Portugal
The Algarve in Autumn
Wed 2nd – Wed 9th October 2013

(Trip photos, clockwise from top left): One of the sights and sounds of the Algarve – a Zitting Cisticola • One of the European Storm-petrels that zipped past the boat • A migrant immature male Northern Wheatear • Another great find was this Grey Phalarope at Tavira • A fine portrait of a Great Shearwater on the pelagic out of Sagres • A Red-veined Darter, one of many seen during the week © all photos Robin Chittenden – www.robinchittenden.co.uk

report compiled by tour leaders:
Robin Chittenden and Stephen Daly
Trip Diary

Tour Leaders: Stephen Daly & Robin Chittenden
with Jenepher Allen, Paul & Sue Daunter, Brian & Anne Hague, Brian & Virginia Waterfield and Len & Gill Waterworth

Autumn in Portugal is a time of transition, when birds such as waders or raptors are moving south for the winter. Some simply pass through, whilst others are arriving on the rich coastal wetlands and scrub to spend the winter months.

Tour Highlights

- Watching Great Bustards at Castro Verde
- Exploring the vast salt-pans around Tavira
- Watching Little Bitterns and Wrynecks
- Finding Grey Phalarope, Arctic and White-winged Black Tern
- Boat trip to study pelagic species close at hand
- Great weather, excellent local lunches and dinners

Day 1. Wednesday 2nd October
We all met without any trouble at Faro airport, with Stephen driving along from southern Spain with his own minibus ahead of the main group and meeting Brian and Virginia who’d arrived earlier. The other flights from Newcastle with Brian and Anne and Len and Gill arrived around same time as the Gatwick flight with Robin and the rest of the party, Paul, Sue and Jenepher. Collecting the hire minibus we set off along the road to Tavira and our first hotel for four nights. The weather was overcast and humid and we had dinner then retired to our rooms to be bright and early for our first day’s birding.

Day 2. Thursday 3rd October
It doesn’t get light until 7am in early October on the Algarve coast and our pre-breakfast recce around the salt flats at the back door of the hotel proved quite profitable. Along the hotel road and the side tracks we came across a pair of Hoopoes, Willow Warbler, Sardinian Warbler and Crested Lark. Good numbers of Eurasian Spoonbills were seen in flight as were Black-tailed Godwit, Cormorants, Yellow-legged, Lesser Black-backed, Black-headed and Mediterranean Gulls. On the tidal estuary at the rear of the hotel Oystercatchers, Bar-tailed Godwits, Turnstone and Sanderling were seen. A single Sandwich Tern was watched in the distance and on the way to breakfast we saw three Little Owls in the hotel pines.

Making our way slowly around the salt-pans that are around Tavira we found Osprey, Kestrel and Audouin’s Gulls; a short time later we were watching Kentish and Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Curlew Sandpiper, Grey Plover, Avocet, Little Stint, Greenshank, Whimbrel and Eurasian Curlew. Slender-billed Gull was next for our rarer birds list and a few Yellow Wagtails were seen. Some ducks were around and were flushed as the Osprey continued its search over the salt-pans for food. Gadwall, Common Pochard and Mallard were identified and a lone Glossy Ibis flew off in the distance. Red-legged Partridge, Cattle Egrets and several White Storks were seen on nearby farmland with flocks of Feral Pigeons.

We had lunch at the hotel and later traveled westwards to Quinto da Lago where we took a walk along the estuary at the golf course. Purple Swamphen, Common Coot and Moorhen greeted us at the small lake, as Great Crested and Little Grebes swam around or dived for food. Cetti’s Warbler was heard then seen as were the many Sardinian Warblers that flitted through the scrub as did the ever-present Zitting Cisticola.

Stonechats and two Iberian Green Woodpeckers were seen and some small terns flew over the far side of the lake, often venturing closer. Surprisingly one was a juvenile Arctic Tern that was accompanied
by a Black Tern and another ‘marsh’ tern, which from photographs turned out to be a White-winged Black Tern. Five Little Terns were also seen and Willow Warbler, Pied and Spotted Flycatchers as well as some Greenfinch were watched.

