



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

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Keywords: Aves, Cape Verde Islands, distribution, migration, vagrancy, endemics, breeding.

### 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. *Ciconia nigra*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Circus macrourus*, *Falco naumanni*, *Chlidonias hybrida*, *Chlidonias leucopterus*, *Apus affinis*, *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* and *Phylloscopus inornatus*. Also presented are data on a number of breeding taxa, including the first record of the endemic Cape Verde purple heron *Ardea bournei* outside Santiago island. The alarming situation of the magnificent frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*, of which only three individuals remain in Cape Verde, constituting the entire population in the East Atlantic, remains of great concern. Several species of birds of prey are also highly threatened and have already become extinct in some islands. Following its expansion through Northwest Africa and the Canary Islands, Eurasian collared dove *Streptopelia decaocto* has now also become established in at least three of 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. *Ciconia nigra*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Circus macrourus*, *Falco naumanni*, *Chlidonias hybrida*, *Chlidonias leucopterus*, *Apus affinis*, *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* e *Phylloscopus inornatus*. São igualmente disponibilizados dados sobre taxa nidificantes, incluindo o primeiro registo da espécie endémica garça-vermelha-de-Cabo-Verde *Ardea bournei* fora de ilha de Santiago. É destacada também a situação alarmante da fragata *Fregata magnificens* da qual apenas restam três indivíduos em Cabo Verde, constituindo a totalidade da população em todo o Atlântico Leste. Algumas aves de rapina estão altamente ameaçadas e já se encontram extintas em algumas ilhas. Na sequência da sua expansão através do Noroeste Africano e ilhas Canárias, a rola-turca *Streptopelia decaocto* estabeleceu-se em pelo menos três das ilhas de Cabo Verde.

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## INTRODUCTION

This is the eighth supplement to *The Birds of the Cape Verde Islands* (Hazevoet 1995). For previous installments, see Hazevoet (1997, 1998, 1999a, 2003, 2010, 2012) and Hazevoet *et al.* (1996). Most data in the current report concern the years 2012-2014, but records from earlier years that came to light after the publication of previous supplements are also included.

During the past few years, the Poilão watershed has again produced an amazing number of rare waterbirds and, with more watersheds having been and currently being constructed, this trend is likely to continue unabated in the years to come. Some of these species, considered rare vagrants in the past, are now known to be regular visitors, including several from North America. The eastern islands of Sal and Boa Vista, the islands most often visited by foreign bird watchers on holiday, also continue to produce avian surprises, while the sewage works in São Vicente have again confirmed their fame as ‘hotspot’ for rare migrant waterbirds, including several from the other side of the Atlantic.

Less bright than the increase in migrant visitors known to occur in the Cape Verde Islands, is the plight of some local breeding birds. The situation of the magnificent frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* continues to be precarious, while a number of birds of prey are on the edge of extinction or have passed that mark already. This almost certainly applies to the Cape Verde kite *Milvus fasciicauda*, of which there have not been any reliable records for more than 40 years, while the Egyptian vulture *Neophron percnopterus* has become increasingly rare over the past 25 years and may not breed in Cape Verde any longer. The lone Egyptian vulture still seen every now and then could perhaps be a Palearctic migrant rather than a local bird, although this has as yet not been established. A programme to study *Neophron* and resolve its current status in Cape Verde is being prepared at present. Perhaps somewhat surprisingly, the number of sightings of black kite *M. migrans* has increased somewhat over the past few years, after a decade of almost no sightings at all, but – as with *Neophron* – it remains to be seen if these concern local birds rather than Palearctic migrants. Among other birds of prey, the Cape Verde buzzard *Buteo bannermani* is another

taxon worthy of more attention than it has received over the past decades. Very little is known about the buzzard’s habits, apart from the fact that it survives in small numbers in the islands of Santiago and Santo Antão, having apparently disappeared from São Nicolau.

In Boa Vista, ngo BIOS.CV continues their long-term studies of frigatebird, red-billed tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* and osprey *Pandion haliaetus*. The situation of the tropicbird in Boa Vista does show little, if any, sign of improvement, with many birds still falling victim to feral cats and human vandalism. Recently, a number of breeding platforms for ospreys have been erected in the hope of enhancing their breeding success, which has been close to zero in Boa Vista for many years. Equally, a number of artificial nests to accommodate the frigatebird were constructed on Curral Velho islet, hoping to improve their chances at successful breeding as well.

In the island of Maio, *Fundação Maio Biodiversidade* continues their studies of Kentish plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*, as well as other bird species, while in the island of Sal, *SOS Tartarugas* is now carrying out regular counts of waders, both local breeding species and migrant visitors. Over the past year, in depth studies of the Cape Verde cane warbler *Acrocephalus brevipennis* were carried out by an international team in Santiago, Fogo and São Nicolau, while the islands of Brava and Santo Antão were prospected in search of the cane warbler, be it without result so far.

The grand total of species level taxa of birds recorded in the Cape Verde archipelago now stands at 228, an increase of 84 since the publication of Hazevoet (1995), not counting a number of introduced taxa that may or may not have established a permanent population or have disappeared since they were introduced. Unless stated otherwise, general data on distribution, status, number of records, etc. in the following are taken from Hazevoet (1995, 1997, 1998, 1999a, 2003, 2010, 2012) 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 OF OBSERVERS' NAMES: AA – Agueda Alcalde; AC – Andy Clifton; AM – Adolfo Marco; AN – Angelo Nava *et al.*; AP – Andrew Power *et al.*; BD – Ellen de Bruin & Ricardo van Dijk; CG – Colin Gittins; CGr – Tim Collins & Mags Grindle; CH – C. Heuck *et al.*; CJH – Cornelis J. Hazevoet; CL – Cécile Lazaro; CR – Christian Roder; FM – François Moutou; FS – Fredrik Ström; GBC – Gerard Bota Cabau; GM – Guy Mirgain; HB – Helena Batalha *et al.*; HD – Hugues Dufourny *et al.*; JB – John Badley *et al.*; JC – Jacquie Cozens; JLE – John Lee; JLI – John Lines; JR – Janne Riihimäki; KD – Klaus

Drissner; KH – Kari Haataja; KW – Keijo Wahlroos; LB – Lucas Baliteau; MC – Marco Crivellari; MF – Michael Fricke; MG – Mike Greenfelder; MK – Mike King; MMJ – Michael Mosebo Jensen; MN – Marc Newsome; MR – Magnus Robb; MSR – Manuel Simões Rodrigues; NA – Nick Addey; ND – Nils van Duivendijk; PC – Paul Chapman; PD – Paul Donald; PLS – Pedro López Suárez; RF – Ronan Le Fur; RP – René Pop; RS – Rainer Sottorf; SB – Simon Baliteau; SC – Sampsca Cairenius; SM – Samir Martins; TK – Tommy Karlström; TM – Tommy Melo; UF – Ulrich Filbrandt.

## BREEDING BIRDS

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

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

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

BOA VISTA: two females were seen at ilhéu de Curral Velho, 15 February 2014 (PLS). During a visit to Curral Velho islet on 10 January 2014, a frigatebird nest with a single egg was found, but during a subsequent visit on 13 March, only egg shells were found and the egg apparently did not hatch and was presumably predated (PLS). Away from Boa Vista, single male frigatebirds were reported from Sal, *ca.* 5 July 2014 (JC), and Raso, *ca.* 10 October 2014 (TM).

