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## FIFTH REPORT ON BIRDS FROM THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS, INCLUDING RECORDS OF 15 TAXA NEW TO THE ARCHIPELAGO

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### INTRODUCTION

This is the fifth supplement to *The birds of the Cape Verde Islands* (HAZEVOET, 1995). Previous updates were presented by HAZEVOET (1997, 1998, 1999a) and HAZEVOET *et al.* (1996). Most data in the current report concern the years 1999-2002, but records from earlier years that came to light after the publication of previous supplements are also included.

With an ever increasing number of naturalists visiting the islands, it is not surprising that records of 'new' taxa can be added to the Cape Verde list at a steady rate. Additionally, several taxa that were only rarely recorded in the past are now known to be regular visitors. The growing interest in the birds of the Cape Verde Islands provides an excellent opportunity to learn more about the temporal and spatial distribution of both the resident and migrant avifauna and it is hoped that observers will continue to submit their records for inclusion in these reports.

As detailed below, the situation of several of the endemic breeding birds is less promising. While some are on the brink of extinction (e.g. *Ardea bournei*), others (e.g. *Milvus fasciicauda*) may already have been gone forever. Attempts over the past

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decades to develop programmes and projects to safeguard the rarer endemic birds have had little or no effect. This is at least partly due to the lack of local naturalists as well as to the absence of non-governmental organisations concerned with the preservation of nature and biodiversity. Moreover, conservation of the remaining and impoverished endemic fauna has clearly not been high on the agenda of subsequent Cape Verde governments and environmental awareness among the population is minimal or absent. Nevertheless and against all odds, a handful of devoted expatriate workers continue with their attempts to raise local interest in these issues and we can only hope that their efforts will be rewarded one day.

Unless stated otherwise, general data on distribution, status, number of records, etc. in the following are taken from HAZEVOET (1995, 1997, 1998, 1999a) and HAZEVOET *et al.* (1996). In the taxon accounts, islands are listed in clock-wise order, starting with the main island of Santiago. Taxonomy follows HAZEVOET (1995) and SANGSTER *et al.* (1999). As in previous reports, records of rare taxa were scrutinized by Helder Costa (Portuguese rarities committee), C.S. Roselaar (Dutch rarities committee), and the author.

Abbreviations used to indicate observers are as follows: BA – Bud Anderson; BC – Max Berlijn & Tony Clarke; BF – Leo Boon & Tommy Frandsen; CD – Colin Dodsworth *et al.*; HB – Han Blankert; JPS – Jean-Philippe Sibley *et al.*; MHK – Manfred & Heidi Koch; MP – Marcel Peters *et al.*; PC – Paul Carter; PD – Paul Donald *et al.*; PG – Philippe Geniez; TRS – Tito & Rafa Salvadores.

#### BREEDING BIRDS

In this section, additional data on Cape Verde breeding birds are presented, including range expansions within the archipelago, new breeding sites, data on rare endemic taxa, new or rare records for a particular island, as well as other noteworthy observations.

##### ***Phaethon aethereus* LINNAEUS, 1758**

SANTO ANTÃO: a small colony of about 10 pairs along the coast *c.* 3 km north of Tarrafal, 17 April 2001 (JPS).

This follows the earlier report of *c.* 15 birds in the same area in February 1995 and constitutes a hitherto unknown breeding site of Red-billed Tropicbird, the only one known on Santo Antão.

##### ***Ardea cinerea* LINNAEUS, 1758**

SANTO ANTÃO: a nest with young at Tarrafal, 2 June 2000 (PALACIOS & BARONE, 2001), and again a breeding pair there, 17 April 2001 (JPS). Grey Heron is a not

uncommon migrant visitor to the Cape Verde Islands, but these are the first breeding records.

**Ardea bournei** DE NAUROIS, 1966

Counts of the endemic heron in the colony at Banana, Ribeira Montanha, Santiago, in the years 2000-2002, yielded the following results: eight adults and 10 juveniles, 15 March 2000 (BC), six adults and four juveniles, 28 December 2000 (HB), eight (including juveniles), with about five out of *c.* 15 nests appearing busy, 9 November 2001 (PC), eight adults and six juveniles, 29 November-1 December 2001, while young in one nest were still being fed and adults were busy building nests for a second brood (MP), and at least 13-15 (including juveniles), 2 March 2002 (BF).

Due to abundant rains during the last months of 1999 and 2001, the food situation was probably rather favourable and breeding at the Banana colony appears to have been relatively successful. At Boa Entrada, the only other known breeding site on Santiago, a dead but full grown young and two possibly recently used nests were found, 15 March 2000 (BC). During subsequent visits on 28 December 2000 (HB), 20 April 2001 (JPS), 7 November 2001 (PC), 30 November 2001 (MP), and 2 March 2002 (BF), no herons were present and the colony has apparently been abandoned, probably due to the constant harassment by youth from the nearby village and other disturbances, including shooting (cf. HAZEVOET, 1999a).

Today the entire population of the endemic heron appears to be concentrated at the Banana colony. The taxon may never have been particularly numerous, but during the 1960s the population numbered at least *c.* 100 birds (HAZEVOET, 1992, 1995). A colony at São Domingos, which held 30 pairs in 1963 and 50-60 pairs in 1966, disappeared in the early 1970s when the trees were felled. At present the total population does probably not exceed *c.* 20 birds. The news that villagers at Banana had caught and eaten at least 10 herons during the first months of 2000 (HAZEVOET, 2001) is not particularly encouraging in this respect.

**Milvus fasciicauda** HARTERT, 1914

**Milvus migrans** (BODDAERT, 1783)

SANTO ANTÃO: seven sightings of kites (largest group-size five) in the Ribeira Grande area, 24 March-6 April 1998, were inferred to be *fasciicauda* (BA). SÃO VICENTE: two kites near Mindelo, 12 March 2000, were said to be either *fasciicauda* or *fasciicauda* x *migrans* (BC). RASO-BRANCO: one *migrans* flying over sea between the islets, 25 February 2002 (CD). BOAVISTA: a kite near Cabeço de Tarafes-Morro Negro, 15 July 1997 (PG; GENIEZ & LÓPEZ-JURADO, 1998), was claimed to be *fasciicauda*. In addition, there were reports of four kites on Boavista and up to 10 on Maio in July-August 2001, allegedly including *fasciicauda*, *migrans*, as well as hybrids *fasciicauda* x *migrans* (P. LÓPEZ SUAREZ per BF).

