

ALGARVE 17 to 30th SEPTEMBER 2017

Observer IAIN BROWN

Main areas birded were the area surrounding the village of Pinheiro just west of Tavira. Our cottage overlooked part of the Ria Formosa. There are a number of old tidal salt pans close to the village and I concentrated around these as well as those at Fuzeta and Olhao just up the coast towards Faro. One day trips to Castro Marim near the Spanish border and the salt pans around Ludo, near Faro airport. One hour token sea watch.



1	Shelduck	The only place seen were on one of the salt pans at Ludo
2	Mallard	Most common duck seen in any suitable habitat
3	Gadwall	Second most common duck in any suitable habitat
4	Pintail	2 seen Quinta de Marim at Olhao
5	Shoveler	This is a regular winter visitor in large numbers and generally can be found at any of the salt pans. however only seen at Ludo and Castro Marim
6	Wigeon	Started to arrive with reasonable numbers at Ludo



7	Teal	Very few but seen in small numbers at Ludo and also Pinheiro
8	Red Legged Partridge	Small parties in suitable habitats
9	Black Necked Grebe	1 summer plumage seen
10	Little Grebe	A few about, with the highest numbers seen at Ludo
11	Great Crested Grebe	Only one seen at Ludo

12	Gannet	One hour sea watch produced a number of gannets (10) flying east to west
13	Cormorant	One or two only
14	Cattle Egret	Common on farm land with parties of 20 or 30 at a time
15	Little Egret	Common on the marsh land and estuaries and salt pans
16	Great White Egret	None seen which surprised me
17	Grey Heron	Common on the marshy land, estuaries and salt pans
18	White Stork	Fairly numerous on both farm land and salt pans
19	Spoonbill	Common on the marsh land and estuaries and salt pans
20	Greater Flamingo	Common on salt pans
21	Osprey	2 seen, Same birds found on their preferred observation posts for the whole 14 days. One at Pinheiro and one at Fuzeta
22	Eagles !!!!	Several seen but unable to identify in time
23	Kestrel	One seen at Pinheiro
24	Water Rail	5 or 6 seen or heard, in any marshy area
25	Moorhen	Heard more often than seen but common enough
26	Coot	High numbers in specific places, around the salt pans at Olhao and Ludo in particular
27	Oystercatcher	Present but not high numbers
28	Avocet	Common



29	Stone Curlew	One seen at Castro Marim
30	Ringed Plover	Very common
31	Kentish Plover	Common
32	Grey Plover	Common most noticeable call heard in the evening
33	Knot	Only a few seen at Pinheiro
34	Sanderling	Very common
35	Turnstone	Common
36	Dunlin	Most common bird seen
37	Curlew Sandpiper	Fairly common, often giving great close views on the salt pans



37	Curlew Sandpiper	Fairly common, often giving great close views on the salt pans
38	Little Stint	Good numbers seen - they all seemed to be winter plumage adults, no juv.
39	Common Sandpiper	Very common
40	Green Sandpiper	4 or 5 seen
41	Redshank	Common
42	Greenshank	Fairly common
43	Spotted Redshank	One seen at Ludo
44	Bar-tailed Godwit	Seen in small numbers
45	Black-tailed Godwit	Common on Salt pans
46	Curlew	Only one or two seen
47	Whimbrel	Very common
48	Ruff	Only one or two seen
49	Snipe	One seen at Pinheiro
50	Great Skua	One seen during sea watch
51	Black Headed Gull	Very common
52	Yellow Legged Gull	Common
53	Lesser Black Backed Gull	Very common
54	Mediterranean Gull	Common on beach
55	Slender Billed Gull	Common in certain areas, Fuzeta and Olhoa, parties of up to 40 at a time
56	Audouin's Gull	Regular flocks at Olhao of 50+ birds
57	Little Tern	only one seen at Tavira on river towards the Fort
58	Sandwich Tern	Maybe 30-40 seen all along the coast, small numbers at roost
59	Caspian Tern	Only one seen at Ludo
60	Feral Pigeons	Everywhere, many people keep birds for racing
61	Wood Pigeon	Not many seen at all, maybe 10-15 at most
62	Collard Dove	Was very surprised just how many there were, they were everywhere
63	Little Owl	Common seen mostly at night
64	Ned Necked Nightjar	Seen along the dirt roads at night, a few seen
65	Hoopoe	Common

66	Kingfisher	Common on the marsh land and estuaries and salt pans
67	Green Woodpecker	Often Heard and quite common
68	Great Spotted Woodpecker	2/3 seen in suitable habitats
69	Wryneck	3/4 seen in variety of places
70	Crested Lark	Very common
71	Sand Martin	20 or so seen, but the least common of this group of birds seen
72	House Martin	Common
73	Swallow	Fairly common
74	Red-rumped Swallow	Very common
75	Yellow Wagtail	A lot of fly overs and where they were seen on the ground they seemed to be all <i>flava</i>
76	Grey Wagtail	One seen on dry river bed in the Tavira area
77	Nightingale	One found in Pinheiro. Seen most days as it was faithful to a particular are of shrub and small trees near a marshy area
78	Bluethroats	5 seen, 3 near Pinheiro, one at Olhao and one Castro Marim. All of them were extremely flighty never showing fully before disappearing into thick cover
79	Redstart	5/6 seen in coast area around Pinheiro
80	Wheatear	fairly numerous on both farm land and salt pans
81	Whinchat	Reasonable number seen
82	Stonechat	Common seen all over the place
83	Blackbirds	Common only thrush seen
84	Whitethroat	One seen at Pinheiro
85	Sardinian Warbler	Most common warbler seen everywhere
86	Subalpine Warbler	Surprised how many I saw. Particularly in late evening around Pinheiro. 8-10 found, some great males which seemed to show characteristics of the western sub species. Noticeable thin white moustache and deep brick red wash over chest and flanks
87	Sedge Warbler	Only one found around Pinheiro
88	Fan-tailed Warbler	Extremely common





89	Cetti's Warbler	Good number heard
90	Melodious Warbler	One found in Pinheiro.
91	Willow Warbler	Just surprised how many small groups of 3/4 I found. They were almost everywhere where a plant that look like wild Fennel grew.
92	Chiffchaff	Very few seen at all
93	Spotted Flycatcher	Good numbers seen in suitable areas but not as common as Pied
94	Pied Flycatcher	Fairly common but they were all females types. Never saw a male bird and I must have come across 40+ birds
95	Great Tit	Several seen may be 3/4
96	Blue Tit	Only one seen at Pinheiro
97	Long Tailed Tits	One party of 6 seen in Pinheiro
98	Great Grey Shrike	Only one around Pinheiro
99	Woodchat Shrike	Juv. found on the last night at Pinheiro
100	Azure-winged Magpie	Common on farm land with parties of 20 or 30 at a time
101	Magpie	Common with one party of 26 birds
102	Jay	Common mostly heard
103	Spotless Starling	Fairly common
104	House Sparrow	Common ever where
105	Linnet	Not uncommon seen mainly on farmland
106	Goldfinch	Seen in small numbers
107	Greenfinch	Several small groups seen around villages
108	Serin	Seen in suitable areas but not calling, generally quite
109	Corn Bunting	Several seen in the Castro Marim area
110	Common Waxbill	Very common