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## FOURTH REPORT ON BIRDS FROM THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS, INCLUDING NOTES ON CONSERVATION AND RECORDS OF 11 TAXA NEW TO THE ARCHIPELAGO

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### ABSTRACT

Recent data on status and distribution of resident and migrant birds in the Cape Verde Islands are presented, including records of 11 taxa new to the archipelago, viz. Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*, White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*, Great White Egret *Casmerodius albus*, Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*, Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*, Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*, Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*, Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*, Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*, and Winchat *Saxicola rubetra*. Status and conservation of rare breeding taxa (including endemics) are discussed.

### INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth supplement to *The birds of the Cape Verde Islands* (Hazevoet 1995). Earlier updates were given by Hazevoet (1997, 1998) and Hazevoet *et al.* (1996). Herein, recent data on distribution and numbers of breeding birds are presented, as well as records of scarce and rare migrant visitors. The latter include records of 11 taxa new to the archipelago, viz. Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*, White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*, Great White Egret *Casmerodius albus*, Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*, Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*, Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*, Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*, Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*, Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*, and Winchat *Saxicola rubetra*. Three previous reports of *A. pallidus* concerned

undocumented claims (cf. Hazevoet 1995) and these are no longer considered acceptable. At present, the total number of species level taxa of birds from the Cape Verde Islands stands at 171, an increase of 27 since the publication of the 1995 check-list. As the Cape Verdes have recently become a popular destination for birdwatchers, it may be expected that a continuing number of 'new' taxa will be reported.

Despite the increase in birdwatching activities in the Cape Verdes, few observations of migrant petrels and shearwaters are being reported, although these are probably not uncommon at the appropriate time of year. For example, while 1,000s of Sooty Shearwaters *Puffinus griseus* have been reported off Senegal in autumn (Marr *et al.* 1998), there is still only a single record from Cape Verde seas, dating back from the 1970s. Diversity of migrating seabirds off

Senegal is greater in autumn than in spring, both taxonomically and numerically (cf. Marr *et al.* 1998), while most birdwatchers visit the Cape Verdes in February and March. Although sea conditions (e.g. the degree of upwelling) are probably less favourable in Cape Verde seas than off the West African mainland, pelagic trips in autumn may well produce a number of surprises and will certainly contribute to our knowledge of seabird distribution in the area.

As for ornithological research in the Cape Verdes, studies of the kestrels *Falco* spp. are continuing (Sabine Hille, University of Giessen, Germany), as are those of the Cape Verde Peregrine *Falco madens* (C.M. Anderson, Falcon Research Group, U.S.A.) and the Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (João Ferreira and Luís Palma, University of Algarve, Portugal). Results of the 1998 *Pterodroma feae* survey are currently due for publication (Ratcliffe *et al.* in press). In March 1999, a Portuguese-British team visited Raso and Branco, primarily for studies of Madeiran Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma castro* but also collecting data on other seabirds. The research on *O. castro* could perhaps yield results similar to those in the Selvagens and Azores, where warm and cold season breeding populations show a considerable degree of differentiation in both morphological and molecular characters (cf. Faria 1998, Monteiro & Furness 1998, Sangster 1999).

#### NOTES ON CONSERVATION

Considerably less encouraging than the ever increasing number of migrants recorded in the islands is the current situation of some endemic and other breeding birds. After more than a decade of concerted efforts by visiting scientists and naturalists to achieve a national conservation strategy in Cape Verde, it must be concluded that results have been disappointing so far. At present, several endemic taxa are on the brink of extinction and their situation has worsened rather than improved during the last years. Despite plenty of lip-service towards environmental issues, Cape Verde authorities and institutions have shown to be entirely ineffective and unwilling or uninterested to implement even the most basic of conservation measures. The drafting of wildlife protection laws (announced more than 10 years ago) has still not materialized and even the most endangered endemics remain without legal protection. A law identifying protected areas was approved by Cape Verde legislators in 1990 but so far this has been a dead letter and the protected status of such important breeding sites as the islets of Raso, Branco and Cima is virtually ignored. Consequently, the mas-

sacres of seabirds on these islets continue just as before and every year large numbers of Cape Verde Shearwaters *Calonectris edwardsii*, Brown Boobies *Sula leucogaster* and Red-billed Tropicbirds *Phaethon aethereus* are killed by local fishermen, either for food or for 'fun'. On Fogo and Santo Antão, human persecution of the endangered Cape Verde Petrel *Pterodroma feae* continues at an alarming rate. At present, only a pitiful remnant of the once legendary seabird colonies is left and it must be feared that, due to the combined effects of ignorance and incompetence, a total collapse of several populations is not far ahead. Equally, the situation of some land birds is outright dramatic. The current status of some of these will be discussed below.

The situation of the endemic heron *Ardea bournei* is critical. Formerly, there existed a colony of 50-60 pairs at São Domingos but at some time during the early 1970s these nest-trees were felled and the birds disappeared (Hazevoet 1992b). Only two small colonies (at Boa Entrada and Ribeira Montanha) have been known since, each situated in a single tree and each consisting of only a handful of pairs. Neither of the two colonies receives any form of protection. Both are situated in villages and at times children climb the trees to collect eggs. In 1998, there were a couple of instances of the Boa Entrada birds being shot at (T. Dodman *in litt.* 1999). The total population may now be as low as c. 15 pairs (and possibly less), making it one of the most endangered waterbirds in the world.

The endemic kite *Milvus fasciicauda* is probably already beyond the point of no return and any conservation action for this enigmatic taxon may come too late, many early warnings notwithstanding (e.g. Naurois 1984, Ortlieb 1988, 1997, Hazevoet 1992a, 1995, 1996a, 1997, Hille 1998). The rationale behind this neglect seems to be the fact that, according to some conservation biologists' interpretation of that old neodarwinian paradigm commonly known as 'the biological species concept', *fasciicauda* is not entitled to the privileged status of being a 'good', 'full' or 'valid species'. During a six months survey of kites throughout the archipelago in the years 1996-97, *fasciicauda* was only found on Santo Antão, with the total population estimated at 4-6 birds and a possible maximum of eight (Hille 1998). During February-April 1999, several ornithologists and birdwatchers visited Santo Antão and searched for the kite but only two sightings of single birds were obtained (see 'Data on status and distribution' below). Whether or not considered 'good', 'full' or 'valid' by some decision makers in conservation biology, *fasciicauda*'s silent loss pro-

vides convincing testimony of the inadequacy of their policies.

