

ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO PORTUGAL AT LEISURE
Hills, Plains & Lagoons in Autumn

12 – 19 September 2009



Leader: Frank McClintock

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A Personal Diary

Saturday 12th September 2009

I met Wallis and Andrew at the airport and after loading up the vehicle we made our way north towards our venue for the week, Quinta do Barranco da Estrada. There was just time to get there before one of Daniela's mouth watering meals, so we weren't in "Birding Mode", but thoughts of dinner were put on hold when we spotted a Black-winged Kite which was kind enough to perch in a tree about 200 metres away while we had a good look. To have such a rare species as the first bird of the week promised well! The second, though not a rare species by any means was an extremely rare sight; a Great Spotted Woodpecker perched on a telephone wire! Its mate, (presumably), was attacking another telephone pole in the vicinity, so we had views of two, but everyone agreed that none of us had ever seen a woodpecker perched on a wire before.

Having reached the Quinta itself 10 minutes later we settled in and then tucked in to a wonderful meal with the other Quinta guests, (accompanied of course by a good wine!), before turning in to get ready for the morrow. On the way to our rooms we were able to have a good view of the Quinta's Stripeless Tree Frogs and also the Moorish Geckos, most of which emerged from behind the pictures on the wall, and these two species were to be our evening companions throughout the following week.

Sunday 13th September 2009

The day dawned hot and sunny and we set off after a filling breakfast for a walk up the Viaduct Valley about 15 kilometres from the Quinta. On the way there was a quick view of a Common Nightingale, a late departure for this bird, as most had already left for the south.

We parked the car outside a large cattle shed and, having laden ourselves down with scopes, bins and cameras, started out on the first walk of the week. It was a gentle but varied and interesting start, with the first bird seen being a Northern Wheatear which had just arrived on its autumn migration south. Unfortunately it was a tad flighty and unsure of itself – I assured Andrew and Wallis that it was the first arrival I'd seen, so with luck, it'd be followed by many more within the week. (This forecast was proved right with the species being seen on most of the following days, so the lack of a good view this time around was no loss.)



Turning around from watching this bird we were lucky enough to have a quick glimpse of a Weasel hurrying along the river-bank below us; these animals are extremely hard to see and we felt ourselves very lucky to have been given this sight

so early.

Hardly 20 metres later, there was a Common Kingfisher flashing away up the river in front of us; a quick view but as vivid as ever with this species, and it drew our eyes to a Cattle Egret sitting in a tree above the water, which took flight itself shortly afterwards as a Grey Heron flew overhead and Cetti's Warblers called from the bullrushes along the banks.

We continued walking up the valley, hearing Nuthatches all around us, and had good views of a Hoopoe, while overhead we saw a Booted Eagle and shortly afterwards an Osprey, both on their way south. This was followed by a Woodlark, unfortunately flying too high for a visual id, but its call was a give-away and it was nice to be "sung home" as we turned around and started returning towards the car. Other birds on this stretch of the walk included the ubiquitous Iberian Azure-winged Magpie, along with the equally ubiquitous Jay and Spotless Starling. Overhead flew Barn and Red-rumped Swallows and Stonechats and a Southern Grey

Shrike gave us good views, while a Spotted Flycatcher popped out of a tree and equally quickly popped back in again.

Just before we got back to the car we came across some warblers, where we had seen the weasel earlier on, who were working their way busily through a patch of undergrowth overhanging the riverbank. Being above them on a small knoll gave us an excellent opportunity to really pin them down; most were Willow Warblers but one in particular stood out from the rest and after some debate, (as ever when distinguishing greenish warblers from each other!), it was decided that it was a Wood Warbler, a rare visitor to this area. Having various different species all together – there were Blackcaps and Sardinians in amongst the same bushes – being almost overhead, and having such good light to help us was an opportunity that doesn't come along every day, and was the perfect end to a gentle start to the week, so, having had a quick view of a Thekla Lark as we were getting in to the car, we decided to celebrate and popped in for a quick shandy in Santa Clara, where Collared Doves crooned above us.

The afternoon was “free”, and was used to wander around the Quinta's environs and explore the lakeshore where Andrew came across a Common Sandpiper. Other birds spotted during the afternoon were a Green Woodpecker, Greenfinches, Goldfinches, a Little Owl, a Corn Bunting, Blackbirds and House Sparrows.