In view of the taxonomic complexity of the Cape Verde kite situation (cf. DE NAUROIS, 1972; HAZEVOET 1995), all of these records should be viewed cautiously as to which taxa were involved. In fact it may well be the case that the few kites surviving in the Cape Verdes cannot be assigned to any species-level taxon in particular, with individuals showing a varying mixture of characters of both *migrans* and *fasciicauda*.

The current situation of *fasciicauda* and *migrans* in the Cape Verdes was discussed by HILLE & THIOLLAY (2000), who concluded that both are in immediate danger of extinction if not already 'technically extinct'. Surveys on all main islands, except São Nicolau and Maio, in March-June 1999 resulted in only two *fasciicauda* being detected on Santo Antão and a single *migrans* on Boavista (HILLE & THIOLLAY, 2000). The records reported above may thus provide a last glimmer of hope for the survival of kites in the Cape Verdes. Attempts to capture the kites present on Boavista in the summer of 2001 for an envisioned captive breeding programme were unsuccessful (cf. WATSON, 2001; WILLMARTH, 2001).

#### ***Buteo bannermani* SWANN, 1919**

In the years 1999-2002, the usual numbers (1-5) of buzzards were reported from the interior of SANTIAGO and from northern SANTO ANTÃO (BC, BF, JPS, MP, BARONE *et al.*, 1999). Especially intriguing was the sighting of a buzzard near Pico Santo António, BOAVISTA, 25 March 2001 (BA).

Although small and probably not exceeding a total of some tens of pairs, the populations on Santiago and Santo Antão appear to be relatively stable, with no significant fluctuations being apparent during the last decades. Other recent (i.e. post-1980) records are from Fogo (2), Brava (1), and São Nicolau (1), but there have as yet been no indications of breeding there. The buzzard probably bred on São Nicolau until at least the late 1960s. Furthermore, there are old records of specimens collected on São Vicente (1913) and Boavista (1897, 1924). The two specimens from Boavista are of special interest because the first was provisionally identified as *Buteo cirtensis* by JAMES (1984), while the other is a juvenile, indicating local breeding. The possibility remains that the buzzard seen on Boavista in March 2001 was a vagrant *cirtensis* from the African mainland rather than *bannermani*.

A recent study of phylogenetic relationships among various Palearctic and Afrotropical buzzards based on cytochrome *b* gene sequences (CLOUET & WINK, 2000), showed that *bannermani* does not belong to the *buteo* clade. Instead, *bannermani* shares a more recent common ancestry with the *rufinus-cirtensis* group than with *buteo*, corroborating the view postulated by HAZEVOET (1995). Like the kites, the buzzards of the Cape Verde Islands pose a taxonomic puzzle that has as yet not been resolved.

**Falco madens** RIPLEY AND WATSON, 1963

In the years 1997 and 2000-2002, up to 25 sightings of the endemic peregrine were reported from SANTIAGO, FOGO, SANTO ANTÃO, RASO, SÃO NICOLAU, and BOAVISTA (BA, BC, BF, MP, PD, PG). Clearly, *madens* is widespread in small numbers throughout the archipelago, especially in the mountainous regions. Although there are several records from Sal and Boavista, breeding in these eastern islands has not been confirmed so far. Despite being widespread, the total population does probably not exceed a few tens of pairs. The status of *madens* was recently reviewed by ANDERSON & WHITE (2000).

**Cursorius cursor** (LATHAM, 1787)

RASO: one present, 11 October 2001 (PD). Cream-coloured Courser is widespread on Santiago, São Vicente, São Nicolau, Sal, Boavista, and Maio, and has also been recorded on Santo Antão and Santa Luzia. There was only a single record from Raso of a bird collected in May 1922.

**Tyto detorta** HARTERT, 1913

ILHÉUS DO ROMBO: an abandoned nest was found on Ilhéu Grande, 23 July 1997, and identified as that of a barn owl through the presence of pellets, an infertile egg, and a feather (PG; GENIEZ & LÓPEZ-JURADO, 1998). Little is known of the breeding birds of Ilhéu Grande (which are presumably few) and this is the first indication of *detorta* breeding there. BOAVISTA: surveys during 1999-2001 established the presence of at least seven breeding pairs on the island (SIVERIO *et al.*, in press). Previously, the barn owl was only known on Boavista from pellet finds and anecdotal evidence. MAIO: a nest with a young was found near Calheta, 25 March 2000 (SIVERIO *et al.*, in press) and one was seen at Vila de Maio, 20 October 2000 (BARONE *et al.*, 2001). These are the first records for Maio.

**Apus alexandri** HARTERT, 1901

ILHÉUS DO ROMBO: one observed for several hours on Ilhéu Grande, 23 July 1997, was seen entering a cliff hole on several occasions, thus suggesting breeding on the islet (PG; GENIEZ & LÓPEZ-JURADO, 1998).

Although the endemic swift is common on nearby Brava and Fogo, there were no indications for breeding in the Ilhéus do Rombo so far.

**Eremopterix nigriceps** (Gould, 1841)

SÃO VICENTE: five near Calhau, 28 September 1997 (PG; Geniez & López-Jurado, 1998). RASO: a single female, 11 October 2001 (PD). Sal: several singing males north of Baía da Mordeira, 4-6 and 17 November 1999 (MHK).

These are the first records of Black-crowned Finch Lark for São Vicente and Raso. The record from Sal is only the second observation for the island and follows the report of singing males there in October 1998. A locally common breeding bird on Santiago, Fogo, Boavista, and Maio, it has also been recorded on Brava, São Nicolau, and Sal, but there is as yet no definitive proof of breeding for the latter three islands. First recorded on São Nicolau during the 1970s, the finch lark apparently continues its westward expansion into Raso and São Vicente.

**Alaemon alaudipes** (DESFONTAINES, 1789)

SAL: several north of Santa Maria, along the southeastern coast, and at Terra Boa, 10-24 March 2001 (MHK); one c. 3 km south of the airport, 19 April 2001 (JPS); one near Santa Maria, 25 September 2001 (PD).

These observations provide further evidence for the existence of a small – but apparently expanding – population on Sal, where it was first observed in 1995 and found breeding in October 1998. Elsewhere in the Cape Verde Islands, Hoopoe Lark is only known from Boavista and Maio, where it is common and widespread.

**Hirundo rustica** LINNAEUS, 1758

BOAVISTA: one or two pairs were regularly observed entering an abandoned house at Sal Rei, 9-19 July 1997, with at least one bird carrying food and/or nesting material (PG; GENIEZ & LÓPEZ-JURADO, 1998).

