

Trip report

MADEIRA , 23th July – 6th August 2007

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Itinerary

23th July : morning flight (Transavia) to Funchal , transfer to Camacha

24th July : daytrip Ponta de Sao Lourenco , afternoon Ponta do Garajau

25th July : Faya da Nogueira - Ribeiro Frio – Balcoes - Pico do Areeiro
Evening pelagic Venturo do Mar

26th July : Gabo Girao - Calhete , evening Ponta do Garajau

27th July : Porto Moniz – Ponta do Pargo

28th July : walked Pico do Areeiro – Pico Ruivo , midnight excursion Zino's petrel

29th July : Porto Moniz

30th July : daytrip Desertas with Venturo do Mar

31st July : Paul da Serra - Sao Vicente - Sao Jorge – Faial - Camacha

1st August : Camacha – Monte - Funchal

2nd August : Ribeiro da Janela – Levada de Risco , evening Ponta do Garajau

3th August : Funchal , trip with catamaran Sea-Born

4th August : Lugar de Baixo – Ponta do Pargo

5th August : Canical - Machico

6th August : 10.45 Transavia flight to Amsterdam

Marine mammals

Bryde's whale – *balaenoptera edeni*

- 1 , evening trip Ventura
- 1 , Desertas trip Ventura
- 1 , Sea-Born trip

Obvious blow , erect and sickle-shaped dorsal , black colour , tailstock clearly arched before diving , no fluke. Bryde's whale is regular in this area , and non-migratory.

Short-finned pilot whale – *globicephala macrorhynchus*

- >5 , evening trip Ventura

Some mature males with bulbous head and very typical dorsal , travelling together with some 20 bottlenose dolphins. Great!

Common bottlenose dolphin – *tursiops truncatus*

- 20 , evening trip Ventura
- 35 , Sea-Born trip

Excellent show , jumping and bow-riding !

Sea turtles

Loggerhead sea-turtle – *caretta caretta*

- 3 , Sea-Born trip

2 big-ones , 1 small , which was eventually caught , and set free again after taking pictures .

Reptiles

Madeira Lizard – *lacerta dugesii*

- very common all over the place

Birds

Fea's petrel – *pterodroma feae deserta*

- 2 , off Ponta de Sao Lourenco
- 23 , seatrip Funchal – Deserta Grande
- 1 , off Funchal (Sea-Born trip)

Excellent views of the '*pterodroma's*' ; birds showed obvious M-mark on upperwing , thick bills and pointed wings ; most birds had fairly dark underwings , except for the axillaries , but a few birds showed obvious white bars on the entire underwing .Not mentioned in the books, but obvious in the field , was the dark-hooded impression of the birds.

Typical '*pterodroma*' with low flight , combined with high, bouncing arcs .
Highlight of this trip!

Zino's petrel – *pterodroma madeira*

- 7 to 10 , visiting their burrows on the famous Pico do Areeiro

Our visit to the breeding site was on a warm night , with hardly any wind .
Birds arriving from 23.00 onwards , uttering their bizarre calls. Sometimes
we could see the birds flying along the steep mountains.
Although expensive (Euro 65,-) , this is an experience not to be missed!

Bulwer's petrel – *bulweria bulwerii*

- >300 , off Funchal (Ventura trip)
- >150 , seatrip Funchal – Deserta Grande
- 1 , on the nest / Deserta Grande
- 1 , Porto Moniz
- 25 , off Funchal (Sea-Born trip)

Stunning views , defenitely another birding-highlight!

Cory's shearwater – *calonectris borealis*

- very common

From 22.00 , you can listen (and see) the Cory's arriving at their burrows
at Ponta do Garajau ; great!