Monday 14th September 2009

We decided on an early start in order to be in position to catch a Black-bellied Sandgrouse as dawn was breaking and were away from the Quinta by 5am. This species is very hard to see on the ground and normally only moves around at daybreak. We drove for an hour to Castro Verde where we had a short coffee stop before heading out onto the plains proper. We reached our first stop, a small barn, overlooking a wide, empty, shallow valley stretching away to the north of us. We scanned and scanned and finally picked up a solitary Great Bustard about a mile away to the north east. Hopping in to the car again we drove slowly and carefully towards it, luckily below the skyline. Skirting a small, dried-up lake we suddenly saw in front of us a group of a further nine Great Bustards of which our first individual was simply an outlying part, and no sooner had we seen these than a Little Bustard exploded, seemingly, from under the wheels of the car and treated us to a leisurely fly-past; a very confiding representative of this normally shy species.

The day had turned out to be sunny with scattered clouds and as we drove on in our search for the sandgrouse we were being promised a fine day, a promise reinforced by the next species to be seen, a Black-winged Kite sitting on a telephone pole beside the road. Unfortunately, due to the road markings here we couldn't stop fast enough and saw it fly away without being able to scope it properly, so moved on, turning onto a quieter side road a few hundred yards later.

Hoping to find the elusive sandgrouse we stopped for quite a while at a likely spot, but although heard fleetingly, none were seen until we were putting the scopes back in the car when, “What's that?” came from Andrew. Sure enough a “covey” of four were seen flying fast and fairly low across our front. They were gone within seconds, but were seen well enough for a positive id. However, I wasn't satisfied with such a fleeting view and bearing in mind that this was the one species that had been specifically requested, the group decided to check out one more venue in the hope of a better view before we drove further east, so piling in and driving a few kilometres south we stopped the car on a small rise on another dirt track. Straightaway we could hear their bubbling call, but this time it was Wallis who picked the bird up – and on the ground too, a remarkable feat as they are truly the “Camouflage Kings”.

What's more, having seen this one we were treated to a further 20 or so flying in to join it, so it was a real success, with good and sustained views being enjoyed for the next quarter of an hour or so of this rare species at a distance of a quarter of a mile.

Leaving these special birds we decided to move across country towards the Guadiana, on the way checking out anything that caught our eye, and it was only a few minutes later that we found an interesting egret – interesting as, though we subsequently decided it was no more than a Little Egret, it distinctly had black toes. Moving on we saw what we thought might have been a Honey Buzzard, though the view was distant and not of a quality sufficient for a positive id so it had to be an annoying question mark on the list.

A few minutes later we stopped to view some ducks that turned out to be Mallards, but the stop was beneficial as Andrew quickly picked up a group of Snipe resting in some reeds beside the water. As ever they were secretive and well-hidden so exact numbers were difficult but the consensus was seven plus. We also had a quick view of a Green Sandpiper before it took to its wings.

A short drive later we reached the Pulo do Lobo, the Wolf's Leap, where the River Guadiana cuts through a



spectacular gorge and a good place for a late lunch. Here, relaxed and at ease, we struck gold, lucky enough to see Crag Martin, Barn and Red-rumped Swallows, Pied and Spotted Flycatchers, White and Yellow Wagtails and also an Ortolan Bunting while we were waiting for a Blue Rock-Thrush to show itself, which it duly did, followed by a couple of Griffon Vultures and then, high and far away, a Golden Eagle.

Leaving the Pulo do Lobo we slowly wended our way home across the plains during the afternoon, spotting various other species including the ubiquitous Iberian Azure-winged Magpie and the shy Spotless Starling, several Corn Buntings and literally hundreds of Northern Wheatears, as well as Stonechats and a solitary Whinchat, probably one of the first of its species migrating south. There were also a couple of Ravens, some Hoopoes and Southern Grey Shrikes and some House Martins in a small village.



Just before we finally called it a day we decided to do one last slow drive through some Montados where we picked up a couple of Woodlarks and then exiting from amongst the trees we stopped for one last scan around at a small dried-up stream bed and what should we suddenly see, not more than four metres from the car? A pair of Black bellied Sandgrouse!



