

## Seventh report on birds from the Cape Verde Islands, including records of nine taxa new to the archipelago

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### ABSTRACT

Recent data on status and distribution of resident and migrant birds in the Cape Verde Islands are presented, including records of nine taxa new to the archipelago, viz. *Ixobrychus sturmii*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Butorides striatus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Porzana pusilla*, *Fulica atra*, *Chlidonias niger*, *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* and *Hippolais polyglotta*. Also presented are data on a number of breeding taxa, including the first record of the endemic Raso lark *Alauda razae* outside the islet of Raso. The alarming situation of the magnificent frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*, of which probably only two individuals remain in Cape Verde, constituting the entire population in the East Atlantic, is highlighted. During the past decade, breeding populations of common moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* appear to have become well-established on the islands of Santiago and Boavista. Following its expansion through Northwest Africa and the Canary Islands, Eurasian collared dove *Streptopelia decaocto* has now also colonized the Cape Verde Islands.

### RESUMO

São apresentados dados sobre o estado e distribuição de aves residentes e migratórias nas ilhas de Cabo Verde, incluindo registos de nove novos taxa no arquipélago, viz. *Ixobrychus sturmii*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Butorides striatus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Porzana pusilla*, *Fulica atra*, *Chlidonias niger*, *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* e *Hippolais polyglotta*. São igualmente disponibilizados dados sobre taxa nidificantes, incluindo o primeiro registo da espécie endémica calhandra-do-ilhéu-Raso *Alauda razae* fora do ilhéu Raso. É destacada também a situação alarmante da fragata *Fregata magnificens* da qual provavelmente apenas restam dois indivíduos em Cabo Verde, constituindo a totalidade da população em todo o Atlântico Leste. Durante a última década, populações nidificantes de galinha-de-água *Gallinula chloropus* parecem ter-se estabelecido de forma permanente nas ilhas de Santiago e Boavista. Na sequência da sua expansão através do Noroeste Africano e ilhas Canárias, a rola-turca *Streptopelia decaocto* também coloniza agora as ilhas de Cabo Verde.

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## INTRODUCTION

This is the seventh supplement to The Birds of the Cape Verde Islands (Hazevoet 1995). For previous instalments, see Hazevoet (1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2010) and Hazevoet *et al.* (1996). Most data in the current report concern the years 2010-2012 (up to 1 April), but records from earlier years that came to light after the publication of previous supplements are also included.

During the past few years, the Cape Verde Islands continued to be an increasingly popular destination amongst bird watchers, especially those in search of endemics and vagrants. The watershed at Poilão has again produced an amazing number of vagrant ducks, herons and rails, several of them new to the islands, and some of the herons, formerly considered rare vagrants, are now present there during almost every month of the year. This demonstrates that the presence of standing water is quickly discovered and utilized by many migrating birds from Eurasia, Africa and North America, a circumstance

that also applies to that other 'hotspot' for vagrants in Cape Verde, the sewage ponds in São Vicente. With the construction of several more watersheds being planned on Santiago, as well as on Santo Antão, we can only guess what ornithological surprises await us in the future. The grand total of species level taxa recorded in the archipelago now stands at 220, an increase of 76 since the publication of the 1995 check-list (not counting a number of introduced taxa that may or may not have established a permanent population or that have disappeared since being introduced).

Unless stated otherwise, general data on distribution, status, number of records, etc. in the following are taken from Hazevoet (1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2010) and Hazevoet *et al.* (1996). In the taxon accounts, islands are listed in clockwise order, starting with the main island of Santiago. Records of rare taxa were scrutinized by the author, with the assistance of Nils van Duivendijk, Jan van der Laan and C.S. Roselaar.

ABBREVIATIONS: AC – Andy Clifton; AML – Alexis & Mariana de Lespinay; BG – Mauro Bailo & Arturo Gargioni; DC – Dirk Colin; EB – Eric Bos; ED – Eric Didner; GBH – Gerry & Béatrice Hinchon; HJ – Henk de Jong; HM – Harro Müller; JH – Jamie Hooper; JLE – John Lee; JLI – John Lines; KM – Keith Moir; KDR – Kris De Rouck; KM – Killian Mullarney; KR – Panu Kunttu & Sanna-Mari Rivasto; LS – Laurens Steijn;

MD – Menno van Duijn; MG – Mike Greenfelder; PLS – Pedro López-Suárez; MC – Maria Camacho; PAC – Pierre-André Crochet *et al.*; PD – Paul Donald; RB – Richard Bonser; RT – Roderick Thorne; RV – Rinse van der Vliet; RW – Richard White; SB – Simon Baliteau; SM – Samir Martins; SP – Steve Payne; RBT – Rubén Barone Tosco; TS – Teet Sirotkin; UF – Ulrich Filbrandt; YC – Yann Coatanéa.

## BREEDING BIRDS

In this section, additional data on Cape Verde breeding birds are presented, including range expansions within the archipelago, new

breeding sites, new or rare records for a particular island and other noteworthy observations.

**Magnificent frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens* Mathews, 1914

SAL: one offshore from the Morabeza Beach Bar, 4 February 2010 (JLI), was the only report away from Boavista, where the only breeding site is situated. Three frigatebirds were reportedly seen at ilhéu de Baluarte (a former breeding site) during the summer of 2011 (Anon. *per* PLS), but no sign of frigatebirds was found there in January 2012

(PLS). In December 2011, the total population in Cape Verde consisted of one male and one female (PLS), compared to two females and two or three males in 2006 (López Suárez *et al.* 2007).

The development of the tourist industry along Boavista's southern coast has given rise to increased disturbance of the seabird colony

at ilhéu de Curral Velho, a Nature Reserve protected by law and now the only breeding site of frigatebirds in Cape Verde, while vandalism by local inhabitants, targetting brown booby *Sula leucogaster* and red-billed

tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* at the islets of Baluarte and Curral Velho, as well as elsewhere on the island, continues uninhibited and without any repercussion from the side of those who are supposed to uphold the law.

**Black kite** *Milvus migrans* (Boddaert, 1783)

SÃO VICENTE: six at Monte Verde, 6 March 2011 (SB). This is the first record of black kite from São Vicente since the early 1980s, save for the sighting of an unidentified kite *Milvus* sp. there in March 2000 (cf. Hazevoet 2003). Most recent records of black kite are from the eastern islands of Boavista and Maio

and the occurrence of six birds on São Vicente in 2011 comes as a surprise. It is as yet unclear whether the black kites seen in Cape Verde are local breeding birds or Palearctic migrant visitors. Very little information on breeding of black kite in the Cape Verde Islands exists.



Fig. 1. Black Kite *Milvus migrans*, Monte Verde, São Vicente, 6 March 2011 (Simon Baliteau).

