

Azores

Trip report 14-28 October 2002

The following birds were seen on a birdwatching trip together with my wife Ingegerd to the Azores in October 2002.

Itinerary: Arriving to Sao Miguel in the afternoon of the 14th, spending the 15th at Sete Cidades area and Mosteiros, then leaving for Terceira in the morning of the 16th,. We visited Cabo da Praia the 16th (sunshine) and the morning of the 17th (rain). Due to bad weather no flights to Flores for four days, and we stayed in Horta (Faial) for three nights 18-21th. Birdwatching in Horta (when weather allowing) most of the time, and visited Pico one day, touring around the checking all the lakes and the Lajes do Pico area (20th). After two nights on Flores (21-23rd), the last days were spent on Sao Miguel (we stayed in Sete Cidades).

Weather: Most of the days with overcast and rain, and many days also very windy. We only had one whole day with sunshine (the 16th).

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*. Seen from all shores. Mostly flying birds, but also a number of resting flocks on the sea. Highest daily total about 3000.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*. Single birds passing Horta 18 and 19/10, and 4 at Mosteiros 27/10.

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*. 1 at Mosteiros 15/10 and 2 passing Horta 19/10.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*. 6 1cy at Porto Pim, Faial 18 and 21/10, 5 (1 adult and 4 1cy – at least one of these not seen on Faial) at Ilhéu Deitado, Madalena, Pico 20/10, 4 1cy at Santa Cruz das Flores 21/10, 3 there 22/10, and 2 there 23/10.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*. 1 at Madalena 20/10, and 2 at Ponta Delgada harbour 25/10.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*. Up to 4 in the Sete Cidades area, 3 at Lajes do Pico 20/10, and 1 at Lagoa Branca 22/10.

Wigeon sp. *Anas penelope/americana*. 2 1cy at Lagoa da Lomba 22/10.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*. 1 1cy at Lagoa do Peixinho 20/10.

Teal/Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca sp.* 1 at Cabo da Praia 16-17, 3 near Landroal 20/10, and 16 at Lagoa Branca 22/10.

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes*. 10 at Lagoa Seca 22/10.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*. 1 1cy at Lagoa da Lomba 22/10, and probably the same bird at Lajes das Flores 23/10.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*. 2 at Lagoa do Peixinho 20/10, and 2 at Lagoa da Lomba 22/-2310.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*. 1 female at Lagoa da Lomba 22/-2310.

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*. 1 1cy of *hudsonius* type at Lagoa Branca 22/10.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*. 1-10 seen on Sao Miguel, Faial, and Pico.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*. 2 at Cabo da Praia 16/10.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. 1 in the pond in Praia da Vitória 16-18/10, and up to 3 in Lagoa Azul.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*. 1 at the beach in Praia da Vitória 16/10.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. 5 at Cabo da Praia 16-17/10.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*. 1 1cy Cabo da Praia 16-17/10.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*. Common at Cabo da Praia 16-17/10.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*. 1 1cy at Cabo da Praia 17/10.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. 1 1cy at Ponta Delgada, Flores 21-22/10.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*. 4 at Cabo da Praia 16/10, and 3 there 17/10.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*. Common at Cabo da Praia 16-17/10, 1 at Ponta Delgada harbour 14/10, 3 in Horta harbour, and 8 in Madalena harbour 20/10.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*. 1 1cy at Cabo da Praia 16/10, and 2 1cy there 17/10. 1 1cy at Lagoa Rasa 22/10.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*. 1 1cy at Cabo da Praia 16/10.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*. 1 1cy Cabo da Praia 17/10.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*. At least 5 (4 1cy and 1 adult) at Cabo da Praia 16/10, and 3 there 17/10.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*. 2 1cy at Cabo da Praia 16/10.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*. 1 1cy at Cabo da Praia 17/10.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*. 3 at Cabo da Praia 16/10, and 2 there 17/10.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*. 1 at Cabo da Praia 16-17/10, and 1 in Horta harbour 19/10.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*. 4 at Lagoa da Lomba 22/10, and 2 there 23/10.
Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*. 1 at Cabo da Praia 17/10.
Whimbrel *Numerius phaeopus*. Daily totals up to 12 (most birds at Cabo da Praia). (We could not find any birds of the American *hudsonicus* race).
Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. 2 at Lajes do Pico 20/10, 1 at Lagoa Branca 22/10, and 1 at Lagoa Azul 24-28/10.
Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*. 1 1cy at Cabo da Praia 16-17/10, 1 adult in Praia da Vitória 18/10, 1 1cy at Porto Pim, Faial 21/10, and 1 1cy at Lago Azul 25-28/10.
Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*. Common.
Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*. 1 passing Horta 19/10.
Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia*. 1 1cy (one leg damaged) in Horta harbour 20/10.
Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*. 1 in Praia da Vitória 16/10, 1 in Horta harbour 18-20/10, and 1 at Santa Cruz das Flores 22/10.
Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*. Up to 5 in Ponta Delgada harbour, Sao Miguel.
Yellow-legged (Herring) Gull *Larus cachinnans atlantis*. Common. As least 700 in Lagoa Azul in the evening of 26/10.
Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*. 1 1cy in Horta harbour 18-20/10.
Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*. 1 at Ponta Delgada harbour, Sao Miguel 25/10.
Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*. 1 adult at Horta 18/10.
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*. Common. At least 100 in Praia da Vitória, and 200 in Horta harbour.
Little/Least Tern *Sterna albifrons/antillarum*. 1 1cy at Lajes das Flores 23/10.
Feral (and Rock) Dove *Columba livia*. Common.
Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*. Common on Sao Miguel.
Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*. 5 at Ponta Delgada 14/10.
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*. Common.
European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*. Rather common.
Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*. 1 1cy at Cabo da Praia 16/10, up to 4 on Flores 21-23/10.
Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*. 1 1cy at Lagoa Rasa 22/10.
Blackbird *Turdus merula*. Common.
Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*. Common.
Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*. Rather common on Pico, Flores and Sao Miguel.
Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. Common.
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. Common.
Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*. Common.
Canary *Serinus canaria*. Common.
Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*. Up to 4 at Sete Cidades.
Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*. Up to 40 at Sete Cidades.

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