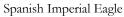
Spring in Southern Portugal

Naturetrek Tour Report

10th - 17th April 2023







Alpine Swift



Monarch



Black Redstart

Tour report and images by Glyn Evans



Naturetrek Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

Tour participants: Glyn Evans & John Davis (leaders) with 12 Naturetrek clients

The South of Portugal has on offer some stunning scenery with a healthy diversity of habitats, allowing a full weekly itinerary of several stops which offers new experiences each time. Plant lovers would enjoy the impressive range of wildflowers on show at this time of year and the quirky adaptations of some of the more familiar species to semi-arid and breezy locations we visited. For bird lovers, the range of species across all the habitats visited in this report gives an impressive range of possibilities. This tour bagged several of the more charismatic species the area is known for, and one or two surprises.

Our combination of leaders covered most of the angles, with John charged with all things below eye level and me looking for the birds.

Day 1

Monday 10th April

Clearing the airport was a bit slow, but John's minibus formalities didn't take too long, so we were able to make a lunch stop just a half hour's drive from the airport and were being served by 2pm in the town square of Sao Bras de Aportel from an establishment clearly favoured by the locals. Good value it was indeed, but the early highlight of the tour came in the form of a Bonelli's Eagle high overhead carrying prey, with binoculars politely shared amongst the group from those who had remembered to bring them! Another stretch on the way to Mertola was at a hilltop site where we listened to Serins, Corn Buntings, Goldfinches and even distant Hoopoes calling, manging to get reasonable looks at a male Stonechat, a pair of Nuthatches and a distant Booted Eagle.

Butterflies included the big three, namely Swallowtail, Scarce Swallowtail and Spanish Festoon! John was getting his eye in on plants; no mean task as there was a range of things to come on this trip.

Along the way to the hotel, the roadside wires yielded both Southern Grey and Woodchat Shrikes and we were able to discern the differences between Barn and Red-rumped Swallows, with the latter showing a preference for bridges and culverts as potential nest sites. A pair of Turtle Doves was a highlight and a Short-toed Eagle drifted overhead giving good views from the minibus.

We reached the hotel in good time and set the pattern for the week by having a briefing at 7pm before dinner. We agreed to start our checklists the following day, so the briefing was a relaxed overview of what people were hoping to enjoy and what they could reasonably expect of the trip. Most had no specific targets, which allowed for some flexibility in making the most out of the itinerary from the places that delivered most enjoyment. The White Storks nesting on the cinema and the House Martins in their multi-storey tenements across the road set the scene, whilst Lesser Kestrels fluttered over the hillside the other side of the river on their evening constitutionals.

The home-cooked style of cuisine at the Beira Rio was enjoyed by all, washed down with generous amounts of local wine. Nightingales serenaded the cool evening as we retired.

Day 2

Tuesday 11th April

The first full day featured a trip to the spectacular scenery of Pulo do Lobo. Two generous bags of goodies were purchased for later consumption. On our journey, we stopped at a bridge to observe whatever the stream might

attract. What actually stopped us in the first instance was an Egyptian Mongoose which chose to hurry across the road rather than under the bridge. Luckily, both buses had good, if fleeting views of the animal despite it failing to look both ways! The Red-rumped Swallows had a pair of Crag Martins in its midst and a Stonechat offered close views. A Woodchat Shrike did likewise as a White Stork from a nearby nest soared quietly overhead. Further on, we stopped to enjoy a couple of pairs of Montagu's Harriers displaying over a cultivated field.

The dusty path down the valley into Pulo do Lobo tested the quality of the aircon as the day began to warm significantly. Raptors would surely enjoy the thermals...

We arrived at the small car park at the bottom of the valley in time for a short exploration. Most elected to take the path to overlook the torrent that had sculpted the rocks over many centuries into a spectacular landscape. From the end of the path, a pool provided a backdrop to a few Crag Martins and Swallows which flew below us as Grey Wagtails could be heard above the din of the falls. Less penetrating songs were more difficult to filter out, but eventually I was able to tune into the song of a Blue Rock Thrush. Careful scanning of the rocks across the pool yielded a fine looking male, who stayed patiently in position for everyone to have good 'scoped views. The Rock Bunting which later showed in bushes was clearly vocalising but could not be heard above the noise of the gushing water. Nevertheless, it posed long enough for scoped views at long enough distance to make it difficult for some to pick it out with binoculars.

Frogs and dragonflies graced the small pools of trapped water close to the car park.

With the clear skies surprisingly devoid of raptors, we sounded the gong for lunch and retired to the altar and barbecue just above the carpark where lunch was prepared. Songs nearby were from Sardinian and Subalpine Warblers some way above our position. The former eventually came close enough to give reasonable views for us. As lunch drew to a close, at last we were at last treated to some raptors, as first a Cinerous Vulture cruised overhead, closely followed by a Griffon Vulture. These proved to be the outriders as eventually, there were several more pulses of Griffons crossing the valley. Not much of the picnic was left, so it was decided to walk off some of the calories after lunch by venturing along the narrow path at the edge of the valley, where John's party found Large Psammodromus. My shorter walk to the falls yielded some Serins flying around but not much else.

We stayed quite a while here and hadn't left enough time to drop by the two extra stops that were on the itinerary, so instead we drove back at a more leisurely pace and took in a lovely reservoir just a few minutes away from the hotel. We were immediately greeted by four Gull-billed Terns hunting over the water, enjoying great views of them before eventually noticing a few pairs of Black-winged Stilts around the perimeter. A single Common Sandpiper was seen to alight behind the small nearby island on which two stilts were – ahem – pair bonding.

A Great Crested Grebe yodelled across the water to an unseen companion. We briefly explored some nearby ditches for dragonflies. Iberian Bluetail and Western Clubtail were identified.

Day 3

Wednesday 12th April

It was agreed the previous evening that we would venture along the towpath toward the Lesser Kestrels to get a closer look at the small colony in the tastefully whitewashed nest boxes. In the perfect light, we enjoyed a rather showy male which gave some reasonably nice overhead views, showing the key identification features. As we

returned to the back patio of the hotel, we scanned the trees along the near bank as I had earlier seen a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker from my balcony, having been woken by the hesitant song of a newly-arrived Golden Oriole...

At last, a bright yellow shape appeared in a distant tree which was immediately identified as a male Golden Oriole. I quickly 'scoped it but there was only time for one client to view before it flew.

