

Portugal: Fabulous Birding & Culture Species List | October 6 – 16, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by our local guide António Cotão. Our NJ host was Elissa Fazio, and our clients were Trina, Lynn, Kathy, Connie, Gary, Lou, Debbie, Susan, Stu, and Pam.

This 11-day exploration of southern Portugal began 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 Portuguese countryside to explore the Alentejo Region, visiting the city of Évora, birding in the Guadiana Valley Natural Park, and staying in the historical town of Mértola, where we took a guided city tour. This tour allowed us to learn about the Roman, Moorish, and Christian influences that have shaped Portugal over the centuries. After four days, we moved to the coastal region of the 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 westernmost point of Europe, complemented those days in the Algarve. The weather was sunny and pleasant throughout the tour, overall offering favourable weather conditions and temperatures on all days.

Favorite birds on this tour included the Common Hoopoe, the Common Kingfisher, the Booted Eagle, the Iberian Green Woodpecker, the Little Bittern, the Eurasian Thick-knee, and the Yellow-crowned Bishop. The Zitting Cisticola won the award for the bird with the best name, the Great Tit won the award for hardest bird to find, and the Greater Flamingo won the award for favorite behavior, "dancing" while feeding.

A total of 155 birds were recorded. Details are included in the eBird link below, including location and number of individuals seen by species 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 was seen and how many.

[Portugal: Fabulous Birding & Culture | October 6 – 16, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the mammals, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, and dragonflies we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

MAMMALS: — (4)

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* — (5) Several different sights in the first two regions visited.

Fallow Deer (I) *Dama dama* — (1) Seen in the hunting reserve in the Guadiana Valley Natural Park.

Reed Deer (I) *Cervus elaphus* - (1) Seen in the hunting reserve in the Guadiana Valley Natural Park from the Iberian Lynx lookout.

Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphinus* - (X) A group of a few dozen seen during our pelagic trip.

Bat (1) - A bat was seen during our city tour in Mértola; unfortunately, we were unable to identify it.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: — (6)

Mediterranean Turtle *Mauremys leprosa* — **(X)** Seen many times in the second half of the trip, typically on streams and freshwater lagoons

Large Psammodromus *Psammodromus algirus* — **(1)** Spotted by a few clients on our last day in the Algarve

Ocellated Lizard *Timon lepidus* — **(1)** Seen by some members of the group just before our winery visit.

Moorish Gecko *Tarentola mauritanica* — **(1)** Seen in a few places in Mértola town, including in the hotel building.

Iberian Green Frog *Pelophylax perezi* — **(H)** Heard a couple of times in small streams in the Alentejo region.

Red-eared Slider *Trachemys scripta elegans* — **(X) Introduced**, seen by the dozens at the golf course in the Algarve.

BUTTERFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES: — (6)

Meadow Brown *Maniola justina* — **(2)** Seen twice in the first half of the trip; best sights were on the second day in Alcochete.

Cabbage (Small) White *Pieris rapae* — **(X)** Seen almost daily in all three main regions visited.

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas* — **(1)** Tiny little blue butterfly around a puddle in Mértola.

Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombii* — **(X)** Seen frequently in the last two regions visited.

Blue Emperor *Anax imperator* — **(3)** A few sights of this enormous dragonfly on the first two days in the Algarve near freshwater lagoons.

Violet Dropwing (Darter) *Trithemis annulata* — **(1)** Seen only once on the first day in the Algarve near the freshwater lagoon in the Pinewoods.