

# Portugal: Birding & Culture | Species List

October 12 – 24, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



## Southern Portugal: Birding & Culture

List compiled by Gerard Gorman with the assistance of local guides Bruno Martins, Jaime Sousa and João Tiago Tavares, and also the tour participants, Lori, Brian, Joan, Susan, Buck, Leo, Joanne, Philip, Deb, Mary, Noel and Cecilia.

**(H)** = Heard only, not seen. **(I)** = An introduced, non-native, species. **(#)** = Number of days recorded. Only species recorded with group members are included, i.e., “leader only” records are excluded. The three main regions visited (and mentioned in the notes below) were the Tagus estuary, the Alentejo plains and the Algarve coast and sea. For more details on specific species, locations and habitats, see the tour report.

### BIRDS (159 species recorded):

#### DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae

**Common Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna* (1) Six seen on day 8 on one of the shallow ponds at the Salinas do Cerro, near Castro Marim in the very south-east corner of the Algarve close to the Spanish border.

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata* (4) Dozens seen, some males still in colorful breeding plumage.

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera* (1) Around 10 seen on day 9 at the Quinto do Lago golf course lake, Algarve.

**Eurasian Wigeon** *Mareca penelope* (1) A single male seen well on day 9 at the Quinto do Lago golf course lake, Algarve.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* (12) Seen throughout, common and widespread.

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta* (3) Small numbers of males and females seen at wetlands in all regions.

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca* (2) Several hundred at the EVOA reserve, Tagus estuary, on day 3.

**Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina* (1) Several seen, including stunning males, on day 8, at Aldeia Nova, in the Algarve.

**Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina* (1) Several seen, males and female, on day 8, at Aldeia Nova, in the Algarve.

**Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca* (1) Three seen, including a fine male, on day 8, at Aldeia Nova, in the Algarve.

#### PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa* (5) Common in the Alentejo, where pairs and coveys of up to a dozen were seen, running on the ground and in flight.

### **FLAMINGOS: Phoenicopteridae**

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopus roseus* (8) Common and widespread. Mostly seen on coastal brackish wetlands and salinas, but a few found on inland freshwater wetlands.

### **GREBES: Podicipedidae**

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* (6) Seen on several wetlands throughout.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* (1) One seen on the Quinto do Lago golf course lake, Algarve.

### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* (12) All seen were almost certainly feral birds.

**Common Wood-Pigeon** *Columba palumbus* (6) Seen in small numbers in flight at several sites.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* (12) Widespread, seen in most settlements.

### **SANDGROUSE: Pteroclididae**

**Black-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles orientalis* (1) Around 20 seen on day 6 near Castro Verde.

### **BUSTARDS: Otididae**

**Great Bustard** *Otis tarda* (1) 2 seen in flight and 5 on the ground on day 6 in the Alentejo.

**Little Bustard** *Tetrax tetrax* (1) About 6 seen on day 3 in the arid Lezíria rice fields near Porto Alto

### **RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae**

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus* (2) **(H)** Singles heard on the first 2 days in the Tagus estuary area.

**Eurasian Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* (4) Rather skulking, hence very few seen.

**Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra* (5) Locally common on freshwater wetlands.

**Western Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio* (3) About 6 seen in total, on freshwater wetlands in the Tagus estuary area and the Algarve.

### **STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae**

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* (7) Fairly common. Seen well in all three regions on both fresh and brackish wetlands.

**Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta* (4) Some seen in the Tagus estuary, but most (100+) at the Salinas do Cerro, near Castro Marim in the Algarve.

### **OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae**

**Eurasian Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus* (1) About 6 birds seen well on day 11 at Salinas do Forte do Rato, Tavira.

### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae**

- Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* (4) Several single birds seen on wetlands in the Tagus estuary and the Algarve.
- European Golden-Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria* (3) Three single birds seen in the Algarve.
- Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* (9) Flocks seen at wetlands and in farmland in all three regions.
- Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus* (3) Small numbers seen in saline habitats and the Algarve.
- Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* (7) Common and widespread. 100s seen in the Tagus estuary and some on wetlands in the Algarve.
- Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius* (1) Four seen on day 6 on a small wetland in the Alentejo.