Even though breeding was not fully established, behaviour was strongly suggestive of nesting activities. This is the first record of Barn Swallow in July and the first indication of breeding in the Cape Verdes.

**Delichon urbica** (LINNAEUS, 1758)

BOAVISTA: two pairs were found breeding at Sal Rei, 9-19 July 1997 (PG; GENIEZ & LÓPEZ-JURADO, 1998).

This constitutes the first confirmed breeding of House Martin in the Cape Verde Islands. Previously, breeding had been reported from Brava in June 1982 (NORREANG & DEN HARTOG, 1984), but this was later withdrawn (DEN HARTOG, 1990).

**Acrocephalus brevipennis** (Keulemans, 1866)

SÃO NICOLAU: seven (five of which singing males) at Ribeira da Prata, 13 April 2001 (JPS); five or six singing at Ribeira Tucudo, 6 October 2001, and at least four singing at Ribeira da Prata, 17 October 2001 (PD).

The endemic warbler is only known from Santiago, Brava, and São Nicolau. Until February 1998, when eight territories were located in the central mountain area, the only 20th century records from São Nicolau (the type locality) were of three birds collected in 1924 and a singleton collected in 1970 (cf. HAZEVOET *et al.*, 1999). The Cane Warbler is locally not uncommon on Santiago, but was last reported from Brava in 1969 and its present status on that island remains uncertain.

**Passer hispaniolensis** (TEMMINCK, 1820)

SANTO ANTÃO: one at Tarrafal, 17 April 2001 (JPS). So far the only firm evidence of the occurrence of Spanish Sparrow on Santo Antão was a single male collected at Ponta do Sol in November 1972 (cf. HAZEVOET, 1999b).

**Passer iagoensis** (GOULD, 1837)

FOGO: several observed at Atalaia, in the north of the island, 28 July 1997 (PG; GENIEZ & LÓPEZ-JURADO, 1998). This is the first confirmed record of the endemic sparrow for Fogo. So far, its occurrence there was uncertain, the alleged presence being based on hearsay and listings without further details only. ILHÉU GRANDE (ILHÉUS DO ROMBO): several around the ruins of an abandoned house and two pairs nesting, 23 July 1997 (PG; GENIEZ & LÓPEZ-JURADO, 1998). The only previous record from Ilhéu Grande was of unspecified numbers in January 1965. SANTA LUZIA: c. 10 at Ribeira Penada and probably breeding in the ruins there, 1 August 1997 (PG; GENIEZ & LÓPEZ-JURADO, 1998). This adds to only a handful of records for the island.

## SCARCE AND RARE MIGRANTS

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. Records of taxa, previously included in these reports, of which there are now more than 20 records since 1 January 1980 (*viz.* *Platalea leucorodia*, *Calidris alpina*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Limosa lapponica*, *Tringa totanus*, *T. glareola*, *Larus ridibundus*) are reported only when an observation represents a new island record or

if there are otherwise remarkable circumstances (e.g. unusual numbers or date), in which case the total number of records since 1 January 1980 is given as >20. When the number of records before 1 January 1980 is uncertain this is indicated as (- -). Taxa new to the Cape Verde Islands are marked with an asterisk.

**Anas crecca** LINNAEUS, 1758

(2, 5) SÃO VICENTE: a female at the sewage ponds, 12 March 2000 (BC), a juvenile or female there, 3 November 2001 (PC), and a female at the same location, 1-15 March 2002 (BF, CD).

Teal has been recorded (November-March) from São Vicente (5) and Boavista (2). The two pre-1980 records are of birds collected on Boavista and São Vicente in 1898 and 1924 respectively. It was only next recorded in December 1993, when a flock of six was seen on Boavista. There are now records at the São Vicente sewage ponds in four subsequent years, 1999-2002

**\*Anas querquedula** LINNAEUS, 1758

(0, 1) SÃO VICENTE: a male at the sewage ponds, 14-18 April 2001 (JPS).

This is the first record of Garganey for the Cape Verde Islands. This Palearctic duck is a locally common to abundant winter visitor to southern Mauritania and Senegambia (LAMARCHE, 1988; MOREL & MOREL, 1990; BARLOW *et al.*, 1997) and a rare visitor to the Canary Islands (GARCÍA DEL REY, 2001), but there appear to be no records from Madeira (cf. ZINO *et al.*, 1995).

**\*Anas discors** LINNAEUS, 1766

(0, 1) SÃO VICENTE: a male at the sewage ponds, 12 March 2000 (BC).

The first record of Blue-winged Teal for the Cape Verde Islands and the third Nearctic anatid observed there (see *Aythya collaris* below). Recorded as a vagrant in the Canary Islands and Senegal (MOREL & MOREL, 1990; GARCÍA DEL REY, 2001) and regularly observed in the Azores (e.g. LE GRAND, 1983; CLARKE, 1999b).

**Aythya fuligula** (LINNAEUS, 1758)

(1, 1) SAL: a male (photographed) at Ribeira da Madama, 3-17 November 1999 (MHK).

This is only the second record of Tufted Duck for the Cape Verde Islands, the previous being of a flock of three on Santiago in February 1966.



**\*Aythya collaris** (DONOVAN, 1809)

(0, 1) SAL: three females (photographed; cf. *Dutch Birding* 22, plate 41, 2000) at Ribeira da Madama, 16-18 November 1999 (MHK).

This is the first record of Ring-necked Duck for the Cape Verde Islands and the second Nearctic anatid recorded there, the other being *A. affinis* of which three females were present on São Vicente in January-February 1999. A third Nearctic duck occurred in March 2000 (see *Anas discors* above). Recorded as a vagrant in Madeira and the Canary Islands (ZINO *et al.*, 1995; GARCÍA DEL REY, 2001), and regularly in the Azores (e.g. LE GRAND, 1983; CLARKE, 1999b).

**Puffinus puffinus** (BRÜNNICH, 1764)

(3, 2) CAPE VERDE SEAS: 2-3 between São Nicolau and Raso, 25 November 2001 (MP).

There were records from Cape Verde seas in September and October 1973, October 1976, and December 1983. With several records just outside the region, Manx Shearwater is probably a more regular passage migrant than the sparse records indicate. During seabird watches at Cap Vert, Senegal, small numbers were seen in autumn (largest number counted was 55 in 48 hours on eight days), but none were detected in spring (MARR *et al.*, 1998).

**Puffinus griseus** (GMELIN, 1789)

(1, 1) CAPE VERDE SEAS: one between Raso and São Nicolau, 12 April 2001 (JPS).