Even I had never seen them THAT close before – and I doubt that the Sandgrouse had ever been

as close to humans either! They certainly didn't seem to relish the experience and, after a quick hurried walk of a few metres took off in a flurry of wing beats before disappearing behind the next hill. The pictures above, though not by any means brilliant, show just how well camouflaged they are in their environment.

It had been a highly satisfactory day and everyone was well pleased with the outcome, any tiredness from the early start banished from the mind by recalling the wealth of species and views we'd had throughout the day along with the expectation of another wonderful meal upon our return to the Quinta.

Tuesday 15th September 2009

Today was another "short day" with nothing more exacting than a local walk in the Cortebrique Valley, so after a leisurely breakfast we drove the short distance there. We were still lucky with the weather with it being warm and dry, with scattered cloud preventing it from becoming too hot, and even luckier with the birds as no sooner had we started walking than we had a Cirl Bunting within a few metres of us, quickly followed by a flock of Common Waxbills feeding in the crop of maize in the next door field.



A Grey Heron flew overhead, while Cattle Egrets milled around the feet of a flock of sheep grazing amongst the Cork oaks and a Short-toed Treecreeper ringed its way along an over-hanging branch; a very pastoral scene as we walked quietly through the trees, Nuthatches calling from all around us though we never caught a glimpse of a single one.

Crossing a small stream we climbed up the opposite hill and saw another Cirl Bunting along with a Blue Tit and a small covey of Red-legged Partridges before dropping down into the next part of the valley where we stopped for a short while to watch a Short-toed Eagle soaring overhead and unsuccessfully tried to photograph an elusive darter dragonfly.

Rounding a small hill we turned south and picked our way through a farmyard to come out the other side to a beautiful view of a Black-winged Kite perched in a tree down-sun within 50 metres of us; the third time we'd come across this species so far during the week, this individual gave us sustained and magnificent views for several minutes before flying off through the trees. Shortly afterwards we came across a Common Kestrel and then a large flock of Spotless Starlings, before a Little Owl flew out from a small Holme Oak a short distance ahead.

Returning towards the car Andrew caught sight of a Common Redstart in the lower branches of an Olive tree hawking flies. In amongst the same grove of trees we counted over 40 Collared Doves – a remarkable expansion for this species that was completely unknown in this area less than ten years ago. The last bird during the walk was a Great Spotted Woodpecker, its undulating flight clearly visible against the blue sky.

We returned home for lunch and a relaxing afternoon during which Andrew came across several Long-tailed Tits and Wallis and I spent an hour or so failing to find a Rock Bunting together.

Wednesday 16th September 2009

Another early start was necessary if we were to make the most of the day so we were off from the Quinta at 6am, with the weather being again kind to us, a very balmy day, rising to 18 degrees later, though this wasn't obvious at the start, as there was thick mist when we left home which became even thicker as we dropped down into the valley. However, as we climbed up towards the first stop at Foia after an hour's drive up a wiggly mountain road, the mist cleared and we were treated to a magnificent view from the top.

The first bird of the day was seen to be checking us out as we tumbled out of the car, a curious Blue Rock Thrush, wondering who could be up and about so early on this the highest spot in southern Portugal.

We walked away from the car down a small slope lucky enough to have good views of various warblers which all seemed to be relishing such a warm morning this high up, as Foia is often cold and windy even in summer.

In one small bush we had an excellent opportunity to see the differences between a female Sardinian Warbler and a Whitethroat as they obligingly sat side by side, while a Dartford Warbler also sang from a branch in the same small bush; it would have made a stunning photograph but unfortunately it was just too far away. Later we had a better view of a Dartford Warbler and managed to get a quick shot ...



Woodlarks were all around, while Wrens were heard but not seen. Having failed to find a Rock Bunting at the Quinta the day before it was fulfilling to get some lovely views of them here; they seemed to be everywhere and very confiding, contrary to their behaviour at lower altitudes.

