

Birds in the Azores, January 13- February 14, 2006 (a trip-report).

By Staffan Rodebrand

Itinerary:

January 13-16: São Miguel (SM)
January 16-18: Terceira (T)
January 18-20: Graciosa (G)
January 20-22: Faial (Fa)
January 23: Pico (P)
January 24-25: Faial
January 25-30: Corvo (C)
January 30-February 11: Flores (Fl)
February 11-13: Terceira
February 13-14: São Miguel

Bird list:

The following breeding and/or common species were seen, but are not mentioned in the list below: Cory's Shearwater (most around Flores, with a maximum of 2.500 passing Ponta Delgada in 3 hours one day), Common Buzzard, Turnstone, Yellow-legged Gull (*atlantis*), Rock (Feral) Dove, Woodpigeon, Grey Wagtail, European Robin, Blackbird, Blackcap, Goldcrest, Starling, House Sparrow, Chaffinch, Canary, Greenfinch, and Goldfinch. In case of some rarer birds (normally less than 100 on the Azorean list) photo documentation are marked (Photo).

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*: 1 male at Lagoa Verde (SM) 13-15/1 and 14/2, 7 at Lagoa do Caiado (P) 23/1, 3 (male + 2 females) at Caldeirão (C) 27/1, 1 female in Praia da Vitoria ponds (T) 12-13/2

European Teal *Anas crecca*: 38 at Lagoa das Furnas (SM) 14/1 (plus 63 unidentified Teals *Anas crecca/carolinensis*), a pair at Lagoa Seca (Fl) 2-6/2. 3 males in temporary pools south of Lagoa Seca 2006-02-08. One male at Lagoa Seca, and 8 males in the temporary pools (plus altogether 8 unidentified females *Anas crecca/carolinensis*). 2 unidentified females in Praia da Vitoria ponds 13/2

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*: 4 at Lagoa das Furnas (SM) 14/1, 1 male at Lagoa Seca (Fl) 6/2 and 10/2 (Photo), and the same in temporary pools further south 2006-02-08.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*. 1 male at Ponta Delgada (SM) 13-15/1, and 8 (of domestic type?) at Caldeirão (C) 27/1

Black Duck *Anas rubripes*: 1 female at Lagoa Seca (Fl) 2/2, 1 female plus 1 first-winter there 8/2, and 1 female/first-winter in Lagoa Funda (Fl) 6/2.

Hybrid Black Duck *Anas rubripes* x *Anas platyrhynchos*: At least 2 males at Caldeirão (C) 27/1, and 2 males at Lagoa Seca (Fl) 31/1-8/2

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*: 1 female at Caldeirão (C) 27/1 (Photo)

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*: A pair at Lagoa Verde (SM) 13-15/1 and 14/2 (Photo), 3 first-winters at Lagoa Seca (Fl) 2/2 and 4 there 6/2. 1 of them in Lagoa Seca, and 3 in temporary pools further south 8/2

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*: 7 (3 males, 4 females) at Lagoa Verde (SM) 13-15/1 and 14/2 (Photo), 4 (2 males and 2 females) at Poço da Alagoinha (Fl) 9/2

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*: A pair at Lagoa Verde (SM) 13-15/1 and 14/2 (Photo), and one pair at Lagoa das Furnas (SM) 14/1

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*: One pair at Praia da Vitoria ponds 16-18/1 (Photo), and 12-13/2

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*: 2 first-winters at Lagoa Verde (SM) 13/1

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*: 1 adult male at Ponta Delgada (SM) 14/2 (Photo)

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*: 1 at Pico das Terças, and 1 at Serra Branca (G) 19/1 (Photo)

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*: 2 SW Ribeira Grande (SM) 14/1, 1 at Cabo da Praia 16-17/1, 2 at Praia da Vitoria ponds 13/2

