

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

25 September – 02 October 2016



Leader: Frank McClintock

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A Personal Diary

The weather was beautiful for the whole week and it was great to see Sheila, Alan and Andrew again, all three past guests at the Quinta. Sheila's early arrival was a bonus as she was able to both relax and get more birding in during the week and a half she was here. Once again we were joined by other birders staying at the Quinta on some days, and this enhanced everyone's enjoyment as well as starting new friendships with birders from around the world.

As mentioned, Sheila, on her 12th Ornitholidays trip to the Quinta I think, opted to arrive early and relax for a few days before anyone else arrived, so she'd already had a couple of trips out, principally to the plains, where we managed to come across a number of vultures resting on the ground, just after cresting a small hill. The group consisted of six Eurasian Griffons and one juvenile Eurasian Black, the griffons taking off to the right of the car and the black to the left, so it was a mad scramble out of the vehicle to get close views and unrivalled pictures of these wonderful birds. What a start to her week and the only downer was that neither Alan nor Andrew had arrived as yet.



25 September

The day that Ornitholidays Autumn 2016 Tour was due to start dawned bright with only a few scattered clouds. Sheila and I came down to Faro to pick Alan up from the airport and with Alan's plane being on time we were away from the crowds by 10.25.

Andrew, living in the Algarve only an hour away from the Quinta, was going to join us later on in the day back at home, so there was plenty of room in the van and we had both Calum Dickinson and Paul Barritt along with us. The more eyes the better!

We took a short-cut through some scrubland and pine forests between the airport and our first stop for the week, a hide overlooking a marshy area next door to a golf course. During this short drive we passed through a scattered flock of Iberian Magpies and come across a Eurasian Hoopoe.

The hide we were going to, is always a popular start to the week with the views and species we find here second to none – and so it proved this time once again. As well as the normal Mallard, Gadwall and Common Pochard there were also plenty of Western Swamphens and Black-headed Weavers as well as several Glossy Ibis, all three species that seem to be growing both in numbers and distribution in southern Portugal.

There were also Eurasian Coots, Common Moorhens and Little Grebes in significant numbers, but the behaviour that drew more attention than most was that of a family of Great Crested Grebes, as the juveniles were practicing their flying skills – or rather their take-off ones. Four or five of them would paddle sedately to one end of a longer stretch of water, turn around all together into wind and then run over the surface, flapping wildly all the way for a 100 yards or so before skidding to a halt, turning around and repeating the process. Not only was it fun to watch but it was useful to get to grips with their silhouette and see their diagnostic white fore and aft “in flight” wing pattern.



While both Barn and Red-rumped Swallows hawked the reed beds in front of the hide, a Cetti's Warbler was heard and Alan drew our attention to a White Stork feeding with Little Egrets in the shallows a few 100 metres away. This was the only one we were to see all week, so it was nice to get it under our belts, even though at the time we were not aware of its significance. We'd been hoping to find a Little Bittern while watching from this hide, and though we'd seen a Common Kingfisher as it flashed past and a Little Tern which hovered overhead before diving for its prey and moving on to hover and dive again farther down the lake, it seemed that we were going to be unlucky on our search for this particular species. Daniela had provided us with a scrummy picnic, so it wasn't an unpleasant wait, and it was made even better when Calum finally spotted a female not so far away just as it disappeared into a small patch of waterside reeds. Nobody had had a good view and we thought we were going to remain unlucky on this quest, but with a little persistence, made more enjoyable by rolls, nuts, fruit and biscuits, we were rewarded when she emerged for a fleeting moment before vanishing again. This time everyone had seen her well and it was about time we should start heading home, so, catching a quick Black Redstart and the first Northern Wheatear of the week as we left, we headed back to the van and returned to the Quinta where we met up with Andrew, settled in, had the first of Daniela's lovely dinners and prepared ourselves for the morrow.



