Photos: Our pelagic boat trip out of Sagres is but one highlight of our autumn tours to the Algarve. (Top) One of at least four European Storm-petrels seen from the boat this year, and (above) Cory’s Shearwaters squabbling beside our boat © Robin Chittenden/www.RobinChittenden.co.uk

report compiled by tour leaders:
Robin Chittenden & Peter Kennerley
Trip Diary

Tour Leaders: Robin Chittenden & Peter Kennerley
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As we arrived at our Algarve hotel there was a tremendous downpour: apparently the first since last winter. Luckily it was all clear the next day.

The ‘pseudo-steppe’ in the Alentejo region was, as always, a delight to birdwatch. The Great Bustards though, seemed initially hard to pin down. The spring and summer this year have been desiccating dry and as a result there were very few Bush-crickets for the Great Bustards to enjoy. It was soon apparent that the vast majority had moved off to other areas. Despite that, with a little luck and some inside information, we managed to find fifteen birds. They showed exceptionally well as they strolled over the short vegetation. Also there were eight roosting Stone-curlews. At another spot there were at least fifty-five Little Bustards in one sprawling flock. A Black Stork also drifted over.

Several Iberian Grey Shrikes were sitting around being obvious, and while enjoying a Short-toed Eagle we saw a Red Kite soaring over a little higher. By our lunch stop we had fantastic views of Blue Rock Thrush, Azure-winged Magpies (from above), Crag Martins and many migrant Red-rumped Swallows. The biggest surprise of the day was a Spanish Imperial Eagle that drifted low past us. We later learnt from its plumage characteristics that this was the male of a local pair. There are only about four pairs in the whole of Portugal.

Heading up the mountain at Monchique we stumbled across at least twelve Ring Ouzels of the form alpestris sporting lovely pale edgings to many of their wing feathers. There were several gorgeously plumaged Rock Buntings perched about and we also had great views of Dartford Warblers and Zitting Cisticolas. European Mantis seemed easy to locate, despite their camouflage. Heading down the mountain, a strange call put us on to a Phylloscopus warbler, which soon revealed itself to be an Iberian Chiffchaff.

The lunch stop at Silves was most fortuitous. Not only was there a steady stream of migrating Red-rumped Swallows going over, but also a Black-shouldered Kite gave a fabulous fly-past.

Lagoa dos Salgados has to be one of the best freshwater marshes in the Algarve. On arrival, an Osprey circled around performing several stoops and plunges. Then a Bluethroat flew into the safety of some rushes, right in front of us and then made several sorties from them, giving fabulous views. In all we made three visits to the marsh and enjoyed seeing up to three Caspian Terns, several Kentish Plovers, a single Glossy Ibis, a Peregrine and hordes of Greater Flamingos and Spoonbills. A couple of the Cormorants here showed some characteristics of the distinctive North African population. A couple of Swallowtail butterflies were photographed.

Taking a pelagic boat trip out of Sagres, we headed to an area about six miles south of Cape St Vincent. We came across a fishing research vessel towing a net. The trawler was followed by a mass of Lesser Black-backed and Yellow-legged Gulls. Among them was a Sooty Shearwater, which with the use of ‘our’ chum was soon diving for titbits by the boat! Up to four European Storm-petrels fluttered around the boat, a few Great Skuas harried the gulls and a couple of Balearic Shearwaters flew swiftly past. Towards the cliffs we came across feeding and loafing Cory’s Shearwaters. One raft was comprised of about one hundred and fifty birds right by the boat.

At our lunchtime stop on the Cape it was quickly apparent that raptors were on the move. A soaring swarm of about fifty Booted Eagles drifted over from the Cape and were soon above our restaurant; as were about ten Short-toed Eagles. We quickly headed to the raptor watch-point but it seemed to suddenly go quiet, although two Black Storks headed over. While checking the habitat nearby, another flock of Booted Eagles appeared. With them was a Short-toed Eagle and, best of all, a sub-adult Egyptian Vulture. What with a Tawny Pipit, several Thekla Larks, a few Little Bustards and a flock of fifty or so Red-billed Choughs, what more could you ask? Perhaps Spectacled Warbler, but they remained elusive this year.

