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THIRD ANNUAL REPORT ON BIRDS FROM THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS, INCLUDING RECORDS OF SEVEN TAXA NEW TO THE ARCHIPELAGO

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Key words: Cape Verde Islands, Aves, distribution, breeding data.

ABSTRACT

Recent data on the distribution of birds in the Cape Verde Islands are presented, including records of seven taxa new to the archipelago, viz. Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*, Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*, Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*, Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*, Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*, Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*, and Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*. Also included are breeding data, data on the occurrence of migrant visitors as well as data on some rare and threatened resident taxa.

INTRODUCTION

This is the third supplement to *The birds of the Cape Verde Islands* (Hazevoet 1995), earlier updates having been published by Hazevoet *et al.* (1996) and Hazevoet (1997). Most of the data included here are from 1997, but older data that have only recently become available, as well as a few from 1998, are also included. The present paper includes reports of seven taxa new to the archipelago, viz. Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*, Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*, Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*, Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*, Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*, Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*, and Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*. The total number of species level taxa of birds that have been reliably recorded in the Cape Verde Islands now stands at 161, an increase of 17 since the publication of the 1995 check-list (excluding introduced Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*, a small population of which appears to have become established in the capital city of Praia during the last decade). As in the previous updates, records of new and rare taxa reported herein were scrutinized by the author in consultation with mem-

bers of the Dutch rarities committee.

The past few years have seen a considerable growth of interest in the ornithology of the Cape Verde islands, both by professional biologists and amateur bird watchers, the latter mainly visiting the islands to see the endemic taxa. With the increasingly sophisticated identification skills associated with present day birdwatching, it is not surprising that many 'new' migrants, especially waders and passerines, are being reported. Also, a growing number of specialist studies, mainly focusing on the ecology and population biology of raptors and seabirds, are now being carried out. These include studies of the kites *Milvus* spp. and kestrels *Falco* spp. (Sabine Hille, University of Giessen, Germany), Cape Verde Peregrine *Falco madens* (Clifford Anderson, Falcon Research Group, U.S.A.), Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (Luís Palma and João Ferreira, University of Algarve, Portugal), and Cape Verde Petrel *Pterodroma feae* (by an international team under the auspices of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, U.K.). So far, only results of the kite study have been published (Hille 1998), but other papers are currently in preparation and these are awaited with interest. In addition to censuses of

the Cape Verde Petrel on the islands of Fogo, São Nicolau and Santo Antão, the *Pterodroma*-team also carried out a complete census of the Raso Lark *Alauda razae* and rediscovered the Cape Verde Cane Warbler *Acrocephalus brevipennis* on the island of São Nicolau (Ratcliffe *et al.* in press, Hazevoet *et al.* in press).

NOTES ON SELECTED TAXA

Unless stated otherwise, general data on distribution, population size, breeding, number of records, etc. in the following are taken from *The birds of the Cape Verde Islands* (Hazevoet 1995) and supplements to that work (Hazevoet *et al.* 1996, Hazevoet 1997). Taxa new to the Cape Verde Islands are marked with an asterisk. Abbreviations: Rubén Barone (RB), Michael Geisthardt (MG), Cornelis J. Hazevoet (CJH), Gerd-Michael Heinze (GH), Mathias Heinze (MH), Manfred Koch (MK), Willy Mijlemans & Ida De Keyser (MD), Dave E. Sargeant (DES).

Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Mummified remains of an adult were found along the beach at Santa Maria, Sal, 29 September 1994 (GH, MH). This adds to only a handful of specimen records (including life birds examined in the hand) and it is the first report since 1989. Although probably a not uncommon winter visitor to Cape Verde seas, status is difficult to evaluate due to the difficulty of separating *O. leucorhoa* and *O. castro* at sea and sight records ascribed to *leucorhoa* may in fact refer to *castro* and *vice versa* (cf. Hazevoet 1995).

