

Autumn Birding in Southern Portugal

Naturetrek Tour Report

20th – 26th September 2023



Slender-billed Gull



Crimson Speckled



Great Shearwater



Audouin's Gull

Tour report and photos by Glyn Evans



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Glyn Evans and Lol Bodini (Leaders) with 14 Naturetrek clients.

Summary

The two centres for this trip – Tavira and Sagres, were ideally placed within an hour's drive of some fantastic wetland and scrub habitat, giving us lots of time in the field and less time on the road. The Vila Gale Albacore hotel is quite a day out in itself, being set between the harbour and the salt pans with some very tempting areas of scrub. Sagres is a mouth watering position to be in as Autumn migration unfolds, where in addition to what there already is to enjoy, there is always the excitement of what could turn up overhead, or in the vegetation. Migration time can often be a matter of luck with conditions, but on this trip there is plenty of action regardless.

Day 1

Wednesday 20th September

We were a little late clearing the airport but the drive to the Vila Gale Albacore hotel was relatively hassle free. A fine lunch laid on by the hotel gave us the opportunity to have a chat and get to know each other before convening in reception for a walk around the salt pans which, on the way in, looked full of promise. Hummingbird Hawkmoths and Willow Warblers were seen in the hotel grounds. Immediately there was the machine-gun fire of skulking Sardinian Warblers as we walked back down the road before turning left to take the road through the salt pans. A pair of Woodlark were shading beneath the bushes was a surprise, as all of the other larks thereafter were Crested.

The pans that held any depth of water were full of waders. There was a good mix of wet areas, including the pan that was nearest to the hotel, which looked like it had been disused for a while, albeit that there was still water being flushed in and out, but the floor was muddy.

This had the greatest variety of waders and would be earmarked as the best place to look for anything unusual. Dunlins, Sanderling, Ringed Plovers, Knot and Black-tailed Godwit all featured and there were odds of Grey Plover, Little Stint and even a Curlew Sandpiper to give us a fair start, which got better as a single Stone Curlew flew around and behind us and out of sight!

Black-winged Stilts, Avocets and Flamingos graced the entire area lankily. Paler, daintier Kentish Plovers were distinguished from Ringed. Then the attention turned to the gulls that were flying around us. Whilst the Yellow-legged Gulls were plentiful, the next most numerous was in fact Slender-billed, with many sporting a beautiful rosy tinge to their underside and primary wing feathers.

An Osprey hunted over the lagoons which created some alarm and redistribution of waders. We still had time to have a quick look at the harbour, where Mediterranean Gulls glowed white and the wader tally was supplemented with Bar-tailed Godwits, Greenshank, Common Sandpiper and Turnstone, while Whimbrels were heard calling at distance. Three Sandwich Terns were added to the single Caspian we had seen earlier over the salt pans.

We went into dinner delighted with such a full complement of birds, with a promise of a slow drive-by in the morning to check for new arrivals.

Day 2

Thursday 21st September

Today was to feature a visit to Castro Marim, a network of salt pans and scrub close to estuarine habitat, likely to attract some migrants. The weather was a bit dull and blustery as we left, but the journey wasn't long and we soon found ourselves heading down a long track toward the reserve with some shallow pools close by, surely worthy of some inspection.

The pace slowed significantly and then stopped as we found a pool with a variety of waders which warranted closer inspection. Dunlins and Sanderlings featured, but there was also a Ruff and a Green Sandpiper which held our interest long enough for one of the group to pick out a juvenile Woodchat Shrike on a distant bush. A couple of Booted Eagles wheeled away over a distant ridge but didn't come any closer.

We arrived at the car park to see a rather impressive looking visitor centre looming over us, which gave the opportunity for comfort breaks. There were views across the salt marsh from the rear windows but we agreed that we wanted to explore the water bodies around the reserve, only to find that at this time, the paths were chained off before we could walk too far. We then retreated to a mound within five minutes walk from the car park to observe the marsh. A large flock of Spoonbills were worthy of a scoped view. First one, then another and then a third Osprey loomed into view and then back out again, with one lingering for a while showing moderate interest in what was below.

We then concentrated on what was standing on the numerous bunds and found singles of Curlew and Little Ringed Plover alongside the other expected waders, plus a juvenile Little Tern.