In November 2012, the total frigatebird population in Cape Verde was thought to consist of one male and one female (López Suárez *et al.* 2012). The sighting of two females at Curral Velho in February 2014 perhaps allows for some

subdued optimism, be it of the most cautious sort. At present, Curral Velho islet is the only breeding locality of *Fregata* in the Cape Verde archipelago and, indeed, in the whole of the eastern Atlantic. There has been no nesting activity at the former breeding site of Baluarte islet, off eastern Boa Vista, during the past 10 years and breeding success at Curral Velho islet has been zero during the same period. It is as yet unclear if individual frigatebirds from the Cape Verde population wander into the Atlantic, only to return to the islands at a later date, or if trans-Atlantic dispersal occurs, with birds from Caribbean populations possibly reaching Cape Verde at times.

### **Cattle egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Linnaeus, 1758

SANTIAGO: during the second half of 2012, a breeding colony was established in trees on the premises of Escola António Nunes in the Calabaceira neighborhood of Praia, where 526 nests were counted in September (Rendall Monteiro & Semedo 2012). By 2014, the Calabaceira site had been abandoned and birds had apparently moved to trees at Mercado de Sucupira in Praia, where in October-November 2014 a large roost and breeding colony existed ([Oceanpress](#), 5 November 2014), although the number of birds and nests involved still needs to be established. A roost at Barragem de Poilão held at least 1,650 birds, 5 March 2013 (HD). BOA VISTA: a count at a roost near Rabil, 28

January 2013, yielded the stunning number of at least 6,100 birds (SC).

In Cape Verde, cattle egret is a common and widespread migrant visitor and a scarce breeding bird, although the number of reported breeding instances has increased during the past decade. The geographical origin of the large numbers of migrant birds occurring in Cape Verde has as yet to be established, but may involve both Palearctic and Afrotropical birds. In West Africa, it is common and widespread (Borrow & Demey 2014), involving both Palearctic migrants and local breeding birds, the latter showing erratic movements determined by available food resources (Isenmann *et al.* 2010).

**Cape Verde purple heron** *Ardea bournei* de Naurois, 1966

SANTIAGO: a pair building a nest in a tree at São Domingos, 6 September 2014, and possibly more pairs present (SM). BOA VISTA: one along Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Água), 9-19 March 2012 (CG).

There had not been any sign of breeding at São Domingos (the type locality) since the mid-1960s, when the population there was estimated at *ca.* 30 pairs in 1963 (Naurois 1966) and 50-60 pairs in 1966 (Bannerman & Bannerman 1968). Nowadays, the only substantial breeding colony is at Banana, Ribeira Montanha, where during the breeding seasons of 2006 and 2007, the maximum number of occupied nests was *ca.* 60

(A. Rendall unpublished data). In 2006-2007, a few pairs bred in Serra Malagueta (Cesarini *et al.* 2008). The local purple heron population appears to have benefited from the recent construction of watersheds in Santiago island. This slightly optimistic note notwithstanding, the few existing breeding sites remain highly vulnerable and more targeted measures, aimed at their long-term protection and survival, remain urgently needed. The record from Boa Vista is the first ever outside Santiago island and may perhaps reflect the slightly less gloomy situation of the Cape Verde purple heron today, with some birds dispersing to other islands.



Fig.1-2. Cape Verde purple heron *Ardea bournei*, Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Água), Boavista, 19 March 2012 (Colin Gittins).

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

SANTIAGO: one in very bleached plumage near Praia harbour, 3-5 May 2013 (ND). SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage works, 15 March 2013 (KH, KW), and two there, 31 December 2013 (CGR). SAL: one near Santa Maria, 24 October, and south of Murdeira, 27 October 2013 (BD). For many years, no sightings from Santiago had been reported. Those from São Vicente follow a sighting of six in March 2011, which was the first there in three decades. During the past decades, most sightings of black kite are from the eastern islands, particularly Boa Vista and Maio, but the last report from Sal was of one in March 2007. It is as yet unclear

whether black kites seen Cape Verde are Palearctic migrant visitors or local breeding birds. There are very few breeding data of black kite in Cape Verde. In West Africa, it is an uncommon to locally fairly common Palearctic visitor, but precise status is uncertain due to confusion with locally breeding yellow-billed kite *M. parasitus* (Borrow & Demey 2014). In this connection it may also be noted that the Cape Verde kite *M. fasciicauda*, which still existed in Santiago, Santo Antão and São Nicolau during the 1950s and 1960s, is almost certainly extinct, there having been no reliable records for more than 40 years.



Fig 3-4. Black kite *Milvus migrans*, sewage works, São Vicente, 15 March 2013 (Keijo Wahlroos).

#### Unidentified large falcon *Falco* sp.

BOA VISTA: one along the road between Sal Rei and the airport, 18 February 2014 (PLS); one west of Riu Touareg Hotel (Lacacão), 6 November 2014 (HD). These sightings of large falcons are included here in view of the scarcity of peregrine records in Cape Verde. However, in

both cases the birds were seen only briefly or at great distance, hence it was not possible to ascertain whether it concerned local *Falco madens* or migrant peregrine falcon *F. peregrinus* or perhaps even barbary falcon *F. pelegrinoides* or lanner *F. biarmicus*.

#### Rose-ringed parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (Scopoli, 1769)

SANTIAGO: 2-5 at Cidade Velha, 19 November -4 December 2013 (AP). During the years 1993-1995, a few pairs of this introduced species resided at Parque 5 de Julho in Praia, Santiago, but thereafter no records were obtained there. In January-March 1992, small parties were regularly seen at Mindelo, São Vicente, but none have been reported there since. There is also an old record of one collected at Praia in April 1909. It appears that new introductions take

place every now and then, but so far without a resident population becoming established. Rose-ringed parakeet occurs naturally in a wide belt across Africa from southern Mauritania and Senegal in the west to southern Sudan and Ethiopia in the east, as well as in southern Asia from Pakistan and the Indian subcontinent to Burma. Feral populations exist in many cities in Europe, North Africa, South Africa, Turkey, the Middle East, Japan and North America.

#### Common waxbill *Estrilda astrild* (Linnaeus, 1758)

SANTO ANTÃO: 'considerable' flocks present at Ribeira de Paúl and Ribeira Grande, 11-15 September 2014 (HB). The only record of common waxbill for Santo Antão was of three collected at Janela, 15 January 1924. Apparently this introduced estrilid was recently released anew in the island, but it remains to be seen if this will lead to a more permanent settlement.

Common waxbill is common in Santiago. In São Vicente, where it also had not been recorded since 1924, a number were apparently released prior to 2005, in which year there were a couple of sightings. However, it has not been seen subsequently and has seemingly disappeared there once again. Populations in Cape Verde are descended from birds imported from Angola.



Fig. 5. Common waxbill *Estrilda astrild*, Ribeira Grande, Santo Antão, 13 September 2014 (Torbjörn Blixt).

#### 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 included in previous 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*, *T. ochropus*, *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, *Larus michahellis*, *Thalasseus sandvicensis*, *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).

#### [**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* Linnaeus, 1758

A female mallard (a taxon not recorded before in Cape Verde) was claimed at Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 29 December 2011 (Birding World 25: 16, 2012). However, documentation was deemed

insufficient for acceptance and inclusion in the present report. Unfortunately, this unsubstantiated claim was included and mapped for Cape Verde by Borrow & Demey (2014).]

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

(2, 20) SANTIAGO: four females at Barragem de Poilão, 28 October 2012, and 2-4 males and one female there, 6-13 January 2013 (UF). SAL: a male at the sewage works near Santa Maria, 20 December 2013 (FM). BOA VISTA: two at Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Água), 7 November 2014 (HD). Common teal has been reported from Santiago (5), São Vicente (7), Sal (4) and Boa

Vista (6). All records are from October to March. This is by far the anatid most often recorded in Cape Verde. Observers should remain alert for the possibility of green-winged teal *A. carolinensis*, of which there is a single record. In West Africa, common teal is a locally fairly common to uncommon Palearctic visitor (Borrow & Demey 2014).

