



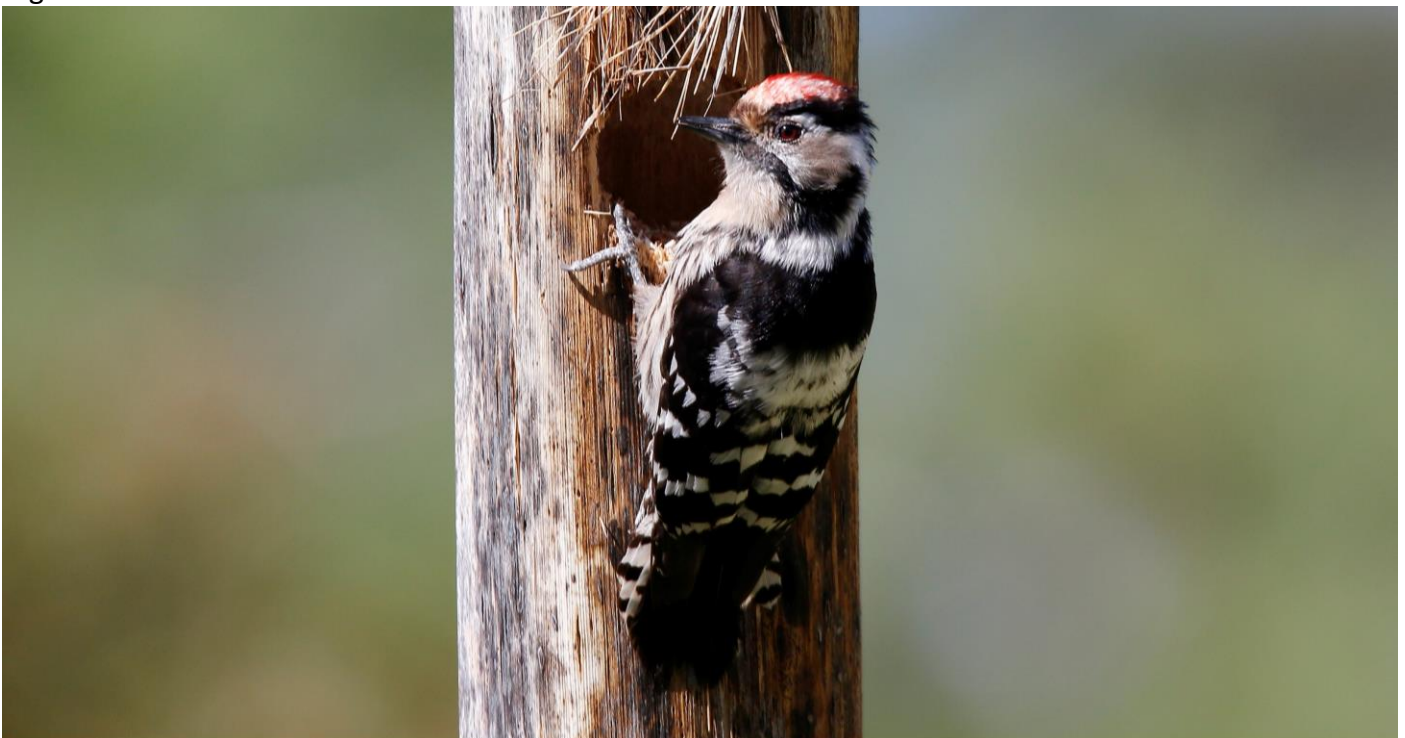
Top – Eurasian Roller

Bottom Sawfly Orchid

In both 2017 & 2018 I visited the Algarve as Easter was late then early providing the opportunity to see a wide variety of species as some of the orchids in particular flower for only a week. 2017 was unseasonably hot with one day reaching in excess of 40 degrees, 2018 in common with the rest of Europe was cooler and had extended/delayed the flowering season for some of the early orchids normally finished by mid-March. This report focuses mainly on the 2018 trip (31st March to 9th April) but locations where other Orchids were seen or notable wildlife are included (15th – 22nd April). Both times staying in self-catering apartments, Casa Rosa, in Moncarapacho who can also arrange car hire with a local company EPI who don't advertise on the car that it's a hire, handy for when you are leaving it in out of the way places!

Casa Rosa, the donkey track and Moncarapacho area

The grounds of the apartments and adjacent scrubland can be highly productive. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker breeds outside the apartment block, Hoopoe, Sardinian Warbler, Iberian Magpie, Woodchat Shrike amongst the birds of the area. 2017 only saw a Small-flowered tongue orchid with Violet Limadore on the roadside going up and over Mte San Michel but for 2018 many more orchids here were still out including Bumblebee, Yellow Bee, Mirror. Clouded Yellow, Scarce Swallowtail and Long-tailed Blue butterflies are regulars in the area too.