A systematic survey of the Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* was started in 1998 (Ferreira & Palma in press). With 70% of the area surveyed so far, the population estimate now stands at 32-39 pairs, with a total of possibly c. 60 pairs anticipated for the whole archipelago. During the 1960s, as well as in the years 1988-1993, the population was thought to be c. 50 pairs, but this figure may represent an underestimate. Despite local fluctuations, it appears that the total population has remained relatively stable over the past 40 years, but numbers in the southern islands, especially Santiago and Fogo, seem to have decreased significantly, while numbers in the north-western islands of São Vicente and Santo Antão may have increased. However, this alleged increase is likely to represent a more complete census rather than a genuine population trend. Disturbance of nests and persecution of young by local people are widespread. Some illustrative examples were witnessed on Boavista in March 1999, where locals attempted to climb nest sites in order to obtain and kill nestlings for 'sport' (M. Koch *in litt.* 1999). Particularly sobering was the behaviour of a local employee of a sea-turtle protection programme (!) who guided tourists to Osprey nests, staying in the immediate surroundings for hours and thus preventing the adult birds to feed their young (M. Koch *in litt.* 1999).

The Pedra de Lume salt-pans on the island of Sal are the only breeding site of Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* in the archipelago. During the years 1987-1990, population size was stable at c. 75 birds. Recent counts (1995-1999) have consistently produced lower numbers, with a maximum of 28 birds on 29 March 1996 (Dijk & Bakker 1998) and a minimum of four on 13 October 1998 (Barone & Delgado 1999b). At the same time, numbers observed elsewhere in the archipelago have increased but there has as yet been no sign of breeding on other islands. For many years, the salt-pans of Pedra de Lume were seldom visited by the public but, with an expanding tourist industry on Sal, visitors are now coming in on an almost daily basis, going around randomly in four-wheel-drives and consequently causing a great deal of disturbance among the waders, migrants and breeding birds alike. In 1998, the formerly state-owned salt-pans were sold to an Italian consortium which intends to develop tourist attractions at the site. If no protection measures are taken, Black-winged Stilt may become lost as a breeding bird in the Cape Verdes.

A complete census of the Raso Lark *Alauda*

*razae* in February 1998 yielded a total number of 92 birds (Ratcliffe *et al.* 1999). This indicates a significant decline since the years 1986-1992, when estimates of the population ranged from 200-250 birds. Living in a restricted (7 km<sup>2</sup>) and arid environment with unpredictable rains, fluctuations in population size may be in the natural course of things. However, apart from regularly causing great havoc among the seabirds, fishermen occasionally bring dogs and cats to the uninhabited islet of Raso (cf. Hazevoet 1997, Stattersfield *et al.* 1998, Ratcliffe *et al.* 1999). This poses an unacceptable risk to the ground-breeding larks, which are already vulnerable due to natural causes. Despite the islet's official status as a protected area by law since 1990, the Cape Verde authorities have so far not shown any incentive to live up to their responsibilities and effectively protect Raso's unique wildlife.

A thorough search for the Cape Verde Cane Warbler *Acrocephalus brevipennis* on the island of São Nicolau revealed the existence of a small remnant population there (Hazevoet *et al.* 1999). With no records since 1924, it had been presumed extinct on the island but the discovery of a specimen collected on São Nicolau in 1970 renewed hope for its survival there (cf. Hazevoet 1999). In February 1998, a total of eight territories were located in valleys in the central mountain area. However, given the prevailing climatological conditions and human utilization of the taxon's habitat, prospects for the Cane Warbler's long-term survival on São Nicolau are bleak (cf. Hazevoet *et al.* 1999). A similar survey on the island of Brava is warranted to establish the Cane Warbler's status on that island, there being no records since 1969. Apart from São Nicolau and Brava, Santiago is the only island from which the taxon is known, with a total population estimated at c. 500 pairs during the years 1988-1993.

In conclusion, large-scale and long-term programmes of information and education, directed at both the local authorities and the general public, seem to be the only option left to save at least part of the endangered avifauna. However, the alarming situation of some taxa requires immediate action in order to safeguard their breeding sites and to halt human persecution and disturbance. In light of the general absence of any sense of responsibility for the natural environment among the population and the inertia of the authorities, this will not be an easy task to achieve. Adding to the difficulties is the fact that at least one of the more important international conservation bodies has endorsed a policy in which the preservation of taxic diversity is reduced to a dispute

over nomenclature and ranking, apparently based on the assumption that it can, somehow, be 'proven' whether certain terminal taxa should be called 'species' or not (see discussions in e.g. Collar 1996, 1997, Hazevoet 1996b, Sangster in press). Such policy has not been particularly helpful, as made painfully clear by the deplorable state of some of Cape Verde's endemic birds. Although the term 'species' has outlived its theoretical life and the existence of the species category is at least dubious, merely practical considerations seem to keep it alive (Ereshefsky 1998, Sluys & Hazevoet 1999, see also Brookes 1999). Perhaps there are everyday reasons for this and as a vernacular 'species' will probably persist for some time. However, this does not mean that the term should be credited biological meaning and weight which it simply does not carry.

#### RECENT DATA ON STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION

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 1997, 1998, Hazevoet *et al.* 1996). Taxonomy follows Hazevoet (1995) and Sangster *et al.* (1999). For rare non-breeding taxa (i.e. those for which there are less than 20 records), the number of records is given between brackets after the taxon name, indicating 1) the number of records up to 1 January 1980 and 2) the number of records since that date. Taxa new to the Cape Verde Islands are marked with an asterisk. Records of these were scrutinized by Helder Costa (Portuguese rarities committee), C.S. Roselaar (Dutch rarities committee) and the author. Taxa for which there are now more than 20 records since 1 January 1980 will not be included in future reports, unless records mark a new island record, provide a temporal extension of occurrence, or concern unusually large numbers or other remarkable circumstances. However, in view of the need for long-term monitoring, all records of both common and rare taxa remain welcome. These will be filed in the Cape Verde Ornithological Archive, maintained by the author.