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

(0, 8) SANTIAGO: seven at the Pedra Badejo lagoons, 9 December 2012 (CGR). SANTO ANTÃO: a male at Ribeira Grande, 28

December 2012 (CGR). SÃO VICENTE: two at the sewage works, 20-21 December 2012 (CGR). Northern pintail has been recorded (November,

December, February) from Santiago (1), Santo Antão (1), São Vicente (2), Sal (3) and Maio (1). In West Africa, it is a locally common Palearctic

winter visitor south to Senegal, uncommon to scarce further south (Borrow & Demey 2014).

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula* Linnaeus, 1758

(0, 3) BOA VISTA: one at Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Água), 7 November 2014 (HD). Previous records of garganey were from São

Vicente (April) and Sal (December). In West Africa, it is a locally common to uncommon Palearctic visitor (Borrow & Demey 2014).

**Northern shoveler** *Anas clypeata* Linnaeus, 1758

(0, 7) SANTIAGO: 1-2 at Barragem de Poilão, 28 October-8 December 2012 (UF, CGR), and a female there, 24 November-8 December 2013 (AP). SAL: a female at the sewage works near Santa Maria, 31 January-5 February 2014 (JLI).

Northern shoveler has been reported from Santiago (3), São Vicente (2) and Sal (2), with records from October to February. In West Africa, it is a locally common to uncommon Palearctic visitor (Borrow & Demey 2014).

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

(0, 6) SANTIAGO: four at Barragem de Poilão, 8 December 2012 (CGR), and one male and four females there, 6 January-14 March 2013 (HD, KH, UF). BOA VISTA: a female at Lacacão, 2-7 November 2014 (HD). This Nearctic duck has

been reported (January-March) from Santiago (3), São Vicente (2) and Boa Vista (1). In West Africa, there are records from Senegal only (Borrow & Demey 2014).



Fig. 6. Blue-winged teal *Anas discors*, Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 14 March 2013 (Kari Haataja).

Fig. 7. Blue-winged teal *Anas discors*, Lacacão, Boa Vista, 6 November 2014 (Georges Olioso).

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

(0, 5) SANTIAGO: five at Barragem de Poilão, 8 December 2012 (CGR), and still a male there, 6 January-10 March 2013 (HD, UF). This Nearctic migrant has now been reported (November-

March) from Santiago (2), São Vicente (2) and Sal (1). There appear to be as yet no records from the West African mainland (cf. Borrow & Demey 2014).

**Tufted duck** *Aythya fuligula* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(1, 3) SANTIAGO: four females at Barragem de Poilão, 6-13 January 2013 (UF), and 1-2 females there, 24 November-8 December 2013 (AP). While sightings of other anatids have increased markedly during the past decade, those of tufted duck have remained exceedingly scarce.

Previously, there were only two records, i.e. one each from Santiago (February 1966) and Sal (November 1999), which is in agreement with its status as a rare to locally uncommon Palearctic visitor in the West African mainland (Borrow & Demey 2014).



Fig. 8. Tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, female, Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 24 November 2013 (Andrew Power).

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

(0, 8) RASO: an adult white morph in the brown booby *S. leucogaster* colony, 9 October 2012 (GBC), and again one there (possibly the same bird), 14 March 2013 (MF). One at sea at 19°48'59"N, 23°10'48"W, 2 October 2014 (MG), was just outside the geographical area considered here. There are records from Cape

Verde seas (3), ilhéu de Cima (1), off Santo Antão (1) and Raso (3), in July (1), August (1), October (2), November (1), March (1) and April (2). The nearest breeding colonies are in Ascension Is. and Fernando de Noronha. There appear to be as yet no records off the West African mainland (cf. Borrow & Demey 2014).



Fig. 9. Red-footed booby *Sula sula*, Raso, 9 October 2012 (Gerard Bota Cabau).

**Masked booby** *Sula dactylatra* Lesson, 1831

(0, 3) BOA VISTA: one at ilhéu de Curral Velho, 13 December 2012 (GM). MAIO: a bird in poor condition was found on the beach at

Barreiro, 25 July 2014, and taken to Porto Inglês (Vila do Maio) for recovery (Fundação Maio Biodiversidade, PLS). The only previous record

was of a long staying bird at ilhéu de Curral Velho, off southern Boa Vista, in 2003-2005. As in red-footed booby, the nearest breeding colonies are in Ascension Is. and Fernando de

Noronha. There appear to be as yet no records off the West African mainland (cf. Borrow & Demey 2014).



Fig. 10. Masked booby *Sula dactylatra*, Porto Inglês, Maio, 27 July 2014 (Pedro López Suárez).

**White-breasted cormorant** *Phalacrocorax lucidus* (Lichtenstein, 1823)

(--, 4) BOA VISTA: one at Ribeira d'Água, 30 January 2014 (PLS), an immature at Lacacão, 20 February 2014 (JR), one at ilhéu de Curral Velho, 13 March 2014 (PLS), and again one in the same area, 21 March 2014 (PLS), presumably all concerned the same individual and are here counted as a single record. Previously, 4-6 birds were seen in Santiago, Sal and Boa Vista in March-December 2007. There

is a single 20<sup>th</sup> century record (March 1924) and scant 19<sup>th</sup> century reports from São Vicente, Raso, São Nicolau and Boa Vista. In West Africa, it is a locally common to uncommon breeding bird from Mauritania to Guinea, said to be resident (Borrow & Demey 2014), but some dispersal evidently takes place, as shown by the Cape Verde records in 2007 and 2014.



Fig. 11. White-breasted cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus*, Lacacão, Boa Vista, 20 February 2014 (Janne Riihimäki).

**Great white Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* Linnaeus, 1758

(0, 3) BOA VISTA: a bird in poor condition was present, first at the Sal Rei salt pans and then at Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Água), from 16 September 2013 onwards; it died 11 October, suffering from a massive subcutaneous emphysema and being seriously emaciated (PLS). Previous records, all from Boa Vista, are of a bird

photographed at Sal Rei, July-August 2000, and a skull found in September 2007. In West Africa, great white pelican is a scarce to locally common resident or intra-African migrant, the movements of which are however unclear (Borrow & Demey 2014).



Fig. 12. Great white pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Água), 7 October 2013 (Pedro López Suárez).

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

(1, 4) SANTIAGO: an adult male at Barragem de Poilão, 4-10 March 2013 (HD, UF). The four post-1980 records are all from the Barragem de Poilão in March, the earlier being of one collected in Brava in November 1969. In West Africa, little bittern is both an uncommon to

locally fairly common resident and a Palearctic visitor (Borrow & Demey 2014). The single specimen record was of nominate *minutus*, not Afrotropical *payesii* (Hazevoet 1999b, *pace* Frade 1976).

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

(1, 21) SANTIAGO: two at Barragem de Poilão, 16 April 2012 (KD), 1-5 (both adults and immatures) there, 3-10 March 2013 (HD, UF), and 1-2 (an adult and a juvenile) there, 24 November 2013-13 January 2014 (AP); 2-3 at Barragem de Faveta, 4-5 November 2014 (HD). BOAVISTA: an adult at Ribeira do Rabil, 19 March 2012 (CG). Black-crowned night heron has been reported (August-May) from Santiago

(14), São Vicente (1), Raso (1) and Boa Vista (6). In West Africa, both local residents and northern migrants occur alongside each other during the northern winter (Borrow & Demey 2014). Birds seen in Cape Verde are likely to be Palearctic migrants, although, in view of the occurrence of other Afrotropical herons, a (partly) West African origin cannot be excluded.