Returning to the car we started back down the mountain, stopping for a cup of coffee on the way where we picked up a Grey Wagtail flitting in and out of a small grotto. Carrying on we dropped down and down, finally coming out of the hills onto the coastal Plain at Aljezur, where we turned south towards Sagres, stopping near Bordeira at one of the last virgin stands of Umbrella Pines to survive the development that's taken place in the Algarve during the last 40 years. Taking a slow and quiet walk through the pines we came across a Robin and various Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs, though without their song it was impossible to say whether the latter were ordinary or Iberian. Nuthatches were heard, but again, annoyingly, not seen – we were wondering whether this was to become the Bogie Bird of the week! Another bird heard and not seen was Cetti's Warbler, but not being able to see it amongst its preferred habitat of thick water-side undergrowth came as no surprise.



However, once more Pied and Spotted Flycatchers seemed to be two a penny.

Coming out from the dark and silent world underneath the pines we emerged blinking rather like owls into the bright sunshine to find that we were within a mile not only of a tourist development and village but also of the pounding waves and long sandy beaches of the Atlantic that turned at the village into the high cliffs that ring this, the south-western extremity of Portugal, and we stopped on the cliff tops for a spot of lunch.

Unfortunately we didn't come across any Black Redstarts during the lunch we enjoyed on the cliff tops but did spot another Blue Rock Thrush and also Gannets making their way south in small



groups of four or five, one of which stopped to fish in front of us. It was while we were watching these that we saw several Balearic Shearwaters.



Moving on from lunch we carried on south down the coast towards Sagres, swinging onto a dirt track at Vila do Bispo to take us to the Beliche Hedge, and it wasn't far along here before we came across a small group of Chough foraging in a field on our left.

While looking at these we saw a very rare melanistic Montagu's Harrier; very interestingly we saw a melanistic Monty hunting the same fields during the same Ornitholidays trip in 2008 – could it have been the same bird? Now that would be a rare sighting considering that it was undoubtedly on migration on both occasions!



Carrying on we saw some Booted Eagles and then took a side road off the track we were on and came across some female Little Bustards, quite unconcerned about our proximity, barely 20 metres from the car.

Their behaviour, so unlike that of the Little Bustards on the plains, plainly derived from the frequency of traffic, as this area is busy with tourism throughout the year.

Slightly later we had a very interesting view of a Pipit; at first sight it appeared to be a Richard's Pipit, but on blowing up the pictures back at the Quinta later on that evening, and following consultation with a friend of mine, the final call was for a first year Tawny, as, though they are nearly indistinguishable in the field, it was felt to be a few weeks early for a Richard's.



Within 100 metres of the previous species we came across two Golden Plover blending beautifully with their landscape; they seemed reluctant to move and allowed us a good look at them from barely 10 metres.

Moving on we watched an amazing display of aerobatics as a Peregrine Falcon repeatedly harassed a female Common Kestrel. The Kestrel didn't seem to be too put out by the affair and sustained the attacks for about 5 minutes before



relinquishing her spot to the faster and more aggressive Peregrine.



Just before we left the area we came across some Crested and Thekla Larks together and it was while we were watching these that we saw a female Montagu's Harrier on the ground barely eight metres from the car as she rested before continuing her migration south-east towards Gibraltar.

Returning to the tarmac after our hour or so on dirt tracks, we headed east along Portugal's southern coast aiming to take in a quick spot of

estuary work before returning over the hills to the Quinta. We targeted the Alvor Estuary near Lagos and were lucky enough to see Greater Flamingos, Black-winged Stilt, Ringed Plover, Redshank and Black-tailed Godwit as well as a rarity, a Spotted Redshank.

We returned home through Monchique, happy to have had another successful day and returned back to the Quinta to be greeted as ever by enthusiastic dogs and the smell of dinner.



Thursday 17th September 2009

It was a day of rest today and we planned to walk up the Santa Clara Valley this time. The temperature was slightly cooler than the day before but still an easy 17 degrees, which made walking pleasant and not unduly hot.



We hadn't walked far when there was a wonderfully low flypast by a Bonelli's Eagle, quickly followed by a group of five Booted Eagles flying so high they were mere specks in the bins. They were migrating south at a rate of knots, cruising on the thermals without a wingbeat during the whole five minutes we watched them, during which time they rapidly slipped away to the south.

