

Trip Report — Beyond the Ports of Portugal: A Birds & Wine Tour 2025

May 4-15, 2025 with Marcelo Padua & Pedro Moreira



The Douro Valley terraced vineyards are considered a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Photo by participant Victoria Stacey.

Even though cities like Porto and Lisbon have become famous tourist destinations and are now crawling with tourists, much of Portugal remains off the beaten path and this country is still one of Europe's hidden gems. Our tour started in the bustling city of Porto with a visit to two of the main Porto wine lodges (that's where the wine gets aged) and some easy birding along the mouth of the Douro River. This was fun, but the real Portugal drew us inland as we made our way up the Douro, with breathtaking views of the terraced vineyards that have made this place a UNESCO World Heritage

Site, with Black Kites flying bellow eye level and Eurasian Tree-sparrows nesting on ancient trees that adorned the manicured gardens of Quinta da Pacheca, where we had a beautiful lunch paired with some excellent wines and followed by some wonderful Port.



European Roller is always a crowd pleaser. Photo by participant Jeff Stacey.

A scenic drive got us to Castelo Rodrigo, a picturesque medieval village that would be our home for the next two days and from where we would explore some of Portugal's wildest regions in the Douro International Natural Park and at Faia Brava reserve. These places offered us some magnificent views of Eurasian Griffon, Egyptian Vulture, Blue Rock Thrushes, and many others, while we enjoyed a couple of unforgettable picnic lunches paired with fabulous wines.

Next we turned south and made our way to Portalegre, where we visited a family-run winery headed by one of Portugal's greatest wine experts. This was a one-night stop to break the journey southward, but we picked up some

great birds, including Cinereous Vulture, Short-toed Snake-Eagle, and Red Kite. We continued our journey south and made a wonderful stop that yielded great birds such as Eurasian Spoonbill, Melodious Warbler, European Bee-eater, Common Nightingale, and Booted Eagle before reaching Mertola.



Egyptian Vulture is increasingly rare, but the Douro Internacional is a great place to see them. Photo by participant Roger Frieden.

Mertola is a fascinating town with layers and layers of history, and even our hotel had an archeological dig right in the middle of the lobby. From there, we explored a variety of habitats that produced some world-class birding, with species like Great Bustard, Eurasian Roller, Red-legged Partridge, Western Black-eared Wheatear, and some memorable sightings of Spanish Eagle. It is no wonder that this is one of the best birding areas in Europe.

Our tour concluded at the beautiful Casa de Palmela, where we treated ourselves to incredible accommodations and enjoyed some fabulous shorebird action, with more Dunlins, Ruddy Turnstones, and Common Ringed

Plovers than we could count, mixed in with less common birds such as the Kentish Plovers, Curlew Sandpipers, and Red Knots. We also explored the forests adjacent to our lodging and found Iberian Chiffchaff, Eurasian Nuthatch, and even a Tawny Owl.



Woodpeckers are scarce on this tour, but participant Roger Frieden captured this great shot of a Great Spotted Woodpecker.

This was a fabulous trip, with a wonderful group, and I really loved sharing the hidden wonders of Portugal with each of you. I hope our paths cross once more somewhere and we get to do it again.

Listed below you will find the wines we sampled on our tour and hopefully you can find some of them back at home.



Participant Jeff Stacey captured this great shot of a Tawny Owl at Casa de Palmela.