The salt pans at Castro Marim attracted many Curlew Sandpipers feeding alongside the Dunlin. Roosting on the bunds were fifteen Caspian Terns and three rather distant Audouin’s Gulls. Ospreys were much in evidence with one successfully catching a fish and another almost colliding with a flock of mobbing Spotless Starlings. The pans also held about fifteen Black-necked Grebes, a couple of flocks of up to one hundred and fifty Spoonbills, thirteen Stone-curlews, but only a single Little Stint.
At Quinta do Lago there is a fabulous reed-fringed lake where the birds have become habituated to humans and are prone to give very close views. Perhaps best here were the four juvenile Little Bitterns seen flapping across the water as they commuted between the various reed stands. Many of the Purple Swamphens were really close and there were two pairs feeding young. The adult clasped a reed in its long, red-toed feet and peeled off the outer layers to reveal the inner pith, which was then offered to the youngsters.

As well as a Hoopoe there was a selection of common migrants, including one shy Subalpine Warbler. Hiding among the House Sparrows were a few weavers. Their cover was blown rather by a late arriving gaudy yellow and black male. On the estuary we were very fortunate to see a Slender-billed Gull and Audouin’s Gull, and we marvelled at some really close Turnstones feeding with a Bar-tailed Godwit just a few feet away.

The last morning was clear of mountain cloud so we could again bird the area around our hotel. Crested Tit, Firecrest and Short-toed Treecreeper were the best sightings. During the week we also located a couple of Moorish Geckos and two rather small young Large Psammodromus by our hotel.

Robin Chittenden

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED
(Total 152 species recorded by the group)

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*
- Small parties recorded daily, with 70+ on the pseudo-steppe between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th being the highest day total.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*
- Small numbers (< 10) at Lagoa dos Salgados on each visit, but higher numbers present at Quinta do Lago with 50+ there on 8th.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
- Common at all wetlands, with 100+ Lagoa dos Salgados and Quinta do Lago.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*
- Up to ten at Lagoa dos Salgados on each visit, and 15+ at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Teal *Anas crecca*
- Up to 50 at Lagoa dos Salgados on each visit, and 60+ at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*
- Five at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*
- Two at Lagoa dos Salgados on 5th and one there on 7th. Also, 10+ at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Cory’s Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*
- 200+ of the Atlantic breeding race *C. d. borealis* during the boat trip from Sagres on 6th, followed by a resting flock of 300+ off Cape St Vincent later the same day.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*
- Two from the boat trip from Sagres on 6th, followed by two off Cape St Vincent later the same day.

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*
- One from the boat trip from Sagres on 6th.

European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*
- At least four from the boat trip out of Sagres on 6th.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
- Common at Lagoa dos Salgados, Castro Marim salt pans and Quinta do Lago.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*
- Nine at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th and one at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*
- About 15 at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*
- Numbers at Lagoa dos Salgados ranged from 60 to 150 on our three visits to this superb wetland. Elsewhere, 15+ at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*
- One between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th, and two in flight at Cape St Vincent on 6th.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*
- Commonly seen, with sightings from the pseudo-steppe between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th, as well as at all major wetlands. Birds seen daily at a colony numbering 60–70 birds, by the roadside above Portimão. Nests were occupied and mating observed, suggesting these birds are resident here.
Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Singles at Lagoa dos Salgados on 7th and 8th.

**Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*
Common at Lagoa dos Salgados, with 50–80 birds present during our three visits. Also, 100+ present at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th. Many birds sported a multitude of brightly coloured plastic rings, and probably originated from breeding colonies in the Netherlands.

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*
Four juveniles at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*
Common, often seen accompanying cattle well away from wetlands, and flying in large groups to roost in the late afternoons.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*
Common and widespread at wetlands throughout.

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**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*
Up to 10 seen during the boat trip from Sagres on 6th, and 20+ off Cape St Vincent later the same day.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Up to 15 seen daily, most numerous at Lagoa dos Salgados where a couple of birds showed some characteristics of the distinctive North African population.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*
Widely recorded, with ones and twos seen daily.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*
One at Lagoa dos Salgados on 5th and two at Cape St Vincent on 6th.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*
One at Lagoa dos Salgados on 5th and three at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*
An adult hunting in the valley outside the restaurant at Silves on 5th.

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*
One high over Mértola on 4th.

**Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus*
An immature at Cape St Vincent on 6th.

**Short-toed Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*
One between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th, and 10+ at Cape St Vincent on 6th.

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*
Four at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th, followed by one at Lagoa dos Salgados later the same day. Two at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*
A ‘ringtail’ at Cape St Vincent on 6th.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*
A very distant bird at Cape St Vincent on 6th.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*
A few seen most days. Most numerous between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th.