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

(2, 16) SANTIAGO: one at Barragem de Poilão, 29 May 2012 (RF); one there, 11 November 2012 & 13 January 2013 (UF), 1-2 there, 3-10 March 2013 (HD, UF), 2-6 there, 22 November 2013-13 January 2014 (AP); one at Barragem de Faveta, 4 November 2014 (HD). Squacco heron has been reported (in all months except August)

from Santiago (15), São Nicolau (1), Sal (1) and Boa Vista (1). In West Africa, it is a locally common resident and a Palearctic visitor (Borrow & Demey 2014). As in black-crowned night heron, birds seen in Cape Verde are likely to be Palearctic visitors, although a (partly) West African origin cannot be excluded.

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

(0, 8) SANTIAGO: one at Barragem de Poilão, 19 April- 5 May 2012 (AN, UF), one there, 3 March-22 April 2013 (HD, KH, MF, PC, RS, UF), and 1-2 there, 13 January-24 March 2014 (AP, GM). Black heron has been recorded (January-May) from Santiago (5), São Vicente

(1), Raso (1) and Boa Vista (1). In West Africa, it is an uncommon to locally common resident (Borrow & Demey 2014), but some dispersal apparently takes place, as demonstrated by its occurrence in Cape Verde.



Fig. 13-14. Black heron *Egretta ardesiaca*, Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 19 April 2012 (Alberto Nava).

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

SANTO ANTÃO: one (dark morph) at Ribeira Grande, 28 November-1 December 2012 (MR, RP). SAL: one (dark morph) at the sewage works near Santa Maria, 30 January-5 February 2013 (JLI). BOA VISTA: one (white morph) at Praia de Santa Monica, 25 December 2013 (FS).

This is the first record for Sal, only the second for Santo Antão and a rare report of a white morph bird. Western reef heron is a regular

Afrotropical migrant visitor to Cape Verde, most often reported from Santiago and Boa Vista, but with only scarce records from Santo Antão, São Vicente, Raso and Maio. In West Africa, it is a common resident, largely confined to coastal areas (Borrow & Demey 2014). Although regularly seen in Cape Verde, no breeding has been documented so far.



Fig. 15. Western reef heron *Egretta gularis*, Praia de Santa Monica, Boa Vista, 25 December 2013 (Fredrik Ström).

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

(1, 23) SANTIAGO: > 10 at Barragem de Poilão, 16 April 2012 (KD), and 1-2 there, 19 April-5 May 2012 (AN, UF), are here counted as a single record; one there, 8-15 July 2012 (UF), again one there, 4 March-23 April 2013 (HD, KH, MF, PC, RS), and two there, 31 October 2013 (JC); two at Barragem de Faveta, 25 March 2014 (GM); 1-3 at Barragem de Poilão, 3-5 November 2014 (HD). SAL: one at Vila Verde (Ponta Preta), 4-5 January 2013 (JLE), and one at the sewage farm near Santa Maria, 3-5 February 2013 (JLI). BOA VISTA: three near Rabil, roosting together with cattle egrets, 27-28 January 2013 (SC); one at Ribeira do Rabil (Monte Trigo area), 6 February 2013 (PLS). Intermediate egret has been recorded in all

months (except September) from Santiago (9), Santo Antão (2), São Vicente (3), Sal (4) and Boa Vista (6). This is one of the Afrotropical herons most often recorded at Barragem de Poilão, but it is difficult to establish how many individual birds have been involved. In West Africa, it is a fairly common to uncommon resident, with local movements being recorded (Borrow & Demey 2014). With at least 23 records (and many more individuals involved) since 1983, it is clear that intermediate egret is a regular migrant visitor to the Cape Verde Islands and, apart from new island records or exceptional numbers or circumstances, it will not be included in future reports anymore.

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

(0, 10) SANTIAGO: one at Barragem de Poilão, 4-5 March 2013 (HD). SANTO ANTÃO: two at Tanque, 28 December 2012 (CGR). SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage works, 29-30 December 2012 (CGR). BOA VISTA: one at Lacacão, 21 February 2014 (JR); one at Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Água), 22 March 2014 (NA). MAIO: one at Casas Velhas, 10 December 2012 (CGR). Great white egret has been reported (February-July) from Santiago (2), Santo Antão

(1), São Vicente (2), Boa Vista (4) and Maio (1). In West Africa, it is a common to uncommon resident (*melanorhynchos*), while Palearctic migrants (*albus*) may also occur (Borrow & Demey 2014), but probably remain largely undetected among local birds. One in São Vicente in March 2012 showed characters of Nearctic *egretta*, but has not been formerly accepted as such.



Fig. 16. Intermediate egret *Egretta intermedia*, Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 19 April 2012 (Alberto Nava).

Fig. 17. Great white egret *Casmerodius albus*, Lacacão, Boa Vista, 21 February 2014 (Janne Riihimäki).

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

(2, 11) SANTIAGO: one at Barragem de Poilão, 3 November 2014 (HD). SAL: one at the sewage works near Santa Maria, 3-4 February 2013 (JLI). Purple heron has been reported (September, December-April, June, July) from Santiago (3), São Vicente (3), Sal (2) and Boa

Vista (4). In West Africa, it is a uncommon to locally common Palearctic visitor and resident (Borrow & Demey 2014). Birds seen in Cape Verde are supposedly Palearctic migrants. For Cape Verde purple heron *A. bournei*, see section on breeding birds above.



Fig. 18-19. Purple heron *Ardea purpurea*, Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 3 November 2014 (Hugues Dufourny).

**\*Black stork** *Ciconia nigra* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(0, 1) BOA VISTA: one just south of Rabil, 27 December 2013 (FS). This is the first record of black stork, a Palearctic migrant visitor, for the

Cape Verde Islands. In West Africa, it is a rare or scarce to uncommon visitor from September to May (Borrow & Demey 2014).



Fig. 20. Black stork *Ciconia nigra*, near Rabil, Boa Vista, 27 December 2013 (Fredrik Ström).  
 Fig. 21. White stork *Ciconia ciconia*, sewage works, São Vicente, 3 December 2012 (René Pop).

**\*White stork *Ciconia ciconia* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

(0, 3) SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage works, 30 September-31 December 2012 (JB, MR, RP, CGR). BOA VISTA: one at Ervatão, 5 February 2014 (MSR), and one seen at Curral Velho on several occasions during mid July 2014 (AM), may have been the same individual, but as this

cannot be verified the records in February and July are here counted separately. These are the first records of white stork, a Palearctic migrant, for the Cape Verde Islands. In West Africa, it is an uncommon or rare to locally fairly common visitor (Borrow & Demey 2014).

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

(1, 8) BOA VISTA: two at Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Água), 26 December 2013 (FS). Glossy ibis has been reported (October-December, February-April) from Santiago (5),

Boa Vista (3) and Maio (1). In West Africa, it is a locally fairly common to scarce Palearctic visitor, with breeding recorded in Mali and suspected in Senegal (Borrow & Demey 2014).

**\*Pallid harrier *Circus macrourus* (S.G. Gmelin, 1770)**

(0, 1) SAL: a juvenile near Palmeira, 26 October, and north of Murdeira, 27 October 2013 (BD). This is the first record of pallid harrier for the Cape Verde Islands. In West Africa, it is an uncommon to locally common Palearctic visitor

(Borrow & Demey 2014). In addition, there was a record of an unidentified female or immature *Circus pygargus/macrourus* at ilhéu do Sal Rei, Boa Vista, 3 March 2013 (HD), adding to five earlier records of unidentified harriers.