Singles of White Stork, Yellow and Grey Wagtail and Serin kept the spirits up despite unexpectedly cool conditions but eventually, we descended down the path from the mound and made our way slowly to the picnic area. At the bottom of the mound, we enjoyed the extraordinary and comical sight of a Little Grebe out for a stroll, falling forwards several times as it bustled away from us.

Lol's linguistic skills ensured we were able to find all we wanted for lunch from the supermarket and there was plenty for all to enjoy. Given the limited views and access – and the fact that the salt pans and harbour showed so much promise the previous day – we packed up and had a final scan before heading back to the hotel. A pair of Stonechats showed briefly and then an Iberian Grey Shrike was picked out perching on a derelict building about a kilometre away.

Not everyone came back out for a walk along the beach after our return to the hotel, but those who did enjoyed close views of the gorgeous Slender-billed Gulls fishing along the shore, with the supporting cast of Mediterranean Gulls, Sanderling and Sandwich Terns all giving great views. A juvenile Arctic Tern was discerned from photos showing translucent primaries. As we approached the lagoon, another Osprey hunted purposefully until it caught a rather small fish, sufficient only for it to disappear for long enough to swallow it whole, probably.

Never mind. A sixth and then seventh Osprey for the day were seen before we retired, while the photographers enjoyed a nice close encounter with a White Stork aside the lagoon. The salt pans would get an early inspection before breakfast.

Day 3

Friday 22nd September

There were quite a few takers for the early morning jaunt. Sure enough, there was indeed a nice surprise waiting in the first muddy pan: spinning around at not inconsiderable distance but most definitely a Phalarope in winter plumage, but which? The bill – even through the scope – didn't appear that long. Perhaps a closer look. Once everyone had enjoyed a view through the scope, we slowly walked along the road and then across toward the bottom corner of the pool. We couldn't find the Phalarope again unfortunately. Perhaps it has sneaked out while we were en route? Given the habitat, the more likely would have been Red-necked. Perhaps it might stay.

A Caspian Tern also entertained briefly before we retired to breakfast, with the guides reprieved from supermarket duty as it was today we were due to have lunch at Castro Verde with Helena, whose legendary banquets I has sampled in the spring. A light breakfast was advised to all.

A long drive across to the plains was in prospect, with a stop planned at Ermida de Nossa Senhora de Aracelis, the highest point in the area, to overlook the plains with a grandstand view of passing raptors. This involved a drive north toward Mertola, through country known to hold Iberian Lynx and Great Bustard.

We drove through Lynx country at a steady pace without what would have been an unlikely sighting at that time of the morning, but as the landscape opened up, we stopped in an area of sparse woodland where a large raptor loomed overhead. By the time we stopped, it had almost disappeared over the horizon, but a couple of record shots allowed us to confirm that it was in fact a juvenile Bonelli's Eagle. A Booted Eagle then drifted over in the opposite direction. Hoopoes were heard before we moved off. Barely ten minutes later, our attention was drawn to three backlit Storks flying parallel to the road. They were Black.

A huge raptor then loomed from behind us. It was a Cinereous Vulture, with its yellow legs showing vividly against its otherwise dark underside. Wheatears and Stonechats kept us interested at the roadside and a distant Hoopoe was found on a hazy horizon. Then a Griffon Vulture showed beautifully, quite low over the fields, giving us a perfect comparison with the Cinereous we'd had just a few minutes earlier.

By the time we got to Ermida de Nossa, we had less than an hour to enjoy the spectacular view. The first couple of Griffon Vultures had climbed on a thermal a couple of miles away, soon joined by at least 30 others but at no stage did they look like coming any closer. A Lang's Short-tailed Blue butterfly was observed on the hilltop, but the hoped for raptorfest did not materialise despite the warm conditions. Time caught up with us and we moved on to reach Helena's place in Castro Verde in perfect time.

The traditional cuisine kept on coming, with some feeling quite full after the soup, before we even hit the buffet waiting for us on the table! With Portuguese custard tarts and rice pudding on offer too, it was an effort to leave one's seat.

Expecting one or two clients to doze off on the long drive home, we chanced upon a flock of 30 Cattle Egrets before we got too far out, so stopped to watch and photograph them, while a Pied Flycatcher shaded itself in one of the numerous Eucalyptus trees lining the opposite side of the road. Despite some studious peripheral searching of the surrounding plains, stinging eyes was all we got.

