

MADEIRA



Great Shearwater by Catarina Romano

This is a report of a family trip that got a bit “out of hand” for seeing some missing seabirds in the HA. The sites mentioned are easy to find at <http://madeira.seawatching.net/> also good info on birds is to find on <http://www.madeirabirds.com/>+ <http://www.venturadomar.com/>

See also my report of 2001: <http://77.167.75.191/doc/doc00129.pdf>

Itinerary

- 24-08 Arrived, and put “my girls” in the hotel and went for an evening seawatch (one and a half hours) to Porto Moniz to see a Great Shearwater within the first second..
- 25-08 Seawatch from the hotel in the morning (near Ponta da Cruz (PC)) and evening at PC
- 26-08 Evening/night trip to the Pico Arriero
- 27-08 Trip with the Gaviao and Madeira Winds to the Desertas, very sick girls on the way up..(sorry..)
- 28-08 Seawatching at Porto Moniz for an hour in the evening while eating shrimp salad. Visited Ribero Janela on the way up.
- 29-08 Nothing special, except the usual Funchal harbor watch like every morning
- 30-08 Ponta da Cruz in the morning for a seawatch.
- 31-08 Porto Moniz in the evening for a one and a half hour seawatch
- 01-09 Trip to the Desertas with the Ventura do mar spending the night there first on the island and later on the deck of the boat hearing the seabirds all night.
- 02-09 Returning trip from the Desertas arriving just past one giving an interview to a local TV station
- 03-09 In the evening a Mountain trip to Ribero Frio
- 04-09 In the morning again to Ribero Frio and later on to Pico de Nogueira. Later that night flew home to Brussels.

Legenda:

*AAAA = New Species (2)

AAAAA = Nice species for myself or for the area.

The Birds

001 Bugio/Desertas Petrel – *pterodroma deserta*

Some very nice views of birds near the boat. The crossing to the Desertas for the second time gave many good views, with visible big heavy bills. Also seen two from the coast

24-aug	25-aug	27-aug	28-aug	30-aug	31-aug	1-sep	2-sep	Total
		3		3		9	1	16

***002 ZINO'S PETREL - PTERODROMA MADEIRA**

26-08 6 to 8 birds seen and (mainly) heard. The birds came in around 22.40 and they called until 23.45. With the naked eye a white belly was visible sometimes close by. In the night bins I saw it twice and the pterodroma silhouette (with visible wings) was visible, one bird flew quite clumsy down along a ridge, "crashing" on it mostly likely to enter a hole.

003 BUWLER'S PETREL – *bulweria bulwerii*

No numbers noted but seen on every crossing and on most seawatches (though in low numbers than). Most breathtaking views where seen on the Desertas where birds came in just after dusk, sitting on stones or flying against birders, great views in the spotlight where obtained. Also a chick was seen during daylight in a nest. Heard the chicks calling during night but did not hear the adults.

004 CORY'S SHEARWATER – *calonectris borealis*

Very common on sea sometimes in big rafts and seen on every day. Also seen and heard coming in to the colonies at Garajau and on the Desertas. Birds come in just after dusk and go out around 05.30 when the noise is the most intense.

***005 GREAT SHEARWATER – PUFFINUS GRAVIS**

24-aug	25-aug	27-aug	28-aug	30-aug	31-aug	1-sep	2-sep	Total
147		25	100		1		42	315

Very nice views of birds flying close by and also swimming (mainly on 27-08) next to the boat. Quite easy to separate from 005 by heavier body dark primaries and secondary's, and obvious dark cap. Flight more direct with less "hanging" wings.



006 MANX SHEARWATER – *puffinus puffinus*

24-aug	25-aug	27-aug	28-aug	30-aug	31-aug	1-sep	2-sep	Total
14			10		45		3	72

Nice views, some distant birds at Porto Moniz, looked like having a white face and head a bit of a fluttering flight but were quite brown above not looking smaller than the normal looking birds and did not show any white on the upperwing.

007 WILSON'S STORM PETREL – oceanites oceanicus

27-08 I saw this with Catarina from Madeira Winds on a trip from Funchal to the Desertas about three thirds towards the Deserts on the Gaviao.

