

Portugal: Fabulous Birding & Culture | Species List

April 6 – 18, 2024 | with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by Pat Lueders, with local guide Antonio Cotaó and participants Allan, Helen, Linda, Carol P., Paul, Jan, Milton, Connie & Carol C.

Our group of nine began our tour of Portugal in the lovely town of Alcochete, about a 30 minute drive across the Vasco Da Gama Bridge, Europe's second longest bridge which spans the Tagus River. For three days we birded the Tagus River estuaries, enjoyed delicious meals, and visited a local winery. We drove south through the scenic Portugal countryside to explore the Alentejo Region visiting the city of Evora, birding the Guadiana Valley Natural Park, and staying in the historical town of Mertola with a guided city tour. After three days, we moved to the coastal region of Algarve, staying in a hotel adjacent to salt marshes providing daily views of a large number of bird species. We experienced perfect weather the entire trip with cool morning temperatures, sunny days, and low humidity. A pelagic trip from Sagres, the western most point of Europe, completed this wonderful trip of birding, dining, and cultural experiences that we would never forget!

TOTAL BIRD SPECIES SEEN OR HEARD: 162

VOTED FAVORITE BIRDS OF THE TRIP: 1.) WOODCHAT SHRIKE 2.) HOOPOE 3.) BLACK-HEADED WEAVER

The eBird link below details the 162 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Portugal: Fabulous Birding & Culture | April 6-18, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

ADDITIONAL SIGHTINGS:

MAMMALS (5):

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*—Seen only once near Mertola

Fallow Deer *Dama dama*—Scope views of a small herd near Mertola

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*—Seen in the same area as the fallow deer

Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*—Quite a few of these small dolphins followed our boat on the pelagic

Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*—Exciting to see these large dolphins swim with our boat on the pelagic from Sagres and then compare their large size with the smaller Common Dolphins seen later

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (5):

Mediterranean Turtle *Mauremys leprosa*: Seen in the ponds on the golf course walk at Rio Formosa

European Pond Turtle *Emys orbicularis*—This interestingly patterned endangered turtle was seen in a pond on the golf course in Rio Formosa with a Mediterranean Turtle for a nice comparison

Iberian Green Frog *Pelophylax perezi*—Heard many times around ponds

Green Iberian Wall Lizard *Podarcis virescens*—Seen on a tree in Alcochete

White Italian Snails—Seen at most locations on plants and walls