**Common moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

SANTIAGO: a breeding population has become established at Barragem de Poilão, with adults, immatures and downy chicks being observed on many occasions during the years 2007-2012. During May-September 2011, a maximum of 44 birds was counted there, 7 August 2011 (UF). BOAVISTA: five (including a colour-ringed adult, the

provenance of which remains as yet unresolved) at Monte Trigo, 14-20 May 2010 (PLS, MC), and one there, 16 March 2011 (GBH).

Barragem de Poilão (Santiago) and Monte Trigo (Boavista) are the only known breeding sites of moorhen in the Cape Verde Islands. Although as yet of unknown origin,

the presence of a colour-ringed bird demonstrates that migrants from (presumably) Europe at least occasionally reach the islands (assuming that the bird on Boavista was not colour-ringed in Cape Verde, which seems a reasonable guess as no such ringing scheme is known to be conducted there). From 1969 to 1998, there were no records of moorhen in

Cape Verde, followed by single records in 1999 and 2001. The construction of the Barragem de Poilão has changed the situation dramatically. However, it seems possible that a small population existed all along on Boavista, as the breeding site at Monte Trigo was seldom visited during the intervening years.

**Rosy-faced lovebird** *Agapornis roseicollis* (Vieillot, 1818)

SANTO ANTÃO: a pair nesting under a roof at Pedracin Village tourist resort, Boca de Coruja, 2 February 2012 (HJ). Doubtlessly either escaped or purposefully introduced, this

could possibly signal the onset of a feral population of this popular cagebird. Its natural range extends from southern Angola through Namibia into northwestern South Africa.

**Grey-headed kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala* (P.L.S. Müller, 1776)

MAIO: a small population appears to have become established over the past few years and the kingfisher has now been reported from localities in the south (Ponta Preta, Casas Velhas), southwest (Morro) and east (Pedro Vaz) of the island (SM). First reported

from Maio in 2008, it is as yet unclear whether birds reached the island by themselves or were purposefully introduced there. Elsewhere in Cape Verde, the kingfisher is widespread and common in Santiago, Fogo and Brava.

**Black-crowned finch lark** *Eremopterix nigriceps* (Gould, 1841)

SAL: a flock of *ca.* 60 birds was present near the Riu Hotel in December 2006, while six were seen near the Vila Verde Resort in January 2010 (JLE); 10 at the Santa Maria sewage works, 31 January 2012, and 12 there, 5 February 2012 (JLI); all of these localities are in the southwest of the island. This follows reports of singing males on Sal in October 1998 and November 1999 and the

presence of several flocks there in November 2006. Black-crowned finch lark is a locally common breeding birds on Santiago, Fogo, Boavista and Maio, and there are also records from Brava, São Vicente, Raso and São Nicolau. Due to its nomadic habits, the finch lark's occurrence on different islands and at different locations is often erratic and unpredictable.

**Bar-tailed desert lark** *Ammomanes cinctura* (Gould, 1841)

SANTA LUZIA: at least 30 pairs at the western end of the island, many of which singing and one apparently carrying food to a nest, 8 March 2012 (PD). This is only the third record of bar-tailed desert lark for Santa Luzia, the previous being of *ca.* 10 in the easternmost part, 2 November 1990, and two

seen, 20 January 2003. However, the lack of observations may reflect a lack of observers on this uninhabited island rather than a lack of larks. Elsewhere in Cape Verde, bar-tailed desert lark is widespread and common in Sal, Boavista and Maio, and locally common in Santiago, Fogo and São Nicolau.

**Hoopoe lark** *Alaemon alaudipes* (Desfontaines, 1789)

SANTIAGO: two between Moia Moia and São Francisco/Achada Ponta Bomba, 30 January 2011 (UF). Previously, there was only a single record from Santiago, i.e. two at Praia airport, 11 July 2005. SAL: several records were received, predominantly from the south-

western part of the island, and hoopoe lark now appears to be well-established there. It was first reported from Sal in 1995. Elsewhere in the archipelago, hoopoe lark is restricted to Boavista and Maio, where it is widespread and common.



Fig. 2. Raso lark *Alauda razae*, Ponta do Barril, São Nicolau, 16 March 2009 (Jamie Hooper).

**Raso lark** *Alauda razae* (Alexander, 1898)

SÃO NICOLAU: a male near Ponta do Barril (in the western part of the island), 16 March 2009 (JH). This is the first record outside Raso, to which islet the entire population of this endemic lark is supposedly restricted. As the sighting concerned a single bird and there have as yet not been follow up records from the area, its occurrence in São Nicolau may concern the rare instance of a lone lark gone astray, nevertheless demonstrating its potential capacity for natural range expansion. Population estimates during the 1980s and

1990s varied from 150 to 250 birds (Ratcliffe *et al.* 1999), but following a number of successful rainfall-related breeding seasons during the past decade, the population had increased to 1,490 birds in 2011 (Brooke *et al.* 2012), which may explain the unexpected appearance of a Raso lark in São Nicolau. In order to monitor possible occurrences there in the future, the arid westernmost parts of São Nicolau clearly deserve the attention from population biologists, conservationists and bird watchers alike.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* (Linnaeus, 1758)

BOAVISTA: a total of eight (of which three singing) in bushes along Ribeira do Rabil, 7 October 2011 (HM). Prior to records in the years 1995-2006, the existence of a local

population on Boavista was uncertain. Previous reports were all from the eastern part of the island and this is the first from a western location.



## MIGRANT VISITORS AND VAGRANTS

In the following, the numbers in brackets at the beginning of each entry indicate 1) the number of records up to 1 January 1980 and 2) the number of records since that date. When the number of records before 1 January 1980 is uncertain this is indicated as (--). Taxa new to the archipelago are marked with an asterisk. Records of taxa, previously included in these reports, of which there are now more than 20 records since 1 January 1980 (viz. *Egretta*

*gularis*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Charadrius dubius*, *Calidris alpina*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Gallinago gallinago*, *Limosa lapponica*, *Tringa totanus*, *T. glareola*, *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, *Larus michahellis*, *Oenanthe oenanthe*) are included only when an observation represents a new island record or when there are otherwise remarkable circumstances (e.g. unusual numbers or date, ringing recovery).