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*: 1 adult winter at Praia da Vitoria bay (T) 16-17/1, and also one first-winter there 17/1, 1 at Santa Cruz (G) 18/1 (Photo), 1 at Madalena (P) 23/1, and 1 at Fajã Grande (Fl) 8/2, 1 adult (Photo) and 1 first-winter Praia da Vitoria (T) 12/2

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*: 1 at Lagoa Verde (SM) 13-15/1 and 14/2 (Photo), 1 at Lagoa das Furnas (SM) 14/1, 1 at Lajes do Pico (P) 23/1 (Photo), and 1 at Lagoa Funda (Fl) 6-8/2 (Photo)

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*: 1 at Furna d'Água reservoir (T) 17/1 (Photo), and 12/2

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*: 8 passing Mosteiros (SM) 15/1, and 1 Ponta Delgada (Fl) 1/2, and (Fl) 10/2

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis baroli*: 1 passing Mosteiros (SM) 15/1

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*: 15 at Mosteiros (SM) 15/1, 3 at Ponta Delgada (Fl) 1/2, 4 at Santa Cruz (Fl) 7/2

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*: 1 first-winter at Madalena (P) 23/1

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: 1 at Ponta Delgada (SM) 15/1

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*: 1 (or a hybrid?) at Ponta Delgada 13/1, (Photo)

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: Seen on all islands except for Corvo and Faial; up to 4 (SM), 2 (T), 2 (G), 2 (P), and 1 (Fl).

(American) Great Egret *Egretta alba egretta*: 1 at Lagoa das Furnas (SM) 14/1 (Photo)

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*. A few birds seen on all islands. Highest daily totals 17 (SM), 10 (T), and 9 (Fl)

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*: 1 at Lagoa Branca (Fl) 4-10/2 (Photo)

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*: 1 second-year SW Ribeira Grande (SM) 14/1

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*: 1 juvenile at Lagoa Rasa (Fl) 9/2

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*: 1 adult at Cabo da Praia (T) 12/2 (Photo)

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*: At least 3 in Praia da Vitoria ponds (T), and up to 5 at Lagoa Azul (SM)

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*: Up to 18 in Lagoa das Furnas (SM), 9 in Lagoa Azul (SM), 6 in Furna d'Água reservoir (T), and 1 in Praia da Vitoria ponds (T)

American Coot *Fulica Americana*: 1 in Lagoa do Capitão (P) 23/1 (Photo)

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*: 1 at Praia da Vitoria beach (T) 16/1

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*: 3 at Cabo da Praia (T) 16-17/1, and 12-13/2. 1 at Horta harbour 21/1

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*: 2 at Cabo da Praia (T) 16-17/1, and 1 there 12-13/2. 1 at Ponta Delgada old soccer field (Fl) 1/2

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*: At least 60 at Cabo da Praia (T) 16-17/1, and 39 there 12/2

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*: 1 at Ponta Delgada old soccer field (Fl) 5-10/2 (Photo)

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*: Up to 4 on Ilhéu da Praia (G) 18-19/1

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*: 3 at Cabo da Praia (T) 16-17/1, and 12-13/2

Sanderling *Calidris alba*: At least 60 at Cabo da Praia (T) 16-17/1, and 41 there 12/2. Up to 10 in Horta (F) 20-24/1

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*: 2 at Cabo da Praia (T) 16-17/1

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*: 3 at Cabo da Praia (T) 16-17/1, and 12-13/2

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*: 1 at Cabo da Praia (T) 17/1

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*: 1 at Cabo da Praia (T) 16-17/1, and 12-13/2 (Photo)

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*: Up to 8 at Cabo da Praia (T) 16-17/1, and 1 there 12-13/2

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*: 2 at Cabo da Praia (T) 16-17/1, and 12-13/2

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*: Up to 2 at Cabo da Praia (T) 16-17/1, and 4 there 12/2, and 3 13/2

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*: 1 at Santa Cruz (Fl) 31/1, 2 there 5/2 (Photo), and 1 6/2

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*: 1 at Cabo da Praia (T) 17/1, and 12/2

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*: 4 at Caldeirão (C) 27/1, up to 2 in Lagoa Seca (Fl) 2-10/2, and at least one on the highland further south.

