

# Azores

## Trip report 11-19 September 2001

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The following birds were seen by Bo Carlsson and Staffan Rodebrand on a birdwatching trip to the Azores in September 2001.

Itinerary: Arriving to Terceira late in the evening of the 10th, and leaving in the morning of the 19th. Short stops at Cabo da Praia, Terceira on the 11th and 18th. Most time were spent on Flores 11-18th.

Weather: Most of the days with overcast inland (a few rain-showers), but mostly sunshine on the coasts. The winds were from S or SE.

**Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea*. Seen from all shores. Mostly flying birds, but also a number of resting flocks (up to several hundred individuals) on the sea. Highest daily total about 5000.

**Great Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis*. Several hundreds seen from shores in Flores, mostly migrating in a south-southwesterly direction, but also resting flocks on the sea. Most birds were passing on the east side of Flores (over 100 per hour, with a maximum of 3 hours seawatching per day).

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*. 5 passing Santa Cruz das Flores 11/9, and 1 on 12 and 14/9 respective.

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*. Daily totals up to 20 passing Santa Cruz das Flores.

**Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis*. Daily totals up to 20 passing Santa Cruz das Flores.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*. 1 in Praia da Vitória 18 and 19/9.

**American Black Duck** *Anas rubripes*. Flores: 3, Lagoa Seca 12-17/9. (Also 7 mallard x Black Duck hybrids *Anas platyrhynchos* x *Anas rubripes* there).

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*. 1 female at Cabo da Praia 11/9, and probably the same bird in Praia da Vitória 19/9.

**Common Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*. Up to 10 heard and seen at Cabo da Praia, and at the airport in Terceira 11 and 18/9.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*. Up to 7 (including juveniles; probably two pairs) in the pond in Praia da Vitória 18 and 19/9.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*. 4 Cabo da Praia 11/9, and 3 there 18/9. In Flores 1 at Faja Grande 14/9, and 1 at the airport in Santa Cruz das Flores 14-16/9.

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*. 1ad Cabo da Praia 11 and 18/9.

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*. Common at Cabo da Praia 11 and 18/9.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*. 1 Cabo da Praia 18/9.

**Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*. 2 Cabo da Praia 11 and 18/9.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*. Common at Cabo da Praia 11 and 18/9. Up to 6 daily on Flores.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla*. 1 1cy Cabo da Praia 18/9.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*. 2 Cabo da Praia 11 and 18/9.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*. 1 1cy Cabo da Praia 11/9, and 2 there (1cy + ad) 18/9.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*. 3 Cabo da Praia 11/9, and 2 there 18/9.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*. 1 1cy Cabo da Praia 11/9 and one on the airfield in Santa Cruz das Flores 16-18/9.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*. 1 Cabo da Praia 11/9, and 2 there 18/9.

**Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago delicata*. 1? Lagoa Seca 13/9. This snipe showed a number of identification criteria (including white-black banded outer tail feather) for this species/subspecies?

**Eurasian Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*. 1 east of Fajazinha 14/9.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*. 2 Cabo da Praia 18/9.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*. Daily totals up to 8. (We could not find any birds of the American hudsonicus race).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*. 1 Cabo da Praia 11 and 18/9. 1 Lagoa Branca 12/9.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*. Common.

**Sabine's Gull** *Larus sabini*. 1 adult passed Santa Cruz das Flores 14/9.

**Yellow-legged (Herring) Gull** *Larus cachinnans atlantis*. Common.

**American Herring Gull** *Larus smithsonianus*. 1 1cy at Ponta Delgada, Flores 17/9.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*. 1 adult, Lagoa Rasa 15/9.

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*. 1 adult Ponta Delgada, Flores 13/9, and 5 at sea outside Cabo da Praia 18/9.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*. Common.

**Feral (and Rock) Dove** *Columba livia*. Common.  
**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*. A few on Terceira.  
**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*. Common.  
**European Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*. A few on Terceira.  
**Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*. 1 1cy at Cabo da Praia 18/9.  
**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*. Common.  
**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*. Common.  
**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*. 1 at Faja Grande 15/9.  
**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*. Daily totals up to 10 on Flores.  
**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*. Common.  
**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*. Common.  
**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*. Common.  
**Canary** *Serinus canaria*. Common..  
**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*. Up to 4 at Ponta Delgada, Flores.

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