26 September

So as not to tire anyone out needlessly after yesterday's travel, today was going to be a shorter, gentler day, visiting a nearby valley to get some local species on to our list. We were going to be taking Calum and Paul along again for the ride - they'd proved their worth yesterday and a day's birding with them is never without a few laughs, so we left home at 07.30 and were in Corte Brique valley by 07.45. On the way we saw Iberian Magpies, Spotless Starlings, Eurasian Collared Doves, a Eurasian Jay and a stunning Little Owl.



On arrival there was a Greater Spotted Woodpecker drumming, migrating Red-rumped Swallows overhead, an Iberian Shrike on the wire above us and both Common Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers feeding in the small Cork Oak under which we parked - so far so good! Starting to walk down the valley, Paul found a solitary Common Linnets on the top of a Holm Oak; Common Linnets are seldom solitary, so looking around it wasn't long before we'd found the rest of the flock feeding in amongst the grass, and this was followed by a charm of European Goldfinches in a mixed flock with European Serins - and a conversation followed debating whether a mixed flock of European Goldfinches and European Serins should be called an "Enhanced Charm" or a "Brilliant Charm"; Sheila clinched the argument with a "Magic Charm".

By 08.30 we were passing the café which was unfortunately closed as we could have done with a quick cuppa, so we carried on - only to be called back by Alice, the proprietor, who'd seen us walking past and noticed our thirsty looks, so had kindly opened up for us. It was a very welcome coffee, made even better with the company of the local Bantams.



Setting off again three quarters of an hour later, refreshed and warmed, we quickly came across both Spotted and Pied Flycatchers together with Blackcap and Sardinian Warblers, a Zitting Cisticola, another large flock of Common Linnets and another very confiding Common Waxbill.

Following on from this and turning south again once we reached the head of the valley, Calum quickly found a Common Whitethroat, some more Common Linnets and European Serins, a Common Stonechat, a Whinchat and a pair of Common Redstarts all feeding together upon a recently harvested wheat field. The male Common Redstart was especially confident and gave us cracking views when he approached to within five metres or so.



After these resident and migrating birds, we spent some time watching a family of Zitting Cisticolas before returning towards the car, where we were welcomed, before heading home, by another Pied Flycatcher and a Great Spotted Woodpecker – probably the same one who’d welcomed us earlier in the day when we’d parked!

The rest of the day was spent relaxing and exploring the Quinta’s gardens and several local walks before the long day that was planned for the next day.

27 September

As Sheila had visited the plains earlier she opted to relax at the Quinta today. Both Calum and Paul were returning to the UK but their place was taken by Katarin and Bram Renmans from Germany, Bram especially being an experienced and knowledgeable birder.

We set off at 06.30 from the Quinta, aiming to get some birding accomplished before we stopped for breakfast, so, with the sun rising around 07.15 we were in place to catch an early over-flight by six Greater Flamingos in the half-light of the dawn – not an expected species in this bare and dry landscape – and these were followed by Carrion Crows, a Great Spotted Woodpecker, Spotless Starlings, several Red-legged Partridge and then an iconic view of Cattle Egrets catching the early morning sun on the back of some grazing sheep.



The next three species, two before and one after breakfast, were three of our target species for the day, and all gave us cracking views, close and down-sun.



First of all, there was a beautiful Black-winged Kite, followed by several Little Bustards and then, after breakfast, a low-flying Short-toed Eagle.

Everyone had brilliant views, and the birds themselves seemed unfazed both by our proximity and the length of the various lenses pointed at them.



It was another great start, so, with the day promising to become warmer, we pressed on to see as much as we could before the heat haze became too interfering. We didn’t have to wait too long for our next target species, for no sooner had we got back into the car after the Short-toed Eagle, than we all had to pile out again as a drove of Great Bustards sailed overhead, and this was followed by close views of a migrating Whinchat, posing nicely for us on top of a dried Spanish Oyster plant.



Katarin and Bram, having been absent from our walk yesterday, had been jealous of our views of the Little Owl, so this was the next target, and it didn't take us long to come across one guarding its private pile of rocks.