Fonte Benemola

Known as the Orchid walk in the Algarve, its essential to park in the lower car park beside the road and walk in to avoid missing many of them. The walk in of 2018 saw Yellow Bee, Sombre Bee, Bumblebee, Mirror, Sword-leaved Helleborine, Man and Naked Man orchids, especially in the area to the right of the dry stone wall. Birds mostly heard rather than seen here but included Greater & Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers. Further up the track beyond the picnic areas both Green Hairstreak & Holly Blue butterflies were in good numbers. In 2017 there some different orchids in flower with Small-flowered Tongue Orchid and Epipactis Tremolsi (helleborine) in the meadow near the houses in 2017 and on the opposite side of the river on the circular walk a small group of Woodcock Orchid.

Barragem de Bravura

A new site visited in 2018 on the recommendation of Sue Parker, the author of the Algarve Orchid book recently published. With the colder spring there was a good chance the impressive Sawfly Orchid would still be out and in all I found 92 spikes right beside the road near the viewpoint overlooking the reservoir, the majority finished for the year but enough in decent condition for photographs with Champagne and the closely related Green-veined Orchids in the same area. The banks around the café also held some Two-

leaved Gennaria still in flower, the best on the track down to the dam. The area was also excellent for birds, Rock Bunting, Crested Tit, Blue Rock Thrush and a flyover Osprey were the highlights the star turn though was an unfamiliar call from behind me while photographing the Gennaria. Expecting it to be a Rock Bunting turning round I was confronted by an Alpine Accentor but with no chance of taking a picture as I had the macro lens fitted and the bird was nearer to my bag than I was so just had to enjoy watching it until it flew off over the cliff edge back towards the dam base despite waiting a further 2 hours an increasing numbers of dog walkers meant I didn't see it again.

Lagoa Salgados

One of the more controversial sites in the Algarve its future seems to be more secure than it looked a few years ago with the Lagoa fenced off and another viewing screen added. In 2017 the coastal section was mudflats, 2018 both were full of water so waders were harder to find, most were favouring the small flashes at the north end when not disturbed by walkers, dogs, horse riders, off roaders and lazy birders driving up to them with their cars etc. Despite that when it was quiet there was a Collared Pratincole, Wood Sandpiper, Ruff, 3 Greater Flamingo, Black-winged Stilt, Black-tailed Godwit, Avocet, 8 Drake Garganey and Snipe while on the water amongst the bathing Yellow-legged Gull were a handful of other gulls including various ages of Audouin's and Mediterranean with a lone juvenile Common Gull.

Foia

The highest point of the Algarve, getting there first thing in 2017 was the best way to explore as it was very busy even by 10.00 in 2018 and many of the birds were elusive when the previous year excellent views of Rock Bunting (below), Blue Rock Thrush, Dartford Warbler, Stonechat, Red-rumped Swallow were much easier when I was the only one around. 2018 did though have some very fresh Swallowtail butterflies around the telephone mast compounds. On the descent in 2017 there were Dense-flowered Orchid & the remains of Early Purple on the uphill bankside after a short but careful walk along the roadside above the Mirador.



Silves

From the large car park to the north of the castle walking the minor roads there were Monarch butterflies, several Subalpine Warblers, Cetti's Warbler, large groups of Waxbill and a small colony of Holly Blue.

Salinas de Olhão

A new site to visit for 2018, being not more than 10 minutes from the apartment, a decision in no way influenced by the presence of only the 2nd mainland record of Spotted Sandpiper in Portugal! It showed well early morning, as did all the birds here so it became a regular spot to visit first thing during the week. Other birds included 9 Greater Flamingo, Little Stint, Dunlin and Greenshank and plenty of Black-winged Stilt. Sardinian Warblers posed nicely for photographs and a Chiffchaff turned out to be an Iberian when it called and sang before later in the week being replaced by a passing Willow Warbler.

Vilamoura, Parc Ambiental

A tricky to find reserve, using the back entrance by the water treatment works was the quickest way to access the hides. Walking down the track Black-headed Weavers were building nests and displaying and a Nightingale was singing from dense undergrowth. Cetti's Warbler showed briefly before rain arrived. Sheltering in the first hide I got chatting to two ex-pat residents, their local knowledge proved invaluable as they gave me information on places to try for bird that have eluded me on previous visits. As the rain eased a pair of Ferruginous Duck emerged from the reeds. Except for common water birds the massive reeds result in reduced viewing, the other hide only producing a fly-over Purple Heron while the walk back to the car had the Nightingale showing well (for a Nightingale) and a couple of Booted Eagle launched from the tall pines.