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae**

- Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* (3) Single birds seen at wetlands in the Algarve.
- Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata* (1) One bird seen on day 9 in the Algarve.
- Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica* (1) One bird seen on day 11 at Salinas do Forte do Rato, Tavira.
- Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa* (3) Flocks in the Tagus estuary and on wetlands in the Algarve.
- Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* (5) Small numbers in the Tagus estuary and on the Algarve coast.
- Red Knot** *Calidris canutus* (3) A few seen in the Tagus estuary and on wetlands in the Algarve.
- Ruff** *Calidris pugnax* (2) Over 100 at the EVOA reserve, by the Tagus estuary, on day 3.
- Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* (3) Small numbers in the Tagus estuary and near Tavira, Algarve.
- Sanderling** *Calidris alba* (5) Small numbers seen around the Tagus estuary and the Algarve coast.
- Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* (5) Small numbers seen around the Tagus estuary and the Algarve coast.
- Little Stint** *Calidris minuta* (4) A few seen around the Tagus estuary and the Algarve coast.
- Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* (4) Seen at scattered sites in all three regions.
- Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* (5) Singles seen on wetlands and by rivers in all three regions.
- Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* (4) Singles seen around the Tagus estuary and in the Alentejo.
- Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus* (2) Just two single birds seen, once each on days 1 and 8.
- Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* (2) A few seen on inland wetlands on days 6 and 8.
- Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* (1) Just one seen, but others heard, on day 2.
- Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus* (5) Scattered sightings on coastal wetlands.

### **SKUAS AND JAEGERS: Stercorariidae**

- Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua* (1) One seen during the pelagic boat trip from Sagres on day 10.

### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae**

- Slender-billed Gull** *Chroicocephalus genei* (3) Single birds seen at salt-pan habitats in the Algarve.
- Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* (8) Common and widespread, most seen around the Tagus estuary and in the Algarve.
- Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus* (4) Seen in smaller numbers than the previous species and not as widespread. The the majority in the Algarve.
- Audouin's Gull** *Ichthyaetus audouinii* (2) Only seen in the Algarve, most at the Santa Luzia salt-pans.
- Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michaellis* (6) Scattered observations. Most seen in the Algarve.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* (9) Common and widespread, especially around the Tagus estuary, in the Algarve, and even in Lisbon.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia* (2) A few on wetlands in the Tavira and Faro areas in the Algarve.

**White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus* (1) One on day 9 at the Quinto do Lago golf course lake.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea* (1) One during the pelagic boat trip off Sagres on day 10.

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis* (4) A few seen in the Tagus estuary and Lisbon areas, most at coastal/brackish wetlands in the Algarve.

#### **SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS: Procellariidae**

**Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea* (1) Dozens seen on the pelagic trip from Sagres on day 10.

**Great Shearwater** *Ardenna gravis* (1) A few seen during the pelagic trip from Sagres on day 10.

**Sooty Shearwater** *Ardenna grisea* (1) One seen during the pelagic trip from Sagres on day 10.

**Wilson's Storm-petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus* (1) One seen on the pelagic trip from Sagres on day 10.

**European Storm-petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus* (1) Two seen on the pelagic from Sagres on day 10.

**Leach's Storm-petrel** *Hydrobates leucorhous* (1) Two seen on the pelagic from Sagres on day 10.

#### **STORKS: Ciconiidae**

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia* (4) 100s seen soaring in kettles and up to 1000 standing in the Leziria rice fields on day 3, smaller numbers on other days.

#### **BOOBIES AND GANNETS: Sulidae**

**Northern Gannet** *Morus bassanus* (1) Dozens, in various plumages, seen at sea on day 10 during the boat trip from Sagres and a few near the harbour.

#### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae**

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* (10) Common and widespread, but usually in small numbers.

**European Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (1) A few seen around the harbour at Sagres on day 10.

#### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae**

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus* (2) A real skulker. One heard on day 8 at Aldeia Nova in the Algarve, another seen briefly on day 9.

**Gray Heron** *Ardea cinerea* (9) Common and widespread, seen on a range wetlands and in farmland.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* (6) Scattered observations, often of single birds, in all three regions.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* (8) Fairly common and widespread on wetlands in all three regions.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* (11) Very common and widespread, seen throughout, often with livestock.

#### **IBISES AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae**

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* (3) A few flocks of up to 12 birds seen in the Tagus estuary and on Algarve wetlands.

**Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia* (6) Scattered observations. Often in small groups of feeding juveniles and adults.

#### **OSPREY: Pandionidae**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* (4) Several individuals seen: most in flight around the Tagus estuary - one perched on a building - and one near an Algarve sewage plant.

### **HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae**

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* (1) Surprisingly, only two seen, at roadsides in the Tagus estuary area.

**Cinereous Vulture** *Aegypius monachus* (2) Two seen, a juvenile and an adult, over the Alentejo with Griffon Vultures.

**Eurasian Griffon** *Gyps fulvus* (4) Scattered observations in the Alentejo, including a kettle of around 30 on day 7.

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraetus pennatus* (1) Two seen on day 11, a briefly a dark form and then a closer pale form, at Vilamoura in the Algarve.

**Spanish (Imperial) Eagle** *Aquila adalberti* (2) An adult and juvenile on day 5 and another on day 6, all in the Alentejo region.

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos* (1) An adult and juvenile on day 5, near Corvos in the Alentejo.

