

Azores

Trip report 6-20 February 2001

The following birds were seen by *Bo Carlsson* and *Staffan Rodebrand* on a birdwatching trip to the Azores in February 2001. Most of the rarer birds were captured on photo and video.

Itinerary: Sao Miguel on 6-7th and 17-20th, Flores on 7-12th, Faial on 12-17th with full day trips to Pico on 13th and 15th.

Weather: Most of the days with overcast, and a few days with rain. We were unable to check the lakes in the highlands some days due to heavy fog. The winds were shifting (never from east), but strong only on the first days. According to the local inhabitants this winter has been very cold and rainy.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*. Faial: 1, 1-st winter Horta 16/2.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*. Sao Miguel: 1, Lagoa das Furnas 19/2.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*. Seen from all islands but in small numbers. Highest daily total about 200.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*. Faial: 2, Horta 17/2. Sao Miguel: 1, Moisteros 18/2.

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*. Sao Miguel: 3, Ponta Delgada 7/2.

Northern Gannet *Sula bassana*. Sao Miguel: 10 or more (5, 1-st winter) Moisteros 18/2.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*. Flores: 2, 1-st winter Santa Cruz das Flores 7-12/2. Pico: 1, 1-st winter Ilhéub Deitado, Madalena 13 and 15/2.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*. Sao Miguel: 9, 18/2. Coming in from west at Ponta Delgada harbour, resting first on boats, then on buildings before continuing eastwards.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*. Sao Miguel: 1, Moisteros 6 and 18/2, 1, Lagoa Azul 18/2, 1, Ponta Delgada 19/2. Flores: 1, Santa Cruz das Flores 7, 9, and 11/2. Pico: 1, Madalena 15/2.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*. A few seen on all 4 islands. Daily totals up to 10.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*. Flores: 1, female Lajes das Flores 11/2.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas Penelope*. Flores: 2, male and female Lagoa Branca 10/2. Pico: 2, male and female Lagoa do Capitaó 13/2, and the male still there on 15/2.

American Wigeon *Anas Americana*. Flores: 1 male plus 3 females, Lagoa Branca 11/2.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*. Flores: 1, male Lagoa Seca 10-11/2.

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes*. Flores: 5, Lagoa Seca 10-11/2. (Also up to 7 **Mallard x Black Duck** hybrids *Anas platyrhynchos x Anas rubripes* there).

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*. Sao Miguel: 2, male and female Lagoa Azul 6 and 18/2. (Same two birds were there in Nov. 2000).

Hooded Merganser *Mergus cucullatus*. Flores: 1, female Lagoa Branca 10-11/2.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*. Faial: 1, male Horta 16-17/2.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*. Common on all visited islands, except Flores.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. Flores: 1, Lajes das Flores 11/2.

European Coot *Fulica atra*. Sao Miguel: 4, Lagoa Azul 6 and 18/2. 2, Lagoa das Furnas 19/2. Pico: 1, Lagoa do Capitaó 13 and 15/2.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*. Pico: 1, Lajes do Pico 13 and 15/2.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*. A few seen on all islands except Flores. Daily totals up to 9.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*. Flores: 1, Santa Cruz das Flores 11/2.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*. Flores: 1, Santa Cruz das Flores 7/2.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*. Pico: 9, west of Lagoa do Caiado 15/2.

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*. Flores: 1, east of Fajazinha 9/2.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*. A few seen on all visited islands. Daily totals up to 3. (We could not find any birds of the American *hudsonicus* race).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. Sao Miguel: 1, Lagoa Azul 6/12. Pico: 1, Porto da Prainha 13/2.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*. The only common wader. Seen on all visited islands. Daily totals up to 70.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*. Sao Miguel: 1-3, daily off Ponta Delgada 7, 17-20/2. 5 or more, Moisteros 18/2. Faial: 1, Horta 12/2 and 16 or more off Horta 17/2.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*. Flores: 28, Lagoa Rasa 11/2. Sao Miguel: 100, Ponta Delgada 17/2. 140 there 18/2, and 5 there 19/2.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*. Flores: 1, 1-st winter Faja Grande, and 1 adult Santa Cruz das Flores 9/2. 1 adult, and 2, 1-st winter Lagoa Rasa 10/2. 2, 1-st winter Santa Cruz das Flores, and 1 adult Lagoa Rasa 11/2. Faial: Up to 6 (at the same time) 1-st winter birds at Horta 12-17/2. Sao Miguel: 1, 1-st winter, Ponta Delgada 18/2.

Yellow-legged (Herring) Gull *Larus cachinnans atlantis*. Common on all visited islands. (We could not find any 1-st winter birds of the American *smithsonianus* race, but there were a few (5-10, 1-st winters and adults) paler birds of *argentatus*-type).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*. Flores: 1, 1-st or 2nd winter Lagoa Rasa 10-11/2. Pico: 1, 1-st winter Madalena 13 and 15/2. Sao Miguel: 1, 1-st winter, Ponta Delgada 17-19/2

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*. A few seen on all visited islands. Daily totals up to 6.

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*. Sao Miguel: 5-25, off Ponta Delgada 6, and 17-19/2. Faial: 20, off Horta 17/2.

Feral (and Rock) Dove *Columba livia*. Common on all visited islands.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*. Common on all islands, except Flores.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*. Common on all visited islands.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*. Common on all islands, except Flores.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*. Common on all visited islands.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*. Common on all visited islands.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*. A few seen on all visited islands. Daily totals up to 10.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. Common on all visited islands.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. Common on all visited islands.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*. Common on all visited islands.

Canary *Serinus canaria*. Common on all visited islands.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*. A few seen on all visited islands, except Faial. Daily totals up to 5. (We did not take the time to check on the Azores Bullfinches this visit).

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