WINERY, WINE, VINTAGE, REGION, TYPE OF WINE

Graham's, Six Grapes, No Vintage, Porto, Port

Graham's, Late Bottled Vintage, 2019, Porto, Port

Graham's, Tawny Port, 10 Years. Porto, Port

Symington Family Estates, Altano Naturalmente Douro, 2021, Douro, White Wine

Quinta do Vesuvio, Pombal do Vesuvio, 2021, Douro, Red Wine

Graham's, Tawny Port, 20 Years. Porto, Port

Calem, Fine White, No Vintage. Porto, Port

Calem, Tawny, 10 Years, Porto. Port

Sogevinus, Curva Douro DOC, 2023, Douro, White Wine

Bursmester, Douro DOC, 2022, Douro, Red Wine

Kopke, Tawny, 20 Years, Porto. Port

Pacheca, Douro Superior, 2023, Douro, White Wine

Pacheca, Douro Superior, 2022, Douro, Red Wine

Pacheca, Tawny Port, 20 Years. Porto, Port

Pacheca, Reserva, 2023, Douro, White Wine
Pacheca, Grande Reserva TN, 2022, Douro, Red Wine
Altano, Rewilding Edition, 2022, Douro, Red Wine
Quinta dos Castelares, Vinho Biologico, 2024, Douro, White Wine
Quinta dos Castelares, Vinho Biologico, 2024, Douro, Red Wine
Casa Agricola Manuel Joaquim Caldeira, Fronteira Reserva, 2023, Douro Red Wine
CARM, Vinha da Urze, 2023, Douro, White Wine
Quinta de Vale de Pios, Vale de Pios, 2019, Douro, Red Wine
Cabecas do Reguengo, Respiro Flower, 2021, Alentejo (Portalegre). White Wine
Cabecas do Reguengo, Equinocio, 2023, Alentejo (Portalegre). White Wine
Cabecas do Reguengo, Solsticio, 2022, Alentejo (Portalegre). Red Wine
Teixeirinha, Poupeiro, 2022, Alentejo (Portalegre). White Wine
Tapada do Chaves, Tapada do Chaves Reserva, 2017, Alentejo (Portalegre). Red Wine
Blandy's, Bual Madeira Dry, 5 years, Madeira, Fortified Wine
Esporao, Reserva, 2022, Alentejo. White Wine
Herdade da Maroteira, Senhor Doutor, 2022, Alentejo, Red Wine
Herdade da Bombeira, Chardonnay, 2022, Alentejo, White Wine
Herdade da Bombeira, Mario Grande Escolha, 2021, Alentejo, Red Wine
Aveleda, Loureiro e Alvarinho, 2022, Vinho Verde, White Wine
Herdade da Poupá, Poupá Reserva, 2022, Alentejo, Red Wine
Frederick Von S., Conde de Mertola, 2017, Alentejo, Red Wine
Henrique Uva, Mingorra Reserva, 2019, Alentejo, Red Wine
Herdade Malhadinha Nova, Peceguina, 2023, Alentejo, White Wine
Monge e filhas, Encostas de Serpa Reserva, 2023, Alentejo, White Wine
Francisco Fernandes Garcia, Convento da Tomina, 2023, Alentejo, Red Wine
Herdade Da Bombeira, Reserva, 2022, Alentejo, Red Wine
Herdade Da Bombeira, Escolha Touriga Nacional, 2022, Alentejo, Red Wine
Bacalhoa, Moscatel de Setubal, No Vintage, Alentejo, Fortified Wine
Herdade dos Grous, Reserva, 2023, Alentejo, White Wine
Herdade dos Grous, Reserva, 2016, Alentejo, Red Wine
Herdade dos Grous, Reserva, 2019, Alentejo, Red Wine
Aveleda, Solos de Xisto, 2021, Vinho Verde, White Wine

Companhia das Leizirias, Tyto Alba, 2020, Alentejo, White Wine
Casa Ermelinda Freitas, Sauvignon Blanc, 2024, White Wine
Susana Esteban & Dirk Niepoort, Sem Vergonha, 2021, São Mamede
(Alentejo), Red Wine
Aveleda, Arco D'aguieira, 2017, Bairrada, Red Wine
Alambre, Moscatel de Setubal 20 years, No Vintage, Alentejo, Fortified Wine
Quinta do Pessegueiro, Pessegueiro Reserva, 2023, Douro, White Wine
Quinta do Pessegueiro, Pessegueiro Reserva, 2022, Douro, Red Wine
Aveleda, Quinta D'aguieira Brut, No vintage, Bairrada, Sparkling Wine



On our way south to Mertola we made a birding stop, and participant Roger Frieden captured this lovely shot of a Eurasian Spoonbill.

