

Birds in the Azores November 14-28, 2005 (a trip-report).

Participants:

Ingegerd and Staffan Rodebrand, Sweden.

Itinerary:

Nov. 14: Arrived in afternoon to São Miguel by charter flight from Sweden. Late afternoon and evening birding at Ponta Delaga harbour.

Nov. 15: Morning flight to Terceira, and late afternoon flight from Terceira to Flores. About five hours of birdwatching in Terceira at Cabo da Prahia and in Praia da Vitoria (harbour and ponds). From Santa Cruz, Flores, by rental car (via Lagoa Branca and a Great Blue Heron) to Aldeia da Cuada where we rented a small cottage (€40/day).

Nov. 16: Birding at Ponta Delgada, Santa Cruz, Lagoa Branca and around Faja Grande.

Nov. 17: Birding around Faja Grande, the southern crater lakes, and Lajes.

Nov. 18: Birding around Faja Grande, and Lajes (where a yellowish wood-warbler disappeared at the harbour creek yesterday).

Nov. 19: Birding around Lagoa Lomba, Santa Cruz and Ponta Delgada.

Nov. 20: Birding around Faja Grande, Lajes, and Santa Cruz.

Nov. 21: Birding at Lagoa Branca and Santa Cruz. Returned the rental car (€348 for 6 days, rental cars are expensive on Flores!). Mid day flight to Corvo (5-10 minutes!). Checked in at Commodore guesthouse (€45 for a double, breakfast and packed lunch inclusive). Transport by owner Manuel Rita up to the end of the low road. Birding the way back to Vila do Corvo.

Nov. 22: Transport by Manuel up to the crater and then to the end of the low road. Birding the eastern valleys/creeks most of the day (one short glimpse of a warbler with wing-bars), and birding the fields around the village in late afternoon/evening.

Nov. 23: Transport by Manuel up to Rebeiro da Ponta, where birding until check out and early afternoon flight to São Miguel (via Faial). From Ponta Delgada with rental car to Mosteiros where we rented a small house (€40/day).

Nov. 24: Birding Sete Cidades area most of day, and Ponta Delgada harbour in the evening.

Nov. 25: Birding Sete Cidades in the morning and Ponta Delgada harbour in the evening. (Large part of the day at Museu Carlos Machado and library.)

Nov. 26: Birding Sete Cidades in the morning, Furnas area in the day, and returning to Mosteiros via Nordeste and northern coast of São Miguel, birding en route.

Nov. 27: Birding Sete Cidades area most of day, and Ponta Delgada harbour in the evening.

Nov. 28: Last check at Sete Cidades before returning the rental car at the airport (€199, for 5 days), and charter flight back home.

Bird list:

The following reeding and/or common species were seen, but are not mentioned in the list below: Cory's Shearwater (most around Flores), Common Buzzard, Turnstone, Yellow-legged Gull (*atlantis*), Common Tern, Rock (Feral) Dove, Woodpigeon, Grey Wagtail, European Robin, Blackbird, Blackcap, Goldcrest, Starling, House Sparrow, Chaffinch, Canary, Greenfinch (Sete Cidades), and Goldfinch.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*: 1 at Lagoa Branca, Flores, 2005-11-21. 1 male at Lagoa das Furnas, São Miguel, 2005-11-26 (Photo). 1 at Lagoa Azul/Verde, São Miguel, 2005-11-27 to 2005-11-28 (Photo).

American Wigeon *Anas americana*: 1 female at Praia Vitoria ponds, Terceira 2005-11-15. 2 imm./female at Lagoa Branca, Flores 2005-11-16, 1 there 2005-11-21. 1 imm./female at Lagoa Azul/Verde, São Miguel, 2005-11-24, and 2005-11-25.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*: 1 imm./female at Lagoa Lomba, Flores, 2005-11-19.

Teal *Anas crecca/carolinensi*: 7 at Lagoa Branca, Flores 2005-11-16, 3 at Lagoa Verde/Azul, São Miguel, 2005-11-24, and 1 there 2005-11-27. 74 at Lagoa das Furnas, São Miguel, 2005-11-26

European Teal *Anas crecca*. 1 at Lagoa das Furnas, São Miguel, 2005-11-26.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*: 12 at Lagoa das Furnas, São Miguel, 2005-11-26.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*. 1 male at Ponta Delgada harbour, São Miguel, 2005-11-14 to 2005-11-27. 1 female at Lagoa das Furnas, São Miguel, 2005-11-26. 1 female at Lagoa Verde/Azul, São Miguel, 2005-11-27.

Black Duck *Anas rubripes*: 1 at Poco da Alagoinha (south of Faja Grande), Flores 2005-11-18. At Lagoa Branca, Flores at least 7 hybrids *Anas rubripes x platyrhynchos* 2005-11-16 (SR).

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*: 3 at Lagoa Azul/Verde, São Miguel, 2005-11-24 to 2005-11-27 (Photo). 1 at Lagoa das Furnas, São Miguel, 2005-11-26. 4 at Poco da Alagoinha (south of Faja Grande), Flores 2005-11-18.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*: 1 female at Lagoa Azul/Verde, São Miguel 2005-11-24 to 2005-11-27 (Photo). 1 male at Lagoa das Furnas, São Miguel 2005-11-26.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*: 7 at Lagoa Azul/Verde, São Miguel, 2005-11-24 to 2005-11-28 (Photo). 3 at Poco da Alagoinha (south of Faja Grande), Flores 2005-11-18.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*: 1 at Lagoa Azul/Verde, São Miguel 2005-11-24 to 2005-11-27 (Photo). 1 at Lagoa das Furnas, São Miguel, 2005-11-26 (Photo).

