

# Go Slow in Portugal

Naturetrek Tour Report

27th May – 3rd June 2023

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Black Redstart



Cleopatra



Hawfinch



Lesser Emperor

Tour report and images by Glyn Evans, Plant list Fernando Romao

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Tour participants: Glyn Evans and Fernando Romao (leaders) with 14 Naturetrek clients

You could easily get the impression, if you were teleported to the Star Inn, Peniche as a Naturetrek client, that you might have landed in the wrong place as a centre for a wildlife holiday. It happens to be a surfer's paradise. The beach road is liberally populated with surfing paraphernalia, and you might even expect a hot rod or two to cruise along beside the numerous camper vans.

But the dunes which separate the beach from the road and buildings which line it are a most impressive ecosystem, admirable from distance and close-up with an impressive array of plants and all critters that co-exist amongst them. One of the "extras" that can feature on Go-slow tours is the pre-breakfast walk, which tends to be necessarily slow to the accommodation given time constraints.

Peniche is on a peninsular, out into the Atlantic Ocean. As well as the delightful passage via boardwalk through the dunes, there is an opportunity to watch sea and shore birds from the dunes or the beach.

## Day 1

**Saturday 27th May**

The drive from the airport to the hotel was much later than scheduled, due to at least one of the three incoming flights being delayed, so by the time I had picked up the second minibus, we were behind schedule. The weather was slightly dull by the time we hit the road, and the light was fading during the journey, so opportunities to enjoy any decent views of birds were limited, but the odd White Stork nest reminded us that there were some exotic things to come.

## Day 2

**Sunday 28th May**

The previous evening's dinner came late – and only after some skilful negotiation between Naturetrek HQ, Fernando and the hotel staff, but given the long day and late dinner, I didn't invite anyone for an early morning walk, but chose instead to do a recce if I was up early enough.

I was up early, so sneaked out just after daybreak, requiring the receptionist to open up the automatic doors at an unaccustomed hour!

Crested Larks were calling from the dunes straight away as I crossed the road and over the boardwalk to be greeted by a sea mist obliterating the horizon. It was difficult to establish the range of visibility, so the best way was to have a scan across the water, which was flat calm...

Yellow-legged Gulls lined the beach in various shades of seniority. Out so sea, a few birds started to appear. First, a Gannet. Then, a Cory's Shearwater, closely followed by a consort of Balearic Shearwaters, apparently in single file. As can happen when you get your eye in, smaller birds appeared out of the mist – Storm Petrels flitting, swooping and paddling on the surface of the water! A rare privilege to see these diminutive sea birds reasonably close to the shore.

There was also a small flock of Sanderlings in a range of plumages, commuting from the shore to the softer sand and the sea weed above the tideline.

All of this was an exciting thing to report to everyone, provided the same chances occurred later in the tour...! The idea today was to tour the peninsula, close to the hotel. The first stop was the lighthouse at the end of the headland, thrusting out into the Atlantic. As we arrived, a dark shape perched on a nearby stack caught the eye. Perhaps, a Peregrine?

Absolutely! A very smart looking male bird, which posed for long enough for everyone to get a decent view before it went off on a sortie, chasing some unseen sea birds before aborting quite quickly to return to a lower perch on the same stack, where it stayed ostentatiously grooming itself for quite a while. Geniez's Wall Lizards stayed on the ground between the rocks as there were quite a few people around. European Shags loafed on the blind side of the stack from the Peregrine and the odd Gannet passed by fairly close. By now, the sea mist had evaporated and so had the Storm Petrels, but the occasional Balearic Shearwater came close enough to be recognised.

The next stop required us to retrace our journey back toward the water tower to first explore the heath around the small headland extending north. Clouded Yellow butterflies were already busy, teasing the photographers with the shortest of pauses at flower heads. Zitting Cisticolas betrayed their presence somewhere in the scrub and the odd Stonechat would occasionally show from a low vantage point. In the slightly breezy conditions, it wasn't easy to follow the smaller butterflies, but eventually we were able to record Common and Long-tailed Blues, Small Copper and Mallow Skipper. Fernando expertly picked out a Wood White and others found it easier to identify the more accustomed species of Large White and Red Admiral. Black Redstarts with young occasionally showed on top of the cliff. We chose not to embark on the steady incline to the end of the headland.

The later arrival of the previous evening left insufficient time to shop for the picnic, so we all had a stroll around the supermarket to enjoy a bit of air-conditioned calm whilst salivating at the prospect of lunch.

The picnic tables by the Water Tower were soon occupied and a fine lunch was dispatched. An adult Yellow-legged Gull was left in no doubt that it would have to wait for us to leave before it searched for any titbits.

