

## **Azores 2007-01-24 to 2007-02-05.**

The following birds were seen by Staffan Rodebrand on a birdwatching trip to the Azores in January-February 2007, together with my wife Ingegerd. Most of the birds on 31/1-1/2 and 4-5/2 were seen together with Bosse Carlsson.

**Itinerary:** Terceira on 24-27/1, São Jorge on 27-29/1, and São Miguel on 29/1 to 5/2. On Terceira we checked the quarry at Cabo da Praia, and in late afternoons/evenings Praia da Vitória bay when all the gulls were gathering there. We also checked Praia da Vitória ponds, as well as the reservoirs (Cabrito, west Lagoa da Falca, and along the Altares to Lagoa do Negro road) and lakes (Lagoa do Junco, Lagoa da Falca, and Lagoa do Negro) all over the island in search for any ducks. On São Jorge we spent most time at the two outstanding birding localities at Fajã dos Cubres and Ilhéu do Topo. On São Miguel we checked the most known birding hot spots like Ponta Delgada harbour (both the base of the large pier in the west, as well as the rocks and beaches east of the harbour), Mosteiros, the Sete Cidades area, Ribeira Grande, Lagoa Furnas, Povoação, and Vila Franca do Campo. We also walked the large fields southwest of Ribeira Grande, but we did not visit the eastern part in search for the Azores Bullfinch.

**Weather:** The first week was very windy, with winds from E and SE. The second week was rather calm with days with overcast and rain as well as a few really sunny days.

**Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens*. 1 of the blue phase at Ilhéu do Topo 27/1.

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*. 1 at Ilhéu do Topo 27/1.

**American Wigeon** *Anas americana*. 1 male at Lagoa Azul 1/2, and 5/2.

**Common Teal** *Anas crecca*. 1 female at Praia da Vitória ponds 25-26/1, and 1 male at Lagoa Azul 1/2, and 5/2.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*. 2 males and 1 female at Lagoa Azul 1/2 (plus a number of domestic Mallards at Lagoa Azul and Lagoa das Furnas).

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*. 3 males at Fajã dos Cubres 27-29/1.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*. 2 males at Fajã dos Cubres 27-29/1.

**Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*. 1 female in Praia da Vitória ponds 25-27/1, 5 (2 pairs plus 1 extra male) in Lagoa Azul 1/2, and one pair there 5/2.

**Common Quail** *Coturnix coturnix conturbans*. 1 at Cabo da Praia 24/1, and at least 4 southwest Ribeira Grande 2/2.

**Great Northern Loon** *Gavia immer*. 1 first-winter at Praia da Populo, São Miguel 30/1.

**Northern Gannet** *Morus bassanus*. 2 at Velas, São Jorge 29/1, and 3-5 at Mosteiros 1/2, and at least 4 there 5/2.

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus*. 1 first-winter at Mosteiros, São Miguel 1/2.

**Small (Snowy/Little) Egret** *Egretta thula/garzetta*. 1 at Ponta Delgada harbour 1-4/2, and 1 at Mosteiros 5/2. These young individuals (probably Little Egrets) had yellow feet, and yellow on back of legs in an amount normal in adult Snowy but not that strikingly, but lores were mostly greyish. These birds looked much like a bird seen at Mosteiros late previous autumn.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*. 2 at Fajã dos Cubres, São Jorge 27-28/1, and 1 there 29/1. 1 at Ponta Delgada harbour 30/1-5/2, 1 at Ribeira Quente 31/1, 1 at Vila Franca do Campo 31/1, 1 at Mosteiros 1/2.

**Great Egret** *Egretta alba egretta*. 1 at Fajã dos Cubres 27-28/1, and 1 at Lagoa das Furnas 31/1, and probably the "Furnas" bird at Ribeira Quente 4/2.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*. 1 at Praia da Vitória ponds, Terceira 26/1, 11 at Lagoa das Furnas 31/1 and 9 there 4/2, 2 at Lagoa do Congro 31/1, 5 at Lagoa Azul 1/2 and 5/2, 1 at Ribeira Grande fields 2/2.

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*. 1 juvenile at Lagoa das Furnas 31/1.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*. Common on all visited islands.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*. 5 at Praia da Vitória Ponds 24-27/1, 1 at Fajã dos Cubres, São Jorge 28/1, and at least 7 at Lagoa Azul 1/2.

**Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra*. 1 at Praia da Vitória ponds 24-27/1, 7 at Lagoa das Furnas 31/1 and 4/2, and 4 at Lagoa Azul 1/2.

**American Coot** *Fulica americana*. 2 at Lagoa das Furnas 31/1 and 4/2.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*. 2 adults at Cabo da Praia 24-25/1.