**Spanish Imperial Eagle** *Aquila adalberti*
A sub-adult male flew past us at remarkably close range between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th.

**Booted Eagle** *Aquila pennata*
At least 70 at Cape St Vincent on 6th, and one at Castro Marim on 7th. Most were pale morph birds.

**Great Bustard** *Otis tarda*
At least 15 on the pseudo-steppe between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th. Due to the prolonged drought, many birds from this region had dispersed, making them much harder to find this year.

**Little Bustard** *Tetrax tetrix*
At least 55 on the pseudo-steppe between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th. As with the previous species, particularly difficult to find this year due to the drought. Eventually this group was found on an irrigated pivot field. Also, three or more at Cape St Vincent on 6th.

**Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*
Singles at Lagoa dos Salgados on 5th and 8th, and 15+ at Quinta do Lago, also on 8th.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*
Widespread in lowland wetlands.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*
Common and widespread in lowland wetlands.
Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*
At least eight in a flock on the pseudo-steppe between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th, and 13 at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*
At least 12 at the mouth of the Rio Guadiana at Vila Real de St Antonio on 7th.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Common and widespread in lowland wetlands. Maximum of 100+ at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
At least 20 at Lagoa dos Salgados on 5th and 8th, and 200+ at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
Widespread in scattered parties. At least 40 on pseudo-steppe between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th, up to 20 at Lagoa dos Salgados on 5th and 8th, and 12+ at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*
One flew over the golf course at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
At least 70 at the Castro Marim salt pans on 7th, and 20+ at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
Common at coastal wetlands, with maximum of 100+ at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Two by a small stream between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Often found alongside Ringed Plover but in smaller numbers, e.g. 30+ at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
Up to ten at Lagoa dos Salgados on 5th, 7th and 8th, and two at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
Up to 150 at Lagoa dos Salgados on each visit, and 250+ at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th. Several at Quinta do Lago on 8th included three first-winter birds of the nominate race alongside two juvenile birds of the race *L. l. islandica*. The nominate birds were clearly larger than the islandica, and had completed body moult into first-winter plumage but still retained juvenile wing-coverts, while the islandica birds had yet to begin their post-juvenile moult.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
One at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th and three at Lagoa dos Salgados later the same day. At least 30 at Quinta do Lago on 8th. All were juveniles.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
Six at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*
Three at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*
Two at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*
15+ at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th and 30+ at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Six at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th and one at Lagoa dos Salgados later the same day. Two at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Three between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th, up to two on each visit to Lagoa dos Salgados, and two at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Up to three at Lagoa dos Salgados on each visit.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*
Five at Sagres harbour on 6th, one at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th and 15+ at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Knot *Calidris canutus*
At least 15 at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*
Surprisingly numerous, including 15–20 at Lagoa dos Salgados on each visit, 60+ at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th, and 20+ at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*
One at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*
At least 80 at Castro Marim salt pans on 7th.
Dunlin *Calidris alpina*
Common at most lowland wetlands, with 30+ at Lagoa dos Salgados on each visit, 300+ at Castro Marim saltpans and 60+ at Quinta do Lago.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*
One at Lagoa dos Salgados on 5th and three at Castro Marim saltpans on 7th.

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*
A first-winter bird showed well in the tidal creek at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Very common and seen most days.

Audouin’s Gull *Larus audouini*
An adult at Castro Marim saltpans on 7th and a first-winter at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephala*
Three in flight at the mouth of the Rio Guadiana at Vila Real de St Antonio on 7th, and one at the Castro Marim saltpans later the same day. Two at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*
Usually the most numerous of the larger gulls and seen daily.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus intermedius/graellsii*
Very common and seen most days.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*
15+ at Castro Marim saltpans on 7th.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*
Singles at Lagoa dos Salgados on 5th and 7th, plus two adults and a dependant juvenile there on 8th. 20+ at Castro Marim saltpans on 7th.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensi*
Widespread in small numbers. Two in Sagres harbour on 6th, three at the mouth of the Rio Guadiana at Vila Real de St Antonio on 7th, followed by 2+ at Castro Marim saltpans later the same day, six at Quinta do Lago on 8th and 12+ at Lagoa dos Salgados, also on 8th.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*
At least eight from the boat trip from Sagres on 6th, and one off Cape St Vincent later the same day.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*
Birds showing the plumage characters and behaviour of wild Rock Doves were only seen on the seaclliffs in the extreme southwest. Six or more at Cape St Vincent on 6th, and 40+ from the boat as it left Sagres harbour, also on 6th. Domesticated/feral pigeons noted widely and daily.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*
One by the hotel at Monchique on 4th.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*
Widespread and common.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*
One heard most nights at our hotel at Monchique.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*
Singles near Lagoa dos Salgados on 4th, 5th and 7th, possibly the same individual on each occasion. Elsewhere, one at Cape St Vincent on 6th.