By this time it was 10.00, so we pressing headed for a valley where I assured the group that we had as good

a chance as any of finding Black-bellied Sandpiper. These are normally an extremely difficult bird to find, but we were lucky, as not only did we find them in decent numbers, but we also had good, relatively close views of them, and for once the cameras focused on the birds in flight rather than the background behind them. It was an added bonus to hear their bubbling call which seemed to come from all points of the compass, letting us know that there were many more in the vicinity than we could possibly see, their camouflage once on the ground rendering them almost impossible to find.



An apparition of Stone Curlews was next on our list for the day, and once again we marvelled at their ability to melt into the landscape once stationary. There were at least 20 individuals in this apparition.



We had done so well by now that we were actually ahead of schedule, so I decided to go the extra mile and visit a gorge known as the Pulo do Lobo, "The Wolf's Leap", where the River Guadiana, normally 100 metres across, funnels through a waterfall barely two metres wide, and by 11.30 we had arrived to be met by a pair of Common Ravens flying overhead.

Here we stopped for a filling lunch while we were observed by a confiding Blue Rock Thrush from a nearby ash tree. It was

really quite warm by now, at least 34°C, and heat haze was becoming a problem, so having finished our lunch, we decided to head towards home again. However, there was a flurry of excitement quite soon after our departure when Andrew spotted a pair of Bonelli's Eagles hunting low between the Cork Oaks we were passing. We de-bussed as quickly as we could, and as we were



doing so one eagle gained altitude so we were able to see it well. However, the thermal this one was using sent it up like a lift and unfortunately it was very high very quickly, so the views were fleeting at best, while the other was too low, gliding in and out between the oaks in the valley below us. We tried for another view on the other side of the hill, but by then they had both disappeared ... it made one wonder just how many birds we rush past every day, because they were there somewhere ... Driving home was uneventful, but it was a satisfied, if tired, group that arrived back at the Quinta at 16.00.



28 September

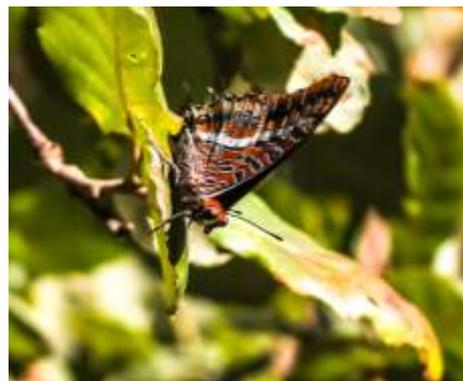
Bram and Katarin moved on to pastures new today, but our group was joined by Gail Satok from the States, and the day started well again with Alan pointing out both Osprey and Grey Heron over the lake while we were having breakfast, and this was followed by a Blue Rock Thrush as we drove along the track barely one kilometre from the Quinta.



unexpected appearance, did a quick flit down the valley.

We were going to be exploring a lush – for the area – valley about half an hour's drive from home and the start was again good as we arrived there about 08.30 to be met very quickly by Cirl Buntings, Common Chaffinches, lots of European Serins, a Eurasian Nuthatch, a pair of Grey Wagtails, and a family of Long-tailed Tits. During the walk this list was augmented by Great and Blue Tits, Pied and Spotted Flycatchers, Iberian Magpies and a Eurasian Jay, as well as a Garden Warbler and a Great Spotted Woodpecker. European Nuthatches called throughout the three hour walk and there were also Sardinian and Blackcap Warblers. At times it seemed very quiet, but occasionally we came across mixed flocks of passerines, one of which contained four different Tits, Great, Blue, Crested and Long-tailed, as well as European Nuthatches, a Common Redstart, a Short-toed Treecreeper and a Firecrest, while overhead screeched a Eurasian Jay and a Eurasian Sparrowhawk, surprised by our

Large Psammomorous Lizards basked on the side of the path, warming up for the day ahead and insects of all kinds were also much in evidence as the morning progressed and the sunlight filtered down through the overhanging branches; Blue-winged Grasshoppers flicked along the path in front of us, Speckled Woods spiralled around each other and Small Heaths warmed themselves on the banks, but the prize of the day as far as butterflies went had to go to the six Two-tailed Pashas that we saw – the valley seemed to be alive with them as we headed back for lunch.