Fig. 22-23. Pallid harrier *Circus macrourus*, north of Murdeira, Sal, 27 October 2013 (Ricardo van Dijk).

**\*Lesser kestrel** *Falco naumanni* Fleischer, 1818

(0, 1) SANTA LUZIA: a male in poor condition, which died the same day, found in September 2011 (precise date unknown), was ringed in Sevilla, Spain, in 2010, but further details are as yet lacking (AM, PD, TM). This is the first

record of lesser kestrel for the Cape Verde Islands. In West Africa, it is a locally common to rare Palearctic visitor, often in small or even large groups over various open habitats (Borrow & Demey 2014).

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

(0, 4) SANTIAGO: one at Barragem de Poilão, 4-5 March 2013 (HD). First reported in 2005, there are now records from Santiago (3) and São Vicente (1), from January to March. In West

Africa, it is a generally rare (but probably overlooked) Palearctic visitor, fairly common in the Senegal delta (Borrow & Demey 2014).

**American purple gallinule** *Porphyryla martinica* (Linnaeus, 1766)

(0, 2) SANTIAGO: a 1<sup>st</sup> year bird at Barragem de Faveta, 4 November 2014 (HD). This is the second record for the Cape Verde Islands, the previous being of one at Barragem de Poilão in February-March 2008. American purple gallinule

is known for its capacity for long-distance vagrancy and there are records from the Canary Islands (Ramos 2008) and Madeira (Zino *et al.* 1995), but not from the West African mainland (Borrow & Demey 2014).

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

(0, 5) SANTIAGO: one at Barragem de Poilão, 26 November and 8 December 2013 (AP). Only first reported in 2010, there are now records of Eurasian coot from Santiago (3), Sal (1) and Boa Vista (1) from November to March. In West

Africa, it is a rare to locally fairly common Palearctic visitor to desert oases and wetlands in the Sahel, with breeding recorded once in northern Senegal (Borrow & Demey 2014).

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

(2, 14) BOA VISTA: one at Sal Rei, 28 January 2013 (SC), and one at Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Água), 2 May 2013 (PLS). Oystercatcher has been recorded (August-May) from Santiago (2), Cima (1), Santo Antão (1), São Vicente (4),

Santa Luzia (1), Branco (1), São Nicolau (1), Sal (1) and Boa Vista (4). In West Africa, it is an uncommon or scarce to locally common Palearctic visitor to coastal areas (Borrow & Demey 2014).



Fig. 24-25. Collared pratincole *Glareola pratincola*, Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 19 April 2012 (Alberto Nava).

**Collared pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(2, 9) SANTIAGO: one at Barragem de Poilão, 19 April 2012 (AN). Collared pratincole has been recorded (September-May) from Santiago (3), São Vicente (2), Sal (1) and Maio (5). In West Africa, it is a widespread, fairly common to

uncommon and local resident, intra-African migrant and Palearctic visitor (Borrow & Demey 2014), hence it is as yet unclear what the geographical origin is of collared pratincoles seen in Cape Verde.

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

(0, 11) SANTO ANTÃO: one near Porto Novo, 17 October 2012 (SB, LB). SÃO VICENTE: two at the sewage works, 2 December 2012 (MR, RP). Semipalmated plover, a Nearctic vagrant, has been recorded (October-December,

February-April) from Santiago (3), Santo Antão (2), São Vicente (4) and Sal (2). There appear to be as yet no records from the West African mainland (cf. Borrow & Demey 2014).



Fig. 26. Semipalmated plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*, Porto Novo, Santo Antão, 17 October 2012 (Lucas Baliteau). Fig. 27. American golden plover *Pluvialis dominicus*, 28 December 2013 (Fredrik Ström).

**American golden plover** *Pluvialis dominicus* (Statius Müller, 1776)

(3, 18) SANTIAGO: a juvenile at Ribeira Filipe, Praia, 5 November 2014 (HD). SANTO ANTÃO: one at Ponta do Sol, 28-30 November 2012 (MR, RP). SÃO VICENTE: 2-3 juveniles at the sewage works, 1-3 November 2012 (JB). SAL: one at the sewage works near Santa Maria, 6 December 2012 (CGR), and again one there, 4-5 February 2013 (JLI). BOA VISTA: one in first summer plumage at Lacacão, 7-8 March 2013 (HD); one at Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Água),

28 December 2013 (FS); 1-2 at Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Água), 2-8 November 2014 (HD). With 18 records since 1980, American golden plover is the second commonest Nearctic migrant wader in Cape Verde, with records (September-May) from Santiago (3), Santo Antão (3), São Vicente (9), Raso (1), Sal (2) and Boa Vista (3). In West Africa, there are records from coastal areas from southern Mauritania in the north to Gabon in the south (Borrow & Demey 2014).

**Eurasian golden plover** *Pluvialis apricaria* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(0, 2) SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage works, 28-30 December 2012 (CGR). This is only the second record of Eurasian golden plover, the previous being of one at Tarrafal, Santiago, in

March 2006. In West Africa, it is a Palearctic vagrant, recorded in Mauritania, Senegal and Gambia (Borrow & Demey 2014).

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

(1, 13) BOA VISTA: one at Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Água), 18 December 2013 (FS). Red knot has been recorded (September-January, March-April) from Santiago (2), São Vicente (2), Sal (2), Boa Vista (7) and Maio (1). In West Africa, it is a common (south to Guinea) to uncommon or scarce Palearctic visitor (Borrow & Demey 2014). Its scarcity in Cape Verde, compared to the adjacent African mainland, is likely due to the limited availability of red knot's preferred habitat, i.e. tidal mudflats and estuaries, in the islands.

**Temminck's stint** *Calidris temminckii* (Leisler, 1812)

(0, 7) SAL: two at the Santa Maria salt pans, 29 October 2013 (BD). MAIO: one at Ribeira Dom João, 11 December 2012 (CGR). With seven records since 1989 (when first reported), Temminck's stint remains a scarce Palearctic migrant visitor in Cape Verde. It has been reported (October-December, March) from Santiago (1), São Vicente (1), Sal (2), Boa Vista (2) and Maio (1). In West Africa, it is an uncommon to rare visitor (Borrow & Demey 2014).

**Least sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla* (Vieillot, 1819)

(0, 6) SAL: one near Santa Maria, 2 February 2013 (JLI). BOAVISTA: one at Lacacão, 30 March-14 April 2012 (AC, AN). This Nearctic vagrant has been reported (February-April) from São Vicente (2), Sal (2) and Boa Vista (2). There are as yet no records from the West African mainland (Borrow & Demey 2014).

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

(0, 10) SÃO VICENTE: an adult and 3-7 juveniles (1<sup>st</sup> winter) at the sewage works, 31 October-3 November 2012 (JB). BOA VISTA: one at Lacacão, 23 January 2013 (SC); a juvenile at Lacacão, 6-7 November 2014 (HD). White-rumped sandpiper, a Nearctic vagrant, has been recorded (October-January) from Santiago (1), São Vicente (3), Sal (2) and Boa Vista (4). In West Africa, there are records from Ivory Coast and Ghana (Borrow & Demey 2014).

**Baird's sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii* (Coues, 1861)

(0, 2) SÃO VICENTE: a juvenile at the sewage works, 1-3 November 2012 (JB). This is only the second record for Cape Verde of this Nearctic vagrant, the previous – one in Sal in October 2007 – being currently under revision. In West Africa, Baird's sandpiper has been reported from Mauritania, Senegal and Gambia (Borrow & Demey 2014).