We left promptly at 09.30, bound for a special Portuguese buffet lunch prepared by Helena and her daughter in Castro Verde, exploring the plains along the way. We scheduled a couple of stops, the first of which gave us good views of Spanish Sparrows residing in the monumental thatch of sticks and discarded fabric that comprised a White Stork's nest. A Black Kite wheeled around before we got back into the vans and Zitting Cisticolas were giving frequent song flights. Stonechats and Corn Buntings sang from the wires and Crested Larks from everywhere. A couple of European Bee-eaters patrolled a nearby ditch.

We gave ourselves the option of exploring any track that looked likely to have something of interest with the only proviso being that we made it to Castro Verde by 1pm...

Then came the highlight of the morning when we enjoyed fantastic views of a pair of Spanish Imperial Eagles. As this is a public report, I am not able to say where, but we were incredibly lucky that they came to within 150 metres to give us fantastic views. We were buzzing still when we came across several pairs of Montagu's Harriers over another cultivated field with a maximum count of 14 at one stage. By then, the heat haze made decent photos difficult, so we settled in to enjoy the aerial ballet.

Another track looked promising for a scan but although there were no bustards, we did find a Little Owl quietly frowning at us from a pile of rocks in which there may have been a nest... A Quail called while the engines were turned off to enjoy the Owl.

We continued at a gentle pace toward Castro Verde when suddenly, one of the clients pointed to a large bird he had seen ahead of us through a small plantation... As we slowed to a stop to look along the back edge of the plantation, there, sat on top of a rather inadequate looking fence post, was an immature Golden Eagle, just 100m away! The decision to open the side door for a photo was just too tempting and before a warning could be issued, the eagle took flight, albeit just to a further post some 400m away, while the group could pick out the extensive white tail feathers and lovely upturned fingers of the eagle's classic profile as it eased itself to a safe distance from us.

Flushed by the thrill of seeing such a magnificent raptor, we moved on to reach Castro Verde half an hour early but were nevertheless warmly greeted by Helena and shortly after by her daughter, Elodie, whose spoken English was exemplary. The buffet lunch was something to write home about. Much of it (and there was very much of it) was traditional Portuguese and rather too tasty for those who are inclined to push their limits. Nevertheless, I was able to leave my chair, first to acknowledge a second (this time, dark morph) Booted Eagle passing over nearby and then to suggest to the group that they might want to get back into the field...

It was decided that we would take the most direct route back to Mertola (albeit slowly enough not to miss any notable wildlife sightings) so that some clients could take an afternoon stroll around the town. I offered to take

the others out again after a quick pit stop at the hotel. By the time we left the hotel, we had around an hour and forty minutes to visit two possible sites: a track overlooking some likely bustard habitat and a reservoir with some nice, shallow, muddy edges...

It was clear that Bustards were the main target for those who came along, so we drove up the track some way before we could park at a wide point and walk carefully to the highest point, checking every so often as more of the plain beyond was revealed...

The previous week had yielded both species of bustard and several flying Black-bellied Sandgrouse, but the first species to enter the arena on this occasion was a Stone Curlew, which landed around 400m away to give some hazy but recognisable scoped views. Whilst the Stone Curlew was being enjoyed, I picked up the first of two fairly showy male Little Bustards which showed off their black collars as they stood tall to issue their quirky little snorting calls, arching back as they did so. A couple of fly-by sandgrouse prompted a search of the plain below and soon we were enjoying scoped views of at least six birds, with the oblique light obligingly casting shadows to help pick them out against the similarly coloured background of the plain floor...

Eventually, we saw several more sandgrouse, with a flock of two dozen or so flying over the crest of the hill. Stone Curlews were calling and one showed flight views on the other side of the path as we were starting to wonder whether luck would deliver us a Great Bustard...

The previous week, a couple of birders had stopped at this spot to ask if we had seen "the" bustards before walking on at such a pace as to disturb two males that at least gave us distant flight views, so we (or at least I...) knew they were in the area. But we were due to leave Mertola the next day, so chances were running out...

We walked slowly and carefully uphill to widen our view, stopping briefly to observe a whining Black Kite being harassed by Magpies. We got to the top of the hill and scanned.

Well, we hadn't disturbed any birds at least.

A few fly-by sandgrouse kept us interested, as did the calling male Little Bustards occasionally showing nicely, but now time was at a point where we'd have only a short while to freshen up before dinner...

I suggested we gave it 10 minutes. We needed 150 seconds.

Fiona, one of the clients, had been diligently scanning the distant slopes and found a large, brown shape which might have been a Great Bustard... Another similar large brown shape emerged from behind the nearby bush. In such a heat haze, movement allows an easier discernment of size and shape and soon, we confirmed a pair of strutting male Great Bustards, Europe's heaviest flying bird! Soon another male joined the lek, so we enjoyed them for a further 20 minutes until they dispersed; a signal for us to do likewise!

Some slightly smug looks could not be disguised as we reached the hotel, but the polite but disappointed looks from those who stayed behind suggested that we might slip out there again after breakfast the following day before heading south. The old "let's give it ten minutes" trick had worked again.

Day 4

Thursday 13th April

The prospect of another search of Great Bustards had us leaving on time, even after a post breakfast walk along the river where again we missed out on the Golden Oriole which had briefly sung but eluded most of the party the previous morning. Early days for orioles, though. Hopefully there would be other chances. A Short-toed Eagle hovered distantly as scant consolation.

Onto the bustard site again where we were quickly in position with an even greater sense of anticipation...

Again, Little Bustards were found almost immediately and in the oblique light, sandgrouse cast shadows which helped us locate them on the cropped grass. Several flybys including one flock of over a dozen kept the action going until eventually, I started checking the time... Calandra Larks flew around showing bold white trailing edges to their dark underwings. Superstition got the better of me and again, I suggested we count down ten minutes...

And blow me down, it worked again, as two male Great Bustards flew into the arena and landed near the same place as we'd seen them the previous evening! Once scoped views had been enjoyed, we headed south, happy that we had taken possibly our last chance of finding Great Bustards.

We decided to take in the huge reservoir – Barragem de Monte de Rocha – for lunch on our way south. The view once we arrived was remarkable. The water level was clearly way below where it should be for this time of year, as a result of which many of the birds we might have seen on the water were either absent or distant! The fortunate consequence of the water being so low was that it revealed an island on which we found several slumbering Spoonbills and a pair of Egyptian Geese. Great Crested Grebes were painstakingly found at great distance and Ravens cronked as we ate lunch. Sardinian Warblers skulked and scolded from the bushes around the car park.