Quinta do Lago & Ludo salt pans

One of the star locations and regularly visited both years. The San Lourenco golf course with its lakeside hide is one of the best places to easily see Western Swamphen and with patience or an early morning visit, Little Bittern. Morning visits it was best to park at the end of the trackway behind the airport and walking in with the rising sun at your back. Over 100 Greater Flamingo, mainly pale non-breeders were present through the week, 3 Caspian Tern, Osprey, Spoonbill, Whimbrel, Grey Plover, Glossy Ibis, Booted Eagle, a female Hen Harrier and on the final visit a Black-winged Kite were all scattered around the salt pans and salt marsh. Wondering carefully round the golf course produced multiple Hoopoe (below) and several singing Wryneck (easy to dismiss the call as a bird of prey if you are not familiar with it). A long overdue lifer given the number of times I've been in suitable places was a Short-toed Treecreeper. On the lake during the week a pair of Great Crested Grebes paired up, fell out, chased each other and paired up again and in the evenings an Iberian Green Woodpecker was regularly anting on the fairways. On one visit one of the few mammals of the trip was a hedgehog that vanished into the reeds as soon as it appeared. A small group of Eastern Tongue Orchid were in flower on the salt marsh raised track on the 8th



Alentejo region

An hour inland from the Algarve is the Steppe land of the Alentejo. If an area like this existed in the UK, you wouldn't be able to move for birdwatchers and photographers. In the two trips I only saw one or two other people with binoculars or telescopes. Driving the roads around Castro Verde produced all the regional targets, Little Bustard (below) and Great Bustard were seen on the ground and in flight, Montagu's Harrier were plentiful, a Roller was at appropriately Rolao with a pair seen together in another area giving sensational views hunting from fence posts and small bushes right next to the car. A reservoir near Alzeur had Stone Curlew, Short toed Lark, Little Ringed Plover and on the second visit a pair of Collared Pratincole while on the first afternoon passing back through a juvenile and two adult Spanish Imperial Eagles were all soaring together. Bee eater, Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Lesser Kestrel, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Thekla, Crested & Calandra Larks, Black-eared Wheatear and Tawny Pipit were amongst the supporting cast while Corn Bunting and Southern Grey Shrike were everywhere.



West Coast

Visited 3 sites along the west coast, the birds were similar across the three, Cabo San Vicente the south westerly point was visited at first light with Chough, 4 singing male Black Redstart, Alpine and Pallid Swifts. Vale de Telha was an orchid site with Fragrant Bug Orchid in full flower on the 6th, they were over in 2017 as they only last a little over a week. Western Tongue Orchid were out in 2017 but only in bud this time. Violet Carpenter Bees were visiting the snap dragons while a European Paper Wasp was building its intricate nest near the orchids and amongst the scrub a small colony of Black-eyed Blue butterflies. Cabo de Sardao just outside the Algarve was not an originally planned destination but the discovery of a Wallcreeper earlier in the week changed the plans! Arriving at 9am five Portuguese birders had been on site for 2 hours and surprisingly were giving up and leaving, around 11am though a brief flash of crimson red flying across the vertical cliffs was clearly not one of the Black Redstarts. I waved the one remaining birder across and despite the language difficulties over species names got across what I'd seen and where it landed but neither of us could find it again. A rain shower at 11.45 encouraged me to head back to the sunnier Algarve to look for my remaining targets on my last afternoon. Needless to say if I'd stayed and gone back out after the rain I would have got better views of the bird as a check on ebird.org that evening showed that he had photographed it just 30 minutes later in the same area I'd seen it fly into, that's the way it goes sometimes....

Back road from Monchique to Silves

Both the ex-pat birders and those at the Wallcreeper site recommended this route as the best area to track down Eagles, I had already driven this road to Silves earlier in the week but headed back across to this route returning from Cabo Sardao, the onset of torrential rain had ended the first trip early but not before seeing 2 Short-toed Eagles, the second swooping down to perch on the top of a tree within Telescope range as the rain restarted. On that second trip I traversed the section of road between the 'newish' reservoir at Odeluca (it was not on my map purchased in 2010) with its viewpoint and Monchicao at the lower end of the valley three times stopping at several large laybys to scan the hillsides almost certainly seeing the same two Short-toed's again based on their feather moult patterns. Watching one higher up the valley from a big lay-by with a 'bus shelter' a third Eagle came up out of the forest and the two spiralled up quickly to a huge height but it was clearly a different shape. Despite challenging lighting and not getting the telescope on it through the use of modern technology (a massive over exposure on the camera with a wide f-stop) I was able to make out enough detail on the bird to confirm it as an adult Bonelli's the second lifer of the day. Booted Eagle, Kestrel, Buzzard, Iberian Green Woodpecker and the biggest flock of Iberian Magpie (40+) of the trip made for a none too shabby support cast.