**Eurasian wigeon** *Mareca penelope* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(0, 2) SÃO VICENTE: one male at the sewage ponds, 1-2 March 2012 (PAC). The only previous record was of one in Maio in December 2004-January 2005. In West Africa,

wigeon is a scarce to uncommon Palearctic winter visitor from Mauritania and northern Senegal eastward to Chad (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Common teal** *Anas crecca* Linnaeus, 1758

(2, 16) SANTIAGO: three males at Barragem de Poilão, 20 February 2011 (UF), and one there, 10 February 2012 (AML). SÃO VICENTE: two males at the sewage works, 11 February 2010 (KR). SAL: a female at Ribeira da Madama, 11 November 2010 (RBT, TS). BOAVISTA: two at the Curral Velho lagoon, 2 February 2012 (AML). Common teal has been recorded from Santiago (3), São Vicente (7), Sal (3) and Boavista (5). All records are from October to March. As in

previous years, it cannot be excluded that some records in fact concerned Nearctic green-winged teal *A. carolinensis* (of which there is a single record in Cape Verde) and records are here accepted as *A. crecca sensu lato*. In West Africa, common teal is a scarce to locally common Palearctic winter visitor from Mauritania and Senegambia eastward to Chad and the Central African Republic, rare further south (Borrow & Demey 2001).



Fig. 3. Common teal *Anas crecca* and northern pintail *A. acuta*, Ribeira da Madama, Sal, 11 November 2010 (Stefan Cherrug).

**Northern pintail** *Anas acuta* Linnaeus, 1758

(0, 5) SÃO VICENTE: a male at the sewage works, 11 February 2010 (KR). SAL: a female at Ribeira da Madama, 11 November 2010 (RBT, TS). Northern pintail has been recorded (November, December, February) from São Vicente (1), Sal (3) and Maio (1). In West Africa, it is a Palearctic winter visitor

from Mauritania and Sierra Leone east to Chad and the Central African Republic, common to locally very common south to Senegal, Mali, northern Nigeria and Chad, uncommon to scarce further south (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Blue-winged teal** *Anas discors* Linnaeus, 1766

(0, 4) SANTIAGO: one female at Barragem de Poilão, 25 February-4 March 2012 (PAC). SÃO VICENTE: three males and four females at the sewage works, 11 February 2010 (KR).

This Nearctic migrant has been recorded (December-March) from Santiago (2) and São Vicente (2). In West Africa, it has been recorded in Senegal (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Ring-necked duck** *Aythya collaris* (Donovan, 1809)

(0, 4) SANTIAGO: one male and 7-8 females at Barragem de Poilão, 8 November 2009 to 21 March 2010 (EB, KM, UF). A Nearctic migrant, which has now been recorded

(November-March) from Santiago (1), São Vicente (2) and Sal (1). There appear to be as yet no records from the West African mainland (cf. Borrow & Demey 2001).



Fig. 4. Cory's shearwater *Calonectris borealis*, between São Nicolau and Raso, 9 November 2010 (Stefan Cherrug).

**Cory's shearwater** *Calonectris borealis* (Cory, 1881)

(--, 12) CAPE VERDE SEAS: two between São Nicolau and Raso, 9 November 2010 (RBT, TS); one between São Vicente and Santo Antão, 19 November 2011 (YC). Probably a regular passage migrant, but

reports are few and *C. borealis* is easily overlooked amongst the locally common Cape Verde shearwater *C. edwardsii*, especially in autumn when numbers of the latter are high. Moreover, the scarce reports seldom

distinguish between Cory's and Scopoli's shearwater *C. diomedea*. There are records (*borealis* and/or *diomedea*) in November, December, February and March. Probably a rare to not uncommon passage migrant and

winter visitor off West Africa, but status inadequately known as observers seldom distinguish between *borealis*, *diomedea* and *edwardsii* (Borrow & Demey 2001, Dubois *et al.* 2009).

**Great shearwater** *Puffinus gravis* (O'Reilly, 1818)

(2, 7) CAPE VERDE SEAS: one between São Nicolau and Raso, 9 November 2010 (RBT, TS). Probably a not uncommon passage migrant in Cape Verde seas, the presence of which likely remains largely undetected due to its pelagic habits. Recorded in September

(2), October (1), November (3), December (2) and February (1). Off West Africa, it is a rare migrant visitor to offshore waters (Borrow & Demey 2001, Dubois *et al.* 2009). Breeds on islands in the Southern Ocean.



Fig. 5. Great shearwater *Puffinus gravis*, between São Nicolau and Raso, 9 November 2010 (Stefan Cherrug).

**White-tailed tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus* Daudin, 1802

(0, 2) CAPE VERDE SEAS: an adult at approximately 14°58'N, 23°53'W (off western Santiago), 3 May 2011 (LS). The only previous record of white-tailed tropicbird was of one at ilhéu de Curral Velho, Boavista, 20 February 1999. Furthermore, there are a

few extralimital pelagic records not far from the Cape Verde Islands (cf. Hazevoet 1995). In West Africa, it breeds on islands in the Gulf of Guinea and has been recorded as a vagrant off Ghana and Liberia (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Red-footed booby** *Sula sula* (Linnaeus, 1766)

(0, 6) CAPE VERDE SEAS: an immature at 17°14,9'N, 21°54,9'W, 14 April 2011 (MG, RW). Red-footed booby has been recorded in April (2), July, August, October and November. There is also a record (October) from the Atlantic, just extralimital of the

geographical area considered here. Breeds on tropical islands in most oceans, including the Caribbean and western Atlantic, but not in the eastern Atlantic. There appear to be as yet no records off continental West Africa (cf. Borrow & Demey 2001).





Fig. 6. White-tailed tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*, off western Santiago, 3 May 2011 (Laurens Steijn).



Fig. 7. Red-footed booby *Sula sula*, 17°14,9'N, 21°54,9'W, 14 April 2011 (Richard White).

**Little bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus* (Linnaeus, 1766)

(1, 3) SANTIAGO: an adult at Barragem de Poilão, 16 March 2010 (EB). Previous records are of an immature collected on Brava in October 1969, an immature at Barragem de Poilão in March 2007 and again one there (age unknown) in March 2008. The possibility

remains that (some of) the records at Barragem de Poilão concerned the same long-staying individual. In West Africa, it is both an uncommon breeding resident and a Palearctic winter visitor (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**\*Dwarf bittern** *Ixobrychus sturmii* (Wagler, 1827)

(0, 1) SANTIAGO: one at Barragem de Poilão, 12 June 2011 (ED, PAC), and still present there, 17 July 2011 (UF). This is the first record of dwarf bittern for the Cape Verde Islands. In West Africa, this Afrotropical

taxon is an uncommon to scarce intra-African migrant, occurring during the wet season in suitable habitat throughout most of the region; movements are poorly understood due to its secretive habits (Borrow & Demey 2001).



Fig. 8. Dwarf bittern *Ixobrychus sturmii*, Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 12 June 2011 (Pierre-André Crochet).