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus*

About 15 birds were seen along the southwest coast of Santo Antão, between Monte Trigo and Tarrafal, 5 February 1995 (MG). So far, there have been no breeding reports for Santo Antão, but the existence of a colony in the southwest seems possible and needs further investigation. On Boavista, eight birds were displaying and approaching cliff holes near Ponta do Rincão, north of Sal Rei, 2 March 1997 (MK), adding to observations in the same area in 1995 and 1996 and providing further evidence for the existence of a breeding site (cf. Hazevoet *et al.* 1996, Hazevoet 1997). Known breeding sites are situated on the islands of Sal, Santiago, Cima, Brava, and Raso, with a total population in the range of 100-125 pairs.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Two immatures were roosting and feeding along Rabil lagoon, Boavista, 13-15 March 1997 (DES). This is the third record for the Cape Verde Islands. Previous records were of a juvenile collected on Raso, 25 October 1970, and a wing of a juvenile found near Pedra Badejo, Santiago, 19 March 1983. Night Heron is a rather common breeding resident in Senegambia but birds encountered in the Cape Verdes are presumably Palaearctic migrants. The relative status of residents and migrant visitors on the West African mainland has as yet not been fully clarified (cf. Morel & Morel 1990, Snow & Perrins 1998).

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

Two were present at Rabil lagoon, Boavista, 10-14 March 1997 (DES, MD). There are now five records of this Afrotropical migrant (involving a total of c. 10 birds) from Santiago (2), Sal (1), and Boavista (2), in January (1), March (3), and May (1). The previous record from Boavista, in March 1996, was also of two birds at Rabil lagoon and there is the possibility that this concerned the same birds as those seen there in 1997 (cf. Hazevoet 1996). The record of four birds collected on Santo Antão, October-November 1972 (Frade 1976), is no longer valid. Examination of the specimens revealed these to be Little Egrets *E. garzetta* (Hazevoet 1998).

Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis*

One at Praia, Santiago, 3-16 March 1997 (DES, MD). There were only two records prior to 1986, but the taxon has been regularly reported since. There are now 11 records (all of dark phase birds), indicating that it is a regular visitor in small numbers. Mostly recorded from Santiago (7), with other records from Boavista (3), and Maio (1). The pattern of temporal distribution - February (1), March (6), April (1), May (1), July (1), September (1) - is probably biased due to the larger number of bird watchers that have visited the islands during March.

Cape Verde Purple Heron *Ardea bournei*

No birds were present in the colonies at Boa Entrada and Banana, Santiago, 4-5 March 1997 (DES). When winter rains are favourable, the taxon has a double breeding season, with nesting occurring in autumn as well as in spring. In this particular winter, the rains had not been very heavy nor prolonged, presumably causing the birds to desert their colonies soon after the first brood. On 12 September 1997, two adults were present in the nesting tree at Banana, while a minimum of 11 nests (both old and new) were counted there (RB). With a total population of c. 20 pairs in only two colonies (each in a single tree), the Cape Verde Purple Heron's future remains exceedingly perilous.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Despite their former vagrant status, Spoonbills have been regularly reported during the last decade. During the current period, four were present at the sewage farm, São Vicente, 8-9 March 1997 (DES), one at Rabil lagoon, Boavista, 12-13 March 1997 (MD), 'a few' (number unspecified) along the shore south of Mindelo, São Vicente, c. 10 August 1997 (MH), and again four at the São Vicente sewage farm, 1 March 1998 (CJH). This was the third and fourth year in succession that Spoonbills were present on São Vicente. There were no records from this arid island before 1995 but the sewage farm and the nearby shore apparently provide sufficiently suitable feeding conditions for Spoonbills to survive. One of the São Vicente birds observed in March of both 1997 and 1998 was the same colour marked individual as seen there in March-April 1996, which was ringed as a nestling in The Netherlands

in May 1994 (cf. Hazevoet 1997). It seems likely that at least part of the birds observed on São Vicente in 1995-1998 concerned the same group of immatures, remaining in the wintering quarters and presumably returning to the breeding grounds only when fully adult. There are now >20 records for the Cape Verde Islands (Santiago, São Vicente, Boavista), the large majority of which are since 1988.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

One on Boavista, 11 March 1997 (MD), and 3-5 at Porto Grande, São Vicente, c. 15 August 1997 (MH). Previously, there was only one documented record from Boavista (Hazevoet *et al.* 1996) and there had been no reports from São Vicente since 1983, with earlier records from that island also being few. Kite populations (both *M. migrans* and the endemic *M. fasciicauda*) are dwindling throughout the islands, probably largely as a result of the local practice of erradicating feral dogs with poisoned bait, and both kites are in immediate danger of extinction (Hazevoet 1997, Hille 1998).

***Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*

An adult female was seen near Rabil airfield, Boavista, 14 March 1997 (DES, MD). Apart from other diagnostic characters, the bird did not show the pale collar of female Pallid Harrier *C. macrourus*. This is the first accepted record of Montagu's Harrier for the Cape Verde Islands. There are three previous records of possible *C. pygargus* but as there were no or only incomplete descriptions, the possibility of *C. macrourus* could not be ruled out. Up to 1950, *C. pygargus* was little recorded in West Africa but it has now been found to be more common than *C. macrourus* in Senegal (Brown *et al.* 1980, Morel & Morel 1990).

Cape Verde Buzzard *Buteo bannermani*

A total of eight birds was observed in the Ribeira Grande-Ribeira de Torre area, Santo Antão, 6-7 March 1997 (DES). The northern mountain range of Santo Antão and the central mountains of Santiago constitute to last relative strongholds of this rare endemic raptor. The number of birds seen on Santo Antão in March 1997 is an all-time high but may include some double counts. The total population in the archipelago is thought not to exceed some tens of pairs. Apart from Santo Antão and Santiago, the taxon also has been reported from Fogo, Brava, and São Nicolau during the last decades, but there is as yet no indication of breeding on the latter three islands.

Cape Verde Peregrine *Falco madens*

During a survey of the Cape Verde Peregrine in March-April 1997, the following unprecedented number of sightings of this rare endemic taxon were obtained: an immature (probably male) near Espargos, Sal, 17 March; an adult male and an adult female at the Serra da Malagueta, Santiago, 21 March; an adult male, adult female and immature female near São Jorge dos Orgãos, Santiago,

23 March; an adult female at Chã das Caldeiras, Fogo, 6 April; an adult male and an adult female, west of Assomada, Santiago, 11 April; a family group, including an immature male, at the Serra do Pico da Antónia, Santiago, 13 April; no peregrines were observed on Brava (type locality of *madens*) or Ilhéu de Cima (where it bred during the 1960s) (C.M. Anderson). Other recent observations include an adult and a juvenile at Monte Grande, Sal, 30 April 1996 (MG), one of indetermined age and sex at Ponta do Lobo, near Praia, Santiago, 3 December 1997 (J. Ferreira, L. Palma), and another, also of unknown age and sex, northwest of Mosteiros, Fogo, 11 March 1998 (J. Ferreira).

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

One was present at the sewage farm, São Vicente, 8-9 March 1997 (DES). In the Cape Verdes, Black-winged Stilt exclusively breeds on the island of Sal. Singles and small parties of wandering birds are seen quite regularly at lagoons and salt pans on Santiago, Boavista, and Maio, but there was only one previous record from São Vicente.

Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor*

One at Ponta do Sol, Santo Antão, 6 March 1997 (DES). Cream-coloured Courser is a widespread and locally common resident on Santiago, São Vicente, São Nicolau, Sal, Boavista, and Maio, but so far there was only one record from Santo Antão. A nest containing two eggs and a bird incubating was found north of Espargos, Sal, 25 February 1997 (MK), being the first record of an active nest.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

One at the sewage farm, São Vicente, 8-9 March 1997 (DES), and another at the Santa Maria salt-pans, Sal, 23 May 1997 (A.J.M. Xeira). There are now five records for the Cape Verde Islands and these are the first for the islands of São Vicente and Sal, previous ones being from Santiago (2) and Maio (1), in April, May, and September.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

A bird in winter plumage was observed at the Pedra Badejo lagoons, Santiago, 5 March 1997 (DES, MD). This is the fourth record for the Cape Verde Islands, there being previous ones from Santo Antão (1) and São Vicente (2), in January, February, and October.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