The only other record was of one east of Maio, 15 April 1976. Like Manx, Sooty Shearwater is probably less rare than the few records suggest. At Cap Vert, Senegal, large numbers were seen migrating southward in autumn (largest number counted was 4,802 in 78 hours on 11 days), but only a few were observed in spring (MARR *et al.*, 1998). Nevertheless, the two Cape Verde records are both from April and, with a lapse of 25 years, almost on the same day.

**\*Pelecanus onocrotalus** LINNAEUS, 1758

(0, 1) BOAVISTA: one (photographed) at Sal Rei, July or August 2000 (A. MURADAS AMARO & P. LÓPEZ SUAREZ *per* BF). The skull of a pelican is kept privately at Sal Rei, but it is unclear whether this concerns a second individual or the bird reported above.

This is the first record of Great White Pelican for the Cape Verde Islands. There are major breeding colonies in Mauritania and Senegal, where reputed to be resident, although some dispersal may occur (LAMARCHE, 1988; MOREL & MOREL, 1990).

**Ardeola ralloides** (SCOPOLI, 1769)

(2, 1) SANTIAGO: one at Tarrafal, 29 November 2001 (MP).

There were only two old records of Squacco Heron for the Cape Verde Islands, i.e. a bird collected on Sal in 1901 and one observed on Santiago in 1963.

**Egretta gularis** (BOSC, 1792)

(2, >20) SANTIAGO: one dark-phase and three white phase birds at Praia, 28 November-3 December 2001, and up to four white phase birds at Tarrafal, 28 November-2 December 2001 (MP); one dark-phase at Praia, 24 February and 3-4 March 2002 (BF, CD). BOAVISTA: a dark-phase bird at Baía da Gata, 10 April 1999 (BARONE *et al.*, 1999), and one at Sal Rei, 22 April 2001 (JPS).

Only rarely recorded in the past, but there are now *c.* 25 records since 1980 and Western Reef Heron appears to be a regular visitor in small numbers to the Cape Verde Islands. The majority of records comes from Santiago and Boavista, with singles from São Vicente, Raso, and Maio. Recorded in all months except June and August.

**Egretta intermedia** (WAGLER, 1829)

(1, 7) SÃO VICENTE: one (videoed) at the sewage ponds, 1-15 March 2002 (BF, CD; BOON, 2003). BOAVISTA: one (videoed) at Rabil Lagoon, 22 April 2001 (JPS).

Intermediate Egret has been recorded (January, March-May) from Santiago (2), Santo Antão (1), São Vicente (1), Sal (1), and Boavista (3). The pre-1980 record is of one collected on Santiago in 1965, all others being since 1983. A record of four on Santo Antão, October-November 1972, is no longer accepted (cf. HAZEVOET, 1999b).

**\*Ardea herodias** LINNAEUS, 1758

(0, 1) BOAVISTA: one (videoed) at Rabil lagoon, 4-5 March 2002 (CD).

This is the first record of Great Blue Heron for the Cape Verde Islands. Elsewhere in the eastern Atlantic islands, this Nearctic taxon has been recorded in the Azores and Canary Islands (LE GRAND, 1986; CLARKE, 1999a, b).

**Ardea purpurea** LINNAEUS, 1766

(2, 4) BOAVISTA: 2-3 at Ribeira de Água, 10 and 16 July 1997 (PG; GENIEZ & LÓPEZ-JURADO, 1998), and one at Rabil lagoon (videoed), 4-20 March 2002 (BF, CD).

Purple Heron has been recorded (September, December, January, March, April, July) from Santiago (1), São Vicente (2), and Boavista (3). The two pre-1980 records are of birds collected on São Vicente in 1897 and 1924, the recent ones of birds observed on Santiago in 1986 and Boavista in 1988.

***Plegadis falcinellis* (LINNAEUS, 1766)**

(1, 2) BOAVISTA: one (photographed) south of Rabil, 18-22 March 2001 (MHK). MAIO: five near Terras Salgadas, 22 October 2000 (BARONE *et al.*, 2001).

These are the second and third records of Glossy Ibis for the Cape Verde Islands, the previous being of one collected on Santiago in April 1924. It is possible that the bird seen on Boavista in March 2001 was one of the party of five that was present on Maio the previous autumn.

***Platalea leucorodia* LINNAEUS, 1758**

(4, >20) SANTIAGO: one of three Spoonbills at Tarrafal, 29 November 2001, was colour-ringed as a nestling on the Frisian island of Vlieland, Netherlands, 25 June 2001 (MP).

This is the second colour-ringed Spoonbill from the Netherlands found in the islands, the previous being of one ringed on the island of Terschelling, 26 May 1994, and seen on São Vicente during the years 1996-1998 (cf. HAZEVOET, 1997, 1998; VAN DIJK & BAKKER, 1998). Although there were only four records before 1980, with over 30 records from Santiago, São Vicente, Sal, and Boavista since, it is clear that European Spoonbills regularly winter in the Cape Verde Islands in small numbers, with some immatures over-summering there.

***Circus aeruginosus* (LINNAEUS, 1758)**

(0, >20) BRANCO: a female, 6 January 2001 (HB). RASO: an immature male, 30 September-4 October 2001, and a presumed different bird, 7-12 October 2001 (PD). SÃO NICOLAU: one at Ribeira da Prata, 28 September 2001, and another at Ribeira Tucudo, 29 September 2001 (PD). SAL: an immature at Ribeira da Madama, 6 November 1999 (MHK), and a female at the Pedra de Lume salt-pans, 6 March 2000 (BC). BOAVISTA: an immature southwest of Povoação Velha, 14 November 1999 (MHK), and a total of up to four immatures/females at Curral Velho, Sal Rei, and Rabil lagoon, 3-19 March 2002 (BF, CD). MAIO: one immature/female between Cascabulho and the northern coast, 20 October 2000 (BARONE *et al.*, 2001).

Although only first recorded in the Cape Verde Islands in 1983, there are now 22 records and Marsh Harrier apparently winters regularly in the archipelago. Recorded (September-November, January-March) from Santo Antão (1), Branco (1), Raso (4), São Nicolau (2), Sal (4), Boavista (9), and Maio (1).

**\*Falco eleonora**e GÉNÉ, 1839

(0, 1) SÃO VICENTE: the carcass of an immature male was found at Praia do Norte, 4 September 1998 (HEINZE & RISTOW, 2003).