Some retired after arriving at the Vila Gale Albacore, while others trooped out to the beach to enjoy more views of Mediterranean and Slender-billed Gulls, clockwork Sanderlings and Ringed Plovers, with just a single Osprey this time.

Day 4

Saturday 23rd September

Our itinerary scheduled a visit to Ria Formosa, a new site for me and Lol, which again required a picnic and a 40-minute drive. We made for the supermarket and committed the cardinal sin of not taking optics or camera... which wouldn't have been so bad had we not come across a Black-winged Kite sat beautifully on the wires beside the road! Lol used his phone for a record shot, which almost added insult to injury. We hardly dared mention it to the group, as these beautiful birds are by no means widespread and unfortunately this one ended up being the only one seen on this trip.

On the drive past the salt pans, a Zitting Cisticola sat patiently while we enjoyed good views and a single Glossy Ibis, iridescent in the oblique morning light, was preening itself on one of the bunds in the salt pan.

SatNav took us to a rather unlikely looking yard surrounded by saltmarsh but by no stretch did it look like a nature reserve! One of the group, Steve, confidently stated that his parallel SatNav operation had picked out where we needed to go, so Lol's van took the lead and Steve got us to where there was a rather modest and anonymous looking checkpoint where we paid the miscalculated fee of 30 euros to park just short of the shady picnic spot where we would dine later.

We walked toward a large building which looked like a visitor centre where it was hoped that some might enjoy some creature comforts, but as the gent at the checkpoint later told us, it is closed on bank holidays. No matter.

We walked on down the hill to where we might have expected there to be water. We could see that the pools that might otherwise have been significant bodies of water were all but dry. Portugal had not seen rain since May, so the lagoons looked rather suboptimal as we arrived, with the brackish pool looking a little rancid.

Nevertheless, we set about finding some birds. A statuesque Grey Heron graced the first lagoon posing nicely for the photographers. The mud was dotted with a few Grey Plovers, some of which were in almost full summer plumage looking very smart. Ringed Plovers and Bar-tailed Godwits were also present. Stonechats, Sardinian Warblers and Zitting Cisticolas flitted around the bushes between the lagoons and the saltings, while across the estuary, the loudest party was in full flow! An Osprey sat lazily on top of a withy for scoped views.

A smart Glossy Ibis vortexed into the lagoon to join the flock of rather tired looking White Storks. As we rounded the first lagoon and pushed on, a couple of Northern Wheatears perched obligingly on the chainlink fence while Red-veined Darters glistened on the scrub. As we rounded the far side of the second lagoon, a male Subalpine Warbler skulked in a nearby bush. Manoeuvring a group of 14 people to get any kind of view of such a skulker wasn't easy, but eventually we all registered a tick and then noted a pair of Lapwings in the empty lagoon on the other side of the fence. A large flock of Bar-tailed Godwits flew up river, with no apparent reason for them having been disturbed. White Storks continued to arrive in the lagoon. We were pleased to find a hide overlooking a sheltered pond which was clearly devoid of its usual depth of water, so we settled for a vigil to see what we could find with a bit of patience...

Almost immediately, it was clear that there was a variety of dabbling ducks shading on the edge of the pond. Amongst them were Gadwall and Teal, plus a female Red-crested Pochard. Common and Green Sandpipers were lapping the islands and Black-winged Stilts added some variety. A Cetti's Warbler sounded off and a Reed Warbler stole across in front of the hide.

An exhausted looking Snipe was at last seen, sheltering beneath a tree well to the left of the lagoon. It looked slightly large and short billed, so the scope was put on it and zoomed in as far as possible.

Just as I took a second look, it stood up, revealing barred flanks with barring extending all the way down, Surely a Great Snipe! Try as I might to eke out white-tipped wing coverts, the shaded view wasn't that clear. It would have been nice to be 100% on the identification, but it was an exciting moment. By now, we were feeling hungry enough to brave the sultry conditions to walk back to the shaded picnic spot, where we put out a decent spread and enjoyed being entertained by Iberian (Azure-winged) Magpies as we ate and drank. A Little Owl called unseen from a distant tree.