We enjoyed watching insects at close quarters as we ate with the ants looking likely to tidy up every morsel we dropped within minutes.

I was very keen to visit Salgados Lagoon where previously we had an action-packed time on the way to Sagres, so we packed up quickly and set the co-ordinates which suggested we could enjoy 75 minutes there and still arrive on schedule at the hotel.

It didn't disappoint. If perhaps slightly less action-packed than the previous week's visit, the clients were very happy to observe two pairs of Marsh Harriers, Black-winged Stilts, Avocets, a single Sanderling fly-by, Dunlins, Glossy Ibis and a couple of Purple Herons to note but a few and Audouin's Gulls eventually appeared from behind a small island that otherwise shielded them and other Yellow-legged Gulls from view. Two Black-headed Gulls were a less common sight than we Brits were accustomed to. One of the clients claimed to have seen a Purple Swamphen, but was unable connect the rest of us. Cetti's Warblers occasionally let rip and a Willow Warbler briefly sang from a nearby reed bed.

We arrived at the hotel to a warm greeting, looking slightly out of place amongst the golden-haired surfers and other sporty types, but we purloined all the seats in the lounge to reflect on a decent day on the road.

Day 5

Friday 14th April

Today was a day for woodland and dunes. First, the Espinacao de Cao, where we spent the morning. The Cork Oak, Quercus suber, woodland with Erica and Cistus understory where our main avian target was the Iberian Chiffchaff. It was quite blustery when we arrived, so we chose a different walk to where we had been the previous week, where we walked along a sheltered hillside so that we could hear the bird song, if any...

The range of plants was impressive [please refer to checklist for names] but almost immediately we heard the stuttering song of Iberian Chiffchaff, which kept out of sight at lower elevations than might have been the case of a calm day. Nevertheless, in the sheltered spots we found quite a few butterflies, including the richly-coloured Mediterranean subspecies of Speckled Wood and heard Crested Tit. The familiar sound of European Robin pierced the rough the breeze and as we approached the lower elevation of the path, we passed Nightingale, Sardinian and Subalpine Warbler – all of which were determinedly invisible. Hoopoes and Eurasian Jays gave us occasional flypasts. On the way back up the path, we finally tracked down a showy Nightingale – albeit 'scoped through a hole in the foliage. Good views were enjoyed by all with a very courteous pony trekking trio patiently waiting for us to finish our turns before we parted the ways for them to walk on.

We headed on for Aljezur where we headed to the coast and the Praia de Amoreira. The previous week, I had spotted a nice shady picnic area where we could enjoy lunch. Luckily, it was all but empty – save for a guy in a white van on his lunch hour who was constantly on the speaker phone to someone. It was still quite peaceful and many of us enjoyed the butterflies and birds around the stream, with Short-toed Treecreeper and Serin showing well as we ate. A couple of Sandwich Terns were hunting the lagoons on the short drive out to the dunes.

The dunes were a spectacular sight, where John came to the fore with the wealth and diversity of plants, while I hung back to get a few shots of the very showy Stonechats, during which a pair of Woodchat Shrikes also showed well. A Crested Tit then called from nearby pines (by which time the advance party had got so far ahead that they could not hear my shout, so I opted instead to take photographic evidence of it, confident that we would connect on the way back down from the dunes.

When I caught up with the group, they had already enjoyed views of European Swallowtail and Green Hairstreak amongst other butterflies, with Cleopatra being a notable extra. A Subalpine Warbler sang and gave teasing views, as did a Sardinian Warbler. Bee-eaters were chirruping together from the other side of the hill. Violet Carpenter Bees fed on the thistle flowers.

By the time I caught up with the more advanced members of the party, we had spread out considerably. John could have stayed here a week and still not identified all the plants, but at the time of writing has now updated the checklist with most of them...!

The beach side café was slightly less populated than the previous week, but the service was just as chaotic, so we had 40 minutes to refresh ourselves after the descent from the dunes. A few Gannets were seen way offshore but they would also be seen later on the tour, so scopes were unused on this occasion, and we arrived back in good time to put our feet up before checklist and dinner.

Day 6

Saturday 15th April

Today was another exciting day in prospect, with a trip to Quinta da Rocha, where we would take a walk around the lagoons and then lunch in the garden of the delightful headquarters of the A Rocha Foundation.

We arrived with fleeting views of Bee-eaters slightly slowing progress to the car park. By the time we arrived, the hottest day of the tour so far was in prospect, but in the comfortable temperature to begin with, we started the trek around the sea wall with only a modest heat haze to begin with...

Action straight way came in the form of a large butterfly which was quickly identified as a Monarch! Before anyone could point a camera, it went on a jaunt across the sea wall to a small, pebbly beach where it eventually settled for a record shot. As I turned away from the butterfly, a silent Whimbrel which had silently observed the stalking of the butterfly was still perching patiently on a rock waiting for its own portrait photo. I duly obliged.

The tide was halfway out today so how this would affect the exhibits inside and outside the lagoon remained to be seen. Clouded Yellow butterflies followed us along the sea wall and there were Common and Sandwich Terns patrolling the low water. A pair of gulls stood in shallow water attracted the attention. They were Audouin's... As the previous views at Salagados hadn't been so good, we managed to get everyone onto the birds to observe the deep red bills and the distinctive flat-back stance of the birds. The sound of Grey Plovers calling had me searching the distant parts of the estuary and as I tracked them in the 'scope, a large bird with a pale head distracted me as it perched on a post mid-channel...

The scope was then locked onto the Osprey for us all to enjoy great views. Just then, a slimy, black object looking a like a half-submerged effigy of Batman swam gently toward the sea wall from the lagoon. It was one of several Sea Hares, which most of our party had never even heard of, let alone seen! Many photographed the critter at very close range as it obligingly loafed around in the shallow water.

Cattle Egrets continually flew across the lagoon with the occasional Little Egret allowing comparison. A Spoonbill also flew into view as we neared the halfway point of the walk. Fiddler Crabs showed well on the seaward side of the wall with their lop-sided claws. As we neared the corner of the short walk, we had already taken a fair while to get to this point, such was the quality and quantity of the wildlife – including the Portuguese Dappled White butterfly - but from here we could scan the larger lagoon and its bunds for more birds...