29 September

Today it was just the four of us as Gail in her turn left for her next destination – there were other birders staying at the Quinta, but they opted to explore around the locality – at least that's what they said, though it could have been our early departure that put them off, as we set off from the Quinta at 05.15.



It was a decent drive to our destination, but the trip was worth it as we were going to be visiting the Lagoa Santo André and it was imperative that we make the most of the day and arrive at dawn. We'd seen two foxes and a hare on the way so had had once again a good start before arriving at an early-opening café at 06.40 for a leisurely breakfast. Replete after a filling cheese toasty and coffee, we were at our intended viewing point with plenty of time as the sun rose behind us at 07.20, to be met by a low flying Western Marsh Harrier quartering the reed beds in front of us, and this was swiftly followed by a second. Away on the far shore there were several Great White Egrets, and giving us good views from the reeds in front of us a Zitting Cisticola.

However, the view that took everyone's breath away was the large flock of Greater Flamingos that graced us and the low sun hitting this massed squadron made the early start worthwhile.



What's more, there was more than one flight. I freely admit that this species is not my favourite, and I would normally turn my nose up at them as being ugly, fretful and noisy, but this morning they were stunning with the sun glinting off their rosy-pink wings. All in all we counted over two hundred within the hour or so that we were near the water.

There were many more species of course and, no matter how beautiful the Greater Flamingos, we

had to tear ourselves away from them to make sure we noted the Common Linnets, Common Waxbills and Common Reed Warblers that were busy in the vicinity. There were also Gadwall, Little and Great Crested Grebes, Common Moorhen out on the water, and two Common Snipe jinxed past, while Alan soon found a distant Osprey preening itself on a fisherman's pole off to the south while Andrew drew our attention to the six Greylag Geese beyond.



After a while we left our high ground to explore the shoreline beside the reeds, and Alan once more came up trumps with a dozen Black-necked Grebes. There was some doubt about these distant birds, but upon reflection their size, apart from anything else, ruled out the only other contenders for their



identification. Literally tens of thousands of Eurasian Coots covered the water, and waders including Bar-tailed Godwits, Ruff, Common Ringed Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Dunlin, Black-winged Stilts, Sanderling and Red Knot, (especially beautiful in their full winter plumage), dotted the shoreline.



After a couple of hours of watching the various species down along the shore we decided to move back through the reeds and try our luck in the pine woods behind us, and on the way we were treated to this wicked view of an iconic species for the area, an Iberian Magpie, while Andrew drew our attention to a Black-winged Kite, which unfortunately didn't stick around very long.

Moving on through the first scattered trees we encountered a large flock of around 100 Spotless Starlings feeding on the ground. Chattering overhead in amongst a small flock of Greenfinches in a thick pine was a Sardinian Warbler, and a single Stock Dove broke cover as we moved from the bright sunlight to the thick shade of the wood.



Both Pied and Spotted Flycatchers were quickly noticed once our eyes became accustomed to the gloom, and it wasn't long before we'd ticked off Eurasian Nuthatch and Short-toed Treecreeper for the day, while Red-rumped Swallows and House Martins were noted as we moved through a clearing.

A female Common Stonechat posed beautifully in the same clearing and afforded the photographers amongst us, a lovely opportunity to capture this ubiquitous specimen in the sunlight with a nice dark background.



A Great Spotted Woodpecker afforded us all an opportunity to practice our descriptive skills in trying to pinpoint its exact location, "Past the tree bending to the left, then it's level with the third horizontal branch on the right of the second tree back – no, not that one – it's the tree bending to the left, sorry, I mean right, (I always get that bit wrong), yes, that tree, now, go to the second one back, the dark one, yes with the bit that looks like a face, yes, now, up a bit – oh, hell, it's around the back, but keep your eyes on that bit and it'll be out in a minute, yes there it is again – you MUST see it now ...No?, Ok, oh dammit, there it goes, but you saw it flying, yes?" and so on and so on It's a wonder anyone saw anything sometimes!