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*: 3 at Lagoa Azul/Verde, São Miguel, 2005-11-24 to 2005-11-27 (Photo)

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*: 1 seen at Cabo da Praia 2005-11-15.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*: 1 at Lagoa Azul/Verde, São Miguel, 2005-11-24 to 2005-11-28 (Photo).

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus*: 1 at Faja Grande, Flores, 2005-11-17 (Photo).

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*: 1 juvenile at Ponta Delgada harbour, São Miguel, 2005-11-27 (Photo).

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: 1 Ponta Delgada harbour, São Miguel, 2005-11-27 (Photo)

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*. 1-2 birds seen São Miguel (Mosteiros and Ponta Delgada), and on Flores (Faja Grande and Santa Cruz).

(American) Great Egret *Egretta alba egretta*: 1 at Lagoa das Furnas, São Miguel, 2005-11-26 (Photo).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*. Single birds (up to 6 per day) seen on all 4 visited islands.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*: 1 at Lagoa Branca, Flores, 2005-11-15 to 2005-11-21 (Photo).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*: 1 at Corvo, 2005-11-21 to 2005-11-23.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. 6 in Praia da Vitoria ponds, Terceira, 2005-11-15, and up to 6 at Lagoa Azul, São Miguel.

Coot *Fulica atra*. 1 in Praia da Vitoria ponds, Terceira, 2005-11-15. 1 in Lajes, Flores, 2005-11-20. Around 15-20 in Lagoa Azul and Lagoa das Furnas respective, São Miguel.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. 3 at Cabo da Praia, Terceira 2005-11-15.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*: 1 at Cabo da Praia, Terceira 2005-11-15 (Photo). 1 at Ponta Delgada old soccer field, Flores 2005-11-19 (Photo).

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*: 1 east of Ponta do Albarnaz, Flores, 2005-11-19 (Photo).

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*: At least 40 at Cabo da Praia, Terceira 2005-11-15.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*: 3 at Cabo da Praia, Terceira, 15/11. 1 at Ponta Delgada harbour, São Miguel, 2005-11-27.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*: At least 30 at Cabo da Praia, Terceira, 2005-11-15.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*: 1 at Cabo da Praia, Terceira, 2005-11-15.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*: 2 at Cabo da Praia, Terceira 2005-11-15.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*: 1 at Cabo da Praia, Terceira 2005-11-15 (Photo).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*: 2 at Cabo da Praia, Terceira, 2005-11-15.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*: 1 at Santa Cruz, Flores, 2005-11-19 (Photo).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*: 1 at Cabo da Praia, Terceira, 2005-11-15.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*: 1 at Cabo da Praia, Terceira, 2005-11-15.

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*: 1 at Fajazinha, Flores, 2005-11-20.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*: 1 at Cabo da Praia, Terceira, 2005-11-15.

Whimbrel *Numenius p. phaeopus*: 1 at Cabo da Praia, Terceira, 2005-11-15, and 1 at Faja Grande, Flores, 2005-11-20.

Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius p. hudsonicus*: 1 at Corvo, 2005-11-22 (Photo).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: 1 at Lagoa Azul, São Miguel, 2005-11-24.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*: 1 juvenile at Lajes, Flores, 2005-11-17 to 2005-11-20 (Photo).

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*: At least 9 (3 ad, 3 2nd winter and 3 1st winter) at Ponta Delgada harbour, São Miguel, 2005-11-14 (Photo), and 6 there 2005-11-24 to 2005-11-25. 1 ad at Santa Cruz, Flores, 2005-11-16 and 2005-11-20. 1 ad at Lajes, Flores 2005-11-18.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan*: 1 adult at Ponta Delgada harbour, São Miguel, 2005-11-14. 1 first winter at Ponta Delgada harbour, São Miguel, 2005-11-27.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*: Single birds seen on all islands.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*: 1 ad at Santa Cruz, Flores 2005-11-19. 1 first-winter at Faja Grande (Photo), and 1 second winter at Lajes (Photo), Flores respectively 2005-11-20. 1 ad at Ponta Delgada harbour, São Miguel (Photo), 2005-11-24 to 2005-11-27.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graellsii*: Up to 12 in Ponta Delgada harbour, São Miguel.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*: Up to 3 in Ponta Delgada harbour, São Miguel.

American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus*: 2 (1 st winter and 1 2nd winter) at Ponta Delgada harbour, São Miguel 2005-11-14, and 1 first-winter there 2005-11-24 to 2005-11-25. 2 first-winter at Lagoa Rasa, Flores, 2005-11-17. 2 first-winter at Santa Cruz, Flores, 2005-11-20.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*: 1 1st winter at Lagoa Rasa, Flores 2005-11-17 (Photo).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*. Up to 5 (1 adult and 4 first winters) on Flores, and 2 first winter birds in Ponta Delgada harbour, São Miguel.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*: 1 at Cabo da Praia, Terceira, 2005-11-15.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*: 1 at Sete Cidades, São Miguel, 2005-11-24 to 2005-11-25 (Photo).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*: 1 at Sete Cidades, São Miguel, 2005-11-25.

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus*: 1 first-year on Corvo, 2005-11-23 (same bird as on 22-23rd October?).

Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina*: 1 on Corvo, 2005-11-21.

Black-throated Blue Warbler *Dendroica caerulescens*: 1 female on Corvo, 2005-11-23 (same area as the bird earlier this autumn).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*: 1 at Ponta Delgada, Flores, 2005-11-19.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*: 1 first-winter male at Lagoa Lomba, Flores, 2005-11-19.

Escapes:

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*: At least 1 in Ponta Delgada, São Miguel.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*. At least 16 at Sete Cidades, São Miguel, 2005-11-24
(The species seems increasing and is nowadays probably a permanent breeder).