Two Caspian Terns were initially mis-identified as Mediterranean Gulls (strangely absent from this tour) and there were more Greater Flamingos to add to the handful in the first lagoon. Black-winged Stilts were dotted liberally across the lagoon and there was a smattering of waders of different species, including a rather diminutive, ghostly-looking plover...

With there now being a significant heat haze, it wasn't possible for many to be convinced that we were looking at a Kentish Plover, so it was decided to extend the walk by not bisecting the lagoons to the car park but instead venturing further toward the bird. As we drew closer, it became more obvious that we were watching a Kentish Plover, but we kept on going past the birds to try to gain a sunlit view. A small group of Common Waxbills announced their presence with their buzzing calls as it became apparent in the better light that there were actually

three Kentish Plover on the silt giving great views in the scope! A Sea Hare was filmed as we took the slightly longer return route back to the vans.

Immediately as we reached the garden at La Rocha, I froze and directed everyone to look over my right shoulder at a perched Hoopoe which had flown a short distance from one of the picnic tables. Serins twinkled their serenades all around as we ate, with several species of butterfly to observe. Such was the enjoyment of this delightful venue and the appreciation for the work the foundation does, that I had a fair amount of cash to hand over from the whip round when I met the lady in charge. As we were chatting, the only Black-winged Kite of the tour flapped stiffly overhead! My loud shouts to the group the other side of the building went unheard!

Sadly, the Kite wasn't hunting as we trailed slowly away down the homeward track, but this had been an excellent day.

Plants found around the sea wall made a major contribution to an already impressive checklist!

Day 7

Sunday 16th April

Our last day of action featured the shortest journey from the hotel. The intention was to explore the cliffs and heaths around Sagres Point. It began with a stop off at the Fortress, which had sadly been closed on the previous visit due to bank holiday. When we arrived it certainly looked like it would be closed again, so we went to overlook the cliffs top enjoy the sight of Common, Pallid and Alpine Swifts flying close by - a breath-taking spectacle. A small flock of Common Scoter flew around the cape at considerable distance, but the Gannets were more easily seen. To our surprise and delight, we suddenly saw people funnelling into the entrance to the fort. Perhaps it was open today after all. Indeed it was! The gent at the kiosk, when I requested entrance for 14 people, took one look at me and said: "Seniors?" Cheeky beggar. But I didn't turn down the discounted entry fee.

Once behind the fort on the headland, there was a wonderful dry garden, not entirely unspoilt by human feet, but nevertheless colourful. The natural thing to do seemed to be to walk around the perimeter, so once we agreed a rendezvous back at the entrance, that is what most of us did. Soon, one of the clients spotted a female Black Redstart close to the path, flowed closely by a male which clung on manfully to the top of a windblown shrub. Butterflies included Wall Brown, Swallowtail, Clouded Yellow, Common Blue and Small Copper.

As some of us took a short cut back to base on a path through the middle of the garden, there were more Black Redstarts near the entrance. As we neared the fort, a pair of Stonechats joined another pair of Black Redstarts and we peered over the cliffs to see if the Blue Rock Thrush we could hear was showing, which it eventually did.

Then, a male Golden Oriole came straight overhead, in off the sea! To my dismay, no-one else locked onto it, but everyone enjoyed a very smart pair of quite approachable Black Redstarts in the courtyard before we exited together.

Consumables on market stalls by the lighthouse were barely glanced at as we had a short wander with all the other tourists. Red-rumped Swallows clearly had a territory in one of the buildings and a Sardinian Warbler sang from the wall below us. More Gannets were seen out to see but we were all feeling in need of refreshment, and I knew how lovely the picnic spot was, so after noting a Northern Wheatear close to the vans, we headed for a nearby

heath by a small pond and an observation point to enjoy all that the oasis attracted. Here, there were a few new species for the trip.

As we ate, several species of birds visited the small pond whilst the grogs gently gulped their calls. One looked slightly different to the numerous silhouetted Corn Buntings and Greenfinches that were the most common visitors. It has a stubby, pink bill which showed some colour as it was backlit... I suggested to the group that they lock onto the bird while I gave it a wide berth to see if I could get sunny side... I couldn't, but the record shot showed enough after some manipulation to confirm that this was our first and only Ortolan Bunting of the trip.

Plants and butterflies kept the interest going for some while. A day-flying moth was identified as Pale Shoulder. Then, a small brown bird alighted in a tree that was different again... A couple of us were able to get on the right side of it sufficiently to confirm it was a Tree Pipit.

A couple of Booted Eagles flew over after lunch. We left the picnic area in no great hurry, but next point of call was a small remnant of heathland known previously to yield Spectacled Warbler, which we had missed the previous week. We missed it again, but not before we had ticked a pair of Pied Flycatchers, another Northern Wheatear and a Turtle Dove before we got back in the van, and then a cracking male Whinchat on the way back to the main road.

We retraced our steps a little and then took a minor road out toward a farm where last week, we'd seen a couple of male Little Bustards. And so it was again, that through the open window, the slightly rude-sounding raspberry call of the male bird stopped us in our tracks. We located the bird some distance away and then another, as Quail was also heard. A shepherd was tending to his flock some way ahead when Heather, one of our clients, took a walk to watch the Cattle Egrets in attendance, admire the dogs and chat to the shepherd...

As we crept along the road to pick her up, more of us got out to admire not only the livestock, but also the shepherd's great command of English. He told us of his intention to sell up, and offered his entire flock as a job lot.

But the van was full, and time was short. Eventually, the Red-billed Choughs that had been fluttering around giving fleeting views hitherto at least gave more prolonged flight views as we crept back onto the main road and home to our final dinner of the tour.

Southern Portugal certainly has a great quantity and variety of wildlife and each of the venues visited could have warranted a lot more time identifying all the plants. It was felt that a lot of the spring migrants were late arriving in numbers – Roller and Golden Oriole to name but a couple – but there were absolutely no complaints. The contrast between the terrain and indeed the accommodation in both centres made for an interesting two halves of the trip.

I'm certainly keen to do this one again.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Social Media

We're social! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and be the first to hear about the launch of new tours, offers and exciting sightings and photos from our recently returned holidays.



Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

		April 2023							
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Red-legged Partridge	Alectoris rufa	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Common Quail	Coturnix coturnix	Н	Н					Н	
Gadwall	Mareca strepera			✓	✓				
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Northern Shoveler	Spatula clypeata				✓				
Common Pochard	Aythya ferina				✓				
Cory's Shearwater	Calonectris diomedea							✓	
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis				✓				
Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus		✓		✓				
Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus				✓		✓		
White Stork	Ciconia ciconia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus				✓				
Eurasian Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia				✓		✓		
Western Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea			✓	✓		✓		
Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea		✓		✓		✓		
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta				✓	✓	✓		
Northern Gannet	Morus bassanus					✓	✓	✓	
European Shag	Phalacrocorax aristotelis						✓	✓	
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo			✓	✓		✓		
Western Osprey	Pandion haliaetus						✓		
Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus						✓		
Red Kite	Milvus milvus	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Black Kite	Milvus migrans			√	√				
Griffon Vulture	Gyps fulvus		√	√	√				
Cinereous Vulture	Aegypius monachus		√	√	√				

					April	2023			
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Short-toed Snake Eagle	Circaetus gallicus	✓		√	√				
Western Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus		√	√	√				
Montagu's Harrier	Circus pygargus		√	√					
Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo			√			√		
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus			√			√		
Spanish Imperial Eagle	Aquila adalberti			√					
Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos			√					
Bonelli's Eagle	Aquila fasciata	√							
Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus			√	√				
Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanni	√	√	√	√				
Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus			✓	√	√	√		
Great Bustard	Otis tarda			√	· ✓		,		
Little Bustard	Tetrax tetrax			√	· ✓			√	
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus				√ ·			•	
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra				√				
Eurasian Stone-Curlew	Burhinus oedicnemus		√	√	\ \ \				
Eurasian Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus		V	V	V		√		
Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus		√		√		√		
Pied Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta		V		√		√		
					\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \		√		
Grey Plover	Pluvialis squatarola						✓ ✓		
Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula			,			-		
Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius			√			Н		
Kentish Plover	Charadrius alexandrinus			,			√		
Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago			✓	,		,	,	
Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus				√		√	√	
Common Redshank	Tringa totanus						√		
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia					,	✓		
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	✓			✓	✓	,		
Sanderling	Calidris alba						✓		
Dunlin	Calidris alpina			√			√		
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus			✓			✓		
Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis			√		√	√	√	
Audouin's Gull	Larus audouinii			✓			✓		
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus			√		✓	✓		
Gull-billed Tern	Gelochelidon nilotica		✓						
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia							✓	
Sandwich Tern	Thalasseus sandvicensis						✓	✓	✓
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	Pterocles orientalis				✓	✓			
Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	Columba livia						✓	✓	
Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
European Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur	✓							
Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus				Н				
Little Owl	Athene noctua			✓					
Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba				√	✓	✓	✓	
Common Swift	Apus apus	✓	√	✓	√	✓	✓	√	
Pallid Swift	Apus pallidus				√	√	√	√	
Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis		√			√			
European Bee-Eater	Merops apiaster	√	√	√	√		√	√	
Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops	√	✓	Н	√	√	✓	✓	

					April	2023			
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Lesser Spotted									
Woodpecker Great Spotted	Dendrocopos minor			√					
Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	√						Н	
Iberian Green									
Woodpecker	Picus sharpei								
Southern Grey Shrike	Lanius meridionalis	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Eurasian Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus			✓				✓	
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius				✓	✓	✓		
Iberian Magpie	Cyanopica cooki	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	✓	✓	✓					
Red-billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax							✓	
Carrion Crow	Corvus corone		✓	✓	✓				
Northern Raven	Corvus corax	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
European Crested Tit	Lophophanes cristatus					✓			
Great Tit	Parus major						✓		
Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus						✓		
Calandra Lark	Melanocorypha calandra				✓	✓			
Greater Short-toed Lark	Calandrella brachydactyla								
Crested Lark	Galerida cristata	✓	✓	✓	√		✓		
Thekla Lark	Galerida theklae							✓	
Woodlark	Lullula arborea		✓						
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	✓	√	√		√	√	√	
Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris		√			√			
Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum	√							
Red-rumped Swallow	Cecropis daurica	√	√	√	√		√	√	
Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti				Н	Н			
Iberian Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus ibericus					√			
Eurasian Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus				√				
Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis	√							
Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla					√	Н		
Dartford Warbler	Sylvia undata					Н			
Subalpine Warbler	Sylvia cantillans		Н			√			
Sardinian Warbler	Sylvia melanocephala		√		√	√	√	√	
Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes		•			√	√	•	
Eurasian Nuthatch	Sitta europaea	√					•		
Short-toed Treecreeper	Certhia brachydactyla	√	√			√			
Spotless Starling	Sturnus unicolor		√	√	√	,	√	√	
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula		•	√	√ ·	√	√	√	
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula				1	√	•	•	
Common Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos	√	√	√	/	√			
Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros	,	•	_	•	-		√	
European Stonechat	Saxicola rubicola	√	√	√	√	√		√	
Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe	V	√	,	V	, v		√	
Black-eared Wheatear	Oenanthe hispanica		•	√				•	
Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius		√	_ v				√	
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus		✓ ✓	√	√	√	√	V	
·			✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	_ v	V		
Spanish Sparrow Common Waxbill	Passer hispaniolensis Estrilda astrild		✓ ✓	· V	H		√		
			V		П				
Western Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava iberiae		,				√		
Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea		✓						

	April 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
White Wagtail	Motacilla alba			✓			Н		
Tawny Pipit	Anthus campestris			√					
Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs			✓					
European Serin	Serinus serinus	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Greenfinch	Carduelis chloris		Н	✓	✓	✓	Н	✓	
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Linnet	Carduelis cannabina		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Corn Bunting	Emberiza calandra	√	✓	√	√	✓	✓	✓	
Rock Bunting	Emberiza cia		✓						

Other vertebrates

					April	2023			
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Mammals									
Egyptian Mongoose	Herpestes ichneumon		✓						
Iberian Hare	Lepus granatensis		✓						
Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus		✓						
Reptiles & Amphibians									
European Pond Terrapin	Emys orbicularis		✓						
Moorish Gecko	Tarentola mauritanica				✓				
Large Psammodromus	Psammodromus algirus		✓					✓	
Ladder Snake	Elaphe scalaris	✓	?						
Viperine Snake	Natrix maura		✓						