Fig. 28. Baird's sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*, sewage works, São Vicente, 3 November 2012 (Juan Brown).

**Pectoral sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos* (Vieillot, 1819)

(0, 3) SAL: one at the Santa Maria salt pans, 29-30 October 2013 (BD). All three records of pectoral sandpiper are from October, with both previous ones being from Santiago. In West

Africa, there are *ca.* 10 records of this Nearctic vagrant from Senegal in the north to Gabon in the south, mostly coastal, but some also inland (Borrow & Demey 2014).



Fig. 29-30. Pectoral sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*, Santa Maria, Sal, 29 October 2013 (Ricardo van Dijk).

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

(2, 13) SANTIAGO: 1-4 at Barragem de Poilão, 14 April-18 June 2012 (KD, RF, UF), and 1-2 there, 4-10 March 2013 (HD, UF). SAL: 1-4 at the sewage works near Santa Maria, 31 January-5 February 2014 (JLI); one near Santa Maria, 23-25 August 2014 (JC). BOA VISTA: three at Lacacão, 12 April 2012 (KD). Black-tailed

godwit, a Palearctic visitor, has been recorded (August-October, December-June) from Santiago (3), São Vicente (2), Sal (3), Boa Vista (5) and Maio (2). In West Africa, it is a common to scarce visitor in open, fresh to marine wetlands (Borrow & Demey 2014).

**Hudsonian whimbrel** *Numenius hudsonicus* Latham, 1790

(0, 2) BOA VISTA: one at Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Água), 26 January 2013 (CS). This is the second record of this Nearctic vagrant for Cape Verde, the previous being of one in São

Nicolau in February 1991. In West Africa, it has been recorded in Gambia and Sierra Leone (Borrow & Demey 2014).

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

(0, 10) BOA VISTA: 1-3 at Sal Rei, 22-29 January 2013 (SC). With only 10 records since 1989 (when first recorded), Eurasian curlew remains remarkably scarce in Cape Verde. It has been recorded (November, January-April) from

Santiago (1), Santo Antão (1), Raso (1), Sal (2), Boa Vista (4) and Maio (1). In West Africa, it is a fairly common to scarce Palearctic visitor, recorded in all months (mainly in August-April) (Borrow & Demey 2014).

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

(0, 13) BOA VISTA: one at Lacacão, 24-30 July 2012 (MN). Spotted redshank has been recorded (July, September, November-March) from Santiago (1), São Vicente (5), Sal (1), Boa Vista

(5) and Maio (1). In West Africa, it is a fairly common to scarce Palearctic visitor (Borrow & Demey 2014).



Fig. 31. Spotted redshank *Tringa erythropus*, Lacacão, Boa Vista, 30 July 2012 (Marc Newsome).  
 Fig. 32. Lesser yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*, sewage works, São Vicente, 15 March 2013 (Kari Haataja).

#### **Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* (Gunnerus, 1767)**

SANTIAGO: a bird colour-ringed as a juvenile at Tarty, Ithan estuary, Scotland, 18 August 2008, was present at Barragem de Poilão, 4-5 March 2013 (HD), and again, 3-5 November 2014 (HD). The same individual had been seen

in Santiago on several previous occasions, while no other sightings between Scotland and Santiago have been reported. In Cape Verde, greenshank is a regular and not uncommon Palearctic visitor.

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

(0, 23) SÃO VICENTE: 1-3 at the sewage works, 30 September-21 December 2012 (JB, MR, RP, CGR), and two there, 15 March 2013 (KH, KW). SAL: one at the sewage farm near Santa Maria, 3 February 2014 (JLI), and again one there, 31 March 2014 (TK). BOA VISTA: one near Curral Velho, 30 March 2012 (AC); two at Lacacão, 23-26 January 2013 (SC), again two there, 7-8 March 2013 (HD), and 2-4 there, 14-17 April 2013 (MK), are here counted as a single record; one at Lacacão, 14 April 2014

(MC); one at Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Água), 7-8 November 2014 (HD). MAIO: one at Ribeira Dom João, 11 December 2012 (CGR). Lesser yellowlegs has been recorded (September-April) from Santiago (3), São Vicente (6), Sal (7), Boa Vista (6) and Maio (1). Lesser yellowlegs is the Nearctic vagrant wader most often recorded in Cape Verde. In West Africa, there are records (September-April) from Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria (Borrow & Demey 2014).

#### **Spotted sandpiper *Actitis macularia* (Linnaeus, 1766)**

(0, 11) SANTIAGO: one at Pedra Badejo, 31 December 2011 (MMJ); one at Barragem de Poilão, 21 March 2012 (CH), is taken to have been the same bird seen there, 2 March 2012 (cf. *Zoologia Caboverdiana* 3: 21, 2012). SÃO VICENTE: 1-2 at the sewage works, 2-21

December 2012 (MR, RP, CGR). Spotted sandpiper, a Nearctic vagrant, has been recorded (October-March) from Santiago (3), Santo Antão (2) and São Vicente (6). In West Africa, there are single records from Senegal and Cameroon (Borrow & Demey 2014).

#### **Grey phalarope *Phalaropus fulicaria* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

(--, 14) CAPE VERDE SEAS: one at Tarrafal bay, off São Nicolau, 18 April 2012 (AN). Grey phalarope, a Holarctic visitor, has been recorded (October-May) from from São Vicente (1), Sal

(1) and Cape Verde seas (12), but is probably largely overlooked due to its pelagic habits. In West Africa, it is a rare, mainly pelagic, visitor (Ilsenman *et al.* 2010, Borrow & Demey 2014).



Fig. 33. Grey phalarope *Phalaropus fulicaria*, Tarrafal bay, off São Nicolau, 18 April 2012 (Albero Nava).

**Ruddy turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* (Linnaeus, 1758)

SAL: a bird colour-ringed at Delaware Bay, New Jersey, USA, 20 May 2009, was sighted near Santa Maria, Sal, 25 October 2013 (see <http://www.scvz.org/info0114.html>). In Cape

Verde, ruddy turnstone is a common and widespread, mainly coastal, Holarctic winter and passage migrant, recorded from all islands and islets.

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

(--, 8) BOA VISTA: a 2<sup>nd</sup> year pale morph bird in poor condition was caught at sea and brought to Sal Rei, 26 May 2013, where it recovered and was later released (CR). The number of pre-1980 records, involving a few sightings of groups and individuals at sea, is unclear. During the years 1980-1996, there were four sightings of individual birds, but the present is only the

second record since. The count of eight records since 1980 is a conservative estimate, as individual birds may in some cases have been re-sighted on different dates. The main wintering area of pomarine skua is in the Senegal upwelling zone between latitudes 08° and 20° N (Borrow & Demey 2014), but it apparently only rarely occurs west of longitude 20° W.



Fig. 34. Pomarine skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*, Sal Rei, Boa Vista, 26 May 2013 (Christian Roder).

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

(3, 14) BOA VISTA: one at sea heading north off Ponta Laginha, 28 January 2013 (SC). Most of the post-1980 records are from the Raso-Branco area, but the two most recent records are of birds seen off Boa Vista. In addition, there are

a number of sightings of unidentified skuas *S. skua/maccormicki*. In West Africa, great skua is an uncommon to rare offshore Palearctic visitor (Borrow & Demey 2014).

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

(0, 8) BOA VISTA: a juvenile at Lacacão, 1-7 November 2014 (HD). Gull-billed tern has now been recorded (October-January, April) from Santiago (1), Boa Vista (3) and Maio (4). In

West Africa, it is a locally common to rare Palearctic visitor, both inland and coastal; breeds locally in Mauritania and Senegal (Borrow & Demey 2014).