You can see my complete trip report on eBird at this link: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/437841>

You can download a combined PDF of this page and the eBird report at this link: <https://fieldguides.com/triplists/por25TRIPLIST.pdf>

-- Marcelo Padua



Field Guides Birding Tours -- Beyond the Ports of Portugal: A Birds & Wine Tour 2025 (with Marcelo Padua)



4 – 15 May 2025 (12 days) Link-only



Portugal | Spain Subregions

Marcelo Padua



For a narrative summary of this tour, including a Field Guides photo gallery and additional media for this trip...

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Species Observed










Checklists






















LIFERS  1 

Species Observed
























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| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 3 | Egyptian Goose <i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i> * | ▶  3 |
| 4 | Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> | ▶  2 |
| 14 | Gadwall <i>Mareca strepera</i> | ▶  6 |
| 47 | Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | ▶  9 |
| 2 | Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Green-winged Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> | ▶  1 |
| 6 | Marbled Duck <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i> | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Red-crested Pochard <i>Netta rufina</i> | ▶  2 |
| 2 | Ferruginous Duck <i>Aythya nyroca</i>  | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Common Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> | ▶  2 |
| 8 | Red-legged Partridge <i>Alectoris rufa</i> | ▶  4 |
| 79 | Rock Pigeon <i>Columba livia</i> * | ▶  7 |
| 35 | Common Wood-Pigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i> | ▶  6 |
| 1 | European Turtle-Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> | ▶  1 |
| 28 | Eurasian Collared-Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | ▶  13 |
| 28 | Black-bellied Sandgrouse <i>Pterocles orientalis</i> | ▶  2 |
| 6 | Great Bustard <i>Otis tarda</i> | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Little Bustard <i>Tetrax tetrax</i> | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Common Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i> | ▶  3 |
| 4 | Alpine Swift <i>Tachymarptis melba</i> | ▶  1 |
| 47 | Common Swift <i>Apus apus</i> | ▶  9 |















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|-----|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 2 | Pallid Swift | <i>Apus pallidus</i> | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Eurasian Moorhen | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | ▶  3 |
| 6 | Eurasian Coot | <i>Fulica atra</i> | ▶  4 |
| 30 | Black-winged Stilt | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> | ▶  3 |
| 25 | Pied Avocet | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Black-bellied Plover | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> | ▶  1 |
| 100 | Common Ringed Plover | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> | ▶  2 |
| 4 | Little Ringed Plover | <i>Thinornis dubius</i> | ▶  2 |
| 4 | Kentish Plover | <i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i> | ▶  2 |
| 32 | Eurasian Whimbrel | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> | ▶  2 |
| 2 | Eurasian Curlew | <i>Numenius arquata</i> | ▶  2 |
| 2 | Black-tailed Godwit | <i>Limosa limosa</i> | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Long-billed Dowitcher | <i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i> | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Common Sandpiper | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> | ▶  1 |
| 78 | Ruddy Turnstone | <i>Arenaria interpres</i> | ▶  2 |
| 3 | Red Knot | <i>Calidris canutus</i> | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Curlew Sandpiper | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Sanderling | <i>Calidris alba</i> | ▶  1 |
| 430 | Dunlin | <i>Calidris alpina</i> | ▶  3 |
| 13 | Collared Pratincole | <i>Glareola pratincola</i> | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Audouin's Gull | <i>Ichthyaelus audouinii</i> | ▶  1 |
| 547 | Yellow-legged Gull | <i>Larus michahellis</i> | ▶  4 |
| 5 | Lesser Black-backed Gull | <i>Larus fuscus</i> | ▶  3 |
| 30 | Little Tern | <i>Sternula albifrons</i> | ▶  3 |