Invertebrates

					April 2023				
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Butterflies									
	Hesperiidae								
Lulworth Skipper	Thymelicus acteon							√	
	Papilionidae								
Spanish Festoon	Zerynthia rumina	√	V						
Southern Scarce Swallowtail	Iphiclides podalirius feisthamelii	V						V	
Swallowtail	Papilion machaon	V							
	Pieridae								
Small White	Pieris rapae		V		V				
Bath White	Pontia daplidice		V						
Green-striped White	Euchloe belemia		V	V		√	V		
Clouded Yellow	Colias crocea	√	V	V	V	√			
	Lycaenidae								
Small Copper	Lycaena phlaeas	√	V		V				
Southern Brown Argus	Aricia agestis cramera		V			V			
	Nymphalidae								
Monarch	Danaus plexippus						V		
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta				V	V			
Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui					V			

		April 2023							
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Satyrinae								
Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria aegeria	V				V			
Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus	V	V			V			
Spanish Gatekeeper	Pyronia bathsheba						V		
Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina	V	√		√				
Moths:									
Pine Processionary	Thaumetopea pityocampa		V		V			√	
Pale Shoulder	Acontia lucida							V	
Garlic mottled	Dyspessa ulula		V						
Yellow Belle	Aspitates ochrearia			V					
Other Invertebrates:									
Iberian Bluetail	Ischnura graellsii		V						
Blue Emperor	Anax imperator					V			
Red-veined Darter	Sympetrum fonscolombii				V				
Western Clubtail	Gomphus pulchellus		V						
Field Cricket	Gryllus campestris			√					
Beefly	Bombyllius major	V							
Crab Spider (Yellow & Black)	Synaema globosum			V					
20-spot ladybird	Epilachna vigintioctopunctata			√					
Black & Red Bug	Lygaeus equestris			√					
Darkling Beetle	Pimelia bipunctata			√					

Flora

Group/Series	English Name (if any)	Location
PTERIDOPHYTES	FERNS & ALLIES	
PINOPSIDA (GYMNOSPERMS)	CONIFERS	
Cupressaceae	Jumiper Family	
Cupressus sempervirens	Italian Cypress	localised
Juniperus phoenicea	Phoenicean Juniper	locally common
Pinaceae	Pine Family	
Pinus halepensis	Aleppo Pine	coast
Pinus pinaster	Maritime Pine	coast
Pinus pinea	Stone or Umbrella Pine	common
MAGNOLIOPSIDA (ANGIOSPERMS)	FLOWERING PLANTS	
Magnoliidae (Did	cotyledons)	
Aizoaceae	Dewplant Family	
Carpobrotus edulis	Yellow Hottentot Fig	Saldagos lagoon & Praia de Amoreira
Drosanthemum floribundum		
Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum	A Mesembryanthemum	Cabo St Vincent

Group/Series	English Name (if any)	Location
Amaranthaceae	Amaranth Family	
Arthrocaulon macrostachyum	a Perennial Glasswort	
Atriplex halimus	Shrubby Orache	A Rocha Delicada-Odiáxere estuary
Atriplex portulacoides	Sea Purslane	A Rocha Delicada-Odiáxere estuary
Atriplex prostrata	Spear-leaved Orache	A Rocha Delicada-Odiáxere estuary
Beta vulgaris	Sea Beet	A Rocha Delicada-Odiáxere estuary A Rocha Delicada-Odiáxere estuary
Caroxylon vermiculatum	Shrubby Saltwort	A Rocha Delicada-Odiáxere estuary
Salicornia europaea	Glasswort	A Rocha Delicada-Odiáxere estuary A Rocha Delicada-Odiáxere estuary
Suaeda vera	Shrubby Seablite	A Rocha Delicada-Odiáxere estuary A Rocha Delicada-Odiáxere estuary
Suaeua vera	Officially Seabilite	A Nocha Delicada-Odiaxere estuary
Anacardiaceae	Sumach Family	
Pistacia lentiscus	Mastic Tree	Monte Velho & Praia de Amoreira
Pistacio terebinthus		Monte Velho & Praia de Amoreira
, iotadio tereziminae		Monte venie a Fraia de Finerena
Apiaceae	Carrot Family	
Crithmum maritimum	Rock Samphire	Sagres
Daucus carota subsp. halophilus **	Wild Carrot	Sagres Fort & Cabo St Vincent
Daucus muricatus	a Carrot	Common
Eryngium campestre	Field Eryngo	Monte Velho
Eryngium maritimum	Sea Holly	Praia de Amoreira
Ferula communis	Giant Fennel	Common
Ferula tingitana		Alentejo plains
Foeniculum vulgare	Fennel	Mertola
Oenanthe crocata	Hemlock Water-dropwort	River valley nr Mertola
Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family	
Vinca difformis	a Periwinkle	Mertola area
Aristolochiaceae	Birthwort Family	
Aristolochia paucinervis	a Birthwort	Pulo do Lobo
Asteraceae	Daisy Family	
Andryala integrifolia	Andryala	Hilltop, Bordeira 37°12'08.1"N 8°47'19.1"W
Anthemis arvensis	Corn Chamomile	Mertola area
Anthemis maritima	Com Chamonile	Praia de Amoreira
Arctotheca calendula	Cana Waad	Inland of Cabo St Vincent
Bellis annua	Cape Weed Annual Daisy	Common
Calendula arvensis	Field Marigold	Mertola area & Caldeira fields
Carthamus caeruleus	Blue thistle	Hilltop, Bordeira 37°12'08.1"N 8°47'19.1"W
	Red Star Thistle	Pulo do Lobo
Centaurea calcitrapa Centaurea sphaerocephala subsp.	- Red Star Thistie	Praia Amoreira
polyacantha		i iaia Allioiciia
Cichorium intybus	Chicory	Mertola
Olononam miyodo	,	
-	Button Weed	Saldagos Lagoon
Cotula coronopifolia	•	Saldagos Lagoon common
Cotula coronopifolia Crepis capillaris Cynara cardunculus	Button Weed	
Cotula coronopifolia Crepis capillaris	Button Weed Smooth hawksbeard	common
Cotula coronopifolia Crepis capillaris Cynara cardunculus Dittrichia viscosa subsp. viscosa	Button Weed Smooth hawksbeard Cardoon	common Alentejo plains
Cotula coronopifolia Crepis capillaris Cynara cardunculus Dittrichia viscosa subsp. viscosa Filago germanica	Button Weed Smooth hawksbeard Cardoon Stink Aster	common Alentejo plains common
Cotula coronopifolia Crepis capillaris Cynara cardunculus	Button Weed Smooth hawksbeard Cardoon Stink Aster Common Cudweed	common Alentejo plains common Disturbed ground- various places