**\*Eurasian bittern** *Botaurus stellaris* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(0, 1) SANTIAGO: one at Barragem de Poilão, 6 March 2011 (UF). This is the first record of Eurasian bittern for the Cape Verde Islands. In

West Africa, it is a rare winter visitor from Europe and perhaps North Africa (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Black-crowned night heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(1, 16) SANTIAGO: four at Barragem de Poilão, 16 March 2010 (EB), a juvenile there, 6-7 November 2010, and a juvenile at Pedra Badejo lagoon, 7 November 2010 (RBT, TS); up to 15 at Barragem de Poilão, 16 January-15 April 2011 (DC, GBH, KDR, UF), and again up to 15 there, 7 August 2011-4 March 2012 (AML, PAC, UF). BOAVISTA: an adult at Monte Trigo, 15 May 2010 (PLS, MC); a juvenile at Ribeira do Rabil, 26 September 2011 (BG). Black-crowned night heron has been recorded (August-May) from Santiago (10), São Vicente (1), Raso (1) and Boavista (5). In West Africa, migrants from Europe occur alongside residents during the northern winter (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**\*Green-backed heron** *Butorides striatus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(0, 1) SANTIAGO: two at Barragem de Poilão, 7 February 2012 (AML). This is the first record of green-backed heron for the Cape Verde Islands. In West Africa, it is a common resident throughout, except in the arid north (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Squacco heron** *Ardeola ralloides* (Scopoli, 1769)

(2, 11) SANTIAGO: singles at Barragem de Poilão, 6 June and 18 July 2009 (UF), are considered to have been the same bird(s) present there, 21 March-7 April 2009 (cf. Hazevoet 2010); up to seven at Barragem de Poilão, 18 November 2009-2 April 2010 (EB, UF); up to 10 there, 6 November 2010-29 May 2011 (DC, GBH, KDR, LS, MD, RBT, TS, UF), and up to seven at that locality, 24 September 2011-18 March 2012 (AML, BG, PAC, UF). Squacco heron has now been recorded in all months except August. Records are from Santiago (10), São Nicolau (1), Sal (1) and Boavista (1). In West Africa, migrants from Europe occur alongside residents during the northern winter and may outnumber them in most areas (Borrow & Demey 2001).



Fig. 9. Squacco heron *Ardeola ralloides*, Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 22 March 2011 (Béatrice Hinchon).



**Cattle egret** *Bubulcus ibis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

SANTIAGO: 1,355 birds counted at a roost at Prainha, Praia, 5 February 2011 (UF), was the largest number reported so far. Previously, the highest count of roosting birds was 1,344 at

Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 1 March 2008 (Hazevoet 2010). In the Cape Verde Islands, cattle egret is a common migrant visitor and a rare breeding bird.

**Black heron** *Egretta ardesiaca* (Wagler, 1827)

(0, 5) SANTIAGO: 1-2 at Barragem de Poilão, 16 January-29 May 2011 (AC, DC, GBH, KDR, LS, MD, RB, UF), and again 1-2 there, 22 January-4 March 2012 (AML, PAC, UF). SÃO VICENTE: one at Ribeira da Vinha, 11 February 2010 (KR). Black heron has been

recorded (January-May) from Santiago (2), São Vicente (1), Raso (1) and Boavista (1). In West Africa, it is an uncommon to locally common resident, but local movements have been recorded (Borrow & Demey 2001).



Fig. 10. Black heron *Egretta ardesiaca*, Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 4 March 2012 (Eric Didner).

**Western reef heron** *Egretta gularis* (Bosc, 1792)

SANTO ANTÃO: one (dark morph) at Tanque, Ribeira Grande, 19 February 2011 (SB). SÃO VICENTE: one (dark morph) at the sewage ponds, 11 February 2010 (KR). This is the first record for Santo Antão and the

second for São Vicente. A regular Afro-tropical migrant visitor in small numbers, western reef heron is most often reported from Santiago and Boavista and there are also a few records from Raso and Maio.





Fig. 11. Intermediate egret *Egretta intermedia*, Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 22 March 2011 (Béatrice Hinchon).



Fig. 12. Great white egret *Casmerodius albus* (showing characters of American great white egret *C.a. egretta*), sewage ponds, São Vicente, 1 March 2012 (Pierre-André Crochet).

**Intermediate egret** *Egretta intermedia* (Wagler, 1829)

(1, 15) SANTIAGO: 1-5 at Barragem de Poilão, 19 March-7 August 2011 (AC, DC, ED, GBH, KDR, LS, MD, PAC, RB, UF), and one there, 8 February-4 March 2012 (AML, PAC). SAL: one at the edge of the swimming pool at the Morabeza Hotel, Santa Maria, 31 January 2012 (JLI). BOAVISTA: one at Praia

de Ervatão, 10 October 2011 (HM). Intermediate egret has been recorded in all months except September from Santiago (5), Santo Antão (2), São Vicente (3), Sal (2), Boavista (4). Uncommon to common throughout West Africa, except the arid north (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Great white egret** *Casmerodius albus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(0, 4) SANTIAGO: one at Barragem de Poilão, 6 June and 18 July 2009 (UF), is taken to have been one of the birds already present there during March-April of the same year (cf. Hazevoet 2010). SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage ponds, 1-2 March 2012 (PAC), showed characters of American great white egret *Casmerodius albus egretta*, i.e. relatively small size (in comparison with little egrets *Egretta garzetta* present at the site), compact build and very dark upper tibia. BOAVISTA: one (together with five grey herons *Ardea cinerea*) at a pool near Praia das Gatas, 3 February 2012 (AML). The only

previous record of great white egret was of one on Boavista in March 1999. Great white egret is a common to not uncommon resident (*melanorhynchos*) throughout West Africa, except the arid north, and there are also a few records of European migrants (*albus*), which, however, probably remain largely undetected amongst the resident population (Borrow & Demey 2001). The possibility of vagrants from the Americas (*egretta*) occasionally reaching the Cape Verde Islands cannot be excluded, but the possible record from São Vicente listed here has as yet not been formerly accepted as such.

**Black-headed heron** *Ardea melanocephala* Vigors and Children, 1826



(0, 1) SANTIAGO: presumably the same bird, first seen at Barragem de Poilão in March-April 2009 (cf. Hazevoet 2010), was still present there, 16 March 2010 (EB), 21-22 March 2011 (GBH), 15 April 2011 (DC, KDR), 30 April 2011 (AC, RB), and 7 February 2012 (AML). Black-headed heron is an uncommon to common resident throughout West Africa, avoiding the most arid areas, moving north with the rains and south during the dry season (Borrow & Demey 2001).

Fig. 13. Black-headed heron *Ardea melanocephala*, Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 22 March 2011 (Béatrice Hinchon).