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| 2 | Whiskered Tern | <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i> | ▶  1 |
| 4 | Sandwich Tern | <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i> | ▶  1 |
| 60 | Greater Flamingo | <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i> | ▶  1 |
| 8 | Little Grebe | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | ▶  4 |
| 6 | Great Crested Grebe | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> | ▶  4 |
| 78 | White Stork | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> | ▶  12 |
| 15 | Great Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | ▶  6 |
| 33 | Glossy Ibis | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> | ▶  4 |
| 5 | Eurasian Spoonbill | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> | ▶  3 |
| 1 | Little Bittern | <i>Botaurus minutus</i> | ▶  1 |
| 10 | Little Egret | <i>Egretta garzetta</i> | ▶  6 |
| 140 | Western Cattle-Egret | <i>Ardea ibis</i> | ▶  6 |
| 2 | Great Egret | <i>Ardea alba</i> | ▶  2 |
| 4 | Gray Heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | ▶  4 |
| 4 | Purple Heron | <i>Ardea purpurea</i> | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Black-winged Kite | <i>Elanus caeruleus</i> | ▶  1 |
| 4 | Egyptian Vulture | <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> | ▶  4 |
| 3 | Cinereous Vulture | <i>Aegypius monachus</i> | ▶  2 |
| 46 | Eurasian Griffon | <i>Gyps fulvus</i> | ▶  11 |
| 4 | Short-toed Snake-Eagle | <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> | ▶  3 |
| 6 | Booted Eagle | <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i> | ▶  5 |
| 6 | Spanish Eagle | <i>Aquila adalberti</i> Sensitive | ▶  2 |
| 2 | Golden Eagle | <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> | ▶  1 |

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| 5 | Western Marsh Harrier | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> | ▶  4 |
| 4 | Montagu's Harrier | <i>Circus pygargus</i> | ▶  3 |
| 2 | Red Kite | <i>Milvus milvus</i> | ▶  1 |
| 5 | Black Kite | <i>Milvus migrans</i> | ▶  5 |
| 9 | Common Buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> | ▶  8 |
| 2 | Little Owl | <i>Athene noctua</i> | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Tawny Owl | <i>Strix aluco</i> | ▶  1 |
| 10 | Common Hoopoe | <i>Upupa epops</i> | ▶  9 |
| 12 | European Bee-eater | <i>Merops apiaster</i> | ▶  6 |
| 1 | Common Kingfisher | <i>Alcedo atthis</i> | ▶  1 |
| 11 | European Roller | <i>Coracias garrulus</i> | ▶  4 |
| 2 | Eurasian Wryneck | <i>Jynx torquilla</i> | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Great Spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos major</i> | ▶  1 |
| 13 | Eurasian Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | ▶  11 |
| 2 | Peregrine Falcon | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | ▶  2 |
| 8 | Eurasian Golden Oriole | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i> | ▶  4 |
| 1 | Iberian Gray Shrike | <i>Lanius meridionalis</i> | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Woodchat Shrike | <i>Lanius senator</i> | ▶  3 |
| 4 | Eurasian Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> | ▶  2 |
| 17 | Iberian Magpie | <i>Cyanopica cooki</i> | ▶  9 |
| 7 | Eurasian Magpie | <i>Pica pica</i> | ▶  7 |
| 12 | Eurasian Jackdaw | <i>Coloeus monedula</i> | ▶  1 |
| 8 | Carrion Crow | <i>Corvus corone</i> | ▶  7 |

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| 4 | Common Raven | <i>Corvus corax</i> | ▶  4 |
| 1 | Coal Tit | <i>Periparus ater</i> | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Crested Tit | <i>Lophophanes cristatus</i> | ▶  1 |
| 8 | Eurasian Blue Tit | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> | ▶  4 |
| 8 | Great Tit | <i>Parus major</i> | ▶  6 |
| 4 | Wood Lark | <i>Lullula arborea</i> | ▶  3 |
| 1 | Eurasian Skylark | <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | ▶  1 |
| 9 | Thekla's Lark | <i>Galerida theklae</i> | ▶  2 |
| 4 | Crested Lark | <i>Galerida cristata</i> | ▶  4 |
| 3 | Greater Short-toed Lark | <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> | ▶  2 |
| 3 | Calandra Lark | <i>Melanocorypha calandra</i> | ▶  1 |
| 28 | Zitting Cisticola | <i>Cisticola juncidis</i> | ▶  11 |
| 1 | Melodious Warbler | <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i> | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Common Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Great Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> | ▶  2 |
| 13 | Bank Swallow | <i>Riparia riparia</i> | ▶  5 |
| 40 | Eurasian Crag-Martin | <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i> | ▶  5 |
| 36 | Barn Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | ▶  10 |
| 204 | Western House-Martin | <i>Delichon urbicum</i> | ▶  11 |
| 9 | European Red-rumped Swallow | <i>Cecropis rufula</i> | ▶  6 |
| 2 | Western Bonelli's Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i> | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Iberian Chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i> | ▶  1 |
| 6 | Cetti's Warbler | <i>Cettia cetti</i> | ▶  5 |

