



Nota breve | Short note

## New records of terrestrial birds for Fogo Island and Cabo Verde Archipelago

Jorge E. Lopes <sup>1,\*</sup>, Ivandra Gomes <sup>1</sup>, Andrea Leal <sup>1</sup>, Admilton Pina <sup>1</sup>, Carla Lopes <sup>1</sup>,  
Deusa Araújo <sup>1</sup>, Evandro Pina <sup>1</sup>, Adilson Silva <sup>1</sup>, José de Pina <sup>1</sup>, Adilson Gonçalves <sup>1</sup>,  
Herculano A. Dinis <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Associação Projecto Vitó, São Filipe, Ilha do Fogo, Cabo Verde

\* Corresponding author e-mail: [biolopes1@hotmail.com](mailto:biolopes1@hotmail.com)

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The Fogo Island, Cabo Verde is one of the least studied whenever it comes to terrestrial avifauna (Barone & Rubén 2010), therefore here we list five new sightings obtained from March to November 2022: Common pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus*, found on March 3rd 2022 in Santa Catarina; Black-crowned night heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, found on March 11th and November 10th 2022 in Monte Vermelho and São Filipe respectively. Both sightings were juvenile birds with no difference in plumage therefore difficult to know if it was the same or a different bird; Lesser moorhen, *Paragallinula angulate*, found on May 30th 2022 in São Filipe; Eurasian spoonbill, *Platalea leucorodia*, found on October 2nd 2022 in São Filipe; Glossy ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*, found in October 9th 2022 in São Filipe.

Birds were reported to Projecto Vitó staff that inspected, photographed and released them

afterwards. All were found in good condition except the lesser moorhen that died a few hours later.

These sightings (Fig. 1) represent new records for Fogo and provide the first known record of the common pheasant for Cabo Verde (Lepage & Warnier 2014, Garcia-del-Rey 2016). Though the black-crowned night heron, Eurasian spoonbill and glossy ibis (Fig. 1B, D, E) are considered to be vagrant or seasonal visitors to Fogo, due to their relatively common sightings on other islands of the country (Garcia-del-Rey 2016), the common pheasant (Fig. 1A) is thought to be a different case. The natural distribution of the latter (before introduced in different places for hunting) is from the Black Sea to Indochina and Afghanistan, and it is known to have reduced flight ability, thus cannot sustain long migrations (Shen *et al.* 2009, Garcia-del Rey 2016, Kayvanfar *et al.* 2017).

Since in Cabo Verde there is no hunting, this pheasant probably was brought to Fogo as an ornamental captive bird, which then escaped (Gonzales 2008).



**Fig. 1.** New bird records for Fogo Island in 2022. **A)** Common pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*, from March 11<sup>th</sup>, Santa Catarina (photo by Marco Paulo), **B)** black-crowned night heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*, juvenile plumage, November 11<sup>th</sup>, São Filipe (photo by Carla Lopes), **C)** lesser moorhen *Paragallinula angulata*, May 30, São Filipe (photo by Nildiana Gomes), **D)** Eurasian spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, October 2, São Filipe (Photo by Emanuel da Silva), and **E)** Glossy ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*, October 9, São Filipe (photo by Adilson Silva).

The black-crowned night heron (Fig. 1B) and the Eurasian spoonbill (Fig. 1D) are irregular winter migrant in Cabo Verde, both already reported on the neighbouring islands of Brava and Santiago, therefore on Fogo were expected (Hazevoet 1995, Garcia-del-Rey 2016). Regarding the lesser moorhen (Fig. 1C), there were only three records until 2019: on Santiago Island in February 2019, on Sal Island in March 2019, and on Boavista in July 2019 (Lepage & Warnier 2014). It is a widespread bird in Africa, being present in Senegal, and already found as vagrant in the Canary Islands, southern Spain and Madeira Island, possibly aided by calima storms (Matias 2009). These

storms, which occur in early summer, are a known cause of vagrancy in Macaronesia as shown by the 59 rare African passerine species recorded on the Canary Islands after the February 2020 calima storm occurred on this region (Gutiérrez *et al.* 2022). This matches the date of this sighting on Fogo. Finally, the glossy ibis (Fig. 1 E) is a vagrant species in Cabo Verde previously recorded on islands such as Boavista, Maio or Santiago (Clark 2006, Garcia-del-Rey 2016).

These observations represent important findings and reinforce the need for periodic surveys of the terrestrial avifauna on Fogo Island.

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