

Portugal: Fabulous Birding & Culture | Species List

October 8 – 20, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



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Compiled by Gerard Gorman with the assistance of João Tiago Tavares

(H) = Heard only, not seen. **(I)** = An introduced, non-native, species. **(#)** = Number of days recorded. The three main regions visited were the Tagus estuary and adjacent wetlands, the Alentejo steppe and farmlands, and the Algarve coastal wetlands and Atlantic Ocean. For more details on specific species, locations and habitats, see the tour report.

BIRDS (162 species recorded):

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptica* **(I)** (3) Several sightings of this non-native species.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* **(I)** (1) A group of this non-native species was in the Leziria fields on day 3.

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

Gadwall *Mareca strepera* (3) Scattered sightings, most on day 10 on the Quinto do Lago lake, Algarve.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (9) Seen throughout, quite common and widespread.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* (1) A few seen, mostly in eclipse plumage, in the Tagus estuary.

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca* (5) Most seen on day 3 in the EVOA reserve in the Tagus estuary.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* (1) A few seen on day 8, at Aldeia Nova, in the Algarve.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* (1) Two seen on day 8, at Aldeia Nova, in the Algarve.

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa* (3) Quite common in the Alentejo region, seen running on the ground and in flight.

FLAMINGOS: Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* (6) Common and widespread. Flocks of up to 500 seen on coastal brackish wetlands and salinas, smaller numbers on inland freshwater wetlands.

GREBES: Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* (7) Seen on several wetlands throughout.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (12) Most birds seen were feral, though a few wild individuals were seen on coastal rocks off Sagres on day 9.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas* (1) A few seen in flight on day 6 in the Alentejo region.

Common Wood-Pigeon *Columba palumbus* (10) Quite common and widespread.

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (12) Common and widespread, seen in most towns, villages and in Lisbon.

SANDGROUSE: Pteroclididae

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis* (2) Flocks of about a dozen seen in flight on days 4 and 6 around Castro Verde in the Alentejo steppe.

BUSTARDS: Otididae

Great Bustard *Otis tarda* (2) One seen on day 5 and eight on day 6 near Castro Verde in the Alentejo steppe region.

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* (1) One seen at the Quinto do Lago golf course lake, Algarve, on day 10.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana* (1) One, possibly two, seen at the Quinto do Lago golf course lake, Algarve, on day 10.

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* (7) Scattered sightings on wetlands throughout.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* (3) Locally common on freshwater wetlands.

Western Swampphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* (3) Several seen and heard on freshwater wetlands in the Tagus estuary and the Algarve.

THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae

Eurasian Thick-knee *Burhinus oedicanus* (1) Four seen in flight at Salinas do Forte do Rato, Tavira, on day 11.

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (10) Seen on both fresh and brackish wetlands throughout.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (7) Many on shallow wetlands in the Tagus estuary and Algarve.

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* (1) About 4 seen on day 11 at Salinas do Forte do Rato, Tavira.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* (3) Small numbers and single birds seen on wetlands in the Algarve.