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| 5 | Eurasian Blackcap | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> | ▶  4 |
| 12 | Sardinian Warbler | <i>Curruca melanocephala</i> | ▶  9 |
| 4 | Western Subalpine Warbler | <i>Curruca iberiae</i> | ▶  3 |
| 3 | Greater Whitethroat | <i>Curruca communis</i> | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Dartford Warbler | <i>Curruca undata</i> | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Common Firecrest | <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i> | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Eurasian Nuthatch | <i>Sitta europaea</i> | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Short-toed Treecreeper | <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i> | ▶  3 |
| 4 | Eurasian Wren | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | ▶  4 |
| 37 | Spotless Starling | <i>Sturnus unicolor</i> | ▶  18 |
| 2 | Crested Myna | <i>Acridotheres cristatellus</i> * | ▶  2 |
| 3 | Mistle Thrush | <i>Turdus viscivorus</i> | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Song Thrush | <i>Turdus philomelos</i> | ▶  1 |
| 16 | Eurasian Blackbird | <i>Turdus merula</i> | ▶  7 |
| 3 | European Robin | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | ▶  3 |
| 8 | Common Nightingale | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> | ▶  7 |
| 10 | Black Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> | ▶  4 |
| 5 | Blue Rock-Thrush | <i>Monticola solitarius</i> | ▶  4 |
| 18 | European Stonechat | <i>Saxicola rubicola</i> | ▶  11 |
| 1 | Western Black-eared Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe hispanica</i> | ▶  1 |
| 14 | Yellow-crowned Bishop | <i>Euplectes afer</i> * | ▶  2 |
| 1 | Common Waxbill | <i>Estrilda astrild</i> * | ▶  1 |
| 2 | Dunnock | <i>Prunella modularis</i> | ▶  2 |

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| 62 | House Sparrow | <i>Passer domesticus</i> | ▶  17 |
| 18 | Spanish Sparrow | <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i> | ▶  4 |
| 2 | Eurasian Tree Sparrow | <i>Passer montanus</i> | ▶  1 |
| 1 | Rock Sparrow | <i>Petronia petronia</i> | ▶  1 |
| 7 | Western Yellow Wagtail | <i>Motacilla flava</i> | ▶  4 |
| 9 | White Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba</i> | ▶  8 |
| 7 | Common Chaffinch | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | ▶  5 |
| 6 | European Greenfinch | <i>Chloris chloris</i> | ▶  4 |
| 3 | Eurasian Linnet | <i>Linaria cannabina</i> | ▶  2 |
| 17 | European Goldfinch | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | ▶  9 |
| 17 | European Serin | <i>Serinus serinus</i> | ▶  11 |
| 35 | Corn Bunting | <i>Emberiza calandra</i> | ▶  9 |
| 6 | Rock Bunting | <i>Emberiza cia</i> | ▶  4 |
| 2 | Cirl Bunting | <i>Emberiza cirlus</i> | ▶  2 |




EXOTIC: PROVISIONAL

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|---|------------------|----------------------|---|
| 2 | Mute Swan | <i>Cygnus olor</i> * | ▶  1 |
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EXOTIC: ESCAPEE

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 4 | Graylag Goose | <i>Anser anser</i> * | ▶  1 |
| 3 | Indian Peafowl | <i>Pavo cristatus</i> * | ▶  1 |

ADDITIONAL TAXA

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|---|
| 1 | old world vulture sp. | <i>Accipitridae sp. (old world vulture sp.)</i> | ▶  1 |
| 1 | falcon sp. | <i>Falco sp.</i> | ▶  1 |
| 1 | lark sp. | <i>Alaudidae sp.</i> | ▶  1 |