

Portugal: Birding & Culture Species List | October 10 – 21, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



Guide António Cotão and participants Wayne, Linda, John, and Marjorie.

Our group of four began our tour in the lovely town of Alcochete, about a 30 minute drive across the Vasco Da Gama Bridge, Europe's second longest bridge which spans the Tagus River. During the first three days we birded around the Tagus River estuary, enjoyed delicious meals, and visited a local winery. We drove south through the scenic Portugal countryside to explore the Alentejo Region visiting the city of Évora, birding the Guadiana Valley Natural Park, and staying in the historical town of Mértola with a guided city tour. After four days, we moved to the coastal region of Algarve, staying in a hotel adjacent to salt marshes providing daily views of a large number of bird species. A pelagic trip from Sagres, the western most point of Europe, complemented those days in the Algarve. Despite some rainy and windy days in Alcochete and Mértola, the weather didn't influence our birding and overall we experienced favourable weather conditions and temperatures most of the days. A cultural tour in the city of Lisbon and a fabulous group dinner finish this wonderful trip of birding, dining, and cultural experiences that we would never forget!

TOTAL BIRD SPECIES SEEN OR HEARD: 155

VOTED FAVORITE BIRDS OF THE TRIP: 1.) WHITE STORK 2.) EURASIAN SPOONBILL 3) EURASIAN HOOPOE

The eBird link below details the 155 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Portugal: Birding & Culture | October 10-21, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

ADDITIONAL SIGHTINGS:

MAMMALS (4):

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*—Seen a few times near Mértola

Fallow Deer *Dama dama*—Scope views of a small herd near Mértola

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*—Seen far away on the top of a hill.

Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*—Quite a few of these small dolphins followed our boat on the pelagic in Sagres.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (6):

Mediterranean Turtle *Mauremys leprosa* - Seen in the ponds on the golf course walk at Rio Formosa

European Pond Turtle *Emys orbicularis* - This interestingly patterned endangered turtle was seen in a pond on the golf course in Rio Formosa with a Mediterranean Turtle for a nice comparison

Iberian Green Frog *Pelophylax perezi* - Heard many times around ponds

Large Psammodromus *Psammodromus algirus* – Seen a few times through the trip

Moorish Gecko *Tarentola mauritanica* – Seen in a pinewood in the Algarve

Red-eyed Slider *Trachemys scripta* – This invasive species from Florida is vastly common in the ponds of the Algarve.

BUTTERFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES (6):

Old World Swallowtail *Papilio machaon* - Seen only one in Évora

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* – Only one brief sight of it in the Algarve

Cabbage (Small) White *Pieris rapae* – Commonly seen throughout the tour

Eurasian Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus* – Seen along the Guadiana Valley in Mértola

Blue Emperor *Anax imperator* – Seen several times, particularly in the Algarve

Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombii* – A common Darter species in south of Portugal in the fall, which we spotted several times during the last days of the tour.