A Great Spotted Woodpecker was seen as well as Woodlarks, a Crested Lark and all three Wagtails - White, Yellow and Grey. Before we got to the end of the walk we'd also seen most of the other "normal" species of the area such as Jays, Iberian Magpies, Chaffinches, Greenfinches, Goldfinches and Serins, and of course the Pied and Spotted Flycatchers and Sardinian Warblers, but the Nuthatch, though heard, again eluded us as of course did the Cetti's Warbler.

Once we had returned to the Quinta Wallis bagged some Sandwich Terns over the lake as well as a Little Tern flying with them.

Friday 18th September 2009 This was the group's last day at the Quinta and the last full day out too, and we had a relatively late start, rolling at 8.15am and reached the Lagoa Sto. Andre after a couple of stops just after 9.30am. Just as we were setting off a Tawny Owl hooted from across the lake, wishing us, as we supposed, "Good hunting!"

Today we also had the added joy of having an invited visitor to the group, Daniela, and it was her eagle eyes that grabbed our first bird of the day, a Black-winged Kite. Remembering how we've struggled on some trips before with this species, it was a welcome change to note that we saw them this time on four days out of the seven, more often in fact than we saw Common Buzzards.

The weather was much the same as it had been for the previous week and, though it threatened rain in the early morning, this never materialised and it gradually became warmer and sunnier as we went through the afternoon.

The Lagoa Sto Andre is a large lagoon bordering the sea flanked by a seasonally flooded marshland and is a major feeding station on migration as well as harbouring a variety of resident species, the predominant one being Coot, which numbered today in the thousands even though I assured the group that I'd seen 10 times the number present in the past.



It is fished with nets strung between a million poles in the age-old fashion with fishermen slowly punting their way between them all day long.

Apart from the thousands of Coots one of the first birds we saw was a pair of Little Grebe, rather surprisingly the first of the week, and another surprising first which followed quickly in this species footsteps were several Cormorants.



While looking at the Cormorants we noticed an Osprey resting and preening amongst them; it was amusing to notice how, below the Osprey's perch, the water was free of Coots, one of the only spots on this large lagoon where this was so. A few Marsh Harriers were hunting on the far side of the water.

Higher above them a couple of Booted Eagles floated south; I saw a male Hen Harrier, though this was unfortunately missed by Andrew and Wallis, and so couldn't be added to any list for

the week. There were some Dunlin feeding on the shore in front of us and a couple of Golden Plover and Ringed Plover amongst them as well as both Bar-tailed and Black-tailed Godwits slightly further away with Greater Flamingos and Spoonbills on the far side.

After an hour overlooking the main body of water we decided to visit another part of the same area, which, although being only a few hundred metres away, offered a completely different micro-habitat, views and species, and it was while we were here that we were able to get closer views of the Osprey as well as Black-winged Stilts and several species of duck: Mallard, Gadwall, Teal and Shoveler. Also present were some Redshank and a pair of Sandwich Tern cruised by fairly close followed by a surprise, a Black Tern.

Threading our way through some pine woods on the way back to the road, we stopped to see if we could grab our Nuthatch, but unfortunately failed again. However the stop wasn't a failure as a Sparrowhawk flew overhead, the first for the week.

We drove south again bypassing Sines and heading for Porto Covo, where Andrew spotted a Black Redstart as we entered the town. It wasn't a good view though, so after a quick break for lunch watching some lovely Jackdaws preening themselves on the cliffs after their midday bath, we thought we'd head back into the town to try to get better views of it. It was one of those moments that one wishes one could get on film, four people strung about with bins, scopes and cameras, sneaking through a housing estate just begging for some local Bobby to come around the corner with a "'Ello, 'ello, 'ello? What've we got 'ere then?'" but Andrew had been right and within minutes, thankfully, we'd found the Black Redstart who seemed to be much more interested in taking a bath than in taking any notice of us, and we were able to approach to within a couple of metres of it and have cracking views.



Leaving Porto Covo we decided to check out Tres Marias Plain and the Montados area beside it and it was here that we finally got our Nuthatch; phew! It had led us a pretty chase throughout the whole week, but persistence pays off in the end and within a few minutes we'd seen a couple more. I also saw a Crested Tit here, but it was moving rapidly through, mixed up in a bunch of other tits and warblers and unluckily it was gone before anyone else could get on to it.