Abbreviations: BF – Rubén Barone & Miguel Fernández del Castillo; CH - Tony Clarke & Phil Hansbro; CJH - Cornelis J. Hazevoet; DD - Hugues Dufourny & Kris De Rouck; EGR - Eduardo Garcia del Rey; JPT - José Pedro Tavares; MHK - Manfred & Heidi Koch; NS - Manuela Nunes & Carlos Santos; SH - Seppo Haavisto *et al.*

#### BREEDING BIRDS

##### **Cape Verde Petrel** *Pterodroma feae*

SANTO ANTÃO: at least 50 off Ponta do Sol during the mornings of 25 and 26 February 1999 and c. 300 there during the late afternoon on the last date (SH); at least 140 off Vila da Ribeira Grande, 27 February 1999 (late afternoon), and at least 30 there the next day (noon) (DD); c. 40 and c. 20 off Ponta do Sol on 12 and 13 March 1999, respectively (CH).

Numbers seen off other islands are typically much lower (cf. Hazevoet 1997). This strengthens the assertion by Ratcliffe *et al.* (in press) that Santo Antão has the largest population in the archipelago, with smaller numbers on Fogo and São Nicolau and perhaps still some on Santiago.

##### **Red-billed Tropicbird** *Phaethon aethereus*

BOAVISTA: one in a cliff hole at the shore opposite Ilhéu de Curral Velho, 20 February 1999 (DD), and again one in the same area, 19 March 1999 (MHK); at least 60 at Ponta do Rincão, north of Sal Rei, 9 March 1999 (DD), and up to eight there, 15-21 March 1999 (MHK).

There had been no recent indications of breeding in the Curral Velho area, although singles and small numbers had been seen there in the past. Following observations in 1995-1997, it now seems certain that a significant colony exists along the northwest coast of Boavista. Sadly, a large number of dead birds were also found in that area (DD, MHK), indicating that tropicbirds on Boavista suffer from human persecution as they do elsewhere in the archipelago. In recent years, the total Cape Verde population had been estimated at 100-125 pairs. Taking into account the possible size of the colony at Ponta do Rincão, the total population may now be in the range of 140-160 pairs.

##### **Cape Verde Purple Heron** *Ardea bournei*

SANTIAGO: no herons were present in the colonies at Boa Entrada and Banana during four visits in February and March 1999 (CH, DD, NS, T. Dodman), but one was seen about 1 km up the valley from Banana, 23 February 1999 (SH), and another was observed flying over Boa Entrada, 7 March 1999 (EGR). See also 'Notes on conservation' above.

##### **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

BOAVISTA: two between Sal Rei and Rabil, 7 October 1998, and one at Ilhéu do Sal Rei on the same date (Barone & Delgado 1999b); again two in the Sal Rei area, 24 February 1999 (NS), and 6-7 March

1999 (CH, SH); one at Rabil lagoon, 9 March 1999 (DD).

Previously, there were only three documented reports from Boavista (cf. Hazevoet *et al.* 1996, Hazevoet 1998, Hille 1998), although the taxon had been listed for the island without further details by earlier authors (cf. Alexander 1898, Naurois 1969, 1987a). Formerly widespread in the archipelago, numbers of kites have decreased dramatically during the last decades and both *migrans* and *fasciicauda* have gone extinct (or become very rare) on several islands. During a census of kites throughout the islands in the years 1996-1997, a few Black Kites were found on Boavista but none elsewhere (Hille 1998). The possibility remains that (some of) the birds seen in 1998-1999 concerned migrants from the Palearctic rather than local breeders.

#### **Cape Verde Kite *Milvus fasciicauda***

SANTO ANTÃO: one at Ribeira de Torre, 26 February 1999 (SH), and one in the Ribeira Grande area, 12 March 1999 (CH), were the only reports received. The taxon is apparently on the brink of extinction. See also 'Notes on conservation' above.

#### **Cape Verde Buzzard *Buteo bannermani***

SANTIAGO: one in the central mountain area, 24 February 1999 (DD); 1-2 at São Jorge dos Orgãos, 7 March 1999 (EGR), and two there, 10 March 1999 (CH). SANTO ANTÃO: one near Fontainhas, 1 February, and two at Ribeira do Paúl, 4 February 1999 (NS); at least three at Ribeira Grande and Ribeira da Torre, 27-28 February 1999 (DD); c. 5 there, 11 March 1999, and c. 10 the next day (CH); one at Ribeira da Torre, 13 and 15 April, and one between Ribeira Grande and Ribeira da Garça, 14 April 1999 (BF); one near Cova, 18 April, and another near Fontainhas, 19 April 1999 (JPT).

The large majority of recent records (i.e. since 1980) is from Santiago and Santo Antão, with others from Fogo (2), Brava (1), and São Nicolau (1). So far, there has been no indication of breeding on Fogo and Brava but the endemic buzzard probably bred on São Nicolau until the 1960s. The total population on Santiago and Santo Antão does probably not exceed some tens of pairs. A full survey to establish the current status of this little known taxon as well as studies of its ecology and breeding behaviour are urgently needed.

#### **Cape Verde Peregrine *Falco madens***

SANTIAGO: birds heard calling at the cliffs above São Jorge dos Orgãos, 19 March 1998, and two

seen there the following day (C.M. Anderson); a pair at Cidade Velha, 17 February 1999 (NS); an adult female at the cliffs east of Praia harbour, 23 February 1999 (DD, SH). SANTO ANTÃO: one at Chã da Igreja, 2 February, and at least three at Cova, 4 February 1999 (NS). SÃO VICENTE: a family party of three at São Pedro, 8 February 1999 (NS). RASO: a large falcon, presumably this taxon, seen in poor light, 23 October 1998 (MHK). SÃO NICOLAU: an adult at Tarrafal, 4 March 1999 (DD). BOAVISTA: one at João Galego, 5 March 1999 (SH).