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*: 1-2 daily on different places on eastern Corvo.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*: 1 adult *islandica* at Cabo da Praia (T) 12/2 (Photo)

Whimbrel *Numenius p. phaeopus*: Single birds (up to 3 daily) seen on all visited islands except for Corvo and Flores. A flock of 6 at Cabo da Praia 12/2.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: 2 at Lagoa Azul (SM) 13/1

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*: One in Praia da Vitoria industrial harbour (T) 12/2 (Photo)

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*: 1 first-winter at Lajes (Fl) 30/1-10/2 (Photo)

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*: 3 at Ponta Delgada (Fl) 1/2, 1 at Santa Cruz (Fl) 2/2, 2 there 7/2, 1 at Fajã Grande (Fl) 8/2, 1 at Ponta Delgada (Fl) 10/2

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*: 1 first-winter at Ponta Delgada (SM) 15/1, 1 first-winter at Praia da Vitoria bay (T) 16/1, and 3 (2 first-winters, 1 second-winter) there 12/2 (Photo)

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*: 3 (ad., second-winter, and first-winter) at Ponta Delgada (SM) 13/1 (Photo), 2 there 15/1, 3 (1 ad., 2 first-winter) (Photo) 14/2, 1 first-winter at Praia da Vitoria (T) 16-17/1 (Photo), up to 2 first-winters at Praia (G) 18-19/1 (Photo), 2 (ad. + first-winter) at Horta (Fa) 20-24/1 (Photo), and one first-winter (Photo) and one adult (Photo) at Praia da Vitoria 12-13/2

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan*: 1 first-winter at Praia da Vitoria bay (T) 16/1

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*: Maximum 105 in Ponta Delgada harbour (SM) 15/1, 560 in Praia da Vitoria bay (T) 16/1, 180 there 12/2, and up to 8 on Flores

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*: 1 ad., and 1 second-winter at Ponta Delgada (SM) 13-15/1 and 14/2, 1 ad. at Praia da Vitoria (T) 17/1, 1 ad. at Lajes (Fl) 3/2, 3 (ad., second-winter, first-winter) at Praia da Vitoria (T) 12/2 (Photo), and the first-winter there 13/2

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graellsii*: Small flocks (maximum 50) gathering to roost at Ponta Delgada and Lagoa das Furnas (SM), and Praia da Vitoria bay (T).

American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus*: 1 first winter at Ponta Delgada (SM) 13-15/1, 1 second-winter at Lagoa Rasa (Fl) 8/2, and one adult Herring Gull, possibly American at Santa Cruz (Fl) 8/2.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*: 1 first-winter at Santa Cruz (Fl) 31/1-2/2 (Photo).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*: 1 first-winter at Ponta Delgada (SM), 1 ad. and 7 first/second winters at Praia da Vitoria bay (both Jan. and Feb.), 1 first-winter on Corvo, up to 7 (1 adult and 6 first/second winters) on Flores

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*: 2 adults passing Mosteiros (SM) 15/1

Little Auk *Alle alle*: 1 found newly dead near the harbour on Corvo 30/1 (Photo)

Belted Kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon*: 1 first-winter female at Santa Cruz (G) 18-20/1 (Photo)

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*: 2 SW Ribeira Grande (SM) 14/1

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*: 1 Lagoa do Peixinho (P) 23/1 (Photo)

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*: At least 7 at Serra Branca (G) 19/1

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*: 1 at Fajá Grande (Fl) 2/2, and 1 east of Mosteiro (Fl) 10/2

Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus*: 1 male at Sete Cidades (SM) 15/1

A total of 92 species