After lunch, we travelled the short distance to Lourinha to the museum, which is a delightful exhibition of palaeontology, ethnology and archaeology. A bank holiday fiesta was also going on, so the place was packed as we threaded ourselves through the crowd amidst the joyous drumming and marching pipers. By the time we returned to the hotel, it had got quite warm.

At dinner, there was interest expressed in a pre-breakfast walk.

## Day 3

**Monday 29th May**

It would have been unprofessional not to have had a quick look over the dunes before the 7am assembly, but would the Hoopoes commute across the road again as they did for me at 06.20...?

Nope!

In the event, the sea did produce if the dunes didn't quite. Whilst the mist wasn't as severe as it had been on day 1, there was enough of it to bring the Storm Petrels to within binocular range. Also present on the sea were Common and Sandwich Terns with the odd Gannet thrown in to keep us interested. A few Sanderlings were still

around, but more mobile than the previous day. Another diminutive wader flew past us and landed a short distance away. It was a Kentish Plover!

Our trip today was to Obidos lagoon, a tidal lagoon a little way north up the coast. Whilst we may have hoped for a good variety of butterflies and other insects, the weather was still a little bit breezy when we arrived at the first stop, where a little foot bridge over the dyke led via a footpath to an observation tower, which some were keen to climb into. The rest of us got the scopes out to study what was in the lagoon, where the tide was already on the retreat.

Clearly, the fishing is good in the lagoon, with much activity geared presumably to trapping fish on the ebbing tide. With plenty of mud exposed, the scan for birds started at the water's edge, some distance away.

Oystercatchers and Redshanks weren't a great deal different to what we might have expected, but then we started chalking up a few different species in various shades of transitional plumage: Turnstones, Curlews, Bar-tailed Godwits, Dunlins, Ringed Plover and a couple of Whimbrel. Then, after the pack was shuffled after a Marsh Harrier passed through, a small flock of Red Knot appeared. Little Ringed Plover was heard way off in the distance, but whilst we couldn't locate the birds, we did find a magnificent pair of summer-plumaged Grey Plovers. Fernando did well to find a distant Yellow Wagtail, whilst Sardinian Warbler and Serin sang regularly. Bonelli's Warbler, however, was a surprise.

A brilliant return from this little stop. Once the wanderers came back to find out what they had missed, we moved on to a spot further south around the lagoon where there was a little woodland and a shallow inlet with reedy fringes, traversed by footbridge. As we parked by the water's edge, a flock of Greater Flamingos were evident some way off. The footpath led to a point where we could observe them more closely, so it was decided to progress slowly along that path. Reed Warblers were singing from the fringes of the small lagoon and we heard both Coal and Crested Tits were heard in the conifers.

The group was well spread by the time the advance party got close to the Flamingos, admiring flora and avifauna about the place. Fish under the bridge were unidentified, but of a reasonable size.

The Flamingos were a good mix of young and adult birds, with colouring reflecting both age and intake of carotene. Our next stop, in gathering gloom, was to have a picnic at the southern end of the lagoon, with a restaurant close by and a couple of precarious looking tables on which to prepare and devour.

Almost immediately, a Purple Heron cruised into the shallow end of the lagoon and gave reasonably good scoped views as it threaded its way through the fringe on the far shore. Lunch was interrupted first by a couple of False Ilex Hairstreaks basking on what was left of any warmth in the ground as drizzle threatened, and then by a Booted Eagle which passed over for a fairly close but silhouetted view.

While some enjoyed their après-lunch coffee, I found a Lang's Short-tailed Blue and a Crested Tit by the track. The weather closed in by the time we reassembled, so we sloped off back to the hotel with wipers intermittent.

## Day 4

Tuesday 30th May

Today's main attraction was to be the Paul de Tornada Reserve, before which there was a pre-breakfast walk, this time a walk further along the avenue to where there was an interesting fallow field with some ditches around, where the previous morning I had heard a Quail.

We had a brief look at the beach and found another Kentish Plover but then flanked the dunes on the way to the field, where we found a mother Red-legged Partridge with a brood of chicks and a Corn Bunting singing close to the opposite roadside as we neared the field. The Quail did not make itself heard, but a different lark could be heard that prompted a comb across the field. Soon enough, a small, pale bird was spotted on a tuft of vegetation. It was a Short-toed Lark. Scoped views at distance enabled us to see the key features of the bird. A Marsh Harrier quartered the ditch at the back of the field and a White Wagtail perched obligingly on the fence at close range.

The weather was already quite humid as we arrived at Paul de Tornada. There to greet us as we parked was a Serin and two juvenile White Storks hunkering into a nest. A lone Crag Martin perched on a nearby ledge on a house looked rather incongruous.

We arrived at the visitor centre for an accustomed loo stop and admired the mural with subtle depictions (well, illustrations I suppose) of some of the birds and mammals we might expect to see.