The carcass had apparently been washed ashore and the bird may have died at sea, but it seems unlikely that this happened far from the islands as it surely would not have remained intact for long. Breeding in the Mediterranean region and north-west Africa, including the Canarian island of Lanzarote, Eleonora's Falcon is thought to exclusively migrate to winter quarters in East Africa and Madagascar. Recorded as a vagrant in Madeira and Mauritania (LAMARCHE, 1988; MEININGER *et al.*, 1990; ZINO *et al.*, 1995).

**Gallinula chloropus** (LINNAEUS, 1758)

(—, 2) SANTIAGO: an immature at a pool about one third between Chão Bom and Tarrafal, 2 December 2001 (PC).

A former breeding bird on Santiago and Boavista, this is only the second record of Moorhen since 1969, the other being from São Vicente in February-March 1999.

**Haematopus ostralegus** LINNAEUS, 1758

(2, 10) SANTO ANTÃO: one at Tarrafal, 16-18 November 2001 (PC). SÃO VICENTE: one near Calhau, 28 September 1997 (PG). SÃO NICOLAU: one at Tarrafal, 10 April 2001 (JPS).

Oystercatcher has been recorded (August-April) from Santiago (1), Cima (1), Santo Antão (1), São Vicente (4), Branco (1), São Nicolau (1), Sal (1), and Boavista (2).

**Recurvirostra avosetta** LINNAEUS, 1758

(1, 8) MAIO: one near Vila de Maio, 22 October 2000 (BARONE *et al.*, 2001).

Avocet has been recorded (October-April) from São Vicente (1), Sal (2), Boavista (3), and Maio (3).

**Charadrius dubius** SCOPOLI, 1786

(2, 14) SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage ponds, 18 April 2001 (JPS), and 1-2 there, 28 February-2 March 2002 (CD). BOAVISTA: one south of Rabil, 20-22 March 2001 (MHK).

Little Ringed Plover has been recorded (August-May) from Santiago (9), São Vicente (5), and Boavista (2), and is probably a regular migrant visitor in small numbers, largely overlooked in the past.

**Charadrius semipalmatus** BONAPARTE, 1825

(0, 2) SÃO VICENTE: an adult at the sewage ponds, 27 February 1999 (S. RODEBRAND *et al.*).

Briefly mentioned in HAZEVOET (1999a), this record was previously rejected because only an inconclusive description was available. Further details have been received since and the record has now been accepted. This was the first observation of this Nearctic plover in the Cape Verdes. A subsequent record was of one on Sal, 6 March 1999.

**Pluvialis dominica** (S. MÜLLER, 1776)

(3, 4) SÃO VICENTE: an adult in winter plumage (videoed) at the sewage ponds, 14 April 2001 (JPS), and an adult there, 14 November 2001 (PC).

Five of the seven records (October-November, January-April) of American Golden Plover are from São Vicente, where the sewage ponds apparently provide a suitable habitat. However, two of the São Vicente records (1924, 1966) antedate the construction of these installations. The other two records are from Santiago and Santo Antão.

**\*Vanellus spinosus** (LINNAEUS, 1758)

(0, 1) SÃO NICOLAU: an adult in breeding plumage (videoed) at Tarrafal, 11 April 2001 (JPS).

This is the first record for the Cape Verde Islands. Spur-winged Plover is a widespread and common breeding bird in most of sub-Saharan Africa, including southern Mauritania and Senegambia, where it is dispersive to resident (LAMARCHE, 1988; MOREL & MOREL, 1990; BARLOW *et al.*, 1997).

**Calidris canutus** (LINNAEUS, 1758)

(1, 7) SÃO VICENTE: two at the sewage ponds, 12 March 2000 (BC). BOAVISTA: one at Ribeira de Agua, 16 July 1997 (PG; GENIEZ & LÓPEZ-JURADO, 1998); seven at Sal Rei, 22 March 2001 (MHK); three at Rabil lagoon, 4-17 March 2002 (BF, CD).

There was only a single record before 1988, but records since indicate that Knot is probably a regular winter visitor in small numbers. Recorded (November, March, July) from Santiago (2), São Vicente (1), Boavista (4), and Maio (1).

**Calidris pusilla** (LINNAEUS, 1766)

(0, 2) SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage ponds, 12 March 2000 (BC).

This is the second record of Semipalmated Sandpiper for the Cape Verde Islands, the previous being of one on Boavista in March 1999.

**Calidris minutilla** (VIEILLOT, 1819)

(0, 2) SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage ponds, 12 March 2000 (BC).

This is the second record of Least Sandpiper for the Cape Verde Islands, the previous being of one at the same locality in March 1996.

**\*Calidris melanotos** (VIEILLOT, 1819)

(0, 1) SANTIAGO: two at the lagoon near Tarrafal, 16-17 October 2001 (TRS).

This is the first record of Pectoral Sandpiper for the Cape Verde Islands. Elsewhere in the eastern Atlantic islands, this Nearctic wader has been recorded from the Azores (LE GRAND, 1983; CLARKE, 1999b), Canary Islands (GARCÍA DEL REY, 2001) and Madeira (ZINO *et al.*, 1995), while in West Africa there are scattered records from Mauritania to Gabon (BORROW & DEMEY, 2001).

**Gallinago gallinago** (LINNAEUS, 1758)

(0, 11) SANTIAGO: 1-2 at Tarrafal, 29 November-2 December 2001 (MP, PC). SÃO VICENTE: two at the sewage ponds, 12 March 2000 (BC), one there, 14 November 2001 (PC), and again one there, 1 March 2002 (CD). BOAVISTA: one south of Rabil, 18 March 2001 (MHK).

With 11 records since 1996, it appears that Snipe is a regular winter visitor in small numbers. It has been recorded (October-March) from Santiago (2), São Vicente (6), Sal (1), and Boavista (2). Snipes observed in the Cape Verdes are probably migrants from the Palearctic, but the possibility of Nearctic *G. delicata* occasionally occurring cannot be excluded. Hence, records are accepted here as *G. gallinago sensu lato*.

**Limosa limosa** (LINNAEUS, 1758)

(2, 3) MAIO: a flock of 16 near Vila de Maio, 22 October 2000 (BARONE *et al.*, 2001).

This is the first record of Black-tailed Godwit since 1988. Recorded (August-October, December-January) from São Vicente (1), Sal (1), Boavista (2), and Maio (1). Commonly wintering in marsh areas and rice fields in Senegal and Guinea-Bissau, the Cape Verde Islands have very little suitable habitat to offer for this prolific wader.