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*. 20-30 at Cabo da Praia 24-25/1.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*. Up to 4 at Ilhéu do Topo 27-28/1, 3 at Ponta Delgada 4-5/2, and 1 at Mosteiros 5/2.

**Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*. 1 at Ilhéu do Topo 28/1.

**Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*. 4 at Cabo da Praia 24-25/1, 2 flying east at Ponta Delgada 1/2, and 1 at Mosteiros 5/2.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*. A few seen on all islands. Around 50 at Cabo da Praia.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*. 2 at Cabo da Praia 24-25/1.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*. 2 at Cabo da Praia 24-25/1.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*. 2 at Cabo da Praia 24-25/1.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*. 3 at Cabo da Praia 25/1, 3 at Ilhéu do Topo 27/1, and 2 at Ponta Delgada 5/2.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*. 1 at Cabo da Praia 25/1, and 1 flying east at Ponta Delgada 1/2 and 2/2.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*. A few seen on all visited islands. Maximum flocks 11 at Cabo da Praia, and about 10 flying east at Ponta Delgada.

**Hudsonian Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*. 1 at Cabo da Praia 24/1.

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularia*. 2 at Lagoa Azul 1/2.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*. The only common wader. Seen on all visited islands. Around 80 at Cabo da Praia.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*. 7 observations at Mosteiros 1/2 including at least 4 birds, and at least 3 there 5/2.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*. 1 first-winter at Praia da Vitória 26/1, and on other first-winter (colour ringed) at Ponta Delgada 5/2.

**Bonaparte's Gull** *Larus Philadelpha*. 1 adult at Praia da Vitória 25/1.

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*. 2 in Velas, São Jorge 28/1. In Praia da Vitória bay 250-280 birds, and outside the base of the main pier in Ponta Delgada 180-220 birds in the late afternoons.

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*. In Praia da Vitória bay at least 26 birds. Mostly adults but also 2 second-winters, and 3 first-winters. 1 first-winter at Ilhéu do Topo 27/1, and in Ponta Delgada harbour at least 5 birds (1 adult, 1 second-winter, and 3 first-winters) 30/1-5/2.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graellsii*. Rather common on all visited islands, mostly resting in flocks in harbours or on beaches. Maximum flocks of 40-70 birds in Praia da Vitória, Ribeira Quente, and Ponta Delgada, but also seen at other localities.

**American Herring Gull** *Larus smithsonianus*. 3 first-winters at Praia da Vitória 26/1, and 1 second-winter at Ponta Delgada 30/1

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*. At least 2 in Praia da Vitória, and at least 3 in Ponta Delgada – all younger birds.

**Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*. The local race *atlantis* was common on all visited islands, and there were also a few paler birds of the mainland type.

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucooides*. 1 first-winter at Praia da Vitória 24/1, and 2 first-winters at Ribeira Grande 2/2.

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*. 1 first-winter at Ponta Delgada 30-31/1.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*. A few seen on all visited islands. Mostly first or second winter birds, but also a few adults. On São Miguel at least 9 birds in Ponta Delgada, 8 birds at Ribeira Grande, 2 birds at Ribeira Quente, 2 at Povoação, and 2 at Vila Franca do Campo.

**Black-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*. About 5 different birds (all adults) around Cabo da Prai/Praia bay 25-26/1, 1 adult on Ilhéu do Topo 27/1, 2 adult at Velas 29/1, and 1 first-winter at Ponta Delgada 1/2.

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*. 1 at Ilhéu do Topo 28/1.

**Feral (and Rock) Dove** *Columba livia*. Common on all visited islands.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*. Common on all visited islands.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*. Common on all visited islands.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*. 1 first-winter at Fajã dos Cubres 29/1.

**European Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*. Common on all visited islands.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*. Common on all visited islands.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*. Common on all visited islands.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*. A few seen on all visited islands.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*. Common on all visited islands.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*. Common on all visited islands.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*. Common on all visited islands.

**Canary** *Serinus canaria*. Common on all visited islands.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*. A few seen on Terceira and São Miguel.

#### **Escapes/domestic birds:**

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*. The longstaying escape from Terra Nostra Park still present in Lagoa das Furnas 31/1 and 4/2.

**American Black Duck** *Anas rubripes*. One domestic bird (hybrid) still present in Lagoa dasFurnas 31/1 and 4/2.

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*. At least 38 birds (both old and young birds) in a flock feeding on fields in Sete Cidades 1/2.

Staffan Rodebrand, Trollbo 1020, 387 91 Borgholm, Sweden. E-mail: rodebrand@yahoo.com