Time had marched on and we were probably going to struggle to enjoy a further stop on the way to the hotel in Sagres, which was still a 90-minute drive away. So we dispersed for a little look around the picnic area and found a Spotted Flycatcher in addition to the many Iberian Magpies. With some relief but at a further cost of time, the gentleman at the gate allowed us to use his toilet – requiring the best of etiquette as the door had no lock – eventually giving us an ETA of 16.30 at the Memmo Baleeira in Sagres and the relief of an air-conditioned foyer... We arrived to the usual cordial welcome and placed our orders for dinner before being shown to our rooms. After checklist duties we enjoyed some beautiful views of the evening skies over the sea with the promise of an equally beautiful view of the sunrise from the nearby cliffs.

Day 5

Sunday 24th September

A good few picked their way across the arid, stony heath on the way to the cliffs this morning. The sky was clear and soon started to blush on the horizon. A pair of squeaking Kestrels flew around the heath and the harbour, and a Ringed Plover passed by just off the cliff top. The odd Gannet glowed against the calm sea and soon, the first Cory's Shearwaters showed at some distance, flapping and gliding in languid style.

A distant flock of birds were picked up in the gloaming to the north and flew toward us following the line of the cliff. Some guesses as to their ID were proffered... They were almost over us by the time their creamy plumage revealed them to be a flock of 14 Spoonbills, with quite a few juveniles on show. A lovely example of visible migration, as they stopped and circled as they ran out of coastline, reorienting to the east. Hopefully, a hint of what was to come! An Egyptian Bollworm moth was found on the heath before we returned for breakfast.

Today, we were going to have a mosey around Sagres by land, hoping to catch some more bird movement. We started off by driving toward the nearby fort to observe the sea from the cliffs. There was a little action in the waves and the breeze caused some colourful spray below us. The first few surfers were already in the shallows below and the first dragonflies were adorning the scrub. Seabirds were few, so we drifted on to the lighthouse to see if there was any significant movement past there.

Alas not, so we thought it might be worth a quick walk around the grounds of the fort before we headed to the mound when the thermals created some raptor movement.

The grounds would normally be the best place to find Black Redstart and Blue Rock Thrush. Both birds gave reasonable views, albeit that the male Blue Rock Thrush was a fly-by... by the time we got three quarters of the way around the grounds, the first larger raptors were seen passing around the point. Honey Buzzards. Then, another flock of Spoonbills flew over, giving us more of a sense that we needed to move on to the heath to see what might be passing over.

Luckily, the bank holiday weekend gave us free entry, so no-one felt short changed when we left for the heath... Almost immediately as we arrived, a Peregrine flew around us as we parked. Before we left the vans, a lovely pale morph Booted Eagle flew overhead. This was promising! Some clients headed over to the little oasis with feeders while others headed for the mound. All were out of earshot when I spied a Wryneck in the lower branches of the tree nearest the watering hole!

And so to the mound and a bit of a raptor watch.

Some days are better than others for raptor watching (my report for the week following this will be a case in point) but in the event, we enjoyed a couple more views of Booted Eagle, a few Honey Buzzards and a Sparrowhawk. A distant accipiter warranted a scrutiny of back-of-camera record shots but the consensus decided it was a female Sparrowhawk. A couple of Pied Flycatchers showed nicely in the shady spots, but the combination of hot weather and steady breeze caused some raging thirsts and the need for working toilets eventually called an early halt to the vigil.

Toilet, coffee and ice cream (not necessarily in that order) required a prolonged stop at a café (the unidentified huge raptor flying over the sea was ignored by almost all on arrival) and by the time we had finished the refreshments, there was limited time to enjoy in the field, so it was suggested we have a leisurely drive along the tracks just south of the heath to see what we could find from the road, in the comfort of the vans.

In the spring, this area plays host to a small number of Little Bustard. We trundled slowly along the road, noting the odd Stonechat, Willow Warbler and Cisticola on the wispy roadside vegetation, but little of interest until we got to a horse paddock with “fresh” manure, which attracted Yellow Wagtails and Corn Buntings. Having been reminded that the road beyond was private, we turned and re-traced. Before we got back to the main road, a small area of scrub had a lay-by big enough for both vans to give way and check out what might have been there...

Some valiant “pishing” ensued despite dry mouth, which was productive in piquing the interest of two Pied Flycatchers, a Common Whitethroat, a Zitting Cisticola and surprisingly, a Savi’s Warbler which briefly showed us its pale-tipped undertail coverts for a positive ID. This rewarding little stop saved the day to some extent and reminded us that migrating birds can pop up just about anywhere, anytime.