Leaving the wood after twenty minutes or so we started to return to the car and managed to have much better views of Andrew's Black-winged Kite before arriving there around 10.15. It was quite warm by now, but thankfully we had a cooling easterly breeze as we stopped to watch three Eurasian Hobbies catching dragonflies to the south of us. A flock of 70 Glossy Ibis flew north overhead and we had better views of the Osprey that had taken up station on a closer pole than before, but still appeared to be preening.

By this time a coffee was needed, so we moved off to a nearby café which also harboured a Black Redstart – there's nothing quite as enjoyable as birding in complete comfort! From here we moved south, but it was a relatively quiet afternoon – or what seemed to be the afternoon. There were a lot of dirt tracks covered with Common Chaffinches and Crested Larks in abundance and we had quick views of several Tawny Pipits in a field of stubble as well as Iberian Grey Shrikes and both Lesser and Common Kestrels as we passed some ruined windmills before we stopped for a midday meal in a mature Cork Oak forest.

This forest seemed to be alive with Eurasian Nuthatches and both Pied and Spotted Flycatchers, but unfortunately Andrew was stung on the lip by a wasp while eating his sandwiches, so we headed home shortly afterwards just in case there were any complications.

30 September

After yesterday's long day this morning was going to be a relaxing one in a local hide overlooking a slow-moving river fringed with reeds and ash trees, and on the way there a Genet passed in front of the vehicle, chasing four Red-legged Partridges.

There were Common Reed Warblers in evidence, as well as plenty of Common Chiffchaffs, Willow Warblers and juvenile European Goldfinches, all making the most of the midges that seemed to be breeding among the lily pads that covered the water. A Common Kingfisher made a couple of appearances, but unfortunately just passed through and didn't



stop, while in the reeds opposite us a small flock of Common Waxbills kept us amused for some time as they balanced on the tips of the rushes that then bent down towards the water.



There were good but fleeting views of several Cetti's Warblers, but the same could not be said of three or four juvenile Moorhens who were not so much obvious as "in yer face" walking Jacana-like across the Lily pads in their constant search for the spent flowers which they devoured with relish whenever encountered. They were so ubiquitous that we took them for granted and so nearly missed a Water Rail when it appeared and did exactly the same right in front of us.

Normally such a shy bird and so difficult to see, this was a real treat to have caught out in the open and exhibiting such unusual behavior, and we returned to the Quinta for lunch

well satisfied.

The afternoon was a relaxing one spent in the Quinta's lush gardens and with some members of our group venturing a little further afield for local walks. A Dartford Warbler was found again on the track nearby the Quinta's gates and Alan managed to see a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker from the Golden Oriole Hide in the Quinta's garden. Of course the orioles had migrated south four weeks beforehand, but this hide proved its worth again even without their presence at this time of year.

01 October

Today was going to be our last "long day". We planned to finish up down at Cape St Vincent, Europe's most south westerly point, but to start with we were going to greet the rising sun on southern Portugal's highest point, the mountain top of Foia. We were joined again today by another birder, Cynny Sharp, so it was a full complement that posed for a chilly early morning picture as the sun broke the horizon at 07.30. Sure, it promised to be a warm day later on, but with no cloud cover and at 900 metres, "chilly" was a somewhat generous description. The air was full of the explosive calls of Winter Wrens as we started to bird and it didn't take us long to find one in amongst the bracken.



The Winter Wren was our first species, and this was followed very quickly by our second as bright-eyed Sheila pointed out a beautiful Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, brilliantly camouflaged against the lichen-covered boulders.



Even with no tail actually visible, this bird's vermiculated plumage gave it away as it watched us from its vantage point below us. It was a brilliant start and took our thoughts away from our shivering hands.