We took time to watch the Yellow-backed Weavers that have colonized the area and on doing so spotted a lovely Wryneck close to some feeding Hoopoes. Another Wryneck was seen close by as we watched some Azure-winged Magpies feeding.

**Day 3. Friday 4th October**

After an early breakfast we headed north to the Castro Verde area. Southern Grey Shrikes, Northern Wheatears, Corn Buntings and Crested Larks were very much in evidence along the quiet country lanes. Stopping and scanning at a riverside bridge we picked up a group of five Great Bustards in flight, their large silhouettes unmistakable across the landscape. A short time later Gill picked up a single Great Bustard feeding in low undulating farmland. This sighting turned out to be one of eleven birds that later took off and flew across the landscape. Five Little Bustards were also seen flying in the distance.

On the river we watched Kingfisher, Green Sandpiper, White Wagtail, Pied Flycatcher and Grey Heron. Buzzards and a single Black Kite were watched and to our delight two Black Storks circled over a small reservoir close by, before heading off into the distance. Near Mertola we picked up small groups of Griffon Vultures and had good views of the larger and much rarer Black Vulture.

After lunch we watched Red-rumped Swallows, Crag Martins, Barn Swallow and House Martins feeding along the river near Mertola. A party of Long-tailed Tits were also watched as were single Willow Warblers feeding through the roadside fennel. Our return journey to Tavira was quite a long one and we retired after another lovely buffet dinner.

**Day 4. Saturday 5th October**

After an early breakfast we departed to Castro Marim on the border with Spain. Here the River Guadiana is the physical barrier and border between the two countries. The large natural park on the river’s edge is a good place to look for wetland and other species of birds. Amongst a large flock of mixed gulls we found Caspian Tern and the rare Audouin’s Gull. Marsh Harriers were present quartering the marsh area and two Peregrines were seen flying across the salt-pans and open olive groves.

White Storks lined the shallow muddy salt-pans and a host of waders were seen. Moving across to the western edge of the marshes we took a long walk around the perimeter of farmland watching many incoming Slender-billed Gulls. Huge numbers of Coot were seen and Spoonbills and Greater Flamingoes slept or fed in the pools or sat on top of the muddy banks. Masses of Shoveler slept on various banks and stony barriers in the distance and close to them swam a huge raft of over 50 Black-necked Grebe. Off Altura a distant Northern Gannet flew offshore and a few Mediterranean Gulls were seen in the distance as Yellow-legged and Lesser Black backed Gulls sat on the surface.

We took lunch at a local fish restaurant near the river mouth and later scanned a few areas and ponds for any unusual birds. A single Black-necked Grebe was seen which gave better views than the morning’s distant flock. Back at the salt-pans of Tavira we walked around one side of the salt works where Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Kentish and Ringed Plover were seen. A Slender-billed Gull was roosting with Black-headed Gulls and this gave us a good opportunity to compare these similar species in winter plumage.

One excellent find was a Grey Phalarope on one of the pools and we watched the bird’s feeding antics for some time. A short time later a presumed hybrid Western Reef x Little Egret *Egretta gularis x garzetta* flew past. After dinner we completed our daily log and talked over the day’s birds and our plans for the journey to our second hotel at Sagres.
Day 5. Sunday 6th October

After another early breakfast we said farewell to our Tavira hotel and drove northwest to Monchique. At the peak of this mountain the clear visibility allowed us to see many migrants that were all around the top of the highest mountain in the Algarve. Northern Wheatears were abundant and the local Blue Rock Thrushes were squabbling with three or four migrant Rock Thrushes. A single Sparrowhawk was seen hunting close to the car park and Dartford Warbler was watched flitting from a nearby fence post. Greenfinches flew past as we watched a single Wood Lark; Goldfinches sang as they flew past as we watched a single Rock Bunting.

We drove down to Silves, the oldest town in Portugal for lunch and later toured around Lagoa dos Salgados, a rich lake close to the coast. Work is in progress to protect the site from water loss and the main part of the lake was dry with only a distant edge containing water. Over 200 Glossy Ibis were seen with some Greater Flamingoes and Spoonbill. A Little Bittern was present and a few Purple Swamphens. After dinner at our new hotel in Sagres we settled down for the night.