Day 6

Monday 26th September

Boat Trip.

It dawned on us rather too late to realise that this, our last day, would not give us time to shop for a picnic prior to the boat check-in at 08.45, so the plan was to grab a lunch locally before venturing out again...

So after a somewhat leisurely breakfast we drove the vans down to the harbour, to save a little time but, perhaps more importantly, some potentially unsteady legs.

After a quick briefing and a hilarious tutorial on how to put on a life vest, we walked the short distance to the boat and with some slightly anxious faces, mounted the tubular seats with grab handles. We were reassured though, that the conditions were flat calm.

We were barely a kilometre from the shore before Cory's Shearwaters started to appear and a 2nd year Gannet gave us a majestic low flyover. Our plan was to make for the Atlantic shelf and/or the trawlers, which often attract flocks of following seabirds, but before we got there, a Great Skua flew closely past. A few minutes later, a rather contrasty-looking Shearwater was seen in the water, which warranted a closer look.

We were delighted to see that it was a Great Shearwater! We carefully manoeuvred into a position where we could observe in optimal light for photos and it only flew off after posing quite nicely. A couple of minutes later, another appeared and soon, we were seeing Storm Petrels flitting around us. Soon enough, we were able to discern the Wilson's Petrels from the Europeans. Another Great Shearwater was seen in a flock of Cory's and by now, we had attracted quite a gathering of petrels with the chum, which was rather exacerbating some delicate tummies...

Alexandra was an excellent and attentive guide, making sure that those who were delicate didn't need to abort the trip, but after we had enjoyed great views of all the sea birds at close quarters, all were happy to head back. It was perhaps a little surprising that we hadn't seen any dolphins and although people were very happy with what they had seen, we were more than halfway back when I finally caught sight of a pair of dorsal fins and we were able to catch up with a mother and calf. The mother had the top nicked off her dorsal fin, so was easily recognisable as the same animal as it surfaced. Other small boats seemed to be watching other nursing mothers, which tend not to follow boats in quite the same way as a full pod of dolphins, but we enjoyed great views and returned to the harbour a very happy bunch, albeit with a couple of delicate tummies and unsteady legs.

It was decided that we would return to the hotel and for those who had the appetite, we would take lunch immediately, then returning to the hotel with an agreed rendezvous for those who had recovered enough energy for an afternoon excursion.

The service and prices at the Batedor restaurant did not get a 5-star rating and I had to pop around the corner to an ATM as they insisted on being paid in cash, so we were a little late leaving for the lagoons at Quinta da Rocha. A consolidated party of eight of us set off in one van... We arrived with enough time to circuit the lagoon nearest the car park, which would allow views over to the further, larger lagoon and also the estuary, where to some extent the bird life was less concentrated due to human activity on the water.

We weren't disappointed with what we found. Almost immediately, we enjoyed close views of Turnstones and a Common Sandpiper with stuttering flight wafted across the lagoon. Greater Flamingos were statuesque. Sandwich Terns were patrolling the estuary. Soon, the first Osprey arrived to survey the lagoons and once we reached the turn at the far end of the lagoon, we had all glimpsed our first Bluethroat flitting along the seawall and melting into the vegetation.

A large flock of gulls loafing on the salt marsh turned out to be mainly Audouin's. We counted 140.

Sanderlings, Dunlins, a Ruff, both species of Godwit for comparison, several Spoonbills and the commoner waders had us looking in all directions. A small pocket of Fiddler Crabs put their best claw forward... Willow Warblers kept a few steps ahead of us on the sea wall.

A diminutive day-flying moth eventually settled for long enough to reveal itself to be a Crimson Speckled – surprisingly well camouflaged for such a gaudy critter. Bluethroats continued to tease all of us but we must have counted six by the time we had completed the circuit to end a very satisfying last day in the field.