At the far end of the Plain we entered a patch of Montados which stimulated the conversation and appreciation of these marvellous woods, so different from the blasted landscape of intensive eucalyptus that we passed through five minutes later, the Montados alive with birdsong, the Eucalyptus silent as the grave.

Being now an hour away from the Quinta, the group, offered the choice of another stop or a straight drive home opted for the former so we moved on to a fish farm bordering a marsh near Milfontes. Common Waxbills were seen again and rounding a corner we found an Osprey resting on the ground less than 50 metres away, but this soon took off and we continued to walk the perimeter.

We were soon rewarded by a real treat, the repeated sighting of a Cetti's Warbler in the reeds below us as we walked along the bund separating the farm from the surrounding marshland. This bird would flit from one bunch of undergrowth to another along a stretch of about 150 metres before returning the way it came again and this gave us all an excellent opportunity to observe it closely. The absence of any call during the hour we were there pointed to it being a female, but the thrill was that we were able to see this reclusive species at all and we felt suitably honoured.

The day drew to a close as we were given a quick sight of a Zitting Cisticola, one more species that had proven difficult to come by during the week. They're normally everywhere, the males advertising the fact volubly with their "zit, zit, zit" call, but at this time of year they become relatively silent with only a weak "tzit" from long grass cover to betray their presence.

The last bird seen was again a surprise, another Cirl Bunting; this id was only discernable once the photo was blown up upon return to the Quinta, the species as a whole being drab at this time of year.

Saturday 19th September 2009

The group decided to play safe with catching the plane rather than try to squeeze in another hour of birding so it was a direct run to the airport from the Quinta, (Daniela, Elias and Carolina following in the Quinta's 4X4 in case of problems!). We left the Quinta at 9.30 and arrived at the airport with plenty of time to spare at 11am where we said goodbye to each other.

Acknowledgements

As the Group Leader and host for the week I would like to give my thanks on behalf of us all to Daniela and her staff who beavered away behind the scenes so efficiently. The food was always to an excellent standard and notwithstanding that there were other guests at the Quinta during the week our early starts were always efficiently handled.

I'd also like to thank Nigel and his team for organising the week in the first place! Without them working so efficiently it'd never have happened.

I hope also that you will take away with you happy memories of this week and a heightened understanding of the Montados and the threat to their continued existence - remember, always check for the cork!

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November 2009

Weather

The weather throughout the week seldom changed from having a high of 17 – 18°C with little wind and some scattered cloud.

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING THE TOUR

No of days recorded	Abundance Scale (max for any one day)
1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days	1 = 1 - 4 2 = 5 - 9 3 = 10 - 99 4 = 100 - 999 5 = > 1,000

SPECIES	No of days recorded	Abundance Scale	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Little Grebe	1	2	Tachybaptus ruficollis
Balearic Shearwater	1	1	Puffinus mauretanicus
Northern Gannet	1	3	Morus bassanus
Great Cormorant	1	2	Phalacrocorax carbo
Cattle Egret	5	3	Bubulcus ibis
Little Egret	3	2	Egretta garzetta
Grey Heron	6	3	Ardea cinerea
White Stork	1	2	Ciconia ciconia
Spoonbill	2	1	Platalea leucorodia
Greater Flamingo	2	3	Phoenicopterus ruber
Gadwall	1	1	Anas strepera
Common Teal	1	1	Anas crecca
Mallard	2	3	Anas platyrhynchos
Northern Shoveler	1	1	Anas clypeata
Griffon Vulture	1	3	Gyps fulvus
Osprey	2	1	Pandion haliaetus
Bonelli's Eagle	1	1	Hieraaetus fasciatus
Booted Eagle	4	2	Hieraaetus pennatus
Short-toed Eagle	1	1	Circaetus gallicus
Black-winged Kite	4	1	Elanus caeruleus
Common Buzzard	3	1	Buteo buteo
Golden Eagle	1	1	Aquila chrysaetos
Marsh Harrier	2	1	Circus aeruginosus
Montagu's Harrier	1	2	Circus pygargus
Sparrowhawk	1	1	Accipiter nisus
Kestrel	4	3	Falco tinnunculus
Peregrine Falcon	1	1	Falco peregrinus
Red-legged Partridge	3	2	Alectoris rufa
Common Moorhen	1	1h	Gallinula chloropus
Eurasian Coot	1	5	Fulica atra
Little Bustard	2	3	Tetrax tetrax
Great Bustard	1	3	Otis tarda
Black-winged Stilt	3	3	Himantopus himantopus
Little Ringed Plover	1	1	Charadrius dubius
Ringed Plover	3	2	Charadrius hiaticula
Golden Plover	2	1	Pluvialis apricaria
Common Snipe	1	1	Gallinago gallinago
Black-tailed Godwit	2	2	Limosa limosa
Bar-tailed Godwit	1	1	Limosa lapponica
Spotted Redshank	1	1	Tringa erythropus
Common Redshank	2	2	Tringa totanus
Green Sandpiper	1	1	Tringa ochropus
Common Sandpiper	3	1	Actitis hypoleucos
Black-headed Gull	2	3	Larus ridibundus
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2	3	Larus fuscus
Yellow-legged Gull	2	1	Larus cachinnans
Little Tern	1	1	Sterna albifrons
Sandwich Tern	2	2	Sterna sandvicensis
Black Tern	1	1	Chlidonias niger
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	1	3	Pterocles orientalis