During the last years, an encouraging number of sightings have been reported, demonstrating that the endemic peregrine occurs in small numbers throughout the archipelago. Nevertheless, the total population does probably not exceed some tens of pairs and the taxon remains highly vulnerable.

#### **Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus***

SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage farm, 27-29 September 1998 (CJH), and again one there, 22 January-14 March 1999 (CH, CJH, DD, NS, SH). BOAVISTA: singles and small parties (< 10) were regularly seen at different locations, October-November 1998 and March 1999 (CH, DD, MHK, SH; Barone & Delgado 1999b).

Non-breeding birds, presumably wanderers from Sal (where the only known breeding site is situated), have been reported from Santiago, São Vicente, Boavista, and Maio. Reports from Boavista and São Vicente have increased during the last decade, but there has as yet been no indication of breeding there. See also 'Notes on conservation' above.

#### **Cape Verde Barn Owl *Tyto detorta***

BOAVISTA: a feather and pellets were found along Ribeira do Rabil and pellets and prey remains on Ilhéu do Sal Rei in October 1998 (Barone & Delgado 1999b).

Except for an account based on hearsay only (cf. Naurois 1982), these are the first indications of the occurrence of owls on Boavista. However, according to Barone & Delgado (1999b), the feather found on Boavista does not resemble *T. detorta* but matches *T. alba*. At present, it is unclear whether this implies the occurrence of *alba* in the Cape Verdes or indicates variation in the plumage of *detorta*, which is generally among the darkest barn owls but in which paler individuals are known to occur.

#### **Cape Verde Swift *Apus alexandri***

SAL: c. 10 at Monte Leão (opposite Ilhéu de Rabo de Junco), 20 September 1997 (R. Barone), and three

there, 13 October 1998 (Barone & Delgado 1999b). BOAVISTA: 'several' at Rocha Estância in February 1999 (A. Santos *in* Barone & Delgado 1999b).

Records of the endemic swift from the three eastern islands are few and these are the first records from September-October for Sal (others being from June and August) and from February for Boavista (others being from March-May). So far, there has been no conclusive evidence of breeding in the eastern islands.

**Black-crowned Finch Lark** *Eremopterix nigriceps*

BRAVA: a flock of c. 25 near Palhal (between Fajã de Agua and Ferreiros), 13 February 1999 (NS). SAL: song and display c. 5 km north of Espargos, 28-29 October 1998 (MHK).

There are only few records, dating from the 1960s, from Brava. This is the first indication of breeding on Sal. Previously, there was only one tentative record for Sal, while Naurois (1987b) listed it for the island without giving further details. Locally common on Santiago, Fogo, Boavista, and Maio, and there are also a few records from São Nicolau.

**Bar-tailed Desert Lark** *Ammomanes cincturus*

BRAVA: frequently seen between Fajã de Agua and Ferreiros, 13 February 1999 (NS).

This is the first record for the island of Brava. Naurois (1987b) listed it as 'probably' occurring on the island without giving further details. Common and widespread on Sal, Boavista, and Maio, locally common on Santiago, Fogo, and São Nicolau, and there is a single record from Santa Luzia. During the last decades, the taxon has spread westwards in the archipelago and it was first recorded on Fogo and São Nicolau during the 1980s.

**Hoopoe Lark** *Alaemon alaudipes*

SAL: a few (< 10) were seen in the dune area north of Santa Maria on several occasions during October 1998 (MHK; Barone & Delgado 1999b), and an adult feeding two young in the nest was observed there, 27 October 1998 (MHK).

This follows the first records for Sal in 1995-1996 and the observation of juveniles there in 1997. The discovery of a nest provides the first unequivocal evidence of breeding. Apparently, a small population, probably not exceeding c. 10 pairs, has now become established on the island. Elsewhere in the Cape Verdes, Hoopoe Lark is widespread and common on Boavista and Maio only.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

BOAVISTA: up to four singing birds were observed in the João Galego-Fundo das Figueiras area, 5-8 October 1998 (Barone & Delgado 1999b), and again several observed there, 7 March 1999 (CH).

Following observations in 1995, it now appears that a small breeding population exists on Boavista. Previously, its occurrence on this arid island was solely based on listings without further details (cf. Naurois 1969, Naurois & Bergier 1986). Elsewhere in the Cape Verdes, Blackcap is widespread and locally common on Santiago, Fogo, Brava, Santo Antão, and São Nicolau, and presumably extinct on São Vicente.

**Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*

SÃO VICENTE: at least one pair in a palm tree at Mindelo, 16 April 1999 (JPT).

There was one old record from Santiago (seven collected at Praia, 1 May 1924), and a recent observation from São Vicente (<10 displaying and nest-building at Mindelo, June-July 1993). It was again observed on several occasions at Mindelo in the years 1995-1998 (CJH), but this had not been reported so far, probably because of the sense of triviality surrounding the taxon. Anyhow, it appears that a small population has recently become established on São Vicente. With Mindelo being the main port in the archipelago, the birds presumably arrived ship-assisted, although deliberate introduction cannot be excluded. In this connection, it may be of interest to mention an observation made off Guinea-Bissau, 15 January 1986, when c. 30 Village Weavers arrived aboard ship during a Harmattan dust storm (no land in sight) and stayed on board for several hours (Hazevoet 1996c). This indicates that, with ships from Bissau regularly calling at Mindelo, ship-assisted arrival is a real possibility, especially during periods of dust storms when birds are reluctant to fly.

SCARCE AND RARE MIGRANTS

**Common Teal** *Anas crecca* (2, 2)

SAO VICENTE: a flock of five males and four females at the sewage farm, 22-27 January 1999 (CJH), and one male and one female still there, 24 February 1999 (SH).

Recorded (December-February) from São Vicente (2) and Boavista (2). Previous records were in 1898, 1924, and 1993.

**\*Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis* (0, 1)

SÃO VICENTE: three females in first winter plumage

were present at the sewage farm from 22 January to at least 24 February 1999 (CJH, NS, SH).

This is the first record for the Cape Verde Islands. Elsewhere in the eastern Atlantic islands, this Nearctic taxon has been recorded in the Canary Islands (*Ardeola* 45: 101-102, 1998) and the Azores (Clarke 1999; not yet submitted to the Portuguese rarities committee).