**Numenius arquata** (LINNAEUS, 1758)

(0, 7) BOAVISTA: one at Curral Velho, 18 March 2002 (BF).

In contrast to the commonly occurring Whimbrel *N. phaeopus*, Curlew is only rarely seen in the Cape Verde Islands. There are records (November, January-April) from Santo Antão (1), Raso (1), Sal (1), Boavista (3), and Maio (1).

**Tringa erythropus** (PALLAS, 1764)

(0, 8) SÃO VICENTE: two at the sewage ponds, 12 March 2000 (BC). BOAVISTA: one at Ribeira do Rabil, 14 November 1999 (MHK).

Spotted Redshank was first recorded in the Cape Verde Islands in 1988 and there are now records (September, November, January-March) from Santiago (1), São Vicente (4), and Boavista (3).

**Tringa totanus** (LINNAEUS, 1758)

(1, >20) MAIO: one near Vila de Maio, 22 October 2000 (BARONE *et al.*, 2001).

Although there was only a single pre-1980 record, Redshank has been regularly reported from São Vicente and Sal during the last decades, but only rarely so on other islands, viz. Santiago (1), Boavista (4), and Maio (1).

**\*Tringa melanoleuca** (GMELIN, 1789)

(0, 1) SANTIAGO: one at the lagoon near Tarrafal, 16-17 October 2001 (TRS).

This is the first record of Greater Yellowlegs for the Cape Verde Islands. Elsewhere in the eastern Atlantic islands, this Nearctic wader has been recorded from the Azores (LE GRAND, 1983) and Canary Islands (GARCÍA DEL REY, 2001), but there appear to be no records from West Africa (cf. BORROW & DEMEY, 2001).

**Tringa flavipes** (GMELIN, 1789)

(0, 4) SAL: one at the Pedra de Lume salt pans, 26 September and 21 October 2001 (PD), and again one there (videoed), 6-20 March 2002 (BF, CD; BOON, 2003). BOAVISTA: one at Rabil lagoon, 13 March 2000 (BC).

Lesser Yellowlegs was only first recorded in the Cape Verde Islands in 1999, but this Nearctic wader has now been recorded in four subsequent years - Sal (2), Boavista (2) - with three out of four records in mid-March. The possibility remains that some records, even from different years, concerned the same individual.

**Actitis macularia** (LINNAEUS, 1766)

(0, 2) SÃO VICENTE: one (photographed) at the sewage ponds, 15 March 2002 (BF).

The only previous record of this Nearctic wader in the Cape Verde Islands was in February-March 1999, when a Spotted Sandpiper stayed at the above locality for several weeks.

**Phalaropus fulicarius** (LINNAEUS, 1758)

(—, 11) SAL: one (photographed) at lagoon north of Santa Maria, 4-6 November 1999 (MHK). CAPE VERDE SEAS: two between Raso and São Nicolau, 7 March 2000, and two between São Vicente and Santo Antão, 10 March 2000 (BC).

The one on Sal was the first island observation of Grey Phalarope, all other records (October-May) being pelagic. Presumably more common at sea than the few records indicate.

**Stercorarius skua** (Brünnich, 1764)

(3, 6) CAPE VERDE SEAS: one between Raso and São Nicolau, 12 April 2001 (JPS).

All post-1980 records of Great Skua are from the Branco-Raso area, the three earlier being of one west of Santo Antão in April 1976 and of birds ringed in U.K. recovered on Sal in April 1968 and São Vicente in February 1970.

**Larus ridibundus** LINNAEUS, 1766

(2, >20) Formerly considered rare, but there are now *c.* 35 records (September-March) of Black-headed Gull, mostly from Santiago, São Vicente, Sal, and Boavista, with single records from Fogo and Santo Antão. To these, two more islands can now



be added – SÃO NICOLAU: an immature at Tarrafal, 25 September 1997 (PG; GENIEZ & LÓPEZ-JURADO, 1998), and MAIO: an immature near Vila de Maio, 22 October 2000 (BARONE *et al.*, 2001).

**\*Larus delawarensis** ORD, 1815

(0, 1) BOAVISTA: one in first winter plumage (photographed) at Rabil lagoon, 22 April 2001 (JPS).

This is the first record for the Cape Verde Islands and the first Nearctic gull recorded in the archipelago. Elsewhere in the region, Ring-billed Gull has been recorded in Madeira, Canary Islands, Morocco, Mauritania, and Senegal (LAMARCHE, 1988; BARLOW *et al.*, 1997; SNOW & PERRINS, 1998).

**Larus michahellis** NAUMANN, 1840

(1, 19) RASO: one, 11 October 2001 (PD); a pinioned bird at Tarrafal, São Nicolau, 27 February 2002, was said to be caught on Raso several weeks earlier (CD). SÃO NICOLAU: an immature (2nd winter) at Tarrafal, 7-8 March 2000 (BC); three at sea between Raso and São Nicolau, 12 October 2001, and 10 at Tarrafal, 13 October 2001 (PD). SÃO VICENTE: four immatures at Mindelo, 10-12 March 2000 (BC), and three in first winter plumage there, 15-18 April 2001 (JPS).

The sightings off Raso and São Nicolau, 11-13 October 2001, are here counted as a single record. With almost 20 records (October-June), involving many more individuals, it is clear that Yellow-legged Gull is a regular visitor to the Cape Verdes. Whether these birds belong to nominate *michahellis* or to northern Macaronesian *atlantis* has still to be clarified, but the latter is suspected to constitute the majority of birds seen in the islands. One collected in 1901 was *atlantis*, while several birds observed in 1999 were thought to be referable to that taxon as well (cf. HAZEVOET, 1999a).

**Sterna paradisaea** PONTOPPIDAN, 1763

(—, 3) RASO: one in apparently exhausted condition, 12 October 2001 (PD).

Arctic Tern is probably a not uncommon passage migrant, but only few definite records exist. LAMBERT (1980) reported flocks off Santo Antão, São Vicente, and Maio, and a single bird off Praia, Santiago, in April-May 1976. Next was the record of a flock between Maio and Santiago in April 1989, and the remains of an Arctic Tern were found on Sal in August 1997. See also account on unidentified terns below.

**Sterna caspia** PALLAS, 1770

(0, 6) BOAVISTA: an adult (photographed) at Rabil Lagoon, 23 April 2001 (JPS). First recorded in 1993, there are now records (January-April) of Caspian Tern from São Vicente (1), Boavista (4), as well as one at sea between Branco and Raso.