Coto Donana, Spain

A longer distance trip as this massive and well known reserve is just around 90 minutes from Faro and the motorways make for an easy journey although I did set out before dawn to get there for first light. Opted not for the signposted route into the park but went through Villamanrique across to the Dehas da Pilas, the website ebird.org and its sightings hotspots proved invaluable for getting co-ordinates for all these areas. This area was still dry after last year's extensive drought but the plan was always to head down the eastern edge of the park to have the light behind me and the numbers of birds started to pick up with Black Kites still roosting in trees and on telegraph posts down the Corredor Verde with the odd Booted Eagle and Buzzard for company. Reaching the bottom corner where the road then turns right to run across the top of the reserve was when the birding took off. Vast numbers of Greater Flamingo, Glossy Ibis, Little & Cattle Egrets were accompanied by Black-crowned Night Heron, while the ditch held a Purple Heron just about every 300 meters and a sleepy Short-eared Owl was sat on a fence post with a very tired looking Turtle Dove only a few fence posts down. Heading west on a very bumpy road you didn't want to be going more than 10kmph anyway to be able to take it all in. Lesser Kestrel, Black-necked Grebe, White Stork, Great Egret, Woodchat Shrike, all types of duck, Spoonbill, Bee eater all joined the day list before reaching the empty carpark of the Valverde visitor centre. I went past without stopping to the bridge by the No through road sign to look over the Cano Guadimar from the bridge. 100s of Glossy Ibis provided a constant flyby with regular Purple Heron overhead while 3 Great Reed Warbler were singing and showing well. With the heat of the day building, the drive in had taken nearly 3 hours and large raptors were taking to the air with close overhead a Griffon Vulture and at the time of the visit a lifer in the form of a juvenile Spanish Imperial Eagle. More vultures were visible in the distance. The visitor centre itself held Stilts and a colony of Night heron. A Savi's Warbler showed briefly in the reed bed but otherwise it seems to be more a stop-off point for the bus tours at the café with maybe 20 vehicles from various companies descending on the centre around 11.30. I'd originally looked at booking in with a tour to boost chances of seeing things but I'm glad I didn't, I never saw one stop to look at anything at any point when I was out, six must have passed me by while I was watching the Eagle and not one stopped to ask what I was looking at. I headed back the same way to avoid joining the 'traffic' before heading across to El Rocio via Villamanrique. With time against me I only visited the first two hides being treated to great views of Ibis and a more distant view of a Squacco Heron. On the main lake by the town some early Gull-billed Terns had arrived. On down to El Acebuche for the final part of the day a party of Bee eaters and a pair of almost certainly Thekla Lark were among the few birds seen although a dung Beetle rolling its ball through the pine forest was actually one of the day's highlights.



Spanish Imperial Eagle – left juvenile, Coto Donana Spain - right adult in Alentejo Portugal

Barranco Velho

The walking track starting behind the church held Heart-flowered Tongue Orchid (below) and a lone *Epipactis lusitanica* in 2017 but no sign of either in 2018.



Over the 9 days of 2018 166 bird species were seen and 13 species of orchid only 6 of which were seen in 2017, with a further 11 different Orchids in 2017. Many of the butterfly species are also found in the UK. A lot of kilometres were covered!

Species lists – Birds, all records from Portugal except those for Coto Donana (Spain)

Greylag Goose – 4th April, single at La Rocina reserve Coto Donana

Shelduck – Olhao Saltpans, Rio Formosa

Gadwall – Common in suitable locations

Eurasian Teal – Rio Formosa

Mallard – Common in suitable locations

Shoveler – Ludo Saltpans

Tufted Duck – Female on Quinta da Lago lake

Common Pochard – Quinta da Lago

Red-crested Pochard – Common in suitable locations

Ferruginous Duck – 2nd April pair at Vilamoura

Red-legged Partridge – seen several times during the week inland

Quail – Heard in Alentejo and at Vilamoura from second hide

Little Grebe – Common in suitable locations

Great Crested Grebe – 2 pairs at Quinta da Lago; Coto Donana

Black-necked Grebe – Coto Donana

Northern Gannet – birds flying north from seen from various west coast locations

Great Cormorant – several locations including Vilamoura

European Shag – Cabo Sardao

Little Bittern – 3rd April Female, 8th April Male Quinta da Lago



Cattle Egret - Common

Little Egret – Common

Great Egret – 4th April 3 at Coto Donana

Grey Heron – 8th April Quinta da Lago

Purple Heron (below) – 2nd April Vilamoura, common in Coto Donana



White Stork (above) – Common, cliff nesting at Cabo Sardao

Glossy Ibis (below) – 3 all week at Quinta da Lago, uncountable numbers in Coto Donana