Day 6. Monday 7th October

Our planned boat trip from Sagres harbour we failed to plan and calm seas with a light breeze made for perfect pelagic birdwatching conditions. We motored out around 11 nautical miles to where a trawler and another fishing vessel were working. Here a considerable number of gulls could be seen from afar following the working trawler. As we approached a school of Common Dolphins were seen feeding, coming to the surface for air every minute or so. A few Cory’s Shearwaters and many Northern Gannets were in the area and a Great Skua was amongst the gulls and dolphins who seemed to be feeding on a shoal of anchovies.

As we neared the trawler more Cory’s and a few Balearic Shearwaters came past. A Great Shearwater was then watched close by and we had great views of all the shearwaters. Some time later four or five European Storm-petrels came flying in and whizzed around the boat, stopping briefly to flutter and peck morsels of food from the sea then fly quickly off again. We stayed in the area for around an hour manoeuvring the boat, constantly changing direction to let everyone get good views of all these wonderful seabirds.

On the journey back to Sagres we spotted an Arctic Skua heading south from Cape St Vincent. Going back to the hotel we spotted a large flock of mixed raptors coming in over the town. Most were Booted Eagles, but there were a few Short-toed Eagles that passed really close by. A lone Black Kite was also in the spiraling flock that eventually rose on a large coastal thermal then drifted off down the Algarve coastline.

Lunch was taken in the shade at a local restaurant outside of town and later we explored the heath and scrublands between Sagres town and the cape. Dartford Warbler, Northern Wheatear, Wood Lark, Whinchat were seen and Turtle Dove and Thekla Lark were new birds to add to our bird list. A kettle of nine Black Storks were watched and Kestrels, Sparrowhawks and Buzzard were seen. At a local watchpoint we saw two juvenile Bonelli’s Eagles come close before turning in the afternoon light. More Booted Eagles and singles of Short-toed Eagles came past high in the clear sky.

Traveling inland, a flock of Yellow Wagtails was seen feeding amongst cattle, and Sky Lark, Tawny Pipit, Short-toed Lark and a large flock of Linnet were seen feeding. A Little Owl sat perched on a nearby farm building as we scanned for more larks and the ever-elusive Little Bustards. A short time later while walking along one of the tracks to the beach Gill spotted a single Little Bustard take to the air and fly off over the cattle. Robin and Stephen went back to collect the minibuses and we all drove to the area where the bustard had landed. Searching in vain we about-turned and on the way back saw a small group of four Little Bustards take to the air and fly southwards.

After all this excitement we watched a single Eleonora’s Falcon fly across a distant treeline where a flock of mixed raptors were intent in using the trees as a roost. A small flock of Honey Buzzards came
into the area and we watched Booted Eagles land in the trees and Short-toed Eagles fly up and down checking the area. A short time after we saw pair of local Peregrines fly past the same area. A flock of Red-billed Choughs were the last birds we saw and we watched a pair mutually preen each other in the late afternoon light.

**Day 7. Tuesday 8th October**

After breakfast we headed back along the dramatic coastline to Cape St. Vincent. Here we stood on the cliff tops at the Cape and watched Cory’s’s and Balearic Shearwaters join hundreds of Northern Gannets passing south around the headland. Some Mediterranean Gulls and a few Sandwich Terns also came past and a Whimbrel was seen perched on a distant cliff face. Black Redstarts and Northern Wheatears were common passage migrants all along the rocky outcrops and Rock Doves were plentiful. Searching other corners of the cliff edges and scrub we watched Dartford and Sardinian Warblers.

As the day temperature rose, we saw the first raptors come in across the flat landscape. We took up a position on the raptor watch point to see two Bonelli’s Eagles pass back and forth across the sun. Many Short-toed and Booted Eagles sailed past and a party of seven Black Storks was also watched. Sparrowhawks, Buzzards and a few Honey Buzzards came by and in the woodland we had a fleeting glimpse of a Two-tailed Pasha butterfly.