This was soon followed by a distant Blue Rock Thrush and a closer Rock Bunting feeding on blackberries.





Common Whitethroats were plentiful though few gave us much of a view. However, this was not the case with a Melodious Warbler - even if we did have a bit of a struggle to actually find it in amongst the hawthorn it was calling from.

Common Stonechats, as always, seemed to be everywhere, but this was much more to do with their fearless occupancy of prominent perches than their actual numbers I feel.



There was a quick view of a Common Redstart. Most birds seemed to be moving fast from one piece of cover to another and we wondered whether there was a raptor about – confirmed shortly afterwards by the sight of two Common Kestrels keeping station in the north-westerly breeze on the shoulder of a nearby hill, but their presence didn't seem to deter a Dartford Warbler, that posed beautifully in the open as we walked back to the car.



We came down off the top of the hill after a couple of hours and had a warming coffee in a café with a view down to the coast, having driven through an area devastated by the recent fires that had ravaged the southern slopes of the Serra de Monchique just weeks beforehand. After this it was a fair drive down to Sagres where we hoped to be able to view some migrating raptors. In this we were unfortunately to be disappointed. We did see several Black Kites and Eurasian Hobbies, but they were fairly distant and the only raptor of note that came anywhere close were a few Booted Eagles.



However, we didn't let this depress us as there was plenty more to see in the area. Red-billed Chough were plentiful and confiding, and it was also a good opportunity to pin down the differences between Crested and Thekla Larks, as the latter were, if not plentiful, at least in evidence on the sandy, open ground, sparsely covered with dry grass and low bushes of Sticky Fleabane.

This yellow-flowering plant also provided the perfect vantage points for migrating Northern Wheatears. These birds had seemed to be everywhere throughout the week and it was odd to think that they were only present in southern Portugal during these few weeks when they pass through the area in massive numbers.





On the way home again we came across several Common Swallowtail butterflies. I note that I haven't specified many butterflies during the writing of this report, and that is not to say that they weren't seen during the week, quite the opposite, so I should mention that we'd identified Clouded Yellows, Wall Browns and Southern Scarce Swallowtails as well as those already mentioned. We returned home in the early afternoon by the coastal road – a good deal quicker and less curvy than that through the mountains - as we had to prepare ourselves for the trip home tomorrow, Alan especially having an early flight.

02 September

As mentioned, Alan had an early flight so we left Andrew and the Quinta at 06.30 in order to get him down there in time. Sheila's plane was much later so, having waved Alan off, we took a walk through Ludo Farm, an area of salt pans five minutes from the airport. Common Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers seemed to be everywhere feeding up for their journey south.

Cetti's Warblers called from the reed beds and several families of Sardinian Warblers followed us as we walked along a long bund that divided the salt pans from a vast expanse of reed beds over which Red-rumped Swallows and House Martins were hawking in impressive numbers.



Out on the salt pans there were several Greater Flamingos that offered good photographic opportunities as there was hardly a ripple on the surface, but sadly the four Ruddy Shelduck, a rare sight this far south, were too far away for any reasonable shot.

Also seen were Sanderling, Ringed Plover, Common Redshank, Grey Heron, Eurasian Coot, a Common Kingfisher, Mallard and a female Black-headed Weaver while Water Rail called from the reeds. Overhead sailed Yellow-legged Gulls, taking little interest in the Booted Eagle above them.

Having explored Ludo Farm to our heart's delight and still with a couple of hours in hand, we decided to skip around to the other side of the salt pans and have a quick look at the hide that we'd explored a week beforehand – so back we went to the car, and 20 minutes later we were watching Cattle and Little Egrets, Common Pochard, Western Swamphens, Gadwall, Little Grebes, Common Moorhens, Barn Swallows, Black-headed Gulls, Little Bitterns, Ruddy Turnstone and a distant Black Tern, while below us a Great Crested Grebe fed a full-

grown

chick – maybe even one of the ones we'd watched seven days earlier – while out on the marshland fed a group of Eurasian Spoonbills. As it was now approaching Sheila's flight time, we went back to the airport and we waved each other goodbye with some sadness just before lunch.