A Northern Banded Groundling dragonfly glided around a small clearing before we reached the main path, but didn't settle for photos.

The reality was that there was a great amount of vegetation between us and the lagoon for lengthy stretches and although there was a small working party of men trailing around the reserve in a pick-up and evidence of some strimming done recently, there seemed to be no urgency in trying to improve viewing conditions, so we made the best of the walk along the path by enjoying the sounds of Cetti's Warbler and Song Thrush, with short bursts of Savi's and Great Reed Warbler at some distance. Turtle Dove was also heard but not seen. European Pond Turtles rested quietly on partly sunken branches.

Speckled Wood butterflies adorned the vegetation, but the walk gave few opportunities for a party of 14 to gather around anything that was viewable through a narrow gap in the vegetation, save for a scoped view of Iberian Grey Shrike on a distant power cable, so we sauntered back toward where there was a hide overlooking the mere.

As there wasn't enough room in the hide for all of us, some lingered outside the hide were soon rewarded with a fleeting but close view of a Little Bittern clinging to the tops of reeds before it slinked away. Latecomers emerged from the hide to a consolation prize of a close fly-by Black Kite. From the hide, good flight views were enjoyed of Marsh Harrier and Purple Heron and then for just a couple of observers, a Purple Swamphen crossed a narrow channel between reeds very close to the hide. Later, we heard its distinctive call quite close to the hide, but when eventually one was picked out at the back of the mere, this turned out to be our only view.

We retreated reluctantly to the picnic area for lunch, feeling that we'd been a little unlucky not to have had more views of some of the key species, so a compromise was discussed and agreed over lunch to extend our stay for another hour or so...

During lunch, there were a few appearances that kept us keen: Common Waxbills briefly flanked the arena, as did Zitting Cisticolas, Marsh Harriers, a Black Kite and one of the adult White Storks. By the time we finished lunch, we had time for a 45 recap, during which there were more flight views of Little Bittern and Marsh Harrier from the hide.

Fortunately, the humidity only produced a short spell of spotty rain, so we get reasonable value for this trip given the limitations on viewing the mere. There is no doubt that future visitors should fare well.

## Day 5

## Wednesday 31st May

Today we had the boat trip to Berlengas Island. The weather was fine and calm, which would make for a comfortable crossing, but would it give us close views of sea birds as a bonus to the unique and fascinating ecology of the island itself? Packed lunches were prepared and individually bagged. Crumbs in our hotel room were kept to a reasonable minimum.

First, there was the now regular business of the pre-breakfast walk. This time, we made a better effort at viewing the Short-toed Larks with slightly closer views enjoyed this time. Although the Quail called from its distant corner of the field, it was out of earshot for most. Linnets once again exhibited brighter plumage than their UK counterparts.

Once again, excellent organisation by Fernando got us to the harbour in plenty of time, with car parking and tickets sorted with sufficient time to scan the harbour. A pair of auks bobbing around amongst the boats turned out to be Razorbills. As we cruised slowly out of the harbour, a lone Bottlenose Dolphin briefly surfaced for a small group of observers. Most of the determined watchers stayed on the top deck of the boat to get better views, but once a group of youths started crowding the deck, effectively edging us out, we retreated to where we could view from a front row position, albeit from the back of the boat.

The bright conditions were not ideal for watching and photographing sea birds. There were a few Shags and Gannets and the odd shearwater of both species passing by, but not as often and as close as other island trippers might enjoy.

Traffic to the island was quite busy, with boats seemingly docking every few minutes or so. As we gathered on the dock, we waited for the youngsters to get ahead of us to ascend up the path to the wilder parts of the island. While we waited, the sound of at least a couple of singing male Black Redstarts echoed across the gorge.

Fernando had promised us that we would see plenty of lizards on the island and so it proved, with loads of “Berlengas” Wall Lizards – a subspecies of Carbonell’s Wall lizard – sprinting across the path in front of us. Numerous Kestrels on the island seemed to be the main predator.

The Lighthouse at the top of the island was closed to visitors – perhaps reserved for the youngsters – so we pressed on to the cliffs to the southwest. As we neared the cliffs for a fantastic sea view, we came across a Yellow-legged Gull colony, with many birds sat patiently on nests, panting in the heat. Soon, a Peregrine Falcon came into view as it wheeled overhead, first gaining height and then doing so again after an aborted stoop.

We ate lunch sat on low plinths from disused underground reservoirs that were now quite derelict. The alternative path to the northern part of the island was further than some wanted to go, so after a short detour to a view point just off the main path, I descended back to the café to join the rest of the group while Fernando explored the north with those who wanted a longer walk.

House Martins were plentiful in the gorge together with the odd Swallow but that was all.