Common Swift *Apus apus*
Ten or more at Mértola on 4th, and one at Castro Marim on 7th.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*
One flew across a small stream between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th, and another showed well at Quinta do Lago on 8th. Also heard at Castro Marim on 7th.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*
One en route on 4th and another at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*
Regularly heard and occasionally seen by the hotel at Monchique.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*
Heard from the hotel at Monchique on 4th, 5th and 9th, but not seen.

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*
At least 20 on the pseudo-steppe between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th, one at Cape St Vincent on 6th and two at Castro Marim saltpans on 7th. The revised Collins Guide now treats this taxon as a monotypic species, Iberian Grey Shrike (but note that it also breeds in France).

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*
Regularly heard and occasionally seen by the hotel at Monchique.
Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus*
A common species. Seen every day, mostly in flight as small groups flew across the road. Several feeding on the manicured lawns at Quinta do Lago on 8th put on a nice display for the photographers.

Magpie *Pica pica*
At least ten between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th, and 6+ in the Castro Marim area on 7th.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*
At least 51 feeding in a field at Cape St Vincent on 6th.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*
Many Cape St Vincent on 6th.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*
Two in pseudo-steppe between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th.

Raven *Corvus corax*
Parties on two and three birds in pseudo-steppe between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th.

Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus*
After hearing birds calling in the trees around the hotel on several occasions, at least one was lured into view on the morning of 8th, low cloud and mist had prevented this happening sooner!

Great Tit *Parus major*
Regularly seen in suitable habitat.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*
Regularly seen in suitable habitat.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*
Six or more at Cape St Vincent on 6th and at least 20 over the golf course at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
Two or more at Mértola on 4th, and one at Cape St Vincent on 6th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Small numbers noted at Lagoa dos Salgados on 5th and Cape St Vincent on 6th, also 15+ over the golf course at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*
At least 20 at Mértola on 4th, 5+ at Silves on 5th, and 30+ over the golf course at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*
At least 40 over the bridge and gorge at Mértola on 3rd, and 200+ moved past the hotel at Silves on 5th – these birds were slowly travelling down the valley on migration.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*
Common and widespread. Seen at all sites visited except Cape St Vincent.

Thelka Lark *Galerida theklae*
Common at Cape St Vincent with 16+ noted there on 6th.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*
One in song at Cape St Vincent on 6th.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*
One in song at Foia, above Monchique, on 5th. Eventually found perched on top of a tall mast.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*
At least four at the summit of Foia, above Monchique, on 5th, followed by one at Lagoa dos Salgados later the same day. Others seen or heard at Cape St Vincent on 6th and in the Castro Marim area on 7th.

Cetti’s Warbler *Cettia cetti*
Fairly common and widespread, and heard most days. One regularly sang outside the hotel at Monchique.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
One at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*
Three at Lagoa dos Salgados on 5th and two there on 7th, two at Cape St Vincent on 6th, and one at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
Two at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*
A calling bird showed well by the roadside below Monchique on 5th. Another possible, either this species or a particularly brightly coloured Chiffchaff, was at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*
Singles seen around the hotel on several occasions but 6+ noted on the upper slopes of Foia, above Monchique, on 5th. A few seen here and there

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*
One on the upper slopes of Foia, above Monchique, on 5th.
Whitethroat _Sylvia communis_
   One briefly at Cape St Vincent on 5th.

_Dartford Warbler_ _Sylvia undata_
   At least ten on the upper slopes of Foia, above Monchique, on 5th, followed by three or more at Cape St Vincent on 6th.

_Subalpine Warbler_ _Sylvia cantillans_
   A first-winter bird was seen briefly at Cape St Vincent on 6th and another at Quinta do Lago on 8th.

_Sardinian Warbler_ _Sylvia melanocephala_
   Fairly common and widespread.