**Leach's Storm-petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* (—, 5+)

CAPE VERDE SEAS: c. 5 flying north between Sal and São Nicolau, 4 March 1999 (EGR). The birds could be observed at close quarters and several field marks separating *leucorhoa* from *castro* were noted. Although probably a not uncommon winter visitor in Cape Verde seas, *leucorhoa* is only rarely reported.

**\*White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus* (0, 1)

BOAVISTA: an adult at Ilhéu de Curral Velho, 20 February 1999 (DD; Dufourny 1999).

This is the first record for the Cape Verde Islands. Previously, there were two extralimital records south and east of the islands, respectively, indicating the taxon's potential occurrence in the Cape Verde area. White-tailed Tropicbird is widespread in tropical and subtropical seas and breeds on numerous islands in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. In the Atlantic, there are breeding stations at Ascension, islands in the Gulf of Guinea, Bermuda, Bahamas, West Indies, and Fernando de Noronha, of which the last mentioned is the nearest to the Cape Verde Islands. The Curral Velho bird showed a golden-yellowish wash on its body parts, a feature traditionally associated with 'subspecies' *fulvus* of Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean. However, it is now known that a golden-yellowish morph occurs in varying proportions in various populations, including those from Atlantic islands (cf. Le Corre & Jouventin 1999).

**Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* (1, 4)

SÃO VICENTE: an adult at the sewage farm, 31 January-8 February 1999 (NS). BOAVISTA: an adult along the shore at Sal Rei, 24 February 1999 (NS).

Recorded (October, January-March) from Santiago (1), São Vicente (1), Raso (1), and Boavista (2). Previous records were in 1970, 1983, and 1997.

**Western Reef Heron** *Egretta gularis* (2, 18)

SANTIAGO: one at the Pedra Badejo lagoons, 23 February 1999 (SH); one at Praia, 11 March 1999 (CH). SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage farm and along the nearby shore, 19 January-14 March 1999

(CH, CJH, DD, NS, SH). RASO: one along the southern shore, 5 March 1999 (EGR). BOAVISTA: one at Ribeira do Ervatão, 10 October 1998 (Barone & Delgado 1999a); one at Rabil lagoon, 5 November 1998 (MHK); one along the shore near Curral Velho, 21 February 1999 (NS); one at Baía da Gata, 21 February 1999 (DD), and one at Rabil lagoon, 5 March 1999 (SH), the latter being the first record of a bird of the white morph.

These are the first records for São Vicente and Raso, others being from Santiago (9), Boavista (8), and Maio (1). The taxon has been recorded in all months except June, August and December and apparently small numbers occur in the islands throughout the year.

**Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia* (1, 5)

SANTO ANTÃO: five at the mouth of Ribeira da Torre, 13 April 1999, and again five (presumably the same birds) between Ribeira da Garça and Chã da Igreja the next day (BF).

Recorded from Santiago (2), Santo Antão (1), Sal (1), and Boavista (2), involving a total of c. 15 birds. A previous record from Santo Antão is no longer valid (cf. Hazevoet 1999).

**\*Great White Egret** *Casmerodius albus* (0, 1)

BOAVISTA: one in non-breeding plumage (photographed) at Rabil lagoon, 9 March 1999 (DD).

This is the first record for the Cape Verde Islands. Great White Egret is a common breeding bird in southern Mauritania en Senegambia (Lamarque 1984, Morel & Morel 1990, Barlow *et al.* 1997). It seems likely that the bird on Boavista belonged to the West African population rather than being a migrant from the Palearctic, although this remains conjecture only.

**Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia* (4, >20)

SÃO VICENTE: 2 juveniles and 2 adults at the sewage farm, 27-29 September 1998 (CJH), with an adult and an immature present there until at least 20 April 1999 (BF, CH, CJH, DD, NS, SH); a dead juvenile was found at the same site, 22 January 1999 (CJH). SAL: one at Ribeira da Madama, 12-13 October 1998 (Barone & Delgado 1999a), and four immatures there and near Santa Maria, 18-29 October 1998 (MHK). BOAVISTA: an adult at Manuel da Luz, 5 October 1998 (Barone & Delgado 1999a), and again one there in February 1999, precise date not given (A. Santos *in* Barone & Delgado 1999a), four at Rabil lagoon, 1 November 1998 (MHK), and one there, 6-7 March 1999 (CH), an adult along the shore

near Curral Velho, 21 February 1999 (NS), and two along the southeastern coast, 17 March 1999 (MHK).

As the same birds may have been seen at different locations, islands and dates, it is difficult to establish how many individuals were involved. The colour-ringed individual seen on São Vicente in 1996-97 and again in March 1998 (cf. Hazevoet 1997, 1998, Dijk & Bakker 1998), was not among the birds observed there in September 1998-April 1999. There are now records (25+) from Santiago, São Vicente, Sal, and Boavista.

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* (0, 10)

SANTO ANTÃO a female at Ribeira do Paúl, 4 February 1999 (NS). SAL: a female at Ribeira da Madama, 30 September 1998 (Barone & Delgado 1999a). BOAVISTA: an adult female at Sal Rei, 7 March 1999 (SH), and a female near Santa Monica, 20 March 1999 (MHK).

Recorded (September, November, February-March) from Santo Antão (1), Raso (2), Sal (2), and Boavista (5).

**Montagu's/Pallid Harrier** *Circus pygargus/macrourus*

BOAVISTA: one female or immature at Rabil lagoon, 21 February 1999 (DD). SANTO ANTÃO: one female or immature at Ribeira da Torre, 28 February 1999 (DD).

On both occasions, distance and poor light conditions prevented proper identification. There is one record of *C. pygargus*, none of *C. macrourus*, and five of unidentified *C. pygargus/macrourus*.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* (—, 1)

SÃO VICENTE: calls were heard from a ditch bordering the sewage farm, 27 February 1999 (SH), and one was seen there, 1-2 March 1999 (DD).