The café wasn't overly busy and would have been quite peaceful had it not been for the incessant reggae music, from which some took solace with the occasional walk to the dock below. I started plotting Black Redstart territories with at least three males vying for bragging rights. A dove alighted on a distant crag which didn't seem like the Rock Doves we had been seeing thus far.

Indeed, the scope proved it to be a Turtle Dove! Unlikely to be a resident bird, this one was probably a late migrant taking a breather.

As the time to leave approached, the group reformed and enjoyed views of a building flock of Yellow-legged Gulls with Gannets out to sea. The Gannets were occasionally plunge-diving, which gave us hope that some cetacean action might have been likely. In the event, we had to wait until we were back in the harbour, where the skipper kindly slowed to check whether the dolphin was at its usual resting place by a particular boat in the harbour. Evidently, this animal had been freed from a tangle of fish nets by a kindly fisherman and had been hanging around the harbour ever since. We had to admit, it didn't look terribly healthy, but we enjoyed unaccustomed close views nevertheless.

After dinner, Fernando and I retired to our balcony whereupon Fernando heard the unmistakable sound of a European Nightjar not far from the hotel! It must have been in the small scrubby area just about 300m away... It was decided to offer an evening walk after tomorrow's dinner.

## Day 6

**Thursday 1st June**

And so day five of the "go-slow" tour had the options to be out at 7am and until 10pm!

The main feature of today's activity was a trip into the hills around Arrimal, with the prospect of the dinosaur museum as the last port of call.

The pre-breakfast session added nothing new. The key feature of the area around Arrimal was its watering holes. The first stop was a delightful example, where almost immediately we were seeing dragonflies and butterflies of different species around the lake. It seemed perfectly logical to walk around the lake which is exactly what we did, noting Broad Scarlet, Keeled and Black-tailed Skimmer, Blue and Lesser Emperor dragonflies, Red-veined Darter and Common, Blue-tailed and Small Red-eyed Damselflies. Birds included Sardinian and all the common warbler species, plus Corn Bunting. A short distance down the road, we looked at a lovely wildflower meadow which featured a singing Melodious Warbler, a splendid pale phase Booted Eagle and several species of butterfly, which included our first Cleopatras of the tour which we were able to compare with Brimstone. We missed the opportunity to use toilets in the town and so swung by a small café to use the facilities at the cost of a few takeaways.

The next stop was at another water hole with scrub, meadow and woodland around, with a ridge a little way off to suggest there might be some raptor action at some point. A fine dark phase Booted Eagle flew over the vans on the track down to the spot. We immediately prepared lunch on arrival which was dispatched in a lovely shady spot right next to the water hole, which was clearly a well-used facility by the local birds.

While the clients had first pick, I explored the scrub and found a glorious male Stonechat and a very posy Corn Bunting. As I returned, a Short-toed Eagle loomed into view, with its characteristic loose-limbed hover allowing some long-range shots for the photographers.

At first, it was the commoner finches evident at the water hole – Linnets, Greenfinches and Goldfinches. Then, other more interesting species started to appear: Red-rumped Swallows, Serins, then first a female and then a male Cirl Bunting. An Epaulet Skimmer basking on a stone was the only one of the tour.

And then, the best moment, when a chunky looking bird perched first on the fence and then down to the water's edge for a few sips – a fine Hawfinch!

This had been a fantastic first session and many were keen to extend it with another session, but with some clients keen to see the dinosaur exhibition, we stuck to the itinerary. A storm was apparently looming as we got to the dinosaur museum. The key exhibit in this former quarry is of dinosaur footprints preserved in the sedentary rock surface, around which there is a small museum and a Jurassic garden, which yielded a number of butterflies including Painted Ladies and Wall Browns. Some watched a film about the museum's story, while others explored until it looked like rain was imminent. In the event, the storm never really did much. The tour of the dinosaur museum, short though it ended up lasting, added a few more minutes to the journey back, as did an amusing malfunction in Fernando's SatNav.

Fortunately, it was dry after dinner, so we took a few clients out to where the Nightjars had been heard. Almost straight away, the tell-tale churring was heard and the task of picking it out began in the gloom. One briefly alighted on top of a bush just 25 metres away from us, but without being backlit, some clients couldn't see it. Then, a piece of luck, as one perched on a treetop between us and the hotel, for long enough for us to find it in the scope and give some grainy glimpses to at least a couple of clients before it flew.

## Day 7

## Friday 2nd June

Another day in the hills. This time, the Aire and Candeeiros Natural Park.

Before reaching the car park for the main woodland walk, we stopped at another delightful watering hole, with a terraced bank on one side, as though watching drinking birds should be a spectator sport. Not a bad idea, methinks. Here, we enjoyed Cirl Bunting, Greenfinch, Serin and Linnets all having a slurp. Once we arrived at the car park, the inevitable toilet break cost a few people a chance to see Alpine Swifts overhead, plus a dark phase Booted Eagle.