**Bonelli's Eagle** *Aquila fasciata* (2) Very good views of 3 birds near Barroca d'Alva in the Tagus estuary on day 2. Another soaring high above the road on day 4.

**Eurasian Marsh-Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* (3) Locally common around the Tagus estuary.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus* (3) Female 'ringtails' seen on days 3 and 4 and another two, including a fine male, in the Alentejo on day 6.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus* (1) Surprisingly, just one seen, in the Tagus estuary on day 2.

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus* (6) Many fine views, of singles and small groups, especially in the Alentejo.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* (8) Common and widespread, mostly individuals, in flight and often perched on roadside utility poles.

### **OWLS: Strigidae**

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua* (3) Several seen in the Alentejo, often sitting on rock piles during the day.

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus* (2) Three birds seen twice at a daytime roost in Castro Verde.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco* (1) One seen at a daytime roost in an urban park in Faro.

### **HOOPOES: Upupidae**

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* (7) Fairly widespread, several seen well, in flight, perched and feeding on the ground.

### **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae**

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis* (10) Quite common and widespread but mostly fleeting flight views, though a few seen perched.

### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae**

**Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla* (2) One seen briefly at the Salinas do Cerro, near Castro Marim, one seen well at the Quinto do Lago golf course lake, both in the Algarve.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major* (5) Fairly widespread. Several birds seen, often on roadside wooden utility poles.

**Iberian Green Woodpecker** *Picus sharpei* (2) One heard on day 5 near Corvos in the Alentejo, one seen well in flight twice on day 8 in a pinewood at Aldeia Nova in the Algarve.

### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae**

**Eurasian (Common) Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* (11) Common and widespread, seen in all regions.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* (2) One seen on day 7 near Castro Verde, two perched on electricity pylons on day 10 at Vale Santo near Sagres.

### **PARROTS: Psittaculidae**

**Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri* (I) (1) A few seen in a park during the sightseeing tour in Lisbon on day 12.

### **SHRIKES: Laniidae**

**Iberian Gray Shrike** *Lanius meridionalis* (6) Fairly common in the Alentejo region. Not gregarious, rather singles often perched on roadside wires and fence posts.

### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae**

**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* (6) Fairly common, but not often seen perched.

**Iberian Magpie** *Cyanopica cooki* (11) Common and widespread, many sightings, invariably of flocks.

**Eurasian Magpie** *Pica pica* (10) Common and widespread, though usually in small numbers.

**Eurasian Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula* (2) Probably not uncommon, but surprisingly few seen.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone* (9) Common and widespread, but not seen in large flocks.

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax* (3) Small parties, up to 6, seen in the Alentejo plains.

### **TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae**

**Crested Tit** *Lophophanes cristatus* (1) Seen once, on day 5, in a pinewood in the Alentejo.

**Eurasian Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus* (5) Probably not uncommon, but relatively few seen well.

**Great Tit** *Parus major* (5) As the above species, probably not uncommon, but few seen well.

### **LARKS: Alaudidae**

**Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra* (1) A few briefly seen on day 6 in the Alentejo.

**Wood Lark** *Lullula arborea* (1) One seen, others heard singing, on day 5 in the Alentejo.

**Eurasian Skylark** *Alauda arvensis* (3) Probably more common than the few sightings suggest.

**Thekla's Lark** *Galerida theklae* (3) Mostly in the Alentejo, less widespread than the next species.

**Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata* (11) Quite common and widespread, seen in all regions.

### **CISTICOLAS: Cisticolidae**

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* (4) Fairly common and widespread, seen and heard in all regions.

### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae**

**Eurasian Crag-Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* (8) Locally common in Alentejo and the Algarve.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* (4) Scattered sightings, mostly in the Alentejo.

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica* (3) A few sightings of birds with other hirundine species.

**Common House-Martin** *Delichon urbicum* (1) A few seen in Mértola, most having probably migrated.

### **LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae**

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* (2) Only seen for certain around the Tagus estuary.

**Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita* (7) Widespread, seen and heard in all three regions.

### **BUSH WARBLERS: Scotocercidae**

**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti* (8) Common and widespread, but a true skulker, often heard and only occasionally glimpsed.

### **LONG-TAILED TITS: Aegithalidae**

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus* (2) Family parties seen in Mértola on days 5 and 7.

### **SYLVIID WARBLERS: Sylviidae**

**Eurasian Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* (3) Two seen briefly on days 6 and 7, others heard.  
**Western Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans* (1) Just one seen on day 4 in roadside scrub.  
**Sardinian Warbler** *Sylvia melanocephala* (8) Widespread, though more often heard than seen.  
**Dartford Warbler** *Sylvia undata* (1) Just one glimpsed on day 4 in the Alentejo.