A total of 100+ were counted at various locations on Santiago, São Vicente, Sal and Boavista, 5-15 March 1997 (DES). Formerly considered a vagrant or rare visitor, there have now been c. 50 reports since 1985 and the Little Stint is apparently a regular passage and winter visitor. Parties of up to 15 are not uncommon, but c. 30 at the sewage farm and the nearby shore on São Vicente, 8 March 1997 (DES), was the largest group size reported so far.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Two were present at the sewage farm, São Vicente, 8 March 1997, increasing to three the next day (DES). This is only the second record for the Cape Verde Islands, the previous being of one bird at the same site, 9 March 1996. As in the earlier record, the possibility of Nearctic *G. (gallinago) delicata* could not be excluded and the record is accepted here as *G. gallinago* sensu lato.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Three at the sewage farm, São Vicente, 8-9 March 1997 (DES). This is the third record for the Cape Verde Islands, there being previous observations from Santiago and Boavista in February and November.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

1-2 at the sewage farm, São Vicente, 8-9 March 1997 (DES). Small numbers (1-4) are regularly seen at the Pedra de Lume salt pans, Sal, from August to April, with four there, 21 September 1997 (RB; Barone 1997), being the first record in that month. Redshank is, however, seldom reported elsewhere in the archipelago and this is only the second record for São Vicente, other records away from Sal being from Santiago (1) and Boavista (3).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

One at Praia, Santiago, 8 March 1997 (MD), and two there, 15 March 1997 (DES), are here treated as a single record, this being the fourth for the Cape Verde Islands. So far, all records were from the Pedra Badejo lagoons, Santiago, in February, April, and October. In contrast to several other waders, formerly considered rare but now known to be regular visitors, there has been no increase in records of Green Sandpiper during the last decades, previous records being from 1924, 1966, and 1983, respectively.

***Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria*

An adult in winter plumage was observed at Rabil lagoon, Boavista, 12 March 1997 (MD). This is the first record for the Cape Verde Islands and the fourth Nearctic wader taxon recorded there, others being American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (see above), Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*, and American Whimbrel *Numenius (phaeopus) hudsonicus*. Apart from being the first record for the Cape Verdes, this also appears to be the first for the eastern Atlantic ('Macaronesian') islands as well as for Africa as a whole.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Two at sea between São Nicolau and Raso, 10 March 1997 (DES). Although presumably a not uncommon passage and winter visitor to Cape Verde seas, records are scarce and there had been no reports since 1986. All records (>10) are from October-May.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

An adult at the sewage farm, São Vicente, 8-9 March 1997 (DES). Although by now well established as a regular winter visitor in small numbers, the majority of records (>10) are from the eastern islands of Sal and Boavista. Reports from other islands are scarce and this is only the fourth record for São Vicente.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Three immatures at the sewage farm and the nearby shore on São Vicente, 8-9 March 1997, were claimed to be this taxon (DES). Field identification of the large gulls in the Cape Verdes remains problematical, there being many records of indeterminate *L. graellsii/michahellis/atlantis*. A common visitor along the coasts of adjacent West Africa, *graellsii* is thought to be the commonest visiting large gull in the Cape Verde Islands as well, but *atlantis* (endemic to Madeira, Selvagens, Azores, and Canary Islands) has been collected there. In addition, there are c. 10 records of *michahellis* from the Cape Verde Islands. Formerly, *michahellis* was included in 'polytypic' *L. cachinnans*, *graellsii* was included in 'polytypic' *L. fuscus*, while *atlantis* has at times been included in either *L. fuscus* or *L. cachinnans*. The phylogenetic relationships of the large gulls are, however, far from clear and there is no point in treating diagnostically distinct taxa as conspecific merely based on 'informed speculation'. Such taxonomic treatment pretends phylogenetic knowledge that is in fact non-existent and obscures rather than clarifies historical patterns of diversification.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

From 9-18 February 1998, c. 10 Kittiwakes were frequenting Tarrafal harbour, São Nicolau, as well as following fishery vessels between São Nicolau and Raso, while one was found sitting in a cliff hole on Raso, 10 February 1998 (CJH, N. Ratcliffe, L.R. Monteiro). There were no reports since 1986, but Kittiwake appears to be a regular although rather scarce winter visitor to Cape Verde seas. So far, all records are from December-February.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Outer primaries, including primary coverts, of an adult were found along the beach at Santa Maria, Sal, 20 August 1997 (GH, MH), adding to only a handful of field observations. Arctic Tern is probably a not uncommon passage visitor which, like Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* and Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (see above), goes largely undetected due to its pelagic distribution.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Three at Rabil lagoon, Boavista, 12-13 March 1997 (DES, MD). There are now eight records, all but one from the same site on Boavista. Although not recorded before 1988, its status as a regular passage migrant and/or winter visitor seems to be well established now. There are records from October-April, except December. The only record

away from Boavista is from Maio, but the spatial pattern of distribution is probably biased by the fact that Boavista is the eastern island frequently visited by bird watchers. Moreover, Rabil lagoon is situated close to the capital village of Sal Rei and within easy reach of it. Apart from being closer to the African mainland, the eastern islands, with their lagoons, sandy beaches and shallow shores, presumably offer better habitat than the more rocky and steep shores of the islands to the west.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