After taking lunch in Sagres we decided that a siesta was needed and went back to our nearby hotel. Some took a nap while others cooled down in the hotel’s pool. Later in the afternoon we walked around the headland near Sagres. Here we watched Cory’s, Great and Balearic Shearwaters came close by the headland as did 14 or so Bottlenose Dolphins that hunted and swam close to the cliffs. A single Peregrine was seen perched on the cliffs and some Red-billed Choughs chattered as they flew along the headland. Back at the hotel we took dinner and added new species to our list.

**Day 8. Wednesday 9th October**

We traveled first of all to the outskirts of Lagos for the last day’s birding. The group flights back home were later that afternoon and we were keen to find Black-winged Kite, an elusive bird at this time of the year and one of the nomad types that can turn up anywhere.

Checking out the river and upper estuary we found Common Waxbills and many other species that we’d seen before but it wasn’t until we’d scoured the surrounding countryside that Robin spotted a Black-winged Kite in flight. This juvenile bird was watched with great pleasure by all and came close by to where we were standing and all of us had good views. A good result for all! A Great Spotted Woodpecker was also seen in flight.

Continuing along to Faro we parked and took lunch at a fish restaurant on the estuary. Mediterranean Gulls came past as did Sandwich Terns as we enjoyed another good local meal. In the afternoon we checked out a woodland strip leading to Ludo Farm finding Short-toed Treecreeper. Stephen took Brian and Virginia back to Faro Airport to check-in. Len and Gill came with them to collect a hire car at the airport as they wanted to spend extra days exploring Portugal. The rest of the group continued in Robin’s minibus and bumped into another Black-winged Kite.

**ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED**

*(A total of 149 species was recorded by the group)*

**Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa***
Small parties seen most days

**Gadwall *Anas strepera***
Many at the wetland habitats.
Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
Many at the wetland habitats.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*
Some at the wetland habitats.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*
A few Quinta do Lago and one Ludo Farm.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*
40+ Ludo Farm.

Cory’s Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*
About ten from the boat trip from Sagres, 25+ off Cape St Vincent and about six off Sagres

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*
Two from the boat trip from Sagres and eight off Cape St Vincent.

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis*
Six boat trip from Sagres and one off Sagres.

European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*
Five from the boat trip out of Sagres.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Common at wetlands

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*
Four Quinta do Lago Ludo, four Castro Marim saltpans and two Ludo Farm.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*
50+ Castro Marim saltpans and one Altura.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*
At least 30 Tavira saltpans, 350+ Castro Marim saltpans, seven Lagoa dos Salgados and 80+ Ludo Farm.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*
Two Castro Verde, 27 en route over A2 and 16 in total Cape St Vincent.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*
A few seen here and there and a couple of double figure flocks.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
One Tavira, nine or so Quinta do Lago, 27 over Castro Marim saltpans and 200+ Lagoa dos Salgado.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
60+ Tavira, 290 Castro Marim saltpans, four Lagoa dos Salgados and ten Faro.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*
Two or three Quinta do Lago.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Common.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Common and widespread.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Common and widespread. A bird that resembled a Western Reef Egret, but presumably just a hybrid with *garzetta* was seen at Tavira – such birds have been seen here since 2001.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*
One Altura, many during the boat trip from Sagres and off Cape St Vincent and Sagres.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Seen most days.

Shag *Leucocarbo aristotelis*
One Sagres.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
One Tavira.

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*
Seen at Cape St Vincent on two dates.

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
One near Lagos and one Ludo Farm.
Red Kite Milvus milvus
One Sagres.

Black Kite Milvus migrans
One Castro Verde, two Sagres and another Cape St Vincent.

Eurasian Griffon Gyps fulvus
About ten Castro Verde.

Black Vulture Aegypius monachus
One Mertola

Sparrowhawk Accipiter nisus
Seen at three sites, Tavira, Monchique and Sagres

Short-toed Eagle Circaetus gallicus
Eight Cape St Vincent.