We then embarked on a 4km walk in a loop around some fascinating woodland, where we first enjoyed watching a couple of dark looking Red Squirrels foraging on the ground at the foot of some conifers.



A brief view of Iberian Green Woodpecker substantiated the calls we had heard earlier. Otherwise, bird sightings were sparse, but that didn't matter. Blackcaps and Song Thrushes provided a lovely background to the wonderful exhibition of plants and their attendant butterflies and other insects, with the former represented notably by Small Copper, Wall Brown, Speckled Wood, Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Meadow Brown, Common Blue, Spanish Gatekeeper, Mallow Skipper, Lang's Short-tailed Blue, Brown Argus, False Ilex Hairstreak, Brimstone and Cleopatra. Swallowtail was also seen but as with the previous day's sightings, none kept still!

Lunch was enjoyed across the road next to a café to the faint sounds of Bob Marley entertaining some park operatives at their Friday lunchtime barbecue. We enjoyed close views of Mistle Thrush and before packing up, scoped a very distant falcon perched on wires near the top of the ridge where we would soon be headed. It was probably a Kestrel. It was also probably 4 km away...

The view from the top of the hill was spectacular. It showed clearly that some serious *cumulo nimbus* was developing, so no-one strayed too far from the vans in case the deluge hit hard and quickly... Four Booted Eagles performed an aerial dance along the ridge. Some walked toward the display while others walked a little way downhill to where we could hear Dartford Warblers. A Black Kite flew across before we eventually got our eye in and spied the Dartford Warblers in the heath not far from where we waited.

A few drops of rain were enough to send us scurrying for the vans and soon we were homeward bound, taking the windscreen wipers through their repertoire as we headed through some showers on the way to the hotel.

Nightjar was again on the after dinner menu for those who missed it the previous night.

## Day 8

## Saturday 3rd June

Time to go home, but not before we had a quick pre-breakfast walk which featured no fewer than 11 Kentish Plovers.

After breakfast, the group split in two, with some visiting town and others taking a last jaunt out to the lighthouse. The Peregrine was waiting for us, sat dutifully on the stack for a final farewell. A male Black Redstart at last gave itself up by perching first on a chain-link fence for a proclamation, and then sat very close on a nearby rock as though it was redoubling its efforts to dismiss all and sundry from its territory. A quick last stop by the water tower was rewarded by a very smart Mallow Skipper amongst the last-ditch butterfly foray.

We reached the airport in good time with the only mishap being my hand luggage – including camera and optics – being left at the hotel, I'm happy to say they sent it back to me safely in the post!

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## Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

I = Introduced		May – June 2023						
Common name	Scientific name	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓	✓			
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>				✓	✓		
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>							✓
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>				✓			✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			H	H	✓		
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>				✓			
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				✓			
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓			
Western Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>				✓			
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				✓			
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>			✓	✓			
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		✓	✓	✓			
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			✓				
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			✓				
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>			✓			✓	
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			✓				
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			✓				
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>			✓		✓		
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>			✓				
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>			✓				✓
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			✓				
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			✓				

I = Introduced		May – June 2023						
Common name	Scientific name	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			✓				
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i>			✓				
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		✓	✓				
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		✓					
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris borealis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>		✓	✓		✓		
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		
European Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>		✓	✓			✓	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				✓			
European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>						✓	
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>				✓			
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓						
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓		✓	✓			
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			✓	✓			
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓				
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>						✓	✓
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>			✓			✓	✓
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			✓	✓		✓	
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>				✓			✓
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>						H	
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				✓			
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓
Iberian Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus sharpei</i>							✓
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>				✓			
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		✓					
Iberian Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓					✓	✓
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓		✓			✓	
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>			✓				
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>			✓				
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				✓			
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			✓	✓		✓	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>						✓	
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>						✓	
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>				✓		✓	✓
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			✓	✓			
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>				✓			
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>				✓		✓	

I = Introduced		May – June 2023						
Common name	Scientific name	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>				✓			
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>			H				
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>						✓	
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				H			
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			H	✓			
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>						✓	✓
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>				✓			
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		✓	✓	H		✓	✓
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	H	✓		✓	✓
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		H				✓	
Dartford Warbler	<i>Curruca undata</i>							✓
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>				H			
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>							✓
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			✓	✓			✓
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			H	✓			
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>			H	✓			✓
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			H	H			✓
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>						✓	✓
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			✓	✓			✓
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>							
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Waxbill - I	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>				✓			
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			✓	✓			✓
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>						✓	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			✓				
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>						✓	✓
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		✓	✓				

## Other vertebrates

		May – June 2023						
Common name	Scientific name	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
<b>Mammals</b>								
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>		✓					
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>			✓		✓		
Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>						✓	