The bird was found by Catarina who shouted out “Madeiran Stormpetrel”!! (she only saw a stormpetrel type bird and presumed it was this species). This is a species I was very interested to see on this trip so I felt lucky and tried to locate it. I saw it quite close to the boat for about two minutes. Unlike what I expected to see (a Leaches like Stormpetrel (I am very familiar with Leaches) in a gliding zigzag flight) I saw a small black short winged stormpetrel (a bit like European, I know that species also quite well). The bird was constantly tapering with hanging legs. The rump was big from above white and the tail looked square ended. When it was tapering on the surface the wings where always high rose in a V. On the upperwing a short, sharp light grey carpal bar was visible shorter than expected in Madeiran (note I have seen a lot of Madeiran Storm Petrels of the subspecies jabejabe on the Cape Verde's in March 2000). The head was seen also well and the bill looked small (smaller than I expected to see). The above characters made me thought of a Wilson's Petrel (I have seen that species in de US three times but not as good as this individual). I said this to Catarina who had a second look on the bird now behind the boat and she agreed on the ID.

I did not see the legs sticking behind the tail or yellow webs as mentioned in the books but I am after going through the books 100% sure about the ID of this Wilson's Petrel. Later on I saw and heard in the night many castro Madeiran Storm Petrels but in a totally different setting as this Wilson's.

008 MADEIRAN STORMPETREL – OCEANODROMA CASTRO SPP: CASTRO

01+02-09 about a 100 birds heard and six seen coming in to the colony on Grande Desertas. The birds where the latest species to come in (after Cory's and Bulwer's), the first calls where heard around 21.55 and they kept on being hear until 03.00. The birds seen where some in the moonlight (two together) and some in the night bins when focused on a big gravel field they flew through my bins and could be followed, on one bird the white rump was seen. Also seen with the night bins flying at the entrance of the colony (wall) about 100 meter above us. They where small with a short square tail. The call was short with a high pitch on the end (excluding Grant's), shorter than the recordings of night and day and all quite similar

009 BROWN BOOBY – sula leucogaster

01-09 It was found by myself and six Belgium Birders of which I only have two names: Johan Debuck and Valerie Goethals. We where on board of the Ventura do mar. It was first found halfway between Funchal and the Desertas alone and we where so astonished we forgot to video it while it was swimming on the sea and flew away after less than five minutes. Luckily later on we found it back feeding on squid (??) with Cory's Shearwaters near the coast of Desertas Grande where we saw it for 15 minutes feeding when later on it flew away from the shore. Looking for it on 03-09 by Hugo and Catarina from Madeira Winds did not work out





010 LITTLE EGRET – *egretta garzetta*

About 5 individual birds seen at coastal sites and little lagoons.

011 GREY HERON – *adrea cinerea*

01-09 1 bird coming in to Funchal when we left the harbour for the Desertas.

012 MALLARD – *anas platyrhynchos*

2 birds seen on the trip, one at Janela and one at Lugar de Baixo

013 EURASIAN TEAL – *anas crecca*

2 birds seen, both female (I presume), one at Janela and one at Lugar de Baixo.

014 GREEN-WINGED TEAL – *anas carolinensis*

1 male almost in breeding plumage at Ribero Janela (present for a few years)

015 COMMON BUZZARD – *buteo buteo*

2 birds seen near Canical sitting on a cliff

016 EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK – *accipiter nissus*

1 ex, seen near Canical while driving.

017 COMMON KESTREL – *falco tinnunculus* ssp: *canariensis*

About 10 birds seen spread over the trip, noticeably smaller, shorter tailed than “our” birds. The female was more intensively barred.

018 EURASIAN COOT – *fulica atra*

About 15 birds seen most except one at Lugar the Baixo, one at Machico river mouth.

019 MOORHEN – *gallinula chloropus*

About 10 birds present at Lugar de Baixo.

020 COMMON RINGED PLOVER – *charadrius hiaticula*

2 adults present on most days at Lugar de Baixo.