Eurasian Spoonbill – Common in Ludo Saltpans

Greater Flamingo (above) – 100+ present all week in Ludo Saltpans, large numbers in Coto Donana

Black-winged Kite – 8th April, Ludo Saltpans

Black Kite – Singles in Alentejo region, dozens in Coto Donana

Red Kite – 5th April 2 singles in Alentejo

Griffon Vulture – 4th April single from bridge at Cano Guadimar, Coto Donana
 Short-toed Eagle – 6th & 8th April 2 birds seen on Monchique to Silves 'back road'
 Spanish Imperial Eagle – 4th April, juvenile low overhead from Cano Guadimar (Spain) was the trip highlight, 24 hours later saw a juvenile and two adults together in Alentejo near Ajezur

Bonelli's Eagle – 8th April, single adult seen on Monchique to Silves back road
 Booted Eagle – pairs at Ludo Saltpans and Vilamoura amongst several sites
 Marsh Harrier – 1st April female Lagoa Salgados, 3rd April - 3 coming in to roost at Ludo Saltpans
 Hen Harrier – 3rd April, ringtail coming in to roost at Ludo Saltpans
 Montagu's Harrier (below left) – common in Alentejo region



Common Buzzard – common in suitable locations
 Osprey – 1st April Barragem de Bravura, 3rd April Ludo Saltpans
 Lesser Kestrel (above right) - Common in Alentejo and at Coto Donana
 Common Kestrel – seen occasionally in various locations across Algarve
 Peregrine Falcon – 8th April Cabo Sardoia
 Water Rail – heard at Quinta Da Lago and Vilamoura
 Common Moorhen - Common
 Common Coot - Common
 Western Swamphen (below left) – Quinta da Lago by far the best place to see these, also Coto Donana



Little Bustard – 5th April 3 seen separate singles seen in Alentejo
 Great Bustard (above right) – 5th April 3 seen on the ground, 7th April 6 together in flight all in Alentejo
 Black-winged Stilt - Common
 Pied Avocet – seen at various saltpans during week, biggest group at Tavira

Stone Curlew – 7th April 2 separate birds in Alentejo

Collared Pratincole (below) – 1st April at Lagoa Salgados, 7th April displaying pair in Alentejo



Little Ringed Plover – 5th & 7th April in Alentejo

Ringed Plover – Common at suitable locations on Algarve coast

Kentish Plover – Ludo Saltpans

Grey Plover – Olhao & Ludo Saltpans

Lapwing – 4th April 20+ flushed by Marsh Harrier at Coto Donana

Sanderling – Common at suitable locations on Algarve Coast

Little Stint – 2nd April single Olhao Saltpans

Dunlin – Common at suitable locations

Ruff – 1st April 5 at Lagoa Salgados

Common Snipe – 1st April in flight at Lagoa Salgados

Black-tailed Godwit – 1st April single at Lagoa Salgados, 4th April 12 at Coto Donana

Whimbrel – Common across the Rio Formosa sites

Spotted Redshank – 4th April single at Castro Marim

Common Redshank – Common at suitable locations

Green Sandpiper – 4th April single in ditch near Jose Valverde Visitor Centre in Coto Donana

Wood Sandpiper – 1st April single at Lagoa Salgados

Common Sandpiper – various sites during the week

Spotted Sandpiper – 2nd & 3rd April at Olhao Saltpans, only Portugal's second mainland record

Ruddy Turnstone – common in Rio Formosa

Mediterranean Gull – 1st April, all ages at Lagoa Salgados

Black-headed Gull – 1st April Lagoa Salgados

Common Gull – 1st April Lagoa Salgados

Audouin's Gull – Lagoa Salgados, Ludo Saltpans, Quinta da Lago lake

Lesser Black-backed Gull – 1st April, Lagoa Salgados

Yellow-legged Gull - Common

Gull-billed Tern – 4th April, 4 at El Rocio Lake in Coto Donana

Sandwich Tern – 7th April single at Tavira

Black-bellied Sandgrouse – 7th April 5 in flight in Alentejo

Woodpigeon – seen at various inland sites

Collared Dove - Common

Turtle Dove – 4th April single in Coto Donana

Rock Dove – the usual Ferals around towns, pure looking birds on west coast cliff sites