<b>Amphibians</b>								
Iberian Water Frog	<i>Pelophylax perezi</i>					✓		
<b>Reptiles</b>								
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>							
Spanish Terrapin	<i>Mauremys leprosa</i>					✓		
Large Psammadromus	<i>Psammadromus algirus</i>					✓		✓
Geniez's Wall Lizard - N	<i>Podarcis virescens</i>		✓					
Carbonell's Wall Lizard - E	<i>Podarcis carbonelli</i>					✓	✓	

## Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	May – June 2023						
		27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>		✓					✓
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>					✓	✓	✓
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>						✓	
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>						✓	✓
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>				✓		✓	✓
Western Dappled White	<i>Euchloe crameri</i>			✓				
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓					
False Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium esculi</i>			✓				✓
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>		✓					
Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>			✓			✓	✓
Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>				✓			
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia cramera</i>						✓	✓
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>						✓	✓
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓					✓
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>						✓	✓
Iberian Marbled White	<i>Melanargia lachesis</i>					✓		
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>					✓		
Spanish Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia bathseba</i>					✓		✓
Southern Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia cecilia</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓

## Other invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name	May – June 2023						
		27	28	29	30	31	1	2
<b>Moths</b>								
Bright Wave	<i>Idaea ochrata</i>			y				
Vestal	<i>Rhodometra sacraria</i>			y				

<b>Damselfs &amp; Dragons</b>								
Small Bluetail	<i>Ischnura pumilio</i>					y		
Common Bluet	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>					y		
Small Red-eye	<i>Erythromma viridulum</i>					y		
Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>					y		
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>					y		
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>					y		
Epaulet Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum chrysostigma</i>					y		
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>					y		
Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>			y		y		
Northern Banded Groundling	<i>Brachythemis impartita</i>				y			
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>							
<b>Other</b>								
	<i>Myrmeleontidae</i>							

Plants (\*=Iberian Endemic, \*\*=Portuguese endemic, i=Introduced)

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Horsetails</b>	<b><i>Equisetaceae</i></b>
Great Horsetail	<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>
<b>Pine Family</b>	<b><i>Pinaceae</i></b>
Maritime Pine	<i>Pinus pinaster</i>
Stone Pine	<i>Pinus pinea</i>
<b>Cypress Family</b>	<b><i>Cupressaceae</i></b>
Italian Cypress	<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>
	<i>Juniperus turbinata</i>
<b>Birthworts</b>	<b><i>Aristolochiaceae</i></b>
	<i>Aristolochia paucinervis</i>
<b>Laurel Family</b>	<b><i>Lauraceae</i></b>
Bay Laurel	<i>Laurus nobilis</i>
<b>Orchids</b>	<b><i>Orchidaceae</i></b>
Common Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>
<b>Iris Family</b>	<b><i>Iridaceae</i></b>
Stinking Iris	<i>Iris foetidissima</i>
<b>Amaryllis Family</b>	<b><i>Amaryllidaceae</i></b>
Wild Leek	<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>
Round-headed Leek	<i>Allium sphaerocephalon</i>
Wild Onion	<i>Allium vineale</i>
Sea Daffodil	<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>
<b>Asparagus Family</b>	<b><i>Asparagaceae</i></b>
	<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>
	<i>Asparagus aphyllus</i>
Angular Solomon's-seal	<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>
	<b><i>Araceae</i></b>
Italian Arum	<i>Arum italicum</i>
<b>Bulrush Family</b>	<b><i>Typhaceae</i></b>
Common Bulrush	<i>Typha latifolia</i>
<b>Grasses</b>	<b><i>Poaceae</i></b>
	<i>Briza maxima</i>

Common name	Scientific name
	<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Giant Cane	<i>Arundo donax</i> i
<b>Poppy Family</b>	<b>Papaveraceae</b>
Common Poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>
<b>Buttercup Family</b>	<b>Ranunculaceae</b>
Glaucous Meadow-rue	<i>Thalictrum speciosissimum</i>
	<i>Delphinium pentagynum</i>
Stinking Hellebore	<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
<b>Peonies</b>	<b>Paeoniaceae</b>
	<i>Paeonia broteroi</i> *
<b>Stonecrop Family</b>	<b>Crassulaceae</b>
Pale Stonecrop	<i>Petrosedum sediforme</i>
Rock Stonecrop	<i>Petrosedum forsterianum</i>
White Stonecrop	<i>Sedum album</i>
Navelwort	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>
<b>Pea Family</b>	<b>Fabaceae</b>
	<i>Genista tournefortii</i> *
Dwarf Gorse	<i>Ulex minor</i>
	<i>Ulex densus</i> **
Cretan Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus creticus</i>
Common Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>
Narrow-leaved Everlasting-pea	<i>Lathyrus sylvestris</i>
	<i>Ononis ramosissima</i>
Spiny Restharrow	<i>Ononis spinosa</i>
	<i>Stauracanthus genistoides</i> *
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
	<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>
<b>Rose Family</b>	<b>Rosaceae</b>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Common Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
	<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>
Common Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>
Common Dog Rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
Evergreen Rose	<i>Rosa sempervirens</i>
<b>Buckthorns</b>	<b>Rhamnaceae</b>
Mediterranean Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>
Mediterranean Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus lycioides</i> spp. <i>oleoides</i>
<b>Mulberry Family</b>	<b>Moraceae</b>
Common Fig	<i>Ficus carica</i>
<b>Beech Family</b>	<b>Fagaceae</b>
Sweet Chestnut	<i>Castanea sativa</i>
Kermes Oak	<i>Quercus coccifera</i>
Cork Oak	<i>Quercus suber</i>
Iberian Oak	<i>Quercus faginea</i>
<b>Cucumber Family</b>	<b>Cucurbitaceae</b>
White Bryony	<i>Bryonia dioica</i>

