

Azores

Trip report Oct. - Nov. 2004

Birds seen on a trip to Terceira 25 Oct. – 1 Nov., and Sao Miguel 1-8 Nov. 2004.

Bird watching:

I was bird watching most days but not full days, since I had brought along much writing work that had to be done. No real sea-watching was done, and I did not visit the area for the Azores Bullfinch. The quarry at Cabo da Praia was visited 26-27/10, and 29/10-1/11.

Weather:

Overcast and rain most of the first week, and mostly sunny (except in the mountains and crater lakes) in the second week.

Digiscoping:

Poor light and long distance often made it difficult to get acceptable photos. Most of the rare birds were documented, and some of them can be seen on this website (seawatching.net).

Common species:

Cory's Shearwater, Common Buzzard, Turnstone, Yellow-legged Gull (*atlantis*), Rock (Feral) Dove, Woodpigeon, Grey Wagtail, European Robin, Blackbird, Blackcap, Goldcrest, Starling, House Sparrow, Chaffinch, Canary, and Goldfinch.

Other birds:

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*. 1 adult at Porto Judeo 28/10.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*. 1 1y in Lagoa das Furnas 3/11 and 5/11.

European Teal *Anas crecca*. 3 in Lagoa Azul 2/11, and 1 in Lagoa das Furnas 5/11.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*. 1 (probably of this form) in Lagoa Seca (just E Lagoa das Furnas) 3/11, and 5/11.

Gargany *Anas querquedula*. 1 in Lagoa Seca 3/11, and 5/11.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*. 2 at Cabo da Praia 29/10, and 31/10, 2 in Lagoa Seca 3/11, and 5/11, 1 in Lagoa das Furnas 3/11, and 1 in Lagoa Azul 4/11 and 7/11.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*. 1 1y at Cabo da Praia 31/10.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*. 1 female in Lagoa das Furnas 3/11, and the same bird in Lagoa Seca 5/11.

Common Porchard *Aythya ferina*. 1 female in Praia da Vitoria 26/10-1/11, and 1 pair in Lagoa Azul 4/11 and 7/11.

Black Scoter *Melanitta nigra*. 1 1y at Cabo da Praia 29/10.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*. 1 singing at Ponta Delgada airport 25/10, and 2 seen at Cabo da Praia 31/10.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*. 1 in Lagoa Azul 2/11, and 4/11.

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*. 2 at Cabo da Praia 26/10.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*. 1 at Praia da Vitoria 26/10.

Snowy/Little Egret *Egretta thula/garzetta*. 1 in the harbour at Angra do Heroismo 28/10, and 1/11. Only seen at a distance (yellow feet, yellow back on tarsi and around knees) chased away by adult Little Egret that held territory in the area. Possible the same bird as in Praia da Vitoria.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*. 1 adult held territory at Angra do Heroismo 25/10-1/11. 1 younger bird at Cabo da Praia 27/10. 1 in Ponta Delgada most days, and 2 in flooded fields between Lagoa das Furnas and Lagoa Seca 3/11, and 1 in Lagoa das Furnas 5/11.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*. Single birds around Praia da Vitoria, and up to 8 both in Lagoa das Furnas, and in Sete Cidades area.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*. 1 at Cabo da Prahia 27/10, and probably the same at Baiha das Mos 28/10.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. Up to 7 in Praia da Vitoria, 1 in Lagoa do Ginjal 27/10, and up to 4 in Lagoa Azul.

Coot *Fulica atra*. 1 in Prahia da Vitoria 27-30/10, 43 in Lagoa Azul, and 22 in Lagoa das Furnas.

American Coot *Fulica americana*. 1 in Lagoa das Furnas 3/11 and 5/11.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. Up to 4 at Cabo da Prahia.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*. 1 adult at Cabo da Prahia.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*. Up to 120 at Cabo da Prahia.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*. 1 at Cabo da Prahia 26/10 and 30/10, and 6 at Ilheu da Mina 31/10.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*. 2 at Cabo da Prahia.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*. Up to 80 at Cabo da Prahia.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*. 1-2 at Cabo da Prahia.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*. 5-6 at Cabo da Prahia.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*. 1 1y at Cabo da Prahia.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*. 2 at Cabo da Prahia.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*. 1 at Vila Franca do Campo 5/11, and 2 at Ponta Delgada 6/11, and 8/11.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*. 1 at Cabo da Prahia.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*. 1 at Cabo da Prahia 29/10 and 1/11, and 3 there 30/10.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*. 3 at Cabo da Prahia 26/10, and 2 there 1/11.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*. 2 at Cabo da Prahia 26-27/10, and 1 there 30/10. 2 at Ponta Delgada 6/11.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*. Up to 5 at Cabo da Prahia, and singles on a number of costal sites on both islands. All birds of the European race.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. 2 at Cabo da Prahia 26/10, and 1 there 27/10, 30/10 and 1/11. 1 at Lagoa Azul 2/11.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*. 1 at Cabo da Prahia.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*. Highest number seen on Terceira were about 10 at Lagoa da Junco 27/10 and at Cabo da Prahia 30/10. Up to 60 were seen in the harbour at Ponta Delgada coming in to the harbour in the evenings.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*. 1 1y in the harbour of Ponta Delgada in the evening 7/11.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graellsii*. Up to 5 at Cabo da Prahia, up to 10 in Ponta Delgada, and single birds on a few other sites.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*. Up to 3 among Yellowlegged Gulls at Cabo da Prahia.

American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus*. 1 1y at Cabo da Prahia 31/10.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*. 1 1y at Cabo da Prahia 31/10, and 1 1y at Ponta Delgada 6/11, and 8/11.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*. 1 1y at Cabo da Prahia 1/11.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*. Up to 35 in Cabo da Prahia, up to 15 in Angra do Heroismo, and up to 100 in Ponta Delgada..

Forster's Tern. *Sterna forsteri*. 1 1y intensely fishing at Cabo da Prahia in the evening of 31/10.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*. In a group of 7-8 1y Chlidonias at Lagoa das Furnas 3/11 and 5/11 at least 4, but probably more, and maybe all were of this species. If not they

would be White-winged Black Terns *Chlidonias leucopterus*.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*. 1 at Lagoa Azul 2/11 and 4/11.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*. 1 at Lagoa Azul 2/11.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*. 2 at Praia da Vitoria 31/10.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*. 1 in Praia da Vitoria 26/10, and 1 south of Fontinhas 29/10.

Staffan Rodebrand, Trollbo 1020, 38791 Borgholm, Sweden. E-mail: rodebrand@yahoo.com