Marsh Harrier Circus aeruginosus
Five Castro Marim saltpans and ones and twos here and there

Common Buzzard Buteo buteo
Seen most days.

Bonelli's Eagle Aquila fasciata
Four Cape St Vincent.

Booted Eagle Hieraaetus pennatus
Two Quinta do Lago, up to 48 Sagres and Castro Verde Cape St Vincent, one near Lagos and one Ludo Farm

Kestrel Falco tinnunculus
A few seen most days.

Peregrine Falco peregrinus
A couple Cape St Vincent, one Sagres and one Ludo Farm

Eleonora's Falcon Falco eleonorae
One Cape St Vincent.

Great Bustard Otis tarda
15 on the pseudo-steppe at Castro Verde.

Little Bustard Tetrax tetrax
A flock of seven Castro Verde and five Cape St Vincent.

Purple Swamphen Porphyrio porphyrio
Eight Quinta do Lago, four Lagoa dos Salgados and one Ludo Farm.

Moorhen Gallinula chloropus
Fairly common.

Coot Fulica atra
Common.

Oystercatcher Haematopus ostralegus
Ten Tavira and at least 100 at the mouth of the Rio Guadiana at Vila Real de Sto Antonio.

Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus
Common and widespread.

Avocet Recurvirostra avosetta
Several Tavira and Castro Marim saltpans.

Lapwing Vanella vanellus
Ten Castro Verde, one Tavira and several Lagoa dos Salgados.

Grey Plover Pluvialis squatarola
A few Tavira and 70+ at the mouth of the Rio Guadiana at Vila Real de Sto Antonio.

Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula
Common at coastal wetlands.

Little Ringed Plover Charadrius dubius
One Castro Verde.

Kentish Plover Charadrius alexandrinus
A few Tavira and Castro Marim saltpans.

Common Snipe Gallinago gallinago
One or two Tavira, two Castro Marim and six Lagoa dos Salgados.
**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*
Many at Tavira and Castro Marim salt pans and a few Lagoa dos Salgados.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*
Several Tavira, four Lagoa dos Salgados and one Faro.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*
Only one or two heard or seen at a few localities.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*
20+ Tavira and one Lagoa dos Salgados.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*
One Ludo Farm.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*
Common on the estuaries and salt pans.

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*
A few on the estuaries and salt pans.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*
Three Castro Verde, six Castro Marim salt pans and one Lagoa dos Salgados.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*
Two Tavira, one Castro Marim salt pans, one Altura, one Lagoa dos Salgados and one Ludo Farm.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*
Several Tavira and Castro Marim salt pans, one Lagoa dos Salgados and four Sagres.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*
Six Tavira, three Castro Marim salt pans and two Lagoa dos Salgados.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*
Several on the various salt pans and estuaries.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*
30+ Tavira and Castro Marim salt pans, a few Lagoa dos Salgados and several Ludo Farm.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*
Up to 20 Tavira; a couple Castro Marim salt pans.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*
Many at most salt pans and estuaries.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*
Three Castro Marim.

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*
One Tavira.

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

**Slender-billed Gull** *Chroicocephalus genei*
Seen at Tavira and Vila Real de Sto Antonio

**Audouin’s Gull** *Ichthyaetus audouinii*
60+ Tavira salt pans and Castro Marim salt pans, several mouth of Rio Guadiana and one Lagoa dos Salgados.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*
Several Tavira and at the mouth of the Rio Guadiana at Vila Real de Sto Antonio and three Faro.

**Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*
The most numerous of the larger gulls.

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

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*
Five Lagoa dos Salgados.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*
Six Castro Marim and one Lagoa dos Salgados.

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*
One Lagoa dos Salgados.

**White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*
One identified from photographs Lagoa dos Salgados.
Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensi*
Widespread in small numbers.

**Arctic Tern** *Sternula paradisaea*
One Quinta do Lago.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*
One Sagres boat trip.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*
A few from the boat trip from Sagres.

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*
Birds showing the plumage characters and behaviour of wild Rock Doves were only seen on the seaciffs in the extreme southwest Cape St Vincent and Sagres harbour. Feral pigeons common.