Acknowledgements

It's always sad to say "goodbye" at the end of a week's birding, and it never gets easier either, but with Sheila, Alan and Andrew this is especially so, as all three have been to stay at the Quinta numerous times in the past. Of course we look forward to seeing each other again in the future, a future that's not too far off and where we'll not only continue our friendship, but continue with luck to see so many of the species that we've become accustomed to seeing in this wonderful area of southern Europe, but it never makes parting any easier.

Once again I must thank the Quinta's staff, Fatima and Dulce, for making our lives so comfortable, and especially to Daniela for coping with our early starts and odd hours so efficiently. The food at the Quinta itself was to a standard second to none as ever and our picnics on days out filling and tasty.

Last but not least I must thank Nigel and Sandy of Ornitholidays for organizing the week in such an efficient manner, an efficiency that of course we've come to expect over the ten years or so that they've been running their Southern Portugal tours at the Quinta, but an efficiency that is nevertheless impressive no matter how many times they've done it before.

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November 2016

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING TOUR

No of days recorded

1 2h means seen on 1
day and heard on 2
other days

Abundance Scale (max. seen on 1 day)

1 = 1 – 4 individuals
2 = 5 - 9
3 = 10 - 99
4 = 100 - 999
5 = >1000

SPECIES	No of days recorded	Abundance Scale	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Greylag Goose	1	2	<i>Anser anser</i>
Mallard	2	4	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Gadwall	2	3	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Northern Shoveler	1	1	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Common Pochar	2	2	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Red-legged Partridge	3	3	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>
Little Grebe	4	2	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	4	3	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Black-necked Grebe	1	2	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Northern Gannet	1	3	<i>Morus bassanus</i>
Great Cormorant	4	3	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Little Bittern	2	1	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Cattle Egret	4	3	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Little Egret	3	3	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Great Egret	1	3	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>
Grey Heron	6	3	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
White Stork	1	1	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Glossy Ibis	2	3	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	2	3	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
Greater Flamingo	3	4	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Eurasian Griffon Vulture	1	2	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
Eurasian Black Vulture	1	1	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>
Osprey	2	1	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Short-toed Eagle	1	1	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Booted Eagle	1	1	<i>Aquila pennata</i>
Bonelli's Eagle	1	1	<i>Hieraetus fasciatus</i>
Black Kite	1	1	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	1	1	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Common Buzzard	3	2	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Black-winged Kite	2	1	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Common Kestrel	3	2	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Lesser Kestrel	2	1	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Eurasian Hobby	2	1	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
Water Rail	1	1h	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
Common Moorhen	4	2	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian Coot	3	5	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Purple Swampphen	2	2	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Little Bustard	1	2	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>
Great Bustard	1	3	<i>Otis tarda</i>
Black-winged Stilt	3	3	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Stone Curlew	1	3	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>
Little Ringed Plover	1	1	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Common Ringed Plover	1	2	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Red Knot	1	1	<i>Calidris canutus</i>
Sanderling	1	2	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	2	2	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Dunlin	1	3	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Green Sandpiper	1	1	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Common Sandpiper	2	1	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Common Redshank	1	1	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Bar-tailed Godwit	1	2	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>