#### **KINGLETS: Regulidae**

**Common Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla* (1) One seen well on day 4 in a roadside tree in the Alentejo.

#### **NUTHATCHES: Sittidae**

**Eurasian Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea* (2) Three seen in woodland near the Tagus estuary, others heard.

#### **TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae**

**Short-toed Treecreeper** *Certhia brachydactyla* (2) One seen on day 4 at the Cromlec dos Almendres megalithic stones site. Another heard in an oakwood in the Alentejo on day 8.

#### **WRENS: Troglodytidae**

**Eurasian Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes* (2) **(H)** Surprisingly, no sightings, only heard on days 4 and 5.

#### **STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae**

**Spotless Starling** *Sturnus unicolor* (11) Common and widespread, in both rural and urban habitats.

#### **THRUSHES: Turdidae**

**Eurasian Blackbird** *Turdus merula* (12) Common and widespread, but almost always single birds seen.

#### **OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae**

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* (2) Only seen on the first 2 days around the Tagus estuary.

**European Robin** *Erithacus rubecula* (9) Fairly common and widespread, singles seen in all regions.

**European Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca* (1) One female seen on day 5 in a park in the Alentejo.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros* (6) Widespread, often on urban buildings, including in Lisbon.

**Blue Rock-Thrush** *Monticola solitarius* (2) One seen rather distantly in a gorge in the Alentejo, and one on a cliff top above the harbor at Sagres.

**European Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola* (11) Common and widespread in rural habitats in all three regions. Often perched on fences and at roadsides.

**Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe Oenanthe* (7) Fairly common in open, stony terrain, in all three regions, Usually singles seen.

#### **WEAVERS: Ploceidae**

**Yellow-crowned Bishop** *Euplectes afer* **(I)** (2) Flocks of females and juveniles, and one or two adult males, seen around the Tagus estuary.

#### **WAXBILLS: Estrildidae**

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild* **(I)** (8) Fairly common and widespread. Fast flying flocks of dozens of birds often glimpsed at roadsides, a few occasionally seen perched.

#### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* (12) Common and widespread, in both rural and urban habitats.

**Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniolensis* (2) Seen twice, on day 6 in the Alentejo and 10 in the Algarve. **Rock Sparrow** *Petronia petronia* (2) Dozens seen roosting under a bridge at Mértola.

#### **PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae**

**Gray Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* (3) Scattered sightings of single birds, all along waterways.  
**Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* (3) A few sightings, often of several birds feeding on the ground around cattle.  
**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* (7) Fairly common and widespread, seen in all regions.  
**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis* (3) Good views of two in a pasture with cattle on day 2. Others briefly seen flying and heard calling overhead.

#### **FINCHES: Fringillidae**

**Common Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* (1) Surprisingly elusive, only seen once, a female at the Cromlec dos Almendres megalithic stones site on day 4.  
**European Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris* (2) Surprisingly few seen. Once in the Tagus estuary, once in the Algarve.  
**Eurasian Linnet** *Linaria cannabina* (3) Several small flocks seen briefly, but one well when feeding in a field and bushes near Tavira on day 11.  
**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* (5) Fairly common and widespread. Best sighting probably on day 11 when a flock fed on weeds in a field near Tavira (as above).

#### **BUNTINGS: Emberizidae**

**Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra* (4) Fairly common in farmland in the Alentejo and Algarve regions.  
**Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirlus* (1) Only seen once, on day 1 in the Tagus estuary.

#### **MAMMALS (8 species recorded):**

**Eurasian Otter** *Lutra lutra* (1)  
**Common Dolphin** *Delphinus delphis* (1)  
**Wild Boar** *Sus scrofa* (3)  
**Fallow Deer** *Dama dama* (I) (1)  
**Red Deer** *Cervus elaphus* (1)  
**Mouflon** *Ovis gmelinii* (I) (1)  
**Brown Rat** *Rattus norvegicus* (1)  
**European (Iberian) Rabbit** *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (5)

#### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (4 species recorded):**

**Mediterranean Turtle** *Mauremys leprosa* (2)  
**Red-eared Slider** *Trachemys scripta elegans* (I) (1)  
**Moorish Gecko** *Tarentola mauritanica* (1)  
**Natterjack Toad** *Bufo calamita* (1)

#### **LEPIDOPTERIDS, butterflies (8 species recorded):**

**Speckled Wood** *Pararge aegeria* (1)  
**Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta* (4)  
**Meadow Brown** *Maniola jurtina* (2)  
**Scarce Swallowtail** *Iphiclides podalirius* (2)  
**Adonis Blue** *Lysandra bellargus* (1)  
**Clouded Yellow** *Colias crocea* (2)  
**Large White** *Pieris brassicae* (4)  
**Small White** *Pieris rapae* (4)