Manx shearwater – *puffinus puffinus*

- 1 , Porto Moniz

Foraging in a group of Cory's shearwaters

Little egret – *egretta garzetta*

- 1 , Lugar de Baixo
- 1 , Machico

Eurasian sparrowhawk – *accipiter nisus granti*

- 2 , Camacha area
- female with young , near Monte

Common buzzard – *buteo buteo harteri*

- regular

All birds were very dark-coloured

Common kestrel – *falco tinnunculus canariensis*

- regular

Common coot – *fulica atra*

- 1 , Lugar de Baixo

Normally , said to be a winter-visitor

Common moorhen – *gallinula chloropus*

- at least 2 pairs with young , Lugar de Baixo

Listed as an occasional visitor by Tony Clarke's *Birds of the Atl. Islands*

Knot – *calidris canutus*

-1 (summer-plumage) , Funchal

Scarce on passage

Sanderling – *calidris alba*

-1 (summer-plumage) , Funchal

Eurasian curlew – *numenius arquata*

-1 , Ponta do Pargo

Turnstone – *arenaria interpres*

-regular , Funchal , Machico

Black-headed gull – *larus ridibundus*

-1 , moulting adult summer-winter , Machico

Lesser black-backed gull – *larus fuscus*

-Funchal

Yellow-legged gull – *larus michahellis atlantis*

-common , also birds foraging on insects at Paul da Serra

Common tern – *sterna hirundo*

-regular

Turtle dove – *streptopelia turtur*

-1 (adult) , near Ponta do Pargo

Trocaz pigeon – *columba trocaz*

->10 , Faya da Nogueira

-7 , Ribeiro da Janela / Levada de Risco

This endemic is common in the Laurel-forest . Nice views of flying and perched birds , both at Nogueira and Janela . At the Risco-waterfall , we saw at least 4 birds perched , one was even foraging on the path!

Barn owl – *tyto alba schmitzi*

-3 , Funchal-jetty / old fortress

-1 , Ponta do Garajau

The 3 birds at the Funchal-jetty were presumably begging juveniles , the one at Garajau was a hunting bird

Plain swift – *apus unicolor*

-common

Obviously small , slender-winged; long + deeply-forked tail

Pallid swift -*apus pallidus*
-2 , Lugar de Baixo

A rare breeder on Madeira

Barn swallow – *hirundo rustica*
-1 , near Ponta do Pargo

Berthelot's pipit – *anthus berthelotii madeirensis*
-10 , Ponta de Sao Lourenco
-10 , Pico do Areeiro

Grey wagtail – *motacilla cinerea schmitzi*
-common

Robin – *erithacus rubecula*
-garden-bird

Blackbird – *turdus merula cabreræ*
-seen daily

Spectacled warbler – *sylvia conspicillata bella*
-1 , Ponta do Garajau
-2 , near Ponta do Pargo

Also , a rare breeder on Madeira

Blackcap – *sylvia atricapilla heineken*
-very common

Madeira firecrest – *regulus madeirensis*
-very common , many juveniles seen !

Spanish sparrow – *passer hispaniolensis*
-10 , Canical

Introduced

Rock sparrow – *petronia petronia madeirensis*
-25 , Ponta de Sao Lourenco

Canary – *serinus canaria*
-common

Goldfinch – *carduelis carduelis parva*
-common

Chaffinch – *fringilla coelebs madeirensis*
-very common

butterflies

Small White – *Pieris rapae*
-common

Clouded Yellow – *Colias croceus*
-very common

Madeira Brimstone (Cleopatra) – *Gonepteryx maderensis*
-1 , Camacha

This one is rare!

Small Copper – *Lycaena phlaeas phlaeoides*
-some 10 seen

Long-tailed Blue – *Lampides boeticus*
-regular

Monarch – *Danaus plexippus*
-seen daily in small numbers

Madeiran Grayling – *Hipparchia maderensis*
-common around Pico do Areeiro

Speckled Wood – *Pararge aegeria aegeria*
-very common

Madeiran Speckled Wood – *Pararge xiphia*
-some 20 seen , several places

Scarce , probably due to competition with *aegeria* (?)

Dragonflies

Island darter – *sympetrum nigrifemur*
-3 seen

Big sympetrum with mainly black legs ; the side of the thorax looks like *s. danea* i.e. having a broad black line with 3 enclosed spots.

Blue emperor – *anax imperator*
-regular in our garden