**Grey heron** *Ardea cinerea* Linnaeus, 1758

SANTIAGO: a maximum of 22 at Barragem de Poilão, 16 January-6 March 2011 (UF), up to 40, 22 March-15 April 2011 (DC, GBH, KDR), and a maximum of 29 there, 11-18 March 2012 (UF). In Cape Verde, grey heron

is a not uncommon migrant visitor, which has bred on Santo Antão in 2000-2001 (cf. Palacios & Barone 2001, Hazevoet 2003). Largest group size so far was 16 on Boavista, 18 September 1988 (Hazevoet 1995).

**Purple heron** *Ardea purpurea* Linnaeus, 1766

(2, 9) SANTIAGO: an adult at Barragem de Poilão, 12 June 2011 (ED, PAC); two there, 2 March 2012 (PAC). SAL: a juvenile at pools near the Riu Hotel, west of Santa Maria, 27 September 2010 (SP). Purple heron has been recorded (September, December, January,

March, April, June, July) from Santiago (3), São Vicente (3), Sal (1) and Boavista (4). In West Africa, it is an uncommon to common resident and European migrant visitor throughout the region.

**Glossy ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* (Linnaeus, 1766)

(1, 7) SANTIAGO: four at Barragem de Poilão, 7 November 2010 (RBT, TS), and 1-3 there, 13 February-15 April 2011 (DC, GBH, KDR, UF). Glossy ibis has been recorded (October-December, February-April) from Santiago (5), Boavista (2) and Maio (1). In

West Africa, it is a not uncommon to rare, locally sometimes common, resident and European migrant, widespread, mainly in the Sahel and northern savanna zones (Borrow & Demey 2001).



Fig. 14. Eurasian spoonbills *Platalea leucorodia*, Monte Trigo, Boavista, 20 May 2010 (Maria Camacho). The colour-ringed bird was marked as a nestling at Beveren, Belgium, 10 June 2008.

**Eurasian spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia* Linnaeus, 1758

SANTIAGO: 23-29 at Barragem de Poilão, 16 January-6 March 2011 (UF), 36 on 21 March 2011 and 50 there the next day (GBH), were the largest group sizes recorded so far. A spoonbill colour-ringed as a nestling at Lac de Grand-Lieu, Loire Atlantique, France (47°5.968', 01°41.048'W), 13 May 2010, was present at Barragem de Poilão from 19 January to at least 17 July 2011 (LS, UF); a second colour-ringed bird was seen there in January and March 2011, but its rings could not be read properly (UF). SANTO ANTÃO: an immature at Tanque, Ribeira Grande, 19 February 2011 (SB), was the first record for the island. BOAVISTA: 3-8 at Monte Trigo, 14-20 May 2010 (PLS, MC), including one that was colour-ringed as a nestling at Beveren, Belgium (51°15'N, 04°12'E), 10 June 2008; this is the same bird observed at Monte

Trigo, 9-14 April 2009, previously thought to have been colour-ringed in The Netherlands (cf. Hazevoet 2010), the photograph taken in 2010 now allowing for the bird's colour code being read correctly. A colour-ringed bird seen on Boavista, 21 April 2011, and subsequently photographed at Ribeira do Norte, 2 December 2011 (PLS), was ringed as a nestling at Lac de Grand-Lieu, Loire Atlantique, France, 17 May 2010 (ringing data courtesy Working Group Spoonbills International).

Thought to be a rare visitor in the past, spoonbill is now known to be a regular migrant visitor in small numbers. Most records are from Santiago and Boavista, with smaller numbers reported from São Vicente and Sal, to which Santo Antão can now be added.

**\*Hen harrier** *Circus cyaneus* (Linnaeus, 1766)

(0, 1) SANTIAGO: an adult female at Barragem de Poilão, 4 December 2011 (UF). This is the first record of hen harrier for the Cape Verde Islands. Hen harrier is not known

to winter south of the Sahara and in West Africa there are apparently no confirmed records from Mauritania or Senegal (cf. Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Montagu's harrier** *Circus pygargus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(0, 6) RASO: a female, 6 March 2012 (PD). Montagu's harrier has been recorded (September, November, December, March) from Raso (2), Sal (1), Boavista (2) and Maio (1). In addition, there are five records of

unidentified Montagu's/pallid harrier *C. pygargus/macrourus*. In West Africa, Montagu's harrier is an uncommon or scarce to locally not uncommon Palearctic migrant (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Booted eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus* (Gmelin, 1788)

(0, 3) SANTIAGO: a pale morph adult at Barragem de Poilão, 21 March 2011 (GBH). Booted eagle has been recorded (February-March) from Santiago (2) and Santo Antão (1).

In West Africa, it is an uncommon Palearctic migrant to the Sahel zone, rarer in the savanna belt (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**\*Baillon's crane** *Porzana pusilla* (Pallas, 1776)

(0, 1) BOAVISTA: an adult male at Monte Trigo, 1 April 2012 (PLS). This is the first record of Baillon's crane for the Cape Verde Islands. In West Africa, it is a scarce

Palearctic winter visitor to the Senegal river delta (Borrow & Demey 2001), probably overlooked due to its skulking habits.

**Spotted crane** *Porzana porzana* (Linnaeus, 1766)

(0, 3) SANTIAGO: one at Barragem de Poilão, 22 February-4 March 2012 (PAC). Spotted

crane has been recorded (January-March) from Santiago (2) and São Vicente (1). In



West Africa, it is a generally rare winter visitor from the Palearctic in Mauritania and

Senegal, locally common in the Senegal river delta (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**\*Eurasian coot *Fulica atra* Linnaeus, 1758**

(0, 4) SANTIAGO: one at Barragem de Poilão, 20 February-6 March 2011 (UF), and 1-2 there, 26 November 2011-4 March 2012 (PAC, UF). SAL: one at Ribeira da Madama, 11 November 2010 (Barone *et al.* 2012). BOAVISTA: one at Rabil lagoon, 24

November 2011 (RT). These are the first records of Eurasian coot for the Cape Verde Islands. In West Africa, it is a rare to locally common Palearctic winter visitor to desert oases and Sahel, and it has bred in northern Senegal (Borrow & Demey 2001).



Fig. 15. Booted eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*, Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 21 March 2011 (Béatrice Hinchon). Fig. 16. Spotted crane *Porzana porzana*, Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 4 March 2012 (Eric Didner).



Fig. 17. Baillon's crane *Porzana pusilla*, Monte Trigo, Boavista, 1 April 2012 (Pedro López-Suárez).