This is the first record for São Vicente. A former breeding bird on Santiago and Boavista, the taxon had not been reported from the Cape Verdes since 1969.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus* (2, 7)

SÃO VICENTE: one at Porto Grande, 16 September-3 October 1998 (CJH), two there, 19 January-14 March 1999 (CH, CJH, DD, NS, SH), and still one present, 19 April 1999 (BF). SAL: one along the eastern shore c. 4 km south of Pedra Lume, 28 October 1998 (MHK). Recorded (August-April) from Santiago (1), Cima (1), São Vicente (3), Branco (1), Sal (1), and Boavista (2).

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avocetta* (1, 7)

SÃO VICENTE: two at the sewage farm, 31 January 1999 (NS). SAL: one at salt-pans near Santa Maria, 28 October 1998 (MHK). BOAVISTA: one at Sal Rei in February 1999, precise date not given (A. Santos in Barone & Delgado 1999a). Recorded (October-April) from São Vicente (1), Sal (2), Boavista (3), and Maio (2).

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius* (2, 11)

SANTIAGO: two at the Pedra Badejo lagoons, 23 February 1999 (SH); three at Praia Negra, 6 March 1999 (EGR). SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage farm, 27-29 September 1998 (CJH), and again one there, 1 March 1999 (DD). Recorded (August-May) from Santiago (9), São Vicente (3), and Boavista (1).

**\*Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus* (0, 1)

SAL: one at the Pedra de Lume salt-pans, 6 March 1999 (T. Clarke).

The bird was seen together with three Ringed Plovers *C. hiaticula*, allowing for direct comparison to be made. Various diagnostic morphological features were noted and the distinctive call was heard repeatedly. This is the first record for the Cape Verde islands. Elsewhere in the eastern Atlantic islands, this Nearctic taxon appears to have been recorded in the Azores only, where it may be a regular migrant visitor (cf. Le Grand 1983, Clarke 1999). A report of one at the sewage farm, São Vicente, 27 February 1999 (SH), suffered from an incomplete and, therefore, inconclusive description and was not accepted.

**American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominicus* (3, 2)

SÃO VICENTE: a subadult (2nd year; photographed) at the sewage farm, 22 January-14 March 1999 (CH, CJH, DD, SH), a second individual there, 13 March (CH), and still two present, 20 April 1999 (BF); these are here treated as a single record. Recorded (October, January-April) from Santiago (1), Santo Antão (1), and São Vicente (3). Previous records were in 1924, 1966, 1972, and 1997.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* (0, 2)

BOAVISTA: one along the road between Rabil and Povoação Velha, 20 February 1999 (DD). This is only the second record for the Cape Verdes, the previous being from Sal, 23-24 December 1987.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus* (1, 3)

BOAVISTA: two at Sal Rei, 7 March 1999 (SH). Rarely reported, this is only the third recent record,

the others being from Santiago in November 1988 and March 1990. In addition, there is an old record from Maio in November 1897.

**\*Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla* (0, 1)

BOAVISTA: one at Rabil lagoon, 3 March 1999 (SH). This is the first record for the Cape Verde Islands. Elsewhere in the eastern Atlantic islands, this Nearctic taxon has been recorded in the Azores (probably regular) and Madeira (Le Grand 1983, H. Pieper in Zino *et al.* 1995, Clarke 1999). There are also records from Mauritania and Morocco (Williams & Jacobs, 1996, Andreus, 1997).

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii* (0, 2)

BOAVISTA: one at Rabil lagoon, 16 March 1999 (MHK). This is only the second record for the Cape Verdes, the previous being from Sal, 24 November 1989.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* (c. 10, >20)

SAO VICENTE: one at the sewage farm, 27 January 1999 (CJH). SAL: one at Ribeira da Madama, 13-18 October 1998 (MHK; Barone & Delgado 1999a); one near Santa Maria, 28 October 1998 and 13 March 1999 (MHK); one at the Pedra de Lume salt-pans, 9 April 1999 (BF). BOAVISTA: one at Rabil lagoon, 4 November 1998 (MHK), and 1-3 there, 21 February-21 March 1999 (DD, MHK, SH).

Although reported (October-April) from Santiago, São Vicente, São Nicolau, Sal, Boavista, and Maio, Dunlin remains a scarce migrant visitor.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* (2, >20)

SANTIAGO: one at Praia, 23-26 February 1999 (DD, SH). SÃO VICENTE: two at the sewage farm, 27-29 September 1998 (CJH), and 2-9 there, 22 January-20 April 1999 (BF, CH, CJH, DD, NS, SH). SAL: 1-2 at Ribeira da Madama, 13-26 October 1998 (MHK; Barone & Delgado 1999a).

Although there were only two records prior to 1980, the taxon has been regularly reported since (August-May). There are now records from Santiago, São Vicente, Sal, Boavista, and Maio. A party of nine at the São Vicente sewage farm, 27-28 February 1999 (SH), was the largest group size reported so far.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* (0, 5)

SÃO VICENTE: 1-3 at the sewage farm, 22 January-2 March 1999 (CJH, DD, NS, SH). SAL: one at Ribeira da Madama, 13-17 October 1998 (MHK; Barone & Delgado 1999a). BOAVISTA: one at

Ribeira do Rabil, 31 October 1998 (MHK).

First recorded in 1996, there have been records (October, January-March) in every year since - São Vicente (3), Sal (1), and Boavista (1). Although likely to be migrants from the Palearctic, the possibility of Nearctic *G. delicata* cannot be ruled out and records are accepted here as *G. gallinago sensu lato*.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica* (3, >20)

SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage farm and along the nearby shore, 27-29 September 1998 (CJH), and again one there, 22 January-13 March 1999 (CH, CJH, DD, SH); one at Baía das Gatas, 17 April 1999 (JPT). SAL: one at the Pedra de Lume salt-pans, 10 September 1998 (CJH), and 1-2 along the eastern shore, 27-28 October 1998 (MHK).

Although there were only three records prior to 1980, the taxon has been regularly reported since (September-April). Most records are from the eastern islands of Sal, Boavista, and Maio, with others from Santiago (2), Fogo (1), and São Vicente (5).

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata* (0, 6)

SANTO ANTÃO: one at Ponta do Sol, 1 February 1999 (NS). RASO: one along the southern shore, 21 April 1999 (M. Nunes). BOAVISTA: two near Curral Velho, 20 February 1999 (DD). Recorded (November, January, February, April) from Santo Antão (1), Raso (1), Sal (1), Boavista (2) and Maio (1).