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*
Two Cape St Vincent and another Ludo Farm.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*
Widespread and common.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*
One heard Tavira.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*
Several seen here and there.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*
Two Castro Verde and one Castro Marim salt pans.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*
One and twos seen here and there.

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*
Two at Quinta do Lago.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*
One near Lagos.

**Iberian Green Woodpecker** *Picus sharpei*
One Lagoa dos Salgados.

**Southern Grey Shrike** *Lanius meridionalis*
At least 25 Castro Verde and two Castro Marim.

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*
Ones and twos here and there.

**Azure-winged Magpie** *Cyanopica cyanus*
A common species.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*
Several in eastern Algarve.

**Red-billed Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*
Up to three Sagres and 70+ Cape St Vincent.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*
50+ Castro Verde and up to 40 Cape St Vincent.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*
A few see Castro Verde.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*
Eight Castro Verde.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*
Two Ludo Farm.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*
One Monchique.

**Short-toed Treecreeper** *Certhia brachydactyla*
One at Ludo Farm.

**Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
Four Mertola and two Cape St Vincent.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*
Three Castro Verde and two Ludo Farm.
House Martin *Delichon urbica*
Ten Mertola.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*
Several seen including c. 100 Monchique.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*
Common and widespread.

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae*
Common at Cape St Vincent.

Sky Lark *Alauda arvensis*
Two Cape St Vincent.

Wood Lark *Lullula arborea*
Two in song Monchique and up to five Cape St Vincent.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*
Seen most days.

Cetti’s Warbler *Cettia cetti*
Three Lagoa dos Salgados and heard Ludo Farm.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*
A few seen here and there.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
Two Monchique.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*
One Cape St Vincent.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*
Two Cape St Vincent.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*
One Quinta do Lago, six Monchique and eight Cape St Vincent.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*
Common and widespread.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*
One Cape St Vincent.

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*
Widespread and fairly common.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*
A few here and there.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*
One Monchique.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*
Up to four Cape St Vincent and two Sagres.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
One Quinta do Lago, two Cape St Vincent and one near Lagos.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*
Ones and twos here and there.

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*
Widespread and common.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Fairly common including 40+ Monchique.

Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*
Four Monchique and one Cape St Vincent.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*
Up to four Monchique and one Cape St Vincent.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*
One Quinta do Lago

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*
Ones and twos here and there.
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Common and widespread.

Yellow-backed (Black-headed) Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*
Several Quinta do Lago.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*
A few near Lagos and two Ludo Farm.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*
Two Tavira, one Lagoa dos Salgados and 20+ Cape St Vincent.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
One Ludo Farm.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*
Two Castro Verde.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*
One Cape St Vincent.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*
One heard Monchique.

Serin *Serinus serinus*
A couple at Castro Marim.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*
Fairly common and widespread.

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*
A couple of flocks of 50.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*
Locally common and widespread.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*
Two Monchique.

**MAMMALS**
Iberian Hare *Lepus granatensis*

Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*

Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

**REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS**
Spanish Terrapin *Mauremys leprosa*

European Pond Terrapin *Emys orbicularis*

Moorish Gecko *Tarentola mauritanica*

Stripeless Tree Frog *Hyla meridionalis*

Iberian Water Frog *Rana perezi*

**BUTTERFLIES**
Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*

Large White *Pieris brassicae*

Small White *Artogea rapae*

Bath White *Pontia daplidice*

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*

Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni*

Two-tailed Pasha *Charaxes jasius*

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*
Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*
Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*
Brown Argus *Aricia agestis*
Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*
Lang’s Short-tailed Blue *Leptotes pirithous*
Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*

**DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFIES**
Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope*
Vagrant Emperor *Anax ephippiger*
Blue Emperor (aka Emperor Dragonfly) *Anax imperator*
Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta*
Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombei*
Broad (aka Scarlet) Darter *Crocothemis erythraea*
Violet Dropwing *Trithemis annulata*

**GRASSHOPPERS**
Red-winged Grasshopper species
Blue-winged Grasshopper species possibly *Oedipoda caerulescens*