**Eurasian oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus* Linnaeus, 1758

(2, 12) SANTIAGO: singles along the shore at Praia, 5 February and 3 April 2010, and at ilhéu Santa Maria, 21 February 2010 (UF), are considered to refer to the same long-staying bird and are counted as a single record. Oystercatcher has been recorded (August-April) from Santiago (2), ilhéu de Cima (1),

Santo Antão (1), São Vicente (4), Santa Luzia (1), ilhéu Branco (1), São Nicolau (1), Sal (1) and Boavista (2). A Palearctic migrant visitor to West African coasts, locally common in Mauritania and Senegambia, uncommon to rare south to Nigeria (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Semipalmated plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus* Bonaparte, 1825

(0, 9) SANTO ANTÃO: one at Ponta do Sol, 22-23 March 2010 (EB). SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage works, 1-2 March 2012 (PAC). SAL: one at the Santa Maria salt pans, 3-4 February 2010 (JLI). This North American vagrant has been recorded (October-

November, February-April) from Santiago (3), Santo Antão (1), São Vicente (3) and Sal (2). There appear to be as yet no records from the West African mainland (cf. Borrow & Demey 2001).

**American golden plover** *Pluvialis dominicus* (P.L.S. Müller, 1776)

(3, 10) SANTO ANTÃO: a first winter bird and an adult at Porto Novo, 23 November 2011 (YC). American golden plover has been recorded (October-April) from Santiago (2),

Santo Antão (2), São Vicente (8) and Raso (1). In West Africa, it is a rare Nearctic migrant visitor (September-May) (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Red Knot** *Calidris canutus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(1, 12) BOAVISTA: one in almost full summer plumage at a pond near the Riu Lacacão hotel (along the southern coast), 25 September 2011 (BG). Red Knot has been recorded (September-January, March-April,

July) from Santiago (2), São Vicente (2), Sal (2), Boavista (6) and Maio (1). A locally common to very common migrant visitor along West African coasts (Borrow & Demey 2001).



Fig. 18-19. American golden plover *Pluvialis dominicus*, first winter and adult, Porto Novo, Santo Antão, 23 November 2011 (Yann Coatanéa).



Fig. 20. Semipalmated plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*, Ponta do Sol, Santo Antão, 23 March 2010 (Eric Bos). Fig. 21. White-rumped sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*, Sal Rei, Boavista, 13 November 2010 (Stefan Cherrug).

**White-rumped sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis* (Vieillot, 1819)

(0, 7) BOAVISTA: a juvenile at the salt pans near Sal Rei, 13 November 2010 (RBT, TS), and an adult at Praia de Ervatão, 10 October 2011 (HM). White-rumped sandpiper has now been recorded (October-January) from

Santiago (1), São Vicente (2), Sal (2) and Boavista (2). In West Africa, there are records of this North American migrant wader from Ivory Coast and Ghana (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* (Linnaeus, 1758)

SAL: a female, colour-ringed near Workum, province of Fryslân, the Netherlands (52°59'28"N, 05°24'08"E), 25 April 2011, was

sighted at Santa Maria, 30 October 2011, and again there, 31 January and 5 February 2012 (JLI; ringing data University of Groningen).

**Black-tailed godwit** *Limosa limosa* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(2, 8) SANTIAGO: two at Barragem de Poilão, 22 February-11 March 2012 (PAC, UF). BOAVISTA: one at Praia de Ervatão, 10 October 2011 (HM). Black-tailed godwit has been recorded (August-October, December-

March) from Santiago (1), São Vicente (2), Sal (1), Boavista (4) and Maio (2). In West African, it is a common passage migrant and visitor throughout, mainly September-April (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Eurasian curlew** *Numenius arquata* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(0, 9) SANTIAGO: singles along the shore at Praia, 24 & 26 February and 31 March 2010 (UF), are here counted as a single record, the first since 2002. SAL: one at the Pedra de Lume salt pans, 19 September 2011 (BG). Eurasian curlew has been recorded

(November, January-April) from Santiago (1), Santo Antão (1), Raso (1), Sal (2), Boavista (3) and Maio (1). In West Africa, it is a common to scarce coastal passage migrant and visitor, rare to locally uncommon inland (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Spotted redshank** *Tringa erythropus* (Pallas, 1864)

(0, 12) BOAVISTA: 2-4 at the lagoon near Curral Velho, 2 February 2012 (AML). Spotted redshank has been recorded

(September, November-March) from Santiago (1), São Vicente (5), Sal (1), Boavista (4) and Maio (1). In West Africa, it is a not



uncommon to scarce Palearctic passage migrant and visitor (mainly October-April) from Mauritania to Liberia east to Chad (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

SANTIAGO: one at Achada Fazenda, 23 September 2011 (MB). Although regularly reported from São Vicente (sewage ponds) and Sal (Pedra de Lume salt pans), this is only the second record for Santiago. In addition, there are records from Fogo (Barone & Hering 2010), Boavista and Maio.

**Lesser yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* (Gmelin, 1789)

(0, 15) SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage ponds, 1-2 March 2012 (PAC). BOAVISTA: one at the lagoon near Curral Velho, 2 February 2012 (AML). Lesser yellowlegs, a Nearctic migrant, has been recorded (September-April) from Santiago (3), São Vicente (4), Sal (5) and Boavista (3). All records are since 1999. In West Africa, there are records from The Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Green sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* Linnaeus, 1758

(2, 21) SANTIAGO: singles were seen at Barragem de Poilão on several occasions from 18 July 2009 to 2 April 2010, with three there, 7 March 2010 (EB, UF), these are here counted as a single record; again 1-4 at Barragem de Poilão, 22 January-17 July 2011 (DC, GBH, KDR, UF), 1-3 there, 22 February-18 March 2012 (PAC, UF), and two at Pedra Badejo, 22 February-4 March 2012 (PAC). SAL: 1-3 at the sewage works near Santa Maria, 1-14 February 2010, and one there, 1-6 February 2011 (JLI). BOAVISTA: 2-3 at the lagoon near Curral Velho, 2 February 2012 (AML). Green sandpiper has been recorded (July-April) from Santiago (12), São Vicente (3), São Nicolau (1), Sal (2), Boavista (4) and Maio (1). In West Africa, it is a common to not uncommon Palearctic passage migrant and visitor throughout, mainly September-April (Borrow & Demey 2001). With 21 records since 1980 (and many more individuals involved), it is clear that green sandpiper is a regular migrant visitor to the Cape Verde Islands and, except for unusual records, it will not be included in future reports anymore.



Fig. 22. Spotted sandpiper *Actitis macularia*, Pedra Badejo, Santiago, 2 March 2012 (Frédéric Jiguet).



**Spotted sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* (Linnaeus, 1766)

(0, 9) SANTIAGO: one at Pedra Badejo, 2 March 2012 (PAC). A migrant from North America, spotted sandpiper has been recorded (October-March) from Santiago (2), Santo

Antão (2) and São Vicente (5). In West Africa, there is a record from coastal Cameroon (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Pomarine skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus* (Temminck, 1815)

(--, 7) SANTIAGO: an adult pale morph off Achada Grande Traz, Praia, 24 January 2012 (UF). This is the first record of pomarine skua since April-May 1996, when a few were seen off Sal. There were a few sightings in Cape Verde seas in October 1973 and April 1976,

including groups of up to eight birds, but the total number of pre-1980 records is unclear. The main wintering area is in the Senegal upwelling zone between latitudes 08° and 20° N, but apparently rarely occurs west of longitude 20° W.