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus* (0, 6)

SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage farm, 27-29 September 1998 (CJH), and 1-4 there, 22 January-14 March 1999 (CH, CJH, DD, SH). BOAVISTA: one at Rabil lagoon, 20 March 1999 (MHK). Recorded (September, November, January-March) from Santiago (1), São Vicente (3), and Boavista (2).

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus* (1, >20)

SÃO VICENTE: 2-10 at the sewage farm and along the nearby shore, 22 January-20 April 1999 (BF, CH, CJH, DD, NS, SH). SAL: small parties at the Pedra de Lume salt-pans, September-October 1998 and January-April 1999 (BF, CH, CJH, NS; Barone & Delgado 1999a); one at Santa Maria, 1 October 1998 (Barone & Delgado 1999a). BOAVISTA: one near João Barrosa, 10 October 1998 (Barone & Delgado 1999a).

Regularly reported from Sal and São Vicente during the last decade, other records are from Santiago (1) and Boavista (4). Recorded in every month from August-April. A party of 15 at the Pedra de Lume salt-pans, 26 January 1999 (NS), was the largest

group size reported so far.

**\*Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* (0, 1)

BOAVISTA: one (photographed) at Ribeira do Ervatão, 17-21 March 1999 (MHK; *Dutch Birding* 21: 175, plate 180, 1999).

This is the first record for the Cape Verde Islands. Elsewhere in the eastern Atlantic islands, this Nearctic taxon has been recorded in the Azores (probably regular; cf. Le Grand 1983, Clarke 1999), Madeira and the Canary Islands (Emmerson *et al.* 1994, H. Pieper in Zino *et al.* 1995, Snow & Perrins 1998). There are also two records from The Gambia (Gore 1990, Barlow *et al.* 1997).

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* (2, 5)

SANTIAGO: one at Boa Entrada, 8 March 1999 (CH). SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage farm, 8 February 1999 (NS). BOAVISTA: one at Ribeira do Ervatão, 10 October 1998 (Barone & Delgado 1999a). Recorded (October, February-April) from Santiago (5), São Vicente (1), and Boavista (1).

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* (2, >20)

SÃO VICENTE: 12 at the sewage farm, 27-29 September 1998 (CJH), and 2-6 there, 22 January-14 March 1999 (CH, CJH, DD, NS, SH). SAL: one at Ribeira da Madama, 17-19 October 1998 (MHK). BOAVISTA: one at Rabil lagoon, 31 October 1998 (MHK).

Most often reported from Santiago and São Vicente, there are also a few records from Sal (1), Boavista (4), and Maio (1). Recorded September-May. The party of 12 on São Vicente was the largest group size reported so far.

**\*Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularia* (0, 1)

SÃO VICENTE: one (photographed) at the sewage farm, 24 February-2 March 1999 (DD, SH). A claim of a second individual being present, 28 February (SH), was not substantiated.

This is the first record for the Cape Verde Islands. Elsewhere in the eastern Atlantic islands, this Nearctic taxon has been observed in the Azores (probably regular), Madeira and the Canary Islands (Bannerman & Bannerman 1965, Le Grand 1983, Emmerson *et al.* 1994, Clarke 1999).

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicaria* (—, 7+)

CAPE VERDE SEAS: a total of 12 between Raso and São Nicolau, 1 March 1999 (SH), two there, 5 March 1999, and 20+ between Santiago and Fogo, 6 March 1999 (EGR); one between Branco and Raso,

15 March 1999 (CH). Recorded October-May; the taxon is probably largely overlooked because of its pelagic distribution.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua* (3, 5)

RASO: one offshore, 2 March 1999 (SH). This is the first record since 1988. Four of the eight records are from the years 1986-1988, all from the Branco-Raso area. Furthermore, there are two recoveries of ringed birds (1968, 1970) and a record west of Santo Antão in April 1976. Despite the small number of records, it is assumed that the taxon is more common in Cape Verde seas than currently known.

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* (2, >20)

SAO VICENTE: five at the sewage farm, 22-31 January 1999 (CJH, NS), and singles there and at Porto Grande, 21-27 February 1999 (DD, SH), and 13 March 1999 (CH). SAL: two at Ribeira da Madama and Santa Maria, 13-28 October (MHK; Barone & Delgado 1999a). BOAVISTA: singles at Ribeira do Rabil and Sal Rei, 2-8 October 1998 (Barone & Delgado 1999a), and 5 November 1998 (MHK).

Although there were only two old records, the taxon has been regularly reported (30+) during the last decades. Mostly seen (September-March) on Santiago, São Vicente, Sal, and Boavista, with single records from Fogo and Santo Antão.

**Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis* (1, 14)

SÃO VICENTE: an immature at Porto Grande, 19 January 1999 (CJH), three there, 24-28 February 1999 (SH), and one at the sewage farm, 20 April 1999 (BF). SÃO NICOLAU: an adult at Tarrafal, 17 March 1999 (CH). BOAVISTA: an immature (1st winter) at Sal Rei, 21 February 1999 (DD); three immatures at Rabil lagoon and at Sal Rei, 6-8 March 1999 (CH, SH). The bird on São Nicolau and the three immatures on Boavista were claimed to be referable to northern Macaronesian *atlantis*.

In addition, there were records of unidentified gulls *L. graellsii/michahellis* as follows - SAO VICENTE: two at São Pedro, 8 February 1999 (NS). RASO: one offshore, 2 March 1999 (SH). SAL: two at Palmeira, 13 October 1998 (Barone Delgado 1999a), and one at Santa Maria, 26 October 1998 (MHK), and again one there, 10 March 1999 (EGR). BOAVISTA: one at Sal Rei, 6 October 1998 (Barone & Delgado 1999a), and two there, 24 February 1999 (NS).

Status of both *graellsii* and *michahellis* in the Cape Verdes has not yet been established satisfactory. Although the former is thought to be the commoner occurring taxon, observations due to recent im-

provements in gull identification suggest that the latter is less rare than formerly assumed.

**Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* (0, 5)**

SÃO VICENTE: an adult at Porto Grande, 13-14 March 1999 (CH), and again one there (probably the same bird), 21 April 1999 (JPT). BOAVISTA: an adult (photographed) at Rabil lagoon, 21 February-9 March 1999 (CH, DD, SH). CAPE VERDE SEAS: one between Raso and Branco, 5 March 1999 (EGR). First recorded in 1993, both previous records were from Boavista. Records are from January-April.

**\*Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* (0, 1)**

SAL: one in exhausted condition could be caught by hand on the beach at Santa Maria, 14 April 1998, and was released after photographs were taken (C.M. Anderson; *Dutch Birding* 21: 231, plate 241, 1999).

This is the first record for the Cape Verde Islands. Breeds in the Azores (main population in the West Palearctic) and in small numbers in the Selvagens, Madeira and the Canary Islands (Martin *et al.* 1989, Nevo *et al.* 1993, Emmerson *et al.* 1994, Câmara 1997, Snow & Perrins 1998). Also bred once in Sénégal (Morel & Morel 1990). Presumably, small numbers regularly pass through Cape Verde seas during migration but remain undetected due to the taxon's pelagic habits. The same probably applies to passage off Mauritania and Senegambia (cf. Lamarche 1988, Gore 1990, Morel & Morel 1990, Barlow *et al.* 1997). In April 1992, 96 Roseate Terns were counted off Pointe des Almadies, Sénégal, but autumn totals in 1996-1997 were much lower, with a maximum of 29 in October 1996 (Marr *et al.* 1998).

**Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* (0, 9)**

BOAVISTA: one at Rabil lagoon, 9 March 1999 (DD). First recorded in 1988 but reported (October-November, January-April) in almost every year since. Eight out of the nine records are from Boavista, the other being from Maio.

**Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* (2, 8)**

SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage farm, 28 February 1999 (SH). BOAVISTA: one at Ribeira do Rabil, 4 October 1998 (Barone & Delgado 1999a). Recorded (August-October, February) from Santiago (2), São Vicente (3), Sal (2), Boavista (2), and Maio (1).

**\*Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* (0, 1)**

SANTO ANTÃO: two at Cova, 15 April 1999 (BF). Because of lack of documentation, three previous

reports are considered to be claims only (cf. Hazevoet 1995). The present record concerned birds seen at close range in good light conditions, allowing for a proper description to be made, and is accepted as the first for the Cape Verde Islands. A not uncommon migrant visitor from the Palearctic in Mauritania and Senegambia but status difficult to assess because of identification problems (Lamarche 1988, Gore, 1990, Morel & Morel 1990, Barlow *et al.* 1997). Also breeds in Mauritania (Lamarche 1988).

**Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* (2, 8)**

SAO VICENTE: one at the sewage farm, 8 February 1999 (NS). SAL: two north of Santa Maria, 1 October 1998 (Barone & Delgado 1999a); one at Santa Maria, 21 April 1999 (JPT). Recorded (August-October, February-April) from Santiago (2), São Vicente (4), and Sal (4).

**Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* (0, 8)**

SAL: one just east of Santa Maria, 24 March 1999 (MHK). First recorded in 1996, there are now records (February-April) from Santiago (2), São Vicente (2), São Nicolau (1), and Sal (3), mostly singles, with four together on one occasion.

**House Martin *Delichon urbica* (+, +)**

SANTO ANTÃO: one near Vila da Ribeira Grande, 19 April 1999 (JPT). A not uncommon passage and winter visitor that has been reported from most islands but this appears to be the first record for Santo Antão. There are still no records from Fogo and Santa Luzia.

**Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (0, 3)**

SÃO VICENTE: one at the sewage farm, 22-27 January (CJH), then three there (one photographed), 24 February-2 March (DD, SH), increasing to four, 13-14 March 1999 (CH); these are here treated as a single record. First recorded in 1997, there are now records (January-March), from São Vicente (2), and Sal (1).

**Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava* (0, 4)**

SAL: one (photographed) at Santa Maria, 17-19 October 1998 (MHK). First recorded in 1988, there are now records (October-November, March) from Santiago (1), Raso (1), and Sal (2).

**White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* (1, 8)**

SANTIAGO: two at the Pedra Badejo lagoons, 7 March 1999 (EGR). SÃO VICENTE: 1-2 at the sewage farm, 22-31 January 1999 (CJH, NS). SÃO NICOLAU: an adult male at Ribeira Brava, 1 March

1999 (SH). SAL: one at Santa Maria, 28-29 October 1998 (MHK). There are now records (October, December-March) from Santiago (1), São Vicente (4), São Nicolau (1), and Sal (3).

**\*Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros* (0, 1)

SAL: a male at Santa Maria, 29 October 1998 (MHK). This is the first record for the Cape Verde Islands. Main wintering area for (partial migrant) West Palearctic birds is the Mediterranean basin with some occurring further south in Northwest Africa (Snow & Perrins 1998). A winter visitor in small numbers to Mauritania and northern Sénégal (Lamarche 1988, Rodwell *et al.* 1996).

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* (0, 2)

SAL: a male at Santa Maria, 16 October 1998 (MHK). This is only the second record, the previous also being from Sal, 18 October 1982.

**\*Winchat** *Saxicola rubetra* (0, 2)

SAL: one at Terra Boa and another just north from there, 30 September 1998 (R. Barone; Barone & Delgado 1999a). These are the first records for the Cape Verde Islands. Winters in sub-Saharan Africa and is a regular migrant visitor in Mauritania and Senegambia (Lamarche 1988, Morel & Morel 1990, Rodwell *et al.* 1996, Barlow *et al.* 1997).

**Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* (2, 11)

BOAVISTA: one between Rabil and João Galego, 5-6 March 1999 (CH, SH). Recorded (November-April) from Santiago (1), Raso (1), São Nicolau (2), Sal (3), Boavista (4), and Maio (2).

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* (0, 4)

SAL: one at Terra Boa, 30 September 1998 (Barone & Delgado 1999a), and one at Palmeira, 17 October 1998 (MHK). First recorded in 1988, there are now records (September, October, April) from Sal (3) and Boavista (1).

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