European Golden-Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (1) A small flock seen on day 3 in the Leziria rice fields.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (5) Quite common, seen at wetlands and in farmland in all three regions.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* (3) Small numbers seen in saline wetland habitats in the Tagus estuary and the Algarve.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* (7) Common and widespread. 100s seen in the Tagus estuary, dozens on wetlands in the Alentejo and Algarve.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* (1) Two seen on day 5 by a shallow wetland in the Alentejo.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (4) Single birds seen at wetlands in the Algarve.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (1) One bird seen on day 8 by the coast in the Algarve.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* (1) Two birds seen on day 11 at Salinas do Forte do Rato, Tavira.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* (6) Flocks of up to 100 seen in the Tagus estuary and on wetlands in the Algarve.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* (5) Regularly seen in the Tagus estuary and on the Algarve coast. Often very confiding.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus* (1) Two seen on day 11 near Salinas do Forte do Rato, Tavira.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax* (1) 100+ seen at the EVOA reserve, Tagus estuary, on day 3.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (3) Small numbers in the Tagus estuary and near Tavira, Algarve.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* (3) Small numbers seen around the Tagus estuary and on the Algarve coast.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* (6) Small flocks seen around the Tagus estuary and on the Algarve coast.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* (1) A few seen around the Tagus estuary on day 2.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* (8) Seen at wetland sites in all three regions, 50+ on day 2.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* (7) Single birds seen by wetlands and rivers in all three regions.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* (5) Single birds, occasionally two together, seen around the Tagus estuary and in the Alentejo.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* (2) Two individuals seen, once each on days 3 and 7.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* (3) Single birds seen on wetlands in the Alentejo on days 6 and 7 and in the Algarve on day 11.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* (6) Fairly common in the Tagus estuary and on Algarve wetlands.

SKUAS AND JAEGERES: Stercorariidae

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua* (1) One seen harassing gulls during the pelagic boat trip into the Atlantic from Sagres on day 9.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei* (2) Single figures seen at salt-pan habitats in the Algarve on days 10 and 11.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* (7) Common and widespread, particularly in the Tagus estuary and the Algarve.

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus* (4) Uncommon, most at wetlands in the Algarve.

Audouin's Gull *Ichthyaetus audouinii* (1) Around a dozen seen at the Santa Luzia salt-pans in the Algarve on day 10.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michaellis* (5) Scattered observations, mostly on the Algarve coast.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* (8) Common and widespread, especially in the Tagus estuary, in the Algarve, at sea, and also in Lisbon.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* (4) Single birds, sometimes two together, seen over wetlands in the Algarve.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* (1) Several seen during the pelagic boat trip into the Atlantic from Sagres on day 9.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* (4) A few seen in the Tagus estuary on day 2, more at coastal wetlands in the Algarve.

SHEARWATERS: Procellariidae

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* (1) Several seen during the Atlantic pelagic trip from Sagres on day 9.

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis* (1) Several seen during the Atlantic pelagic trip from Sagres on day 9.

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea* (1) One seen during the Atlantic pelagic trip from Sagres on day 9.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* (1) One seen close to the coast during the Atlantic pelagic trip from Sagres on day 9.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* (1) Around a dozen seen close to the coast during the Atlantic pelagic trip from Sagres on day 9.

SOUTHERN STORM-PETRELS: Oceanitidae

Wilson's Storm-petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* (1) Several seen during the Atlantic pelagic trip from Sagres on day 9.

European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* (1) Several seen on the Atlantic pelagic from Sagres on day 9.

STORKS: Ciconiidae

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* (2) Up to 1000 seen soaring and standing in the Leziria fields on day 3 and 100s on flooded fields by the highway before Lisbon on day 11.

GANNETS: Sulidae

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* (1) Many seen, in various plumages, immatures and adults, on day 9 during the pelagic boat trip into the Atlantic from Sagres.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (11) Common and widespread, but usually seen in small numbers.

European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (1) A few seen on rocks in the sea off Sagres on day 9.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* (1) One seen in flight at the Quinto do Lago golf course lake, Algarve, on day 10.

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

Great Egret *Ardea alba* (2) A few sightings, often of single birds, in the Tagus estuary on days 2 and 3.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (9) Quite common and widespread on wetlands in all three regions.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (10) Very common and widespread, seen throughout, often with livestock.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* (1) One seen on day 2 by a canal in the Tagus estuary.

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (3) Flocks of up to 12 birds seen in all three regions.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* (8) Scattered sightings of small groups of juveniles and adults.

OSPREY: Pandionidae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (5) Several individuals seen in the Tagus estuary and at Algarve wetlands.

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* (2) Two seen, both in the Tagus estuary, on days 1 and 3.

Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus* (2) Seven seen in total, three on day 6 and four on day 7, all in the Alentejo region.

Eurasian Griffon *Gyps fulvus* (3) Seen on days 5, 6 and 7 in the Alentejo region, including a kettle of around 100.

Spanish Eagle *Aquila adalberti* (3) Adults and immatures seen on days 5, 6 and 7 in the Alentejo region.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* (1) Two seen on day 6 in the Alentejo region.

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata* (1) One distant bird seen on day 5 near Mértola.

Eurasian Marsh-Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* (3) Common in the Tagus estuary. Mostly females and juveniles seen.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* (1) One female seen on day 5 near Castro Verde in the Alentejo.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* (1) One seen on day 4 near Castro Verde in the Alentejo.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* (1) One seen on day 3 in the EVOA reserve in the Tagus estuary.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* (5) Several single birds seen, mostly in the Alentejo region.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (8) Fairly common and widespread, mostly individuals seen, in flight or perched at roadsides.

OWLS: Strigidae

Little Owl *Athene noctua* (1) Just one seen, stood on a rock pile in the Alentejo, on day 6.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* (2) Two birds seen on two occasions at a diurnal roost in Castro Verde.

HOOPOES: Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* (7) Fairly widespread. Numerous sightings, several of birds feeding on the ground quite close.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* (9) Quite common and widespread. Mostly flight views but one seen well on day 11 when perched on a waterside rock.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* (1) One seen well perched in a tree at the Quinto do Lago resort in the Algarve on day 10.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* (2) Two birds seen, one on day 2 and one on day 7.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor* (H) One heard on day 8 at Aldeia Nova, in the Algarve.

Iberian Green Woodpecker *Picus sharpei* (2) Two seen, one on day 6 in the Alentejo and one on day 8 in a pinewood at Aldeia Nova in the Algarve.

FALCONS: Falconidae

Eurasian (Common) Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* (10) Common and widespread, seen in all regions.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (1) One seen in flight on day 5 near Castro Verde in the Alentejo.

PARROTS: Psittaculidae

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

SHRIKES: Laniidae

Iberian Gray Shrike *Lanius meridionalis* (5) Fairly common in the Alentejo region. Single birds often seen perched on roadside wires.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* (5) Fairly common and widespread but usually single birds seen.

Iberian Magpie *Cyanopica cooki* (8) Common and widespread, many sightings of flocks.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica* (11) Common and widespread, though usually small numbers seen.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* (1) Total of 61 counted, in two separate flocks, on Cape St. Vincent on day 9.

Eurasian Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* (4) Fairly common locally, most seen in the Alentejo region.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* (8) Common and widespread in the Tagus estuary and Alentejo regions.

Common Raven *Corvus corax* (4) An exceptional gathering of 300+ birds together estimated on day 5 in the Alentejo region.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae

Coal Tit *Pariparus ater* (1) One seen in a park on day 12 in Lisbon.

Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus* (2) One seen well on day 7 in a pinewood in the Alentejo and one on day 8 at Aldeia Nova in the Algarve.

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* (5) Scattered sightings.

Great Tit *Parus major* (3) Not uncommon, but surprisingly few seen.

LARKS: Alaudidae

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

Wood Lark *Lullula arborea* (2) One singing bird seen on day 7 in the Alentejo and another on day 11 when on the way to Lisbon.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (1) Not uncommon in the Alentejo steppe and farmlands but surprisingly few seen.

Thekla's Lark *Galerida theklae* (4) Mostly seen in the Alentejo steppe region.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* (10) Common and widespread, seen in all three main regions.

CISTICOLAS: Cisticolidae

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* (8) Common and widespread, seen and heard in all the main regions.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae

Eurasian Crag-Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* (4) Many seen in and around Mértola.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (2) Surprisingly few seen, presumably most had already migrated.

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

LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* (3) A few migrating birds seen.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* (2) As above.