**Long-tailed skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus* Vieillot, 1819

(1, 1) CAPE VERDE SEAS: two between Fogo and Brava, 2 May 2011 (RV). There was only a single pre-1980 record of one at sea south of Boavista, 25 April 1976. This Holarctic migrant winters mainly off Namibia

and western South Africa and passes (mainly August-September, March-April) at sea off West Africa; due to its highly pelagic habits, migration routes are poorly known (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Great skua** *Stercorarius skua* (Brünnich, 1764)

(3, 13) BOAVISTA: one off Curral Velho, 13 November 2010 (RBT, TS). In addition, one off Ponta do Barril, São Nicolau, 27 February 2012 (PAC), was presumably *S. skua*, but the possibility of *S. maccormicki* or another southern hemisphere taxon could not be ruled

out with certainty. A Palearctic passage migrant and visitor, great skua winters (mainly September-March) in the Atlantic, south to West Africa, being uncommon off Mauritania and rare further south (Borrow & Demey 2001).



Fig. 23. Great skua *Stercorarius skua*, Curral Velho, Boavista, 13 November 2010 (Stefan Cherrug).

**Black-legged kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* (Linnaeus, 1758)

SANTIAGO: one at Praia, 7 and 11 March 2009 (UF). CAPE VERDE SEAS: one between São Nicolau and Raso, 15 March 2009 (JH). These are the first records since 1998 and the first for March, all others being from December-February. Although probably a regular winter visitor to Cape Verde seas,

records are scarce and far between. The prolonged presence of up to 10 birds at Tarrafal bay, São Nicolau, in February 1998 (Hazevoet 1998), demonstrates that the paucity of records cannot be exclusively ascribed to the kittiwake's predominantly pelagic habits.

**Gull-billed tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* Gmelin, 1789

(0, 7) SANTIAGO: two at ponds near Achada Fazenda, 22-24 September 2011 (BG). BOAVISTA: one at Rabil lagoon, 12-13 October 2011 (HM). Gull-billed tern has now been recorded (September, October, December, January, April) from Santiago (1),

Boavista (2) and Maio (4). In West Africa, it is locally common to rare Palearctic winter visitor (mainly September-April), both inland and on the coast; breeds coastal Mauritania and northern Senegal (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Sandwich tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis* (Latham, 1787)

(1, 23) SANTIAGO: one at Praia, 21-27 March 2010 (UF), and again one there, 30 June 2011 (UF). BOAVISTA: one at Sal Rei, 15 March 2011 (GBH), and again one there, 8 October 2011 (HM); two at Praia de Chave, 5-6 February 2012 (AML). Sandwich tern has been recorded (October-March, June) from Santiago (4), São Nicolau (3), Sal (2),

Boavista (8), Maio (4) and at sea (3). In West Africa, it is a common Palearctic winter visitor along the entire coast (Borrow & Demey 2001). With 23 records since 1980, it is clear that sandwich tern is a regular migrant winter visitor to Cape Verde seas and coasts and, except for unusual records, this is the last of these reports in which the taxon is included.

**Common tern** *Sterna hirundo* Linnaeus, 1758

(2, 14) SANTIAGO: one off Tarrafal bay and five off Praia lighthouse, 1 May 2011 (RB); one off Praia lighthouse, 12 June 2011 (ED, PAC). In addition, a flock of *ca.* 70 'commic terns' *S. hirundo/paradisaea* was seen off Praia lighthouse, 1 May 2011 (RB). Common tern has been recorded (October, December,

January, April-June) from Santiago (4), Santo Antão (1), Sal (6), Boavista (3), Maio (1) and at sea (1). In West Africa, it is a common resident, intra-African migrant and Palearctic winter visitor along the entire coast (Borrow & Demey 2001). Birds seen in Cape Verde seas are presumably Palearctic migrants.

**Little tern** *Sternula albifrons* (Pallas, 1764)

(0, 17) BOAVISTA: two at Rabil lagoon, 12 November 2010 (RBT, TS); 2-3 at Rabil lagoon, 5-12 October 2011 (HM). The first record of little tern for Cape Verde was from Maio in 1988, but all subsequent records have been from Rabil lagoon, Boavista, and the

nearby shore, where a few appear to be present annually from October to April. In West Africa, it is a common to uncommon Palearctic winter visitor along the entire coast and a locally common to uncommon breeding resident (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**\*Black tern** *Chlidonias niger* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(0, 1) CAPE VERDE SEAS: two between Fogo and Brava, 2 May 2011 (MD, RV). This is the first record of black tern for the Cape Verde Islands. In West Africa, it is a common

Paleartic passage migrant (mainly September-October and March-May) and winter visitor along the entire coast (Borrow & Demey 2001).



Fig. 24. Eurasian collared doves *Streptopelia decaocto*, Cidade Velha, Santiago, 18 November 2011 (Yann Coatanéa).

**European turtle dove** *Streptopelia turtur* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(2, 11) SAL: four near Santa Maria, 19 September, and one there, 21 September 2010 (SP), are here counted as a single record. European turtle dove has been recorded (August-October, February) from Santiago (2), São Vicente (3), Sal (5), Boavista (2) and Maio (1). In West Africa, it is a common Palearctic winter visitor to the Sahel belt and a vagrant further south (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Eurasian collared dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* (Frisch, 1838)

(0, 10) SANTIAGO: one at Pedra Badejo lagoon, 7 November 2010 (RBT, TS); >10 at Achada Fazenda, 1 May 2011 (RV), 6-8 there, 12 June 2011 (ED, PAC), again 1-2 there, 22 September 2011, and two along the road a few km south of Achada Fazenda, 23 September 2011 (BG); at least two at Cidade Velha, 18 November 2011 (YC); two near the Pedra Badejo lagoons, 22 February-4 March 2012 (PAC). BOAVISTA: two near Rabil village, 2 February 2012 (AML). First recorded in the Cape Verde Islands in 2006 (Sal) and 2009 (São Nicolau), Eurasian collared dove now appears to be well-established at several locations on Santiago and probably breeds there. This is the first record for Boavista. Since the 1990s, it also has become established in the Canary Islands, Morocco and Western Sahara (e.g. Bergier 2000, Ramos 2008).