One in bushes at Chã da Igreja (near the Pedra Badejo lagoons), Santiago, 12 September 1997, and three at Terra Boa, Sal, 23 September 1997 (RB; Barone 1997). There are now eight records, the above being the first reports since 1988. All records are from August-October.

***Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*

An adult male (photographed) at Praia Preta, south of Vila do Maio, Maio, 21 July 1995 (MG), is the first record for the Cape Verde Islands. Namaqua Dove is widespread in subsaharan Africa and flocks of hundreds occur in the sahelian zone. It is migratory in the northern tropics, resident in the sahelian zone and a dry season visitor further south (Urban *et al.* 1986), common in southern Mauritania and northern Senegambia, with breeding noted in every month and some southward movements during the dry season (Lamarche 1988, Morel & Morel 1990).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

One was observed flying in from the sea at Santa Maria, Sal, 15 October 1990 (R. Rufino). This record was listed in a short paper by Rufino (1990). Further details of the observation have now been received and this is the third record of Short-eared Owl for the Cape Verde Islands, there being previous ones from Sal (February 1983) and Raso (March 1990). It seems probable that Short-eared Owl is a more frequent visitor than the few records suggest.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

No less than five sightings of Alpine Swift were reported: two at São Filipe, Fogo, 7 August 1997 (P. Challinor), another two at Pedra de Lume, Sal, 10 September 1997, one at Cidade Velha, Santiago, 14 September 1997, one at São Filipe, Fogo, 18 September 1997, and two at Ponta da Fragata, Sal, 22 September 1997 (RB; Barone 1997). Previously, there was only one record but the number of observations in 1997 suggests that the Alpine Swift may in fact be a rather regular visitor to the islands. All records so far are from late summer, with 29 July being the earliest date. In Africa, the taxon is a resident, intra-tropical migrant as well as a Palaearctic migrant visitor, with the winter range of the latter being poorly known. Migratory flocks of up to a thousand occur in Morocco, March-April and August-October. The inference by Fry *et al.* (1988) that the "paucity of records west of 10°W suggests that

Palaearctic migrants avoid the Atlantic coast and cross the Sahara instead" seems to be at least partly refuted by the recent increase of observations in the Cape Verde Islands, assuming that these indeed concerned Palaearctic migrants.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Two were observed at Santa Maria, Sal, 23-25 May 1997 (A.J.M. Xeira). This is only the second record for the Cape Verde Islands and the first report since 1924, when three were collected on São Nicolau by the Blossom South Atlantic Expedition. European Bee-eaters occur on passage almost throughout Africa and winter sparsely in all of the subsaharan region (Fry *et al.* 1988). In Senegambia it is seen in small numbers, mainly during spring migration (Morel & Morel 1990).

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*

Three birds were feeding along a dust-road about half-way between Rabil and Curral Velho, Boavista, 28 February 1997, and one of them was photographed (MK). This is the second record for the Cape Verde Islands, the previous being of two at São Jorge dos Orgãos, Santiago, 5 March 1985. For a discussion on the origin of Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters occurring in the Cape Verde Islands and West Africa, see Hazevoet (1996).

Hoopoe Lark *Alaemon alaudipes*

Hoopoe Lark was only first reported from the island of Sal in 1995 and again in 1996. In 1997 a single bird was observed east of the main road near Baía da Murdeira, 26 February (MK). Previously, it was only known from the islands of Boavista and Maio but a small population appears to be now established on Sal.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

One at the sewage farm, São Vicente, 8 March 1997, two there the next day (DES), two at Pedra de Lume, Sal, 10 September 1997, one at Terra Boa, Sal, 23 September 1997 (RB; Barone 1997), and again one at the São Vicente sewage farm, 1 March 1998 (CJH). Previously, there were only three records - São Vicente (1), Santiago (2) - in August-October. In West Africa, Sand Martin is an uncommon to common migrant visitor, wintering sparsely throughout the region, which can at times be locally abundant (Keith *et al.* 1992).