Fond farewells at the airport for all, after which yours truly returned to Tavira for a recce on the lagoons in preparation for the group arriving the next day.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	September 2023					
		20	21	22	23	24	25
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		18	✓	✓		
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	2	✓		✓		
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>				✓		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				✓		
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>				4		
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>						✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				4		
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓		✓		
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	1					
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		4	1			✓
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				2		
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	1	✓	2	✓		✓
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	✓
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		1				
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>				1		
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	1	✓
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		1				
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	2	✓	✓	✓		
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	1	✓	✓	✓		✓
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		2
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>		1				1
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	2					
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	1		✓
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	3	1				
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		2	✓	✓		2
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		1		4		
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>		✓				
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>			1			
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	15	✓	✓	✓		
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓
Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i>	✓					
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>				✓		
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	1	3	1			

Common name	Scientific name	September 2023					
		20	21	22	23	24	25
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	3	✓	✓	✓		✓
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisea</i>		1				
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		✓	✓			H
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>						2
Wilson's Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>						1
European Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>						✓
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris borealis</i>					✓	✓
Great Shearwater	<i>Ardenna gravis</i>						4
Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>					✓	3
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>			4			
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	1		✓		✓
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>					✓	✓
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	4	✓	✓	✓		✓
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		✓	30	✓		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			✓			
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1	7	1	1		✓
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>				1		
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>					✓	
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>			✓			
Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>			1			
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			1			
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		2	1		✓	
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>			1			
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			1		✓	
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		1		1		
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	1		1			
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			1			
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				H		
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>		1				
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		2	1	1		
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		1		1	1	
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>					1	
Iberian Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus sharpei</i>				1		
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		2	2	1	✓	1
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>					✓	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>					1	
Iberian Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>		1	✓			
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	1	1			1	
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			1			
Iberian Magpie - N	<i>Cyanopica cooki</i>		✓	✓	✓		2
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	1	30	✓
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>			✓			
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>			✓			
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			4			
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>				✓		
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				✓		

Common name	Scientific name	September 2023					
		20	21	22	23	24	25
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	2					
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					1	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓			
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	2	✓	✓	✓		✓
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>				1		
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	1		✓	✓	H	✓
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>				H		
Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					✓	
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					1	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	1	2	1		✓	✓
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>				1		
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>					✓	
Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca inornata</i>				1		
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>			1	1	✓	
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	1	1		1	1	✓
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>						
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	1					✓
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	2		1	✓	✓	✓
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>					✓	
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>					2	
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>			1			
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	1	2	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	1		✓	✓	✓	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Waxbill - I	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	✓					
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>	1	1	1		✓	✓
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>				✓		✓
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		1				
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>					1	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>				H		
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>					2	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	H	1	
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	1	1				
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			✓		4	
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>					1	

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	September 2023					
		20	21	22	23	24	25
	Papilionidae						
Old World Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>					✓	
	Pieridae						
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>					✓	✓
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>			✓		✓	✓

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		20	21	22	23	24	25
	Lycaenidae						
Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	✓	✓				
Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>	✓					
	Nymphalidae						
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	✓	✓				✓
	Satyrinae						
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>					1	
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>						✓
	Hesperiidae						
Sage Skipper	<i>Muschampia proto</i>					✓	
	Moths						
Crimson Speckled	<i>Uletheisa pulchella</i>						1

Others

Common name	Scientific name	September 2023					
		20	21	22	23	24	25
Mammals							
Brown Rat - I	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>			✓			
Short-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>					✓	✓
Reptile & Amphibians							
Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>	1					
Crustaceans							
Fiddler Crab	<i>Afruca tangeri</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓
Others							
Sea Cucumber	<i>Holothuroidea</i>		1				
Dragonflies & Damselflies							
	Lestidae						
Migrant Spreadwing	<i>Lestes barbarus</i>						
Western Willow Spreadwing	<i>Lestes viridis</i>						
	Coenagrionidae						
Iberian Bluetail	<i>Ischnura graellsii</i>						
Small Bluetail	<i>Ischnura pumilio</i>						
	Aeshnidae						
Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshnna mixta</i>						
Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>						✓
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>					✓	✓

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		20	21	22	23	24	25
	<i>Libellulidae</i>						
Southern Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>						
Yellow-veined Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum nitidinode</i>						
Epaulet Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum chrysostigma</i>						
Long Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum trinacria</i>						
Black Pennant	<i>Selysiothemis nigra</i>						
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>						
Southern Darter	<i>Sympetrum meridionale</i>						
Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>						
Violet Dropwing	<i>Trithemis annulata</i>						
Black Percher	<i>Diplacodes lefebvrii</i>						
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>				✓	✓	