Ruff	1		1	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Common Snipe	1		1	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Black-headed Gull	3		3	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Yellow-legged Gull	4		4	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull	3		3	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Little Tern	1		1	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>
Black Tern	1		2	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	1		3	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>
Feral Pigeon (Rock Dove)	2		4	<i>Columba livia</i>
Stock Dove	1		1	<i>Columba oenas</i>
Common Wood Pigeon	1		2	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	8		4	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Little Owl	4		2	<i>Athene noctua</i>
Common Swift	1		1	<i>Apus apus</i>
Pallid Swift	1		1	<i>Apus pallidus</i>
Eurasian Hoopoe	3		1	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Common Kingfisher	3		2	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Iberian Green Woodpecker	-	1h	1	<i>Picus viridis sharpei</i>
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	1		1	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	5		2	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Crested Lark	5		3	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Thekla Lark	2		1	<i>Galerida theklae</i>
Woodlark	1	1h	1	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
Greater Short-toed Lark	1		1	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
Eurasian Crag Martin	1		2	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
Barn Swallow	3		3	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Red-rumped Swallow	7		4	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
Common House Martin	5		4	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
Tawny Pipit	3		1	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
Grey Wagtail	2		1	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
White Wagtail	2		1	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
European Robin	2	1h	1	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Common Redstart	3		1	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
Black Redstart	3		1	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Northern Wheatear	6		4	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Whinchat	5		2	<i>Saxicola Rubetra</i>
Common Stonechat	8		3	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>
Common Blackbird	8		3	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Blue Rock Thrush	3		1	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush	1		1	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>
Garden Warbler	1		1	<i>Sylvia Borin</i>
Blackcap	3	1h	2	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Common Whitethroat	2		1	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
Sardinian Warbler	6		2	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
Dartford Warbler	3		2	<i>Sylvia undata</i>
Cetti's Warbler	1	1h	1	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
European Reed Warbler	1		1	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
Melodious Warbler	1		1	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>
Zitting Cisticola	7		3	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Willow Warbler	6		3	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Common Chiffchaff	3		3	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Iberian Chiffchaff	1		1	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>
Firecrest	1		1	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>
Winter Wren	3	1h	3	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	6		3	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Pied Flycatcher	6		2	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
Great Tit	1		1	<i>Parus major</i>
European Blue Tit	5		1	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Crested Tit	1	1h	1	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>
Long-tailed Tit	1		2	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Eurasian Nuthatch	2	1h	3	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Short-toed Treecreeper	2		1	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
Iberian Grey Shrike	4		3	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>

Iberian Magpie	7	4	<i>Cyanopica cooki</i>
Common Magpie	1	2	<i>Pica pica</i>
Eurasian Jay	6	2	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Western Jackdaw	1	3	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Red-billed Chough	1	3	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
Carrion Crow	7	3	<i>Corvus corone</i>
Common Raven	1	1	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Spotless Starling	6	4	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>
House Sparrow	7	3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Spanish Sparrow	1	4	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
Common Chaffinch	3	3	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Common Linnet	3	2	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
European Goldfinch	5	3	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
European Greenfinch	1	1	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
European Serin	3	2	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
Cirl Bunting	1	1	<i>Emberiza cirrus</i>
Corn Bunting	2	3	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>
Rock Bunting	4	2	<i>Emberiza cia</i>
Common Waxbill	4	3	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Black-headed Weaver	2	1	<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>
MAMMALS			
Iberian Hare	1	1	<i>Lepus granatensis</i>
European Rabbit	2	1	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Red Fox	1	1	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Common Genet	1	1	<i>Genetta genetta</i>
AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES			
Marsh Frog	1	1	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>
Red-eared Slider	3	3	<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>
Moorish Gecko	7	2	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>
European Pond Terrapin	3	2	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>
Large Psammmodromus Lizard	2	2	<i>Psammmodromus algirus</i>
BUTTERFLIES			
Two-tailed pasha	4	3	<i>Charaxes jasius</i>
Wall Brown	2	2	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Speckled Wood	1	3	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Small Heath	1	2	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Clouded Yellow	1	2	<i>Colias crocea</i>
Southern Scarce Swallowtail	1	1	<i>Iphiclides podalirius feisthamelii</i>
Common Swallowtail	1	2	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
DRAGONFLIES			
Red-veined Darter	7	4	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>
Broad Scarlet (Scarlet Darter)	3	3	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>
Keeled Skimmer	1	1	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>
Lesser Emperor	1	2	<i>Anax parthenope</i>

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

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