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

No less than five sightings were obtained: one at Praia, Santiago, 6-10 March 1997 (DES, MD), one at Cidade Velha, Santiago, 16 March 1997, one at the sewage farm, São Vicente, 8-9 March 1997, four at Tarrafal, São Nicolau, 9-10 March 1997 (DES), and again one at the São Vicente sewage farm, 1 March 1998 (CJH). Red-rumped Swallow was only first recorded in the islands in 1996, when singles were observed on Sal in February and April. The number of sightings during the last three years

suggests that the taxon has been overlooked in the past.

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

A male in breeding plumage was present at Praia, Santiago, 3-14 March 1997 (DES, MD). This is the third record for the Cape Verde Islands, previous observations being from Sal (November) and Raso (March).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

One at Rabil lagoon, Boavista, 14-15 March 1997 (DES). This is the third record for the Cape Verde Islands, previous observations being from Boavista (20 September 1988) and Maio (4 April 1991). The bird in 1997 was initially identified by its call when flushed but later allowed for close views when perched.

***Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*

One (photographed) near Santa Maria, Sal, 25 February 1997 (MK), and two at the sewage farm, São Vicente, 9 March 1997 (DES), were the first records for the Cape Verde Islands. The latter were first noticed by their flight call. When landed, close views could be obtained, showing their rufous throats and heavily streaked mantle and flanks. Red-throated Pipit winters mainly in a belt from southern Mauritania and Senegambia eastwards across the continent (Keith *et al.* 1992). In Mauritania and Senegambia, it is a rather common passage migrant, more numerous on spring migration than in autumn, and a winter visitor in smaller numbers (Lamarque 1988, Morel & Morel 1990).

***Savi's Warbler** *Locustella luscinioides*

One at Santa Maria, Sal, 23 September 1997 (RB; Barone 1997), was the first record for the Cape Verde Islands. The bird frequented trees in the village, drank from pools in the street and could be observed at close quarters. Wintering grounds of Savi's Warbler are not well known, but apparently lie in sub-Saharan Africa north of the forest zone, extending (perhaps discontinuously) from Senegal to Eritrea (Cramp 1992). It is a regular winter visitor in northern Senegal, December-March, and there are also scattered observations from Mauritania (Morel & Morel 1990, Lamarque 1988).

***Western Bonelli's Warbler** *Phylloscopus bonelli*

One in bushes along Baía da Murdeira, Sal, 20 September 1997 (RB; Barone 1997), was the first record for the Cape Verde Islands. Winters in a narrow belt along the southern edge of the Sahara, mostly 10°-17°N, from Senegal and southern Mauritania east to Lake Chad and northern Cameroon (Cramp 1992). A common winter visitor in *Acacia* savanna in northern Senegal and southern Mauritania (Morel & Morel 1990, Lamarque 1988).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

One along Rabil lagoon, Boavista, 14-15 March 1997 (DES). This is the fourth record for the Cape Verde

Islands. Previously, there were records from São Nicolau (singles on 17 March 1990 and 15 March 1996) and Boavista (at least 10 birds at different locations, 19-22 September 1988, here treated as a single record). The narrow temporal distribution of spring records is remarkable.

***Southern Grey Shrike** *Lanius meridionalis*

One at Santa Maria, Sal, 24 January 1997 (MK), was the first record of a shrike for the Cape Verde Islands. Based on the description it was concluded that the bird belonged to the pale Saharan population usually referred to as 'sub-species' *elegans*, members of which are regular migrant visitors to Senegal and breeding residents as well as migrant visitors in Mauritania (Lamarque 1988, Morel & Morel 1990, Lefranc & Worfolk 1997, Snow & Perrins 1998).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

One feeding on the grassy bunds with many of the waders at the sewage farm, São Vicente, 8-9 March 1997 (DES). This is only the second record for the Cape Verde Islands, the previous being of one collected on São Nicolau, 30 October 1970.

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