Great Spotted Cuckoo – 5th & 7th April single in Alentejo in same area, 2 together east of Mertola on 7th



Common Cuckoo – heard 7th April in Alentejo near Aracelli church

Barn Owl – heard nightly in Moncarapacho

Little Owl – 7th April, 2 singles at various rock piles in Alentejo

Tawny Owl – heard nightly in Moncarapacho

Short-eared Owl – 4th April, single trying to sleep on fencepost in Coto Donana, pestered by flies !

Common Swift – Common in lowland areas

Pallid Swift – 6th April 2 at Cabo St Vicente lighthouse

Alpine Swift – 6th April 2 at Cabo St Vicente lighthouse

Bee Eater – 2nd April pair flew over Vilamoura, by 8th April seen or heard daily in good numbers

Eurasian Roller (below) – 5th April 2 together in Alentejo with another single at Rolao on 5th & 7th



Hoopoe – Common, best views at Quinta da Lago where they seem to be more used to people

Great-spotted Woodpecker – 1st April Barragem de Bravura, heard elsewhere

Lesser-spotted Woodpecker – Male all week in Moncarapacho, heard elsewhere
Iberian Green Woodpecker – 1 fed on golf course in evenings at Quinta da Lago
Eurasian Wryneck (below) – 5 seen including 2 together at Quinta da Lago, several more calling



Calandra Lark – 7th April 2 separate birds in Alentejo

Greater Short-toed Lark (below) – 5th & 7th April two seen at same reservoir near Alzeur



Crested Lark - Common

Thekla Lark – Hard to distinguish from Crested. 2 probables in Coto Donana, 1 singing at Pulo de Lubo 7th

Crag Martin – Nest building on roadbridge in Alentejo just south of Mertola

House Martin – Common, Nest building outside window of apartment in Moncarapacho

Barn Swallow - Common

Red-rumped Swallow (below left) – Seen at multiple locations



Tawny Pipit (above right) – 5th April single in Alentejo, 6th pair at Cabo St Vicente

Meadow Pipit – several sites first seen on Foia on 1st

Grey Wagtail – 3rd April single Quinta da Lago

White Wagtail – seen at several locations

Iberian Yellow Wagtail – seen at most coastal sites and Coto Donana

Alpine Accentor – 1st April an unexpected bird at Barragem de Bravura, it had though been a good winter in Algarve for this species

Nightingale – 1st April, vocal singer showed for photographs at Vilamoura, heard regularly driving around

Black Redstart – 6th April, 3 males a female and a juvenile male at Cabo St Vicente, 8th pair at Cabo Sardoa

Stonechat - Common

Black-eared Wheatear – 5th April, singing male at Alzeur reservoir in Alentejo, seen here in 2017 too

Blue Rock Thrush – male at Cabo St Vicente and heard but not seen on Foia (seen 2017)

Common Blackbird - Common

Mistle Thrush – 2nd April Vilamoura 3rd Quinta do Lago

Cetti's Warbler – Common in suitable habitats

Zitting Cisticola (below left) – Common

Savi's Warbler – 4th April singing and briefly seen at Jose Valverde Visitor Centre Coto Donana

Great Reed Warbler (below right) – 4th April, 3 singing and showing at Cano Guadimar Coto Donana



Eurasian Reed Warbler – 1st April singing at Lagoa Salgados
Blackcap – 1st April, apartments carpark, Moncarapacho
Dartford Warbler – 6th Cabo St Vicente, 7th east of Mertola (2017 Foia)
Subalpine Warbler – 1st April Silves
Sardinian Warbler (below) – Very common