Fig. 35. Gull-billed tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*, Lacacão, Boa Vista, 1 November 2014 (Georges Oliosio).



Fig. 36. Caspian tern *Hydroprogne caspia*, Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Água), Boa Vista, 27 January 2013 (Sampsá Cairenius).

**Caspian tern** *Hydroprogne caspia* (Pallas, 1770)

(0, 14) BOA VISTA: one at Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Agua), 12-16 June 2012 (RF), and singles there, 27-29 January 2013 (SC), 6 February 2013 (PLS), 3 March 2013 (HD), 14 April 2013 (MK), and 2 May 2013 (PLS), with those in January-May 2013 here counted as a single record of a long-staying bird; one at Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Agua), 21-30 December 2013 (FS), one there, 30 January 2014 (PLS),

and again one there, 20 March 2014 (NA). Caspian tern has been recorded (September, November-June) from São Vicente (1), Boa Vista (10), Maio (2) and at sea (1). In West Africa, it is a common to fairly common migrant visitor along the entire coast and a resident breeder from Mauritania to Guinea (Borrow & Demey 2014).

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

(2, 15) SANTIAGO: one off Praia, 16 April 2013 (KD). Common tern has been recorded (October, December, January, April-June) from Santiago (5), Santo Antão (1), Sal (6), Boa Vista (3), Maio (1) and at sea (1). In West Africa, it is

a common resident (breeds annually Mauritania and occasionally Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and Gabon) and intra-African migrant and Palearctic visitor (Borrow & Demey 2014).

**Arctic tern** *Sterna paradisaea* Pontoppidan, 1763

(--, 5) CAPE VERDE SEAS: three at 16°11'57"N, 22°57'12"W, 4 May 2014 (PLS), and two at 16°08'44"N, 22°56'39"W, 11 May 2014 (AA, PLS), both off western Boa Vista. These are the first records of arctic tern since October 2001. Pre-1980 records are of flocks off several islands, difficult to tally down to an

unequivocal number of sightings (cf. Lambert 1980). Arctic tern is probably a not uncommon Holarctic passage migrant, which remains largely unreported due to its pelagic habits during migration. In West Africa, it is a fairly common to rare, mostly pelagic visitor (Borrow & Demey 2014).



Fig. 37. Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea*, off western Boa Vista, 4 May 2014 (Pedro López Suárez).

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

(0, 21) BOA VISTA: one at Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Agua), 8-12 March 2012 (CG), one there, 29 January 2013 (SC), four there, 19-30 December 2013 (FS), and 2-3 there, 2-8 November 2014 (HD). All but one of little tern records in Cape Verde are from Lagoa de Rabil and the nearby shore in Boa Vista, where a few are usually present from October to April. The

only record outside this area is of one in Maio in October 1988. Little tern breeds patchily along the coast and inland along large rivers and lakes in West Africa and also is a common to uncommon Palearctic winter visitor (Borrow & Demey 2014). Birds seen in Cape Verde are taken to be of the latter category.

**\*Whiskered tern *Chlidonias hybrida* (Pallas, 1811)**

(0, 1) SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage works, 20-31 December 2012 (CGR). This is the first record of whiskered tern for Cape Verde. In West Africa, it is an uncommon to fairly

common Palearctic visitor, mainly August-May, but recorded in all months (Borrow & Demey 2014).



Fig. 38. Whiskered tern *Chlidonias hybrida*, sewage works, São Vicente, 21 December 2012 (Tim Collins).

**\*White-winged tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* (Temminck, 1815)**

(0, 1) SANTIAGO: one at Barragem de Poilão, 29-31 December 2011 (MMJ). This is the first record of white-winged tern for the Cape Verde

Islands. In West Africa, it is a fairly common to common Palearctic visitor, mainly from late October to early May (Borrow & Demey 2014).

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

(0, > 25) SANTIAGO: two south of Pedra Badejo, 18 June 2012 (RF); two at Pedra Badejo lagoon, 22 August 2012 (CL); three at Cidade Velha, 25 August 2012 (CL); two at Achada Fazenda, 28 October 2012 (UF), and six there, 5 March 2013 (HD); two at Ribeira da Prata, 29 November 2013, three near Pedra Badejo, 30 November 2013 (AP); one at Santa Cruz, 29 May 2014 (SM); one at Calheta de São Miguel, 9 December 2014 (AP); five at Barragem de Poilão, 3-5 November 2014 (HD); one in flight at Ribeira Filipe, Praia, 5 November 2014 (HD). SAL: one at sea coming from a southwesterly direction, flying fast just above the water surface, and alighting at Pesqueirona, 9 April 1996 (CJH); one at the sewage works near Santa Maria, 17 October 2014 (JC). BOAVISTA: 1-2 at Rabil, 14-15 June 2012 (RF), 2-3 there, 24 January 2013 (SC), five there, 14 April 2013

(MK), one there, 27 December 2013 (FS), and four there, 2 November 2014 (HD); one at Ribeira do Norte, 2 November 2014 (HD).

Eurasian collared dove now appears to be well-established at several locations in Santiago, Sal and Boa Vista. There is also a record from São Nicolau in November 2009, but no further reports have come forward from that island, perhaps reflecting a lack of observers rather than an absence of doves. It seems almost certain that the taxon will continue its range expansion and will appear in other islands as well. Thus far, the first record for Cape Verde was taken to be of one in Sal in April 2006. A record, also from Sal, pre-dating that observation by 10 years, has been re-evaluated and accepted (see above). In West Africa, this Palearctic dove has now extended its range from Morocco to Mauritania (Borrow & Demey 2014).



Fig. 39. Eurasian collared dove *Streptopelia decaocto*, Rabil, Boa Vista, 24 January 2013 (Sampsca Cairenius).

**Short-eared owl *Asio flammeus* (Pontoppidan, 1763)**

(0, 12) SANTIAGO: one at Barragem de Poilão and one at Serra da Malagueta, 27 August 2012 (CL). Short-eared owl has been recorded (August, October-April) from Santiago (2), Raso

(4), Sal (3) and Maio (1), with another two seen from ships at sea between the islands. In West Africa, it is a rare to uncommon Palearctic visitor (Borrow & Demey 2014).

**Plain swift *Apus cf. unicolor* (Jardine, 1830)**

BOA VISTA: up to five around Riu Touareg Hotel (Lacacão), 27-30 July 2012 (MN), were tentatively identified as plain swifts. Expert advise on the taxonomic identity of the swifts depicted in Fig. 40-42 was sought, but did not lead to an unequivocal opinion, with some being in favour of *unicolor*, while others maintained that it could not possibly be that taxon, suggesting a variety of alternatives. Further comments by anyone feeling qualified to do so

will be welcomed by the author. Two accepted records (February 1999 and March 2000) of plain swift were also from Boa Vista. Plain swift breeds in Madeira and the Canary Islands, but its wintering area in West Africa – presumably from Morocco southwards to at least Mauritania – remains largely undefined. It has been recorded in Mauritania from October to March and in June (Isenmann *et al.* 2010).