Rock Dove	1		3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Common Wood Pigeon	3		2	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Collared Dove	6		3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Turtle Dove	1		1	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Tawny Owl	-	1h	1	<i>Strix aluco</i>
Little Owl	3		2	<i>Athene noctua</i>
Common Kingfisher	1		1	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Eurasian Hoopoe	5		3	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Green Woodpecker	1		1	<i>Picus viridis</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	4	1h	1	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Wood lark	6		3	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
Crested Lark	3		2	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Thekla Lark	4		3	<i>Galerida theklae</i>
Calandra Lark	1		2	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>
Crag Martin	1		1	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
Barn Swallow	3		3	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Red-rumped Swallow	6		3	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>
House Martin	4		3	<i>Delichon urbica</i>
Meadow Pipit	1		1	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
Tawny Pipit	2		1	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
Grey Wagtail	2		1	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
White Wagtail	4		2	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Winter Wren	1	1h	1	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
European Robin	2	1h	1	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Common Nightingale	1		1	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
Common Redstart	2		1	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
Black Redstart	1		1	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Common Stonechat	6		3	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
Northern Wheatear	4		3	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Blue Rock Thrush	2		1	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
Common Blackbird	6		3	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Mistle Thrush	1		1	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Cetti's Warbler	1	5h	1	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
Zitting Cisticola (Fan-tailed Warbler)	1		1	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Dartford Warbler	1		1	<i>Sylvia undata</i>
Common Whitethroat	1		2	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
Sardinian Warbler	5	1h	2	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
Blackcap	2		1	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Chiffchaff	3		2	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Wood Warbler	1		1	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>
Willow Warbler	4		2	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Pied Flycatcher	4		3	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	6		3	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Long-tailed Tit	2		2	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Blue Tit	5		2	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>
Great Tit	3		1	<i>Parus major</i>
Nuthatch	1	4h	1	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Short-toed Treecreeper	1		1	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
Southern Grey Shrike	4		2	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>
Eurasian Jay	6		2	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Iberian Azure-winged Magpie	6		3	<i>Cyanopica cyana</i>
Red-billed Chough	1		3	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
Western Jackdaw	2		3	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Carrion Crow	2		2	<i>Corvus corone</i>
Common Raven	2		1	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Spotless Starling	6		3	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>
House Sparrow	6		3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Common Waxbill	3		2	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Common Chaffinch	3		1	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
European Serin	2		2	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
European Greenfinch	2	1h	1	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
Common Linnet	4		3	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
European Goldfinch	5		3	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>

Ortolan Bunting	1	1	Emberiza hortulana
Cirl Bunting	2	1	Emberiza cirlus
Rock Bunting	1	2	Emberiza cia
Corn Bunting	3	2	Miliaria calandra

OTHER SIGHTINGS

Weasel	1	1
Hare	2	1
Rabbit	2	1
Large Psammodromus Lizard	1	1
Terrapin	2	3
Mongoose	1	1
Moorish Gecko	5	1
Tree Frog	4	1
Swallowtail	1	1

This list represents those birds and other animals seen by party members of this tour.