Common name	Scientific name
<b>St John's-worts</b>	<b>Hypericaceae</b>
Perforate St John's-wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
<b>Violets</b>	<b>Violaceae</b>
<b>Spurge Family</b>	<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>
	<i>Euphorbia hirsuta</i>
Petty Spurge	<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>
	<i>Euphorbia transtagana</i> **
Sea Spurge	<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>
Mediterranean Spurge	<i>Euphorbia characias</i>
<b>Flaxes</b>	<b>Linaceae</b>
Pale Flax	<i>Linum bienne</i>
<b>Crane's-bills</b>	<b>Geraniaceae</b>
Common Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Mediterranean Stork's-bill	<i>Erodium botrys</i>
	<i>Erodium moschatum</i>
<b>Purple Loosestrife Family</b>	<b>Lythraceae</b>
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
<b>Sumac Family</b>	<b>Anacardiaceae</b>
Lentisc	<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>
<b>Mallow Family</b>	<b>Malvaceae</b>
	<i>Lavatera cretica</i>
	<i>Lavatera trimestris</i>
	<i>Malva hispanica</i>
Common Mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>
Tree Mallow	<i>Malva arborea</i>
<b>Daphne Family</b>	<b>Thymelaeaceae</b>
Narrow-leaved Mezereon	<i>Daphne gnidium</i>
<b>Rock-rose Family</b>	<b>Cistaceae</b>
Curled-leaved Rock-rose	<i>Cistus crispus</i>
	<i>Cistus psilosepalus</i>
Sage-leaved Rock-rose	<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>
Gum Rockrose	<i>Cistus ladanifer ssp. ladanifer</i>
	<i>Cistus halimifolius</i>
<b>Cabbage Family</b>	<b>Brassicaceae</b>
Wild Radish	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>
	<i>Biscutella valentina ssp. valentina</i>
Sand Stock	<i>Malcolmia littorea</i>
Sweet Alison	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>
	<i>Iberis procumbens microcarpa</i> **
	<i>Iberis procumbens procumbens</i> *
<b>Sea-heaths</b>	<b>Frankeniaceae</b>
Common Sea-heath	<i>Frankenia laevis</i>
<b>Leadwort Family</b>	<b>Plumbaginaceae</b>
	<i>Limonium auriculifolium</i> **
	<i>Limonium multiflorum</i> **
	<i>Limonium plurisquamatum</i> **
	<i>Armeria berlengensis</i> **
	<i>Armeria welwitschii</i> **
<b>Knotgrass Family</b>	<b>Polygonaceae</b>



Common name	Scientific name
	<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>
Water knotweed	<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>
<b>Campion Family</b>	<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>
Rock Sea-spurrey	<i>Spergularia rupicola</i>
Childing Pink	<i>Petrorhagia nanteuillii</i>
	<i>Silene scabriflora</i>
	<i>Silene uniflora</i>
Algerian Tea	<i>Paronychia argentea</i>
<b>Amaranth Family</b>	<b>Amaranthaceae</b>
Shrubby Sea-blite	<i>Suaeda vera</i>
<b>Primrose Family</b>	<b>Primulaceae</b>
Scarlet Pimpernel	<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i>
Shrubby Pimpernel	<i>Lysimachia monelli</i>
<b>Heath Family</b>	<b>Ericaceae</b>
Tree Heath	<i>Erica arborea</i>
	<i>Corema album</i>
<b>Bedstraw Family</b>	<b>Rubiaceae</b>
	<i>Crucianella maritima</i>
Shining Bedstraw	<i>Galium lucidum</i>
Common Madder	<i>Rubia peregrina</i>
<b>Gentian Family</b>	<b>Gentianaceae</b>
	<i>Blackstonia acuminata</i>
Common Centaury	<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>
Slender Centaury	<i>Centaureum tenuiflorum</i>
<b>Borage Family</b>	<b>Boraginaceae</b>
	<i>Echium creticum</i> ssp. <i>coincyanum</i>
Purple Viper's-bugloss	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>
	<i>Echium tuberculatum</i>
	<i>Echium rosulatum</i> ssp. <i>davaei</i> **
Undulate Alkanet	<i>Anchusa undulata</i> *
	<i>Anchusa calcarea</i> *
<b>Bindweed Family</b>	<b>Convolvulaceae</b>
Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>
<b>Olive Family</b>	<b>Oleaceae</b>
Narrow-leaved Ash	<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>
Common Olive	<i>Olea europaea</i>
Narrow-leaved Mock Privet	<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>
Broad-leaved Mock Privet	<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>
<b>Plantain Family</b>	<b>Plantaginaceae</b>
Common Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum linkianum</i> *
	<i>Antirrhinum cirrhigerum</i> *
	<i>Linaria spartea</i>
Milkwort-leaved Toadflax	<i>Linaria polygalifolia</i> ssp. <i>polygalifolia</i> *
Common Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>
<b>Figwort Family</b>	<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>
Twiggy Mullein	<i>Verbascum virgatum</i>
	<i>Verbascum litigiosum</i> **
Sinuate Mullein	<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>
	<i>Scrophularia sublyrata</i> **