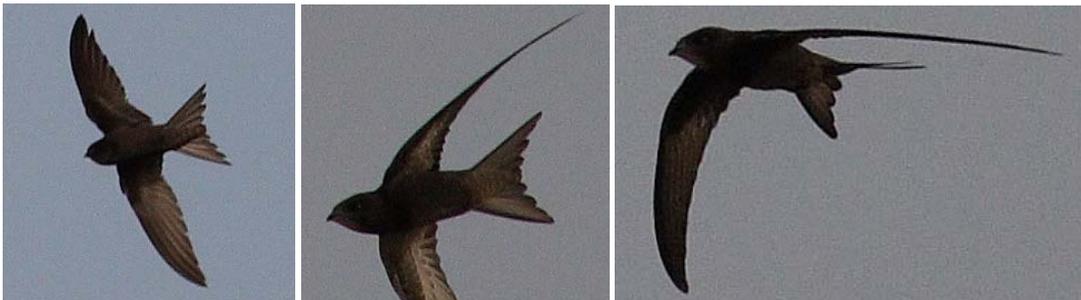


Fig. 40-42. Plain swift *Apus cf. unicolor*, Lacacão, Boa Vista, 27 July 2012 (Marc Newsome).

**\*Little swift *Apus affinis* (J.E. Gray, 1830)**

(0, 1) BOA VISTA: three around Hotel Karamboa (Praia de Chaves), 20-21 December 2013 (FS). This is the first record of little swift for the Cape Verde Islands. In West Africa, it is a common resident (Borrow & Demey 2014), but

some dispersal apparently takes place, as demonstrated by the present record in Boa Vista. As it often builds nests on man-made structures, observers should remain alert for the possibility of breeding in Cape Verde.



Fig. 43-44. Little Swift *Apus affinis*, Hotel Karamboa (Praia de Chaves), Boa Vista, 21 December 2013 (Fredrik Ström).

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

(1, 8) SANTIAGO: one at Tarrafal, 17 April 2012 (KD). SÃO VICENTE: two at the sewage works, 29-30 December 2014 (CGR). European bee-eater has been recorded (August-May) from

Santiago (1), São Vicente (2), São Nicolau (1), Sal (2) and Boa Vista (3). In West Africa, it is a locally fairly common to scarce Palearctic visitor (Borrow & Demey 2014).

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

(1, 8) FOGO: one at Achada Grande, 11 November 2013 (SM). BOA VISTA: one at Curral Velho, 2 August 2013 (SM). Hoopoe has been recorded (August-May) from Fogo (1), Santo Antão (1), São Vicente (1), Sal (3) and

Boa Vista (3). In West Africa, it is a fairly common to scarce Palearctic visitor and resident breeder (Borrow & Demey 2014). Birds seen in Cape Verde are most likely Palearctic migrant visitors.

**Common sand martin *Riparia riparia* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

(2, 21) SANTA LUZIA: one on 6 October 2012 (JB). BOA VISTA: one near the Riu Touareg Hotel (Lacacão), 17 April 2013 (MK). Common sand martin has been recorded (August-October, February-April) from Santiago (2), São Vicente (5), Santa Luzia (1), Raso (1), São Nicolau (5), Sal (8) and Boa Vista (1). In West Africa, it is an

uncommon or rare to locally common Palearctic visitor (Borrow & Demey 2014). With 21 records since 1988, it is clear that sand martin is a scarce but regular migrant visitor to the Cape Verde Islands and, apart from new island records or exceptional numbers or circumstances, it will not be included in future reports.

**\*Rock martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* (Lichtenstein, 1842)

(0, 1) SAL: one at Ribeira da Fontona, 8 January 2008 (CGR). This is the first record of rock martin for the Cape Verde Islands. This bird was mistakenly reported as crag martin *P. rupestris* in the 6<sup>th</sup> Cape Verde Bird Report (cf. Zoologia

Caboverdiana 1: 38, 2010) and – the erroneous record being the only one – crag martin should be removed from the Cape Verde list. In West Africa, rock martin is a locally fairly common to common resident (Borrow & Demey 2014).

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

(0, 20) SANTIAGO: one at Barragem de Poilão, 14 April 2012 (KD). SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage works, 20-21 December 2012 (CGR). SAL: at least one at Santa Maria, 30 April 2014 (JC). BOA VISTA: one at Povoação Velha, 17 March 2012 (CG). Red-rumped swallow has been recorded (December-April) from Santiago (3), São Vicente (6), Branco (1), São Nicolau (3), Sal (5) and Boa Vista (2). In West Africa, it is a

generally uncommon Palearctic visitor (Borrow & Demey 2014). Red-rumped swallow and West African swallow *C. domicella* are often treated as conspecific, the latter being a scarce to locally common resident and partial intra-African migrant (Borrow & Demey 2014). Birds seen in Cape Verde are most likely *daurica* rather than *domicella*.

**Tree pipit** *Anthus trivialis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(0, 7) SANTA LUZIA: one on 3 October 2012 (JB). Tree pipit has been recorded (September-November, March-April) from Santa Luzia (1), Raso (1), São Nicolau (1), Sal (1), Boa Vista (2)

and Maio (1). In West Africa, it is a common to uncommon Palearctic visitor from September to April (Borrow & Demey 2014).



Fig. 45. Red-throated pipit *Anthus cervinus*, Ribeira d'Água, Boa Vista, 28 December 2013 (Fredrik Ström).

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

(0, 9) BOA VISTA: one at Lagoa de Rabil (Ribeira d'Água), 27-28 December 2013 (FS). Red-throated pipit has been recorded (December-March) from São Vicente (3), Sal (5) and Boa Vista (1), those from São Vicente and Sal all

being from the sewage works in these islands. In West Africa, it is a locally common to scarce Palearctic visitor from September to May (Borrow & Demey 2014).

**Common nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos* (C.L. Brehm, 1831)

(0, 2) SANTA LUZIA: one in acacia trees at Portinho, 4 October 2012 (JB). This is only the second record of common nightingale for Cape Verde, the previous being of one at Currel Velho,

Boa Vista, in September 1988. In West Africa, it is an uncommon to common Palearctic visitor from late August to early May (Borrow & Demey 2014).

**Common redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(0, 4) SANTA LUZIA: one in acacia trees at Portinho, 4 October 2012 (JB). Common Redstart has been recorded (October, March) from Santa Luzia (1), Sal (2) and Boa Vista (1).

In West Africa, it is a fairly common to uncommon Palearctic visitor from September to May (Borrow & Demey 2014).

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

(0, 10) SANTA LUZIA: one in acacia trees at Portinho, 15-16 October 2012 (JB). Willow warbler has been recorded (September, October, December, January, March) from São Vicente

(1), Santa Luzia (1), Raso (1), São Nicolau (3), Sal (1) and Boa Vista (3). In West Africa, it is a common Palearctic visitor, mainly from September to May (Borrow & Demey 2014).

**\*Yellow-browed warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus* (Blyth, 1842)

(0, 2) SANTIAGO: one at São Jorge dos Orgãos, 11 March 2013 (PK). SÃO NICOLAU: > 3 at Parque Natural do Monte Gordo, 5 January, and singles there, 6-9 January 2014 (AP). These are

the first records of yellow-browed warbler for the Cape Verde Islands. In West Africa, there are single records from Senegal and Gambia (Borrow & Demey 2014).



Fig. 46. Yellow-browed warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*, São Jorge dos Orgãos, 11 March 2013 (Petri Kuhno).  
 Fig. 47. Yellow-browed warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*, PN Monte Gordo, São Nicolau, 5 January 2014 (Andrew Power).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank all the kind people (see Abbreviations, p. 31) who contributed to this report by sending information about their bird observations in Cape Verde. Without their input this report would not have been written. Nils van

Duivendijk, Jan van der Laan and C.S. Roselaar shared their expertise while reviewing records of rare taxa. I also thank Rubén Barone, Arnoud van den Berg, Ron Demey, Steve Gantlett and Eduardo Garcia del Rey for their help.

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