sites on three dates.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Three birds at Figueira on 8th.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Noted on the last three days around the Sagres area, always in small numbers.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

A few seen around Monchique and Cabranosa.

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Small numbers heard or seen on five dates.

Common Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

A few noted on five dates, with larger gatherings around Cape St Vincent.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common, noted on a daily basis.

European Serin *Serinus serinus*

We had good views of several small flocks on two dates.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Totally unexpected. A juvenile was seen well, preening at Vale do Telheiro. There are only 6 or 7 accepted records for Portugal.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

One or two noted around Castro Verde and other heard and/or seen around Cape St Vincent on 10th.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*

Some nice views of a couple of birds at Monte Foia on 5th.

Mammals

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Iberian Hare *Lepus granatensis*

Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*

Reptiles

Red-eared Slider *Trachemys scripta*

Spanish Terrapin *Mauremys leprosa*

Moorish Gecko *Tarentola mauritanica*

Amphibians

Iberian Marsh Frog *Pelophylax perezi*

Butterflies

Common Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*

Large White *Pieris brassicae*

Small White *Pieris rapae*

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*

Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni*

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

Long-tailed Blue *Lampides boeticus*

Lang's Short-tailed Blue *Leptotes pirithous*

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*

European Peacock *Aglais io*

Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*

Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera*

Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus*

Dragonflies

Western Willow Spreadwing *Charcolestes viridis*

Iberian Bluetail *Ischnura graellsii*

Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta*

Blue Hawker *Aeshna cyanea*

Blue Emperor *Anax imperator*

Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope*

Long Skimmer *Orthetrum trinacria*

Keeled Skimmer *Orthetrum courulescens*

Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombii*

Broad Scarlet *Crocothemis erythraea*

Violet Dropwing *Trithemis annulata*