Group/Series	English Name (if any)	Location
Helichrysum stoechas	Curry Plant	Cabo St Vincent
Helminotheca echioides	Bristly Oxtongue	Mertola area - disturbed ground
Pallenis maritima	Yellow Sea Aster	Sagres beach & fort; Cabo St Vincent; Praia Amoreira
Pallenis spinosa	Spiny Pallenis	Hilltop, Bordeira 37°12'08.1"N 8°47'19.1"W
Senecio vulgaris	Groundsel	Mertola area - disturbed ground
Silybum marianum	Milk Thistle	Rough pasturelands near Cabo St Vincent
Sonchus asper	Prickly Sow-thistle	Common
Sonchus oleraceus	Smooth Sow-thistle	Common
Tolpis barbata	Tolpis	Hilltop, Bordeira 37°12'08.1"N 8°47'19.1"W
Boraginaceae	Borage Family	
Anchusa undulata	Undulate Anchusa	Mertola area - disturbed ground
Echium plantagineum	Purple Viper's Bugloss	Mertola area - disturbed ground
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
Cakile maritima	Sea Rocket	Praia Amoreira
Lobularia maritima	Sweet Alison	Sagres Fort
Marcus-kochia littorea	Sand Stock	Praia Amoreira
Sinapis arvensis	Charlock	A Rocha Delicada-Odiáxere estuary
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family	
Campanula lusitanica *	Lusitanian Bellflower	Pulo do Lobo
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
Dianthus lusitanus *	y	Pulo do Lobo
Paronychia argentea	Silvery Paronychia	Very common road and track sides -Alentejo plains
Silene colorata	a Catchfly	Mertola
Silene vulgaris	Bladder Campion	Sagres
Spergularia purpurea	Purple Spurrey	Very common road and track sides -Alentejo plains
Cistaceae	Rockrose Family	
Cistus albidus	Grey-leaved Cistus	Hilltop
Cistus crispus	a Cistus	Widspsread in scrubland
Cistus ladanifer	Gum Cistus	Very Common & widespread - understory of hillside plantations
Cistus monspeliensis	Narrow-leaved Cistus	Widespread - scrublands
Cistus palhinhae (ladanifer subsp. sulcatus) **	a Cistus	Sagres Fort
Cistus salvifolius	Sage-leaved Cistus	Praia Amoeira
Tuberaria guttata	Spotted Rockrose	Alentejo tracksides & Hilltop, Bordeira 37°12'08.1"N 8°47'19.1"W
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family	
Convolvulus althaeoides	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	Mertola, A Rocha, Sagres etc
Convolvulus arvensis	Field Bindweed	widespread
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family	
Umbilicus rupestris	Wall Pennywort	Barragem Monte da Rocha
Cucurbitaceae	Gourd Family	
Bryonia cretica subsp.dioica	White Bryony	Mertola
Diyonia oronda sabsp.aloida	vvince Dryonly	mortoid

Group/Series	English Name (if any)	Location
Ecballium elaterium	Squirting Cucumber	Mertola
F.	11 4 5 11	
Ericaceae	Heather Family	
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree	Hilltop, Bordeira 37°12'08.1"N 8°47'19.1"W
Erica arborea	Tree Heath	Hilltop, Bordeira 37°12'08.1"N 8°47'19.1"W
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
Euphorbia paralias	Sea Spurge	Praia Amoreia
Fabaceae	Pea Family	
Acacia longifolia	1 ou runniy	Praia Amoreia
Anthyllis vulneraria subsp.maura	Mediterranean Kidney- vetch	Cabo St Vincent
Astragalus tragacantha	Tragacanth	Cabo St Vincent
Bituminaria bituminosa	Pitch Trefoil	A Rocha Delicada-Odiáxere estuary
Ceratonia siliqua	Carob or Locust Tree	Algarve towns
Cercis siliquastrum	Judas Tree	Algarve towns
Coronilla valentina subsp.glauca	a Scorpion Vetch	Pulo do Lobo
Cytisus scorparius	Broom	Saldagos
Genista hirsuta	Hairy Spanish Gorse	Sagres Fort & Cabo St Vincent
Genista triacanthos	A Greenweed	Hilltop, Bordeira 37°12'08.1"N 8°47'19.1"W
Lathyrus tingitanus	Tangier Pea	Hilltop, Bordeira 37°12'08.1"N 8°47'19.1"W
Lotus creticus	Southern Bird's-foot Trefoil	Sagres beach
Ononis natrix sbsp ramosissima	a Large Yellow Rest Harrow	Cabo St Vincent
Scorpiurus muricatus	Scorpiurus	Pulo do Lobo etc
Spartium junceum	Spanish Broom	Hilltop, Bordeira 37°12'08.1"N 8°47'19.1"W
Trifolium stellatum	Starry Clover	Mertola grassy verges and field margins
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family	
Blackstonia perfoliata	Yellow-wort	Mertola
Centaurium erythraea subsp. grandiflorum	Common Centaury	Inland of Cabo St Vincent
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family	
Erodium cicutarium	Common Stork's-bill	Mertola river side
Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	Mertola
Geranium purpureum	Little Robin	Mertola
Lamiaceae	Dood nottle Comille	
	Dead-nettle Family Henbit Dead-nettle	
Lamium amplexicaule Lavendula stoechas	French Lavender	✓ Alantaia vargas and tracksides
Lavendula stoecnas Marrubium vulgare	White Horehound	Alentejo verges and tracksides Common - scrubland & verges
	vvilile noremound	Inland of Cabo St Vincent
Nepeta tuberosa	- a Phlomia	
Phlomis lychnitis	a Phlomis	Alentejo scrubland & Hilltop, Bordeira 37°12'08.1"N 8°47'19.1"W
Phlomis purpurea	a Phlomis	Hilltop, Bordeira 37°12'08.1"N 8°47'19.1"W
Prunella vulgaris Salvia verbenaca	Self Heal	
Name of the Name o	Wild Clary	Hilltop, Bordeira 37°12'08.1"N 8°47'19.1"W
Salvia Verberiaca		
Linaceae	Flax Family	