**Sterna maxima** BODDAERT, 1783

(0, 2) BOAVISTA: three adults (photographed) at Rabil Lagoon, 16 March-23 April 2001 (JPS, MHK).

This is the second record of Royal Tern for the Cape Verde Islands, the previous being of one on Sal in February 1995.

**Sterna sandvicensis** LATHAM, 1787

(1, 11) BOAVISTA: one at Rabil lagoon, 13 March 2000 (BC). SÃO NICOLAU: one off Tarrafal, 7 March 2000 (BC).

These are the first records of Sandwich Tern since 1993. Recorded (October-January, March) from Santiago (1), São Nicolau (3), Boavista (4), Maio (1), and Cape Verde seas (3). The single pre-1980 record is of a bird ringed in U.K. and recovered on Boavista in October 1963.

**Sterna albifrons** PALLAS, 1764

(0, 14) BOAVISTA: two at Rabil lagoon, 15 November 1999 (MHK), two present near Sal Rei during January 2000 (S. Hille), 1-2 at Rabil Lagoon, 16-22 March 2001 (MHK), and one (photographed) there, 23 April 2001 (JPS), four at Rabil lagoon, 4-5 March 2002 (CD).

Little Tern was first recorded on Maio in 1988, but all subsequent records are from the same lagoon and nearby shore on Boavista, where a few appear to be present every year from October to April.

**Sterna** indet.

SANTO ANTÃO: two off Ponta do Sol, 16 April 2001 (JPS). SÃO VICENTE: one off São Pedro, 20 April 1999 (BARONE *et al.*, 1999). SAL: one at the southeastern shore, 29 March 2001, was "probably *S. paradisaea*" (MHK). MAIO: one along the coast near Ponta Preta, 19 October 2000, and another near Ponta do Morro, 22 October 2000

(BARONE *et al.*, 2001). CAPE VERDE SEAS: one between Raso and São Nicolau, 7 March 2000 (BC).

These records of unidentified terns are included in view of the general scarcity of tern observations in the Cape Verdes. Presumably, they concerned *S. hirundo* or *S. paradisaea*, while *S. dougallii* (of which there is a single record) cannot be excluded either. See also account on *S. paradisaea* above.

**\*Clamator glandarius** (LINNAEUS, 1758)

(0, 1) BOAVISTA: an immature (photographed) at an undisclosed locality and date, probably 2000 (A. MURADAS AMARO & P. LÓPEZ SUAREZ *per* BF).

This is the first record for the Cape Verde Islands. In Mauritania and Senegambia, Great Spotted Cuckoo is both a local breeder and a migrant visitor from the Palearctic (LAMARCHE, 1988; MOREL & MOREL, 1990; BARLOW *et al.*, 1997), and it has been recorded as a vagrant in Madeira and the Canary Islands (ZINO *et al.*, 1995; GARCÍA DEL REY, 2001).

**Asio flammeus** (PONTOPPIDAN, 1763)

(0, 7) RASO: one, 18 October 2001 (PD). SAL: one near Santa Maria, 4 December 2001 (MP). OFFSHORE: one flying alongside ferry boat, c. 15 km off north-western Santiago, 5 November 2001 (PC); one (photographed) flying over ship at 15°14'N, 24°10'W (northeast of Fogo), 16 October 2002 (A. Cooley *et al.*).

First recorded in 1983, there are now records (October-December, February-March) of Short-eared Owl from Raso (2) and Sal (3), with another two seen at sea as reported above. One of the records from Sal, which was the first for the Cape Verdes, concerned the remains of a dead bird.

**\*Apus unicolor** (JARDINE, 1830)

(0, 2) BOAVISTA: four unidentified swifts at Rabil lagoon, 22 February 1999 (cf. DE ROUCK, 2001), were subsequently identified as *unicolor* (H. DUFOURNY *in litt.*, 2002); one was seen at the same location, 13 March 2000 (BC).

Breeds in Madeira and the Canary islands, where also present in reduced numbers in winter. Although likely to be situated in West Africa, the main wintering quarters of Plain Swift are still unknown. There are several reports (December-April) of suspected Plain Swifts from Morocco and Mauritania (MEINIGER *et al.*, 1990; VERNON, 2002), but evidence from specimens is required to fully establish the taxonomic identity of the swifts involved.

**Apus pallidus** (SHELLEY, 1870)

(0, 2) SANTIAGO: two along the cliffs just east of Praia harbour, 2 December 2001 (MP).

This is the second record of Pallid Swift for the Cape Verde Islands, the previous being of two on Santo Antão in April 1999. Because of the lack of documentation, a number of earlier reports (cf. HAZEVOET, 1995) are now considered to be claims only. It seems likely that the taxon is under-recorded due to identification problems.

**Merops apiaster** LINNAEUS, 1758

(1, 2) BOAVISTA: one at Estância de Baixo, mid May 1999 (precise date not given) (S. Hille).

The only recent record of Bee-eater was of two birds on Sal in May 1997; the single pre-1980 record is of three collected on São Nicolau in February-March 1924.

**Upupa epops** LINNAEUS, 1758

(1, 4) BOAVISTA: one near Sal Rei, 9 April 1999, and another at Ponta do Ervatão, 11 April 1999 (BARONE *et al.*, 1999).

These are the first records of Hoopoe in almost a decade, previous records being of single birds on São Vicente in January 1966, Santo Antão in August 1988, and Sal in September 1990.

**\*Calandrella brachydactyla** (LEISLER, 1814)

(0, 1) SÃO NICOLAU: one (videoed) at Barril, 11-13 April 2001 (JPS).

This is the first record of Short-toed Lark for the Cape Verde Islands. Short-toed Lark is a common Palearctic winter visitor to Mauritania and Senegal (LAMARCHE, 1988; MOREL & MOREL, 1990), a not uncommon migrant in the Canary Islands (GARCIA DEL REY, 2001), and a vagrant to Madeira (ZINO *et al.*, 1995).

**Riparia riparia** (LINNAEUS, 1758)

(2, 12) RASO: one or two present, 1 October 2001, and several days thereafter (PD). SÃO NICOLAU: two at Barril, 11 April 2001 (JPS), and singles near Tarrafal, 28 and 30 September 2001 (PD). SAL: c. 10 at the Santa Maria salt pans, 25 September 2001 (PD).

There are records (August-October, February-April) of Sand Martin from Santiago (2), São Vicente (4), Raso (1), São Nicolau (2), and Sal (5). The two pre-1980 records are of one collected on São Vicente in 1912 and of a bird ringed in U.K. and recovered on Santiago in 1969, all other records being since 1988.