Iberian Chiffchaff – 2nd Olhao salt pans
Willow Warbler – 3rd Olhao salt pans
Long-tailed Tit – 31st March Fonte Benemola
Crested Tit – 1st April Barragem de Bravura
Blue Tit – several locations
Great Tit - Common
Short-toed Treecreeper – 3rd Quinta da Lago
Southern Grey Shrike – very common in Alentejo, only a couple of kms between sightings
Woodchat Shrike – Alentejo, common in Coto Donana
Eurasian Jay – around apartments in Moncarapacho, Silves to Monchique back road
Iberian Magpie – If you haven't seen one 15 minutes after leaving airport you've got your eyes shut!
Common Magpie - Common
Red-billed Chough – 6th April Cabo St Vicente
Eurasian Jackdaw – Alentejo and Cabo St Vicente
Raven – Alentejo and Coto Donana
Carrion Crow - Alentejo
Spotless Starling - Common
House Sparrow - Common
Spanish Sparrow – Large colonies in Alentejo, more often heard than seen in roadside trees, Coto Donana
Common Waxbill – 1st April, Silves
Black-headed Weaver – Self-sustaining colonies established at Quinta da Lago and Vilamoura
Chaffinch – La Rocina in Coto Donana
European Serin - Common
Greenfinch – Quinta da Lago
Goldfinch - Common
Common Linnet – Seen at several locations
Rock Bunting – 1st April Barragem de Bravura (seen well early morning 2017 on Foia)
Corn Bunting – Extremely common in Alentejo in particular