021 KNOT – *calidris canutus*

24-08 1 juv. in the river mouth at the harbour of Funchal.

022 SANDERLING – *calidris alba*

29-08 1 juv. At the river mouth in Machico.

023 DUNLIN – *calidris alpine*

1 adult present in the harbour of Funchal, quite long billed ex.

024 COMMON SANDPIPER – *actitis hypoleucos*

1 adult in a bit scruffy plumage present in the harbour of Funchal during the whole period.

025 TURNSTONE – *arenaria interpres*

The most common shorebirds with daily sightings.

026 WHIMBREL – *numenius phaeopus*

Seen daily along the coast, and on 28-08, a flock of 11 birds with one, looking to have a dark rump.....

027 LONG-TAILED SKUA – *stercorarius longicaudus*

24-aug	25-aug	27-aug	28-aug	30-aug	31-aug	1-sep	2-sep	Total
3							1	4

All adults and some very nice ones with still long tail streamers, the one on 02-09 flew with Arctic terns.

028 ARCTIC SKUA – *stercorarius parasiticus*

24-aug	25-aug	27-aug	28-aug	30-aug	31-aug	1-sep	2-sep	Total
2						1		3

All adults, light face.

029 LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – *larus fuscus*

A total of 2 birds, both adults, seen between the flocks of Yellow Legged gulls. One at Funchal Harbour and one at the water outlet of St' Vicente.

030 YELLOW-LEGGED GULL – *larus cachinnans ssp??*

The commonest Gull on the island, in large flocks.

031 ROSEATE TERN – *sterna dougallii*

A total of 3 adults seen on most visits to the harbour of Funchal, often on the outside wall. Seen perched and in flight. The bills were still mostly dark but the long tail streamers were almost wharred of. The typical flight, white plumage (and call) are the best to pick one up between the Common Terns. Unfortunately no juv. birds seen.

032 COMMON TERN – *sterna hirundo*

The commonest tern along the coast, with many young and first year birds.

033 ARCTIC TERN – *sterna paradisaea*

24-aug	25-aug	27-aug	28-aug	30-aug	31-aug	1-sep	2-sep	Total
					11		3	14

ID on more on behaviour than on plumage, though cleaner white, with no dark primaries, birds moved in tight flocks far on sea, directly south. The birds on 02-09 were flying with a Long-Tailed Skua.

034 TROCAZ PIGEON – *columba trocaz*

04-09 6 birds, in two parties of three at Pico de Nogueira in the morning, scope views.

035 PLAIN SWIFT – *apus pallidus*

Commonly seen all over the island.

---- BARN OWL – *tyto alba*

1 heard at the Desertas, three calls when standing "to our knees" in the Bowler's Petrels, we did not see the bird unfortunately so no countable taxon.

----- RING NECKED PARAKEET- *psiitacula krameri*

A total of 3 birds seen in Funchal

036 BERTHELOT'S PIPIT – *anthus berthelotii*

Seen on several arid places on the island and on the Desertas.

037 GREY WAGTAIL – *motacilla cinerea ssp: schmitzi*

Common on the whole island.

038 ROBIN – erithacus rubecula

04-09 3 birds seen along the way.

039 BLACKBIRD – turdus merula

Common all over the island.

040 BLACKCAP – sylvia atricapilla ssp: heineken

About 10 birds seen spread over the trip, still singing, in looks not very different than our bird.

041 MADEIRA FIRECREST – regulus madeirensis

Common, and all seen where juveniles spread over the island. Very different call than Firecrest. Seen well.

042 SPANISH SPARROW – passer hispaniolensis

About 25 seen at Canical in little flocks.

---- COMMON WAXBIL – estrilda astrild

Seen in flocks at Lugar de Baixo and (many) at Machico in the riverbeds. Nice birds.

043 CANARY – serinus canaria

Common all over the island and on the Desertas.

044 GOLDFINCH – carduelis carduelis

Seen in the town of Machico in a little mixed flock with Canary's

045 CHAFFINCH – fringilla coelebs ssp: maderensis

03-09 10 birds with two males seen at Ribero Frio, close views.

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