Group/Series	English Name (if any)	Location
Malvaceae	Mallow Family	
Malva sylvestris	Common Mallow	Common & widespread
Moraceae	Mulberry Family	
Ficus carica	Fig	•
Oleaceae	Olive Family	
Fraxinus angustifolia	Olive I allilly	·
Olea europaea	Olive	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family	
Bellardia trixago	Bellardia	✓
Cistanche phelypaea *	Cistanche	A Rocha Delicada-Odiáxere estuary
Orobanche foetida	-	Praia Amoreira & other
Orobanche minor	Common Broomrape	1
Parentucellia viscosa	Yellow Bartsia	Mertola disturbed ground & Hilltop, Bordeira 37°12'08.1"N 8°47'19.1"W
Oxalidaceae	Wood-Sorrel Family	
Oxalis pes-caprae	Bermuda Buttercup	·
Chails pes-capitae	Definida Dattercap	
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family	
Papaver hybridum	Round-headed Prickly	·
Papaver rhoeas	Poppy Common Poppy	·
	1,11,1	
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family	
Anarrhinum bellidifolium	Daisy-leaved Toadflax	✓
Misopates orontium	Weasel Snout	Mertola river bank
Plantago coronopus	Buck's-horn Plantain	✓
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	✓
Plantago maritima	Sea Plantain	•
Plumbaginaceae	Thrift Family	
Armeria macrophylla *	-	Praia Amoreia
Primulaceae	Primrose Family	
Lysimachia arvensis (Red and Blue)	Scarlet Pimpernel	Pulo do Lobo
Lysimachia monelli	Shrubby Pimpernel	Praia Amoreia & Hilltop, Bordeira 37°12'08.1"N 8°47'19.1"W
Panunculaceae	Ruttercun Family	
	Buttercup Family	River near Mertola
	Buttercup Family Pond Water Crowfoot	River near Mertola
Ranunculus peltatus Resedaceae	Pond Water Crowfoot Mignonette Family	
Ranunculus peltatus Resedaceae	Pond Water Crowfoot	River near Mertola Pulo do Lobo
Ranunculus peltatus Resedaceae Reseda lutea	Pond Water Crowfoot Mignonette Family	
Ranunculaceae Ranunculus peltatus Resedaceae Reseda lutea Scrophulariaceae Scrophularia canina	Pond Water Crowfoot Mignonette Family Mignonette	
Ranunculus peltatus Resedaceae Reseda lutea Scrophulariaceae Scrophularia canina	Pond Water Crowfoot Mignonette Family Mignonette Figwort Family	Pulo do Lobo
Ranunculus peltatus Resedaceae Reseda lutea Scrophulariaceae	Pond Water Crowfoot Mignonette Family Mignonette	Pulo do Lobo

Group/Series	English Name (if any)	Location
Solanum linnaeanum	Apple of Sodom	Inland of Cabo St Vincent
Tamaricaceae	Tamarisk Family	
Tamarix africana	a Tamarisk	Saldago & A Rocha Delicada-Odiáxere estuary
		,
Thymelaeaceae	Daphne Family	
Daphne gnidium	Mediterranean Mezereon	Mertola plains
Urticaceae	Nettle Family	
Parietaria judaica	Pelitory of the Wall	Mertola town walls
Liliidae (Mon	ocotyledons)	
A.P. (W (DI () E !!	
Alismataceae	Water Plantain Family	
Amaryllidaceae	Amaryllis Family	
Allium ampeloprasum	Wild Leek	Sagres Fort
Allium roseum	Rosy Garlic	Hilltop, Bordeira 37°12'08.1"N 8°47'19.1"W
Pancratium maritimum	Sea Daffodil	leaves in dunes Praia Amoreira
Arecaceae	Palm Family	
Chamaerops humilis	Dwarf Fan Palm	Gardens & towns
Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family	
Agave americana	Century Plant	✓
Asparagus acutifolius	, , ,	✓
Leopoldia comosa	Tassel Hyacinth	Mertola & Inland of Cabo St Vincent
Muscari neglectum	Grape Hyacinth	✓
Ornithogalum narbonense	-	Inland of Cabo St Vincent
Asphodelaceae	Asphodel Family	
Aloe maculata	Aspirouel Failing	Sagres Fort
Asphodelus aestivus Asphodelus fistulosus	Hollow Issued Asphadal	Mertola area Mertola
Aspriodeius listulosus	Hollow-leaved Asphodel	Weitola
Iridaceae	Iris Family	
Gladiolus illyricus		widespread
Iris pseudacorus	Yellow Flag	River nr Mertola
Moraea sisyrinchium	Barbary Nut	Mertola
Watsonia meriana		Hilltop, Bordeira 37°12'08.1"N 8°47'19.1"W
Poaceae	Grass Family	
Aegilops geniculata	Ovate Goatgrass	Mertola area - verges and tracksides
Ammophila arenaria	Marram	Praia Amoeira dunes
Arundo donax	Giant Reed	Alzehjur & Saldago
Briza maxima	Large Quaking Grass	Alentejo field margins and rough ground
Cynosurus echinatus	Rough Dog's-tail	Mertola area field margins
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	common
Hordeum marinum	Sea Barley	Monte Velho
Hordeum murinum	Wall Barley	Common waste ground
Lagurus ovatus	Hare's-tail Grass	Alentejo field margins and rough ground

Group/Series	English Name (if any)	Location
Lamarckia aurea	Golden Dog's-tail	Mertola
Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye-grass	Common
Phragmites australis	Common Reed	Saldago lagoon
Spartina maritima	Cord-grass	Monte Velho
Smilacaceae	Greenbrier Family	
Smilax aspera	Common Smilax	/
* = Iberian Endemic		
** = Portuguese Endemic		
Additional records		
Fabaceae	Pea Family	
Acacia dealbata		Praia Amoreia
Acacia pycnantha		Praia Amoreia
Melilotus indicus	Small meliliot	Saldagos lagoon
Astragalus echinatus		Mertola road verges
Asteraceae	Daisy Family	
Gnaphalium luteoalbum	Jersey cudweed	Mertola area - disturbed ground
Asphodelaceae	Asphodel Family	
Aloe vera		Sagres Fort
Aizoaceae	Dewplant Family	
Mesembryanthemum cordifolium	A Mesembryanthemum	Sagres beach
Poaceae	Grass Family	
Bromus madritensis	Compact Brome	common on verges and unmanaged ground