Common name	Scientific name
French Figwort	<i>Scrophularia canina</i>
<b>Vervain Family</b>	<b>Verbenaceae</b>
Common Vervain	<i>Verbena officinalis</i>
<b>Dead-nettle Family</b>	<b>Lamiaceae</b>
French Lavender	<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>
	<i>Lavandula pedunculata</i>
Common Rosemary	<i>Salvia rosmarinus</i>
	<i>Salvia sclareoides</i>
Common Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
	<i>Thymus caespititius</i>
Common Marjoram	<i>Origanum vulgare</i> ssp. <i>virens</i>
Wild Basil	<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>
Wood Sage	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>
Downy Woundwort	<i>Stachys germanica</i>
Hairy Ironwort	<i>Sideritis hirsuta</i>
<b>Broomrape Family</b>	<b>Orobanchaceae</b>
	<i>Orobanche hederaceae</i>
Trixago Bartsia	<i>Bellardia trixago</i>
<b>Bellflower Family</b>	<b>Campanulaceae</b>
Rampion Bellflower	<i>Campanula rapunculus</i>
Common Sheep's-bit	<i>Jasione montana</i>
<b>Daisy Family</b>	<b>Asteraceae</b>
	<i>Carlina hispanica</i>
	<i>Centaurea sphaerocephala</i> ssp. <i>lusitanica</i> **
	<i>Mantisalca salmantica</i>
	<i>Cynara humilis</i>
	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
	<i>Carduus lusitanicus</i> ssp. <i>broteroi</i> **
Purple Milk-thistle	<i>Galactites tomentosus</i>
	<i>Cheirolophus sempervirens</i>
Common Golden Thistle	<i>Scolymus hispanicus</i>
	<i>Urospermum picroides</i>
Common Andryala	<i>Andryala integrifolia</i>
	<i>Andryala arenaria</i>
	<i>Calendula arvensis</i>
	<i>Calendula suffruticosa</i>
	<i>Helichrysum italicum</i> ssp. <i>picardi</i>
Scentless Curry-plant	<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>
Common Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
	<i>Asteriscus aquaticus</i>
Woody Fleabane	<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>
	<i>Pulicaria microcephala</i> **
Golden-samphire	<i>Limbardia (Inula) crithmoides</i>
	<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i> i
<b>Honeysuckle Family</b>	<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>
Etruscan Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>
Common Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
Sweet Scabious	<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>

Common name	Scientific name
	<i>Dipsacus comosus</i>
<b>Umbellifers</b>	<b>Apiaceae</b>
Sea-holly	<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>
Field Eryngo	<i>Eryngium campestre</i>
Hemlock Water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>
Spreading Hedge-parsley	<i>Torilis arvensis</i>
Giant Fennel	<i>Ferula communis</i> ssp <i>catalaunica</i> *
Common Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Villose Poison-carrot	<i>Thapsia villosa</i>
Rock Samphire	<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>
Common Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Common Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>
Portuguese Angelica	<i>Angelica pachycarpa</i> *
<b>Greenbriar Family</b>	<b>Smilacaceae</b>
Sarsaparille	<i>Smilax aspera</i>
	<b>Tamaricaceae</b>
African tamarisk	<i>Tamarix africana</i>
	<b>Dioscoreaceae</b>
Black Bryony	<i>Tamus communis</i>
<b>Valerian Family</b>	<b>Valerianaceae</b>
	<i>Centranthus calcitrapae</i>
	<b>Aizoaceae</b>
	<i>Mesembryanthemum crystallinum</i> i