**Hirundo daurica** LINNAEUS, 1771 *Gascmann, 1769*

(0, 9) BRANCO: two flying near the cliff-wall as if prospecting breeding site, 11 April 2001 (JPS).

Only first recorded in 1996, there are now records (February-April) of Red-rumped Swallow from Santiago (2), São Vicente (2), Branco (1), São Nicolau (1), and Sal (3), with four birds seen together being the largest group-size.

**Anthus trivialis** (LINNAEUS, 1758)

(0, 4) SÃO NICOLAU: one (photographed) at Barril, 13 April 2001 (JPS).

Tree Pipit was first recorded in the Cape Verdes in 1988 and there are now records (September, March-April) from São Nicolau (1), Boavista (2), and Maio (1), with four birds being the largest number seen together.

**Motacilla flava** LINNAEUS, 1758

(0, 5) BOAVISTA: one at Ponta do Ervatão, 11 April 1999 (BARONE *et al.*, 1999).

Blue-headed Wagtail was first recorded in the Cape Verde Islands in 1988. There are now records (October-November, March-April) from Santiago (1), Raso (1), Sal (2), and Boavista (1).

**Motacilla alba** LINNAEUS, 1758

(1, 10) SANTIAGO: one at Tarrafal, 29 November 2001 (MP). RASO: a single, 9 October 2001 (PD).

White Wagtail has been recorded (October-March) from Santiago (2), São Vicente (4), Raso (1), São Nicolau (1), and Sal (3). The single pre-1980 record is of one collected on São Vicente in 1924 – all others are since 1989.

**Oenanthe oenanthe** (LINNAEUS, 1758)

(2, 16) BRANCO: a female, 8 March 2000 (BC). SAL: two just north of Santa Maria, 7 November 1999, and one north of Terra Boa, 9 November 1999 (MHK); a male (*leucorrhoea*) at Pedra de Lume, 6 March 2000 (BC). BOAVISTA: a male near Curral Velho, 13 March 2000 (BC).

Wheatear has been recorded (November-April) from Santiago (1), Branco (1), Raso (1), São Nicolau (2), Sal (6), Boavista (5), and Maio (2). The two old records are of birds collected on Maio in 1897 and São Nicolau in 1924, all other records being since 1985.

**\**Sylvia borin* (BODDAERT, 1783)**

(0, 1) RASO: one, 1 October 2001, joined by a second the next day, and one still present, 4 October 2001 (PD).

This is the first record for the Cape Verde Islands. Garden Warbler is a regular Palearctic winter visitor in southern Senegal, with autumn passage through northern Senegal and Mauritania peaking October-November (LAMARCHE, 1988; MOREL & MOREL, 1990; BARLOW *et al.*, 1997), a rare migrant visitor to the Canary Islands (GARCÍA DEL REY, 2001), and a vagrant to Madeira (ZINO *et al.*, 1995).

**\**Sylvia melanocephala* (GMELIN, 1789)**

(0, 1) RASO: a female, 11-12 October 2001 (PD).

This is the first record for the Cape Verde Islands. Sardinian Warbler is a not uncommon Palearctic winter visitor to southern Mauritania and northern Senegal (LAMARCHE, 1988; MOREL & MOREL, 1990). It has been recorded as a vagrant in Madeira (ZINO *et al.*, 1995), while those breeding in the Canary Islands are presumed to be resident (GARCÍA DEL REY, 2001).

***Phylloscopus trochilus* (LINNAEUS, 1758)**

(0, 6) RASO: one, 2 October 2001 (PD). SÃO NICOLAU: one at Fajã da Cima, 14 October 2001 (PD).

Willow Warbler was first recorded in the Cape Verdes in 1988 and there are now records (March, September-October) from Raso (1), São Nicolau (3), and Boavista (2). One of the records from Boavista concerned at least 10 birds at different locations, 19-22 September 1988.

***Phylloscopus collybita* (VIEILLOT, 1817)**

(0, 2) RASO: a freshly dead bird was found along the southern shore, 26 September 1997 (PG; GENIEZ & LÓPEZ-JURADO, 1998).

While GENIEZ & LÓPEZ-JURADO (1998) left open the possibility of this being

*P. ibericus* TICEHURST, 1937<sup>1</sup>, subsequent examination of the specimen confirmed it to be *collybita* (P. GENIEZ, *in litt.* 1999). The only previous record of Chiffchaff was of one on Boavista in December 1989.

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#### SUMMARY

Recent data on status and distribution of resident and migrant birds in the Cape Verde Islands are presented, including records of 15 taxa new to the archipelago, viz. *Anas querquedula*, *A. discors*, *Aythya collaris*, *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Ardea herodias*, *Falco eleonora*, *Vanellus spinosus*, *Calidris melanotos*, *Tringa melanoleuca*, *Larus delawarensis*, *Clamator glandarius*, *Apus unicolor*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Sylvia borin*, and *S. melanocephala*. The current situation of some endemics (e.g. *Ardea bournei*, *Milvus fasciicauda*) is critical and measures to save them from extinction are urgently needed. Other endemics (e.g. *Falco madens*, *Acrocephalus brevipennis*) have been found to be more widespread than formerly known, but even so their total populations remain small and vulnerable.

#### RESUMO

Neste artigo são apresentados os dados recentes sobre o estado e a distribuição de aves residentes e migratórias nas Ilhas de Cabo Verde, incluindo 15 novos registos para o arquipélago, nomeadamente *Anas querquedula*, *A. discors*, *Aythya collaris*, *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Ardea herodias*, *Falco eleonora*, *Vanellus spinosus*, *Calidris melanotos*, *Tringa melanoleuca*, *Larus delawarensis*, *Clamator glandarius*, *Apus unicolor*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Sylvia borin*, e *S. melanocephala*. A situação actual de algumas aves endémicas (por exemplo *Ardea bournei*, *Milvus fasciicauda*) é crítica, tornando urgente a tomada de medidas que as salvem da extinção. Verificou-se, entretanto, que outras aves endémicas (por exemplo *Falco madens*, *Acrocephalus brevipennis*) apresentam uma distribuição maior do que anteriormente se pensava; contudo, as populações mantêm-se pequenas e vulneráveis.

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<sup>1</sup> For discussions on the correct name of the Iberian Chiffchaff, traditionally referred to as *Phylloscopus brehmii* (HOMEYER, 1871), see SVENSSON (2001) and SALOMON *et al.* (2003).

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