BUSH WARBLERS: Scotocercidae

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* (7) Common and widespread, but more often heard than seen.

LONG-TAILED TITS: Aegithalidae

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* (2) Parties seen in woodlands in the Alentejo on days 7 and 8.

SYLVIID WARBLERS: Sylviidae

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* (4) Scattered sightings in all three main regions.

Sardinian Warbler *Curruca melanocephala* (8) Common but more often heard than seen.

Western Subalpine Warbler *Curruca iberiae* (1) One on day 7 in roadside scrub in the Alentejo.

Greater Whitethroat *Curruca communis* (1) One on day 7 in roadside scrub in the Alentejo.

Dartford Warbler *Curruca undata* (2) One seen on day 7 and one on day 8 at Castro Marin.

KINGLETS: Regulidae

Common Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla* (1) One seen well on day 12 in a park in Lisbon.

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* (1) Several seen on day 2 in woodland at the Atalaya ranch.

TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla* (2) Seen on day 2 in woodland at the Atalaya ranch and on day 8 at Aldeia Nova.

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae

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

Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus* (1) (1) Several seen feeding on the ground in a waterfront park in Lisbon on day 12.

THRUSHES: Turdidae

Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula* (12) Common and widespread, but usually single birds, males and females, 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* (8) Common and widespread, but more often heard than seen.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* (2) One seen very well at the Quinto do Lago golf course lake, Algarve, on day 10.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* (5) Scattered sightings of non-breeding plumage birds.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* (5) Widespread, often on urban buildings, including in Lisbon.

Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius* (2) One seen on two days on a building in Mértola.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* (1) One seen on day 9 on Cape St. Vincent in the Algarve.

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola* (10) Common and widespread in rural habitats in all three regions. Often perched on roadside wires and fences.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* (5) Quite common in the open, stony terrain of the Alentejo region.

WEAVERS: Ploceidae

Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus* (1) (1) A male seen at the Quinto do Lago golf course lake, Algarve, on day 10.

Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer* (1) (2) Flocks of females and juveniles, and a few adult males, seen at wetland sites around the Tagus estuary.

WAXBILLS: Estrildidae

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* (1) (5) Fairly common and widespread. Three seen well perched in a tree near Alcochete on day 2.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae

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

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* (2) A few seen on days 6 and 7 in the Alentejo region.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae

Gray Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* (2) Single birds seen on days 5 and 11, both by waterways.

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* (H) Just one heard on day 6.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* (5) Scattered sightings in the Alentejo and Algarve regions and in Lisbon.

FINCHES: Fringillidae

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris* (3) Surprisingly few seen. Once in the Tagus estuary on day 2, and several in an orchard in the Algarve on day 11.

Eurasian Linnet *Linaria cannabina* (5) Scattered sightings in the Alentejo and Algarve regions.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* (6) Fairly common and widespread, seen in all three regions.

European Serin *Serinus serinus* (2) Single birds seen on days 2 and 11.

BUNTINGS: Emberizidae

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* (4) Fairly common in farmland in the Alentejo region.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia* (1) Single birds seen on days 5 and 7 by our hotel in Mértola.

MAMMALS (3 species recorded):

European (Iberian) Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (2) Particularly common in the Alentejo region. Many seen on day 7.

Fallow Deer *Dama dama* (I) (2) Herds of up to 20 seen in the Alentejo region on days 6 and 7.

Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* (1) Parties seen around the boat during our Atlantic pelagic from Sagres on day 9.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (4 species recorded):

Mediterranean Turtle *Mauremys leprosa* (4) Fairly common. Most seen on wetlands in the Alentejo region.

Moorish Gecko *Tarentola mauritanica* (4) Fairly common, often seen after dark on hotel walls.

Iberian Green Frog *Pelophylax perezi* (H) Several heard on day 2.

Natterjack Toad *Bufo calamita* (1) One seen after dark on the walk back from a restaurant in Mértola on day 7.