_Firecrest_ _Regulus ignicapilla_
   Occasionally heard by the hotel at Monchique, but one eventually showed well there on 9th.

_Wren_ _Troglodytes troglodytes_
   One or two heard most days by the hotel at Monchique, and two seen on the upper slopes of Foia, above Monchique, on 5th.

_Nuthatch_ _Sitta europaea_
   Regularly seen and heard at the hotel at Monchique.

_Short-toed Treecreeper_ _Certhia brachydactyla_
   One showed well by the hotel at Monchique on 9th.

_Spotless Starling_ _Sturnus unicolor_
   Widespread and fairly common. Several 100s between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th.

_Ring Ouzel_ _Turdus torquatus_
   At least 12 on the upper slopes of Foia, above Monchique, on 5th. These birds were of the ‘frosted’ central European race _T. t. alpestris_, in which males show extensive whitish fringes to the wing-coverts and tertials, and edges of the secondaries and primaries. Males also show conspicuous white fringes to the underpart feathering, making them quite distinct from the duller nominate race that breeds in Britain. Young females were much drabber and probably not separable from western birds.

_Black Redstart_ _Phoenicurus ochruros_
   Four at Cape St Vincent on 6th.

_Redstart_ _Phoenicurus phoenicurus_
   One at Castro Marim on 7th.

_Whinchat_ _Saxicola rubetra_
   One on the upper slopes of Foia, above Monchique, on 5th.

_Stonechat_ _Saxicola rubicola_
   Widespread and common.

_Northern Wheatear_ _Oenanthe oenanthe_
   A common migrant with up to 40 seen daily from sea level to the summit of Foia.

_Blue Rock Thrush_ _Monticola solitarius_
   Two males at Mértola on 4th and a male on the upper slopes of Foia, above Monchique, on 5th.

_Spotted Flycatcher_ _Muscicapa striata_
   One between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th; two on the upper slopes of Foia, above Monchique, on 5th.

_Pied Flycatcher_ _Ficedula hypoleuca_
   One and twos seen daily. A particularly showy individual frequented the trees just outside our hotel at Monchique throughout our stay.

_House Sparrow_ _Passer domesticus_
   Common and widespread, particularly in urban areas.

_Rock Sparrow_ _Petronia petronia_
   One flew over the bridge at Mértola on 4th.

_Yellow-backed (Black-headed) Weaver_ _Ploceus melanocephalus_
   Introduced species. Several at Quinta do Lago with House Sparrows on 8th. All were in a female/non-breeding plumage except for single male in breeding dress.
Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*  
Introduced species. Two flew over the bridge at Mértola on 4th.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*  
Up to ten seen at Lagoa dos Salgados during visits on 4th, 7th and 8th, including males of the races *M. f. flava* (Blue-headed Wagtail) and *M. f. flavissima* (Yellow Wagtail). Also, 15+ at Cape St Vincent on 6th with a herd of cattle. Occasionally heard elsewhere.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*  
Three on a small stream between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th, and one at Cape St Vincent on 6th.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*  
One at Cape St Vincent on 6th.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*  
A few by the hotel at Monchique and on the upper slopes of Foia on 5th.

Serin *Serinus serinus*  
An immature at Cape St Vincent on 6th.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*  
Fairly common and widespread, noted on five days.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*  
At least 25 at Cape St Vincent on 6th.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*  
Locally common and widespread. Particularly common in the pseudo-steppe between Castro Verde and Mértola on 4th, and smaller numbers at Cape St Vincent on 6th.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*  
Numerous and easily seen on the upper slopes of Foia, above Monchique, on 5th.

**MAMMALS**

Iberian Hare *Lepus granatensis*

**REPTILES**

Spanish Terrapin *Mauremys leprosa*

Stripe-necked Terrapin *Mauremys caspica*

Large Psammodromus *Psammodromus algirus*

Moorish Gecko *Tarentola mauritanica*

**BUTTERFLIES**

Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*

Large White *Pieris brassicae*

Small White *Artogeia rapae*

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*

Wall Brown *Lasionyma maera*

Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*

**DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES**

Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope*

Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombei*

**OTHER TAXA**

Red-winged Grasshopper species possibly, *Calliptamus barbarus*

Blue-winged Grasshopper species, possibly *Oedipoda caerulescens*

Praying Mantis or European Mantis *Mantis religiosa*

Wasp Spider *Argiope bruennichi*