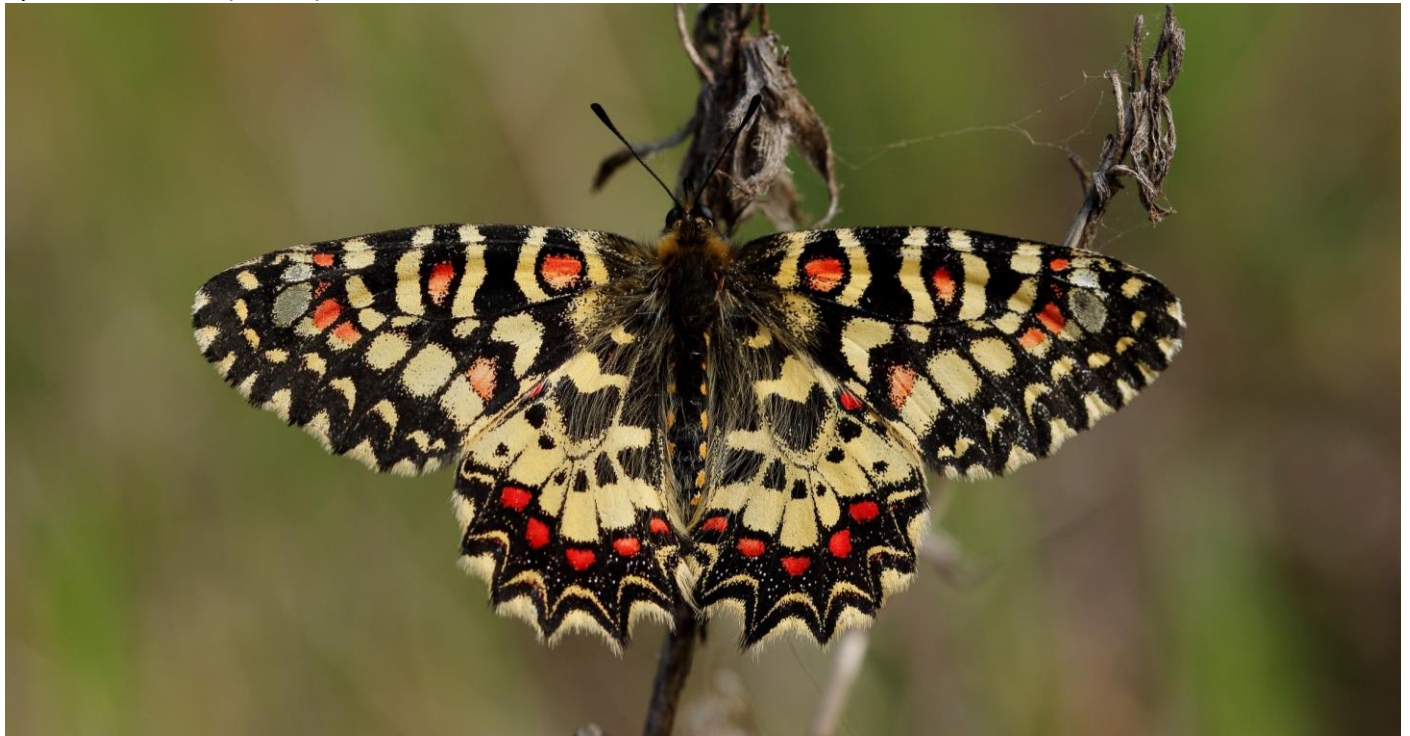
Butterflies 2018 unless stated

Green Hairstreak – 31st March Fonte Benemola, 5th April Vale de Telha

Small Heath – 31st March Fonte Benemola

Small Copper – 3rd April Quinta da Lago

Spanish Festoon (below) – several locations, commoner in 2017



Holly Blue – 31st March Fonte Benemola, 1st April Silves

Continental Swallowtail (below left) – 1st April Foia



Monarch – 1st April Silves

Large White - Common

Green-veined White – Common

Clouded Yellow – Common

Spanish Brown Argus - 16th April 2017 Vilamoura

Scarce Swallowtail - 17th April 2017 Foia

Wall Brown - 17th April 2017 Foia

Lorquin's Blue (above right) – 17th April Foia

Black-eyed Blue (right) – 20th April Vale de Telha

Marsh Fritillary 17th April 2017 Boca do Rio

Common Blue – 20th April 2017 Vale de Telha

Long-tailed Blue – 21st April 2017 Moncarapacho

Small Skipper - 2017



Speckled Wood - 2017
 Spanish Marbled White - 2017
 Bath White - 2017
 Green-striped White – 21st April 2017, Alentejo
 Painted Lady – 21st April 2017 Moncarapacho
 Marsh Fritillary – 2017 - Boca do Rio

Orchids 2018 unless stated

Sword-leaved Helleborine – 31st March Fonte Benemola
 Epipactis lusitanica – 19th April 2017 Barranco Velha
 Epipactis tremolsi - 15th April 2017 Fonte Benemola
 Sombre Bee – 31st March Fonte Benemola
 Bumblebee – 31st March Fonte Benemola, Casa Rosa
 Mirror (top right) – 31st March Fonte Benemola but widespread across region
 Sawfly – 1st April Barragem de Bravura
 Woodcock – 15th April 2017 Fonte Benemola
 Mirror spp lusitanica – 15th April 2017 Fonte Benemola
 Bee – 15th April 2017 Fonte Benemola
 Yellow Bee (bottom right) – 31st March Fonte Benemola, Casa Rosa

‘Eastern’ Tongue spp lingua – 9th April Ludo Saltmarsh
 Heart-flowered Tongue – 15th April 2017 Baranco Velha
 Small-flowered Tongue – 15th April 2017 Baranco Velha
 ‘Western’ Tongue spp duriaei – 20th April 2017 Vale de Telha

Two-leaved Gennaria – 1st April Barragem de Bravura
 Champagne Orchid – 1st April Barragem de Bravura
 Green-winged Orchid – 31st April Fonte Benemola
 Man – 31st March Fonte Benemola
 Naked Man – 31st March Fonte Benemola
 Dense-flowered – 20th April 2017 Roadside to Foia
 Pyramid – 20th April 2017 Quinta da Lago
 Bug Orchid – 5th April Vale de Telha
 Violet Limodore (below) – 19th April 2017 Mte San Michel in Moncarapacho



Selected flowers (date only if not seen both trips)

Tuberaria major (right) – 16th April 2017 Quinta do Lago

Lavandula stoechas (Spanish Lavender) – 15th April 2017 Barranco Velha

Lavandula viridis (Green Lavender) – 15th April 2017 Barranco Velha

Cistanche phelypaea – Quinta do Lago

Lupinus luteus (Yellow Lupin) – Quinta do Lago

Gynandris sisyrinchium (Barbary Nut)

Antirrhinum majus (Snapdragon) – Vale de Telha

Lithodora diffusa (Scrambling Gromwell) – Vale de Telha

Echium creticum – Vale de Telha

Anagallis monelli (Shrubby Pimpernel) – Vale de Telha

Cytinus hypocistis – Vale de Telha

Linaria amethystea – 2018 Cabo St Vicente

Narcissus bulbocodium – 2018 Cabo St Vicente

Narcissus tazetta – 2018 – Algibre river valley walk

Leucojum trichophyllum (3-leaved Snowflake) – 2018 Quinta do Lago

Iris xiphium (Spanish Iris) – Fonte Benemola

Bellardia trixago (white & yellow forms) – 2017 Fonte Benemola & Carrapatiere dunes respectively

Gladiolus illyricus

Prasium majus

Reichardia gaditana

Aristolochia baetica

Asphodelus ramosus

Arum italicum - Moncarapacho

Orobanche foetida – 2017 Carrapatiere dunes

Phelipanche ramosa – 2017 Lagoa Salgados

Muscari comosum (Tassel Hyacinth)



Other wildlife

Iberian Water Frog - Vilamoura

Iberian Sand Lizard - Common

Oil Beetle (right) – Common in 2017

Red-eared Terrapin – 2018 Quinta do Lago

Hedgehog – 2018 Quinta do Lago

Iberian Hare

Dung Beetle (bottom right) – Coto Donana

European Paper Wasp (bottom left) – Vale de Telha