**European bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* Linnaeus, 1758

(1, 6) BOAVISTA: two along Via Pitoresca (south of Sal Rei), 19 February 2012 (PLS). European bee-eater has been recorded (August-September, December-May) from São Vicente (1), São Nicolau (1), Sal (2) and Boavista (3). In West Africa, it is a locally common to scarce Palearctic passage migrant and winter visitor (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* Linnaeus, 1758

(1, 6) SAL: two near Ponta Preta, 15 September 2010 (SP); one at Santa Maria, 14 February 2012 (HJ). Hoopoe has been recorded (August, September, January, February, April) from São Vicente (1), Santo Antão (1), Sal (3) and Boavista (2). In West Africa, it is a not uncommon Palearctic passage migrant and winter visitor south of the Sahara (Borrow & Demey 2001).



Fig. 25. European bee-eater *Merops apiaster*, Via Pitoresca, Boavista, 19 February 2012 (Pedro López-Suárez).

**Greater short-toed lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla* (Leisler, 1814)

(0, 3) RASO: four on the islet, 23 March 2007 (KM). SAL: two in dunes near the Riu Hotel, west of Santa Maria, 17 December 2006 (JLE). There was a single record from São Nicolau in April 2001. In West Africa, greater short-toed lark is an uncommon to locally common Palearctic winter visitor in the Sahel belt (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Sand martin** *Riparia riparia* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(2, 19) SÃO NICOLAU: 2-10 at Ponta do Barril, 19-21 September 2011, and ca. 10 between Preguiça and the airport, 20 September 2011 (BG); one at Ponta do Barril, 26 February 2012 (PAC). Sand martin has been recorded (August-October, February-April) from Santiago (2), São Vicente (5), Raso (1), São Nicolau (5) and Sal (8). In West Africa, it is an uncommon or rare to locally common Palearctic passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly in the Sahel zone (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Red-rumped swallow** *Cecropis daurica* (Laxmann, 1769)

(0, 16) SÃO VICENTE: 4-5 at the sewage ponds, 2 March 2012 (PAC). Red-rumped swallow has been recorded (December-April) from Santiago (2), São Vicente (5), Branco (1), São Nicolau (3), Sal (4) and Boavista (1). In West Africa, it is an uncommon to locally common resident, partially intra-African migrant and Palearctic migrant in the Sahel and savanna zones (Borrow & Demey 2001). Birds seen in the Cape Verde Islands are presumably Palearctic migrants.

**Red-throated pipit** *Anthus cervinus* (Pallas, 1811)

(0, 8) SAL: one at the sewage works near Santa Maria, 5-6 February 2011, and again one there, 1-5 February 2012 (JLI). Red-throated pipit has been recorded (December-



March) from São Vicente (3) and Sal (5), with all records being from the sewage works on either island. In West Africa, it is a common

to scarce Palearctic passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly in the Sahel and savanna belts (Borrow & Demey 2001).



Fig. 26. Red-throated pipit *Anthus cervinus*, Santa Maria, Sal, 6 February 2011 (John Lines).

Fig. 27. Red-throated pipit, Santa Maria, Sal, 1 February 2012 (John Lines).

#### **Yellow wagtail** *Motacilla flava* Linnaeus, 1758

(0, 7) SANTIAGO: one at Barragem de Poilão, 3 May 2011 (MD). SAL: one behind the Riu Hotel, west of Santa Maria, 16 September 2010 (SP). Yellow wagtail has been recorded (September-November, March-May) from

Santiago (2), Raso (1), Sal (3) and Boavista (1). In West Africa, it is a common to very common Palearctic passage migrant and winter visitor throughout (Borrow & Demey 2001).

#### **White wagtail** *Motacilla alba* Linnaeus, 1758

(1, 21) SAL: one near the Dunas del Sal Hotel, 16 December 2006 (JLE); one at the Santa Maria sewage works, 31 January 2012 (JLI); one behind the Morabeza Hotel, 9 February 2012 (AML). White wagtail has been recorded (July, October-March) from Santiago (3), São Vicente (8), Raso (2), São Nicolau (2) and Sal (7). In West Africa, it is a common to uncommon Palearctic passage

migrant and winter visitor, mainly in the Sahel and savanna belts (Borrow & Demey 2001). With 21 records since 1989, it is clear that white wagtail is a regular migrant visitor to the Cape Verde Islands and, apart from new island records or exceptional numbers or circumstances, the taxon will not be included in future reports any further.

#### **\*Sedge warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(0, 1) SAL: one near Santa Maria, 16 September 2010 (SP). This is the first record of sedge warbler for the Cape Verde Islands.

In West Africa, it is a locally common Palearctic winter visitor (September-May) throughout (Borrow & Demey 2001).

#### **\*Melodious warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta* (Vieillot, 1817)

(0, 1) SAL: one at the Tortuga Beach Holiday complex at Ponta Preta, 18 September 2010 (SP). This is the first record of melodious warbler for the Cape Verde Islands. In West

Africa, it is common to uncommon Palearctic passage migrant and winter visitor (August-April), mainly in the west of the region (Borrow & Demey 2001).



Fig. 28. Sedge warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*, Santa Maria, Sal, 16 September 2010 (Steve Payne).



Fig. 29-30. Melodious warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*, Ponta Preta, Sal, 18 September 2010 (Steve Payne).

**African desert warbler** *Sylvia deserti* (Loche, 1858)

(1, 1) RASO: one present, 28 February 2012 (PAC). This is only the second record of desert warbler for the Cape Verde Islands, the other being of one collected on Sal, 9 March 1924. In West Africa, African desert warbler is an uncommon to rare resident in Mauritania, northern Mali and northern Niger (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Willow warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(0, 9) BOAVISTA: one in bushes along the lagoon near Curral Velho, 10 October 2011 (HM). Willow warbler has been recorded (September, October, December, January, March) from São Vicente (1), Raso (1), São Nicolau (3), Sal (1) and Boavista (3). In West Africa, it is a common Palearctic passage migrant and winter visitor (August-April) throughout (Borrow & Demey 2001).



Fig. 31. African desert warbler *Sylvia deserti*, Raso, 28 February 2012 (Eric Didner).

**Pied flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca* (Pallas, 1764)

(1, 4) BOAVISTA: a female at Rabil lagoon, 12 October 2011 (HM). This is the first record since 1988, when single birds were observed at three different locations on Boavista, 19-22 September. The pre-1980 record is of one

collected on Sal in 1901. In West Africa, it is a not uncommon to scarce Palearctic passage migrant and winter visitor (August-May) throughout (Borrow & Demey 2001).

**Woodchat shrike** *Lanius senator* Linnaeus, 1758

(0, 2) SANTO ANTÃO: a male near Ponta do Sol, 23 March 2010 (EB). The only previous record of woodchat shrike was of one on Sal,

9 March 2004. In West Africa, it is a widespread and common Palearctic migrant visitor (Borrow & Demey 2001).

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