

Systematic List of the Birds of Ria de Alvor

2011

Guillaume RETHORE



A total of 182 species of birds, out of the 306 ever seen, were registered at Ria de Alvor in 2011 and 4 new species were added to the list: Goosander (*Mergus merganser*), Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*), Cockatiel (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) and Fischer's Lovebird (*Agapornis fischeri*). The increased number of exotic species could be a future problem and a particular attention should be paid to these species.

Highlights for 2011 were: the presence of a Spanish Imperial Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*), the last sighting being 10 years ago, and the first Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*) ever ringed at Cruzinha.

Other interesting records were: Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) and Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*), the last record for these species was in 1995; an Orphean Warbler (last seen in 1999), a Spectacled Warbler (last seen in 2002), a Magpie (last seen in 2004), an Ortolan Bunting (last seen in 2004), a Black Stork (last seen in 2006), a Dartford Warbler (last seen in 2006), a Montagu's Harrier (last seen in 2008), a Scops Owl (last seen in 2008), a Roller (last seen in 2008), and a Water Pipit (last seen in 2008).

A few Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) and Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*) carrying rings were noted this year and the breeding of the Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) was confirmed.

The complete bird list for 2011 is described below.

Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*): 4 at the Western Marsh on the 24th of August.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*): Present all year with a maximum of 30 on the 9th of August.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*): Present from January until March, with a maximum of 13 on the 28th of February and 5 on the 10th of September at Abicada.

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*): Present from January to late March, with a maximum of 40 on the 9th of March, then present from mid-November until the end of the year, with a maximum of 13 on the 2nd of December.

Teal (*Anas crecca*): Present from January to late March, with a maximum of 38 on the 6th of February, then, present from mid-September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 20 on the 18th of November.

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*): 1 at the Western Marsh on the 6th of February.

Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*): 2 (1 male and 1 female) seen from Meia Praia on the 27th of November.

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*): 1 female on the 3rd of January in Alvor harbor, seen again on the 22nd of January. This will be the first observation for the Algarve if accepted by CPR (Comité Português de Raridades).

Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*): Present all year, with a maximum of 20 on the 1st of September.

Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*): Present from the end of February till July; 3 sightings in autumn: 1 bird on the 13th of September and 1 on the 19th of October, both at Abicada, and 2 birds in the dunes at Meia Praia on the 27th of November.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*): Present from January to the end of March (3 birds); 1 seen in July and then present from September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 7 in October.

Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*): 3 on the 5th of September, 4 on the 10th of September, 8 on the 12th of September, 1 on the 23rd of September and 20 on the 19th of October (seen from Alvor beach).

Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*): 1 found dead at Meia Praia on the 27th of November.

Balearic Shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*): 8 seen from Meia Praia on the 27th of November.

Gannet (*Morus bassanus*): Present from September until the end of the year. Species sometimes difficult to detect from the Western Marsh.



Gannet (*Morus Bassanus*), Alvor Beach, October 2011 (G.Réthoré)

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*): Present from January until mid-May with a maximum of 92 in March. Then, again in September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 69 in December.

Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*): 1 on the 9th and on the 28th of May at Abicada.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*): Present all year; maximum of 98 at Abicada in November.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*): Present all year; maximum of 49 at the Western Marsh in December.

Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*): 2 flying over the Western Marsh on the 3rd of February.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*): Present all year, but in smaller numbers from April to August; maximum of 26 in December.

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*): 2 at the Western Marsh on the 23rd of March.

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*): Present all year; maximum of 222 at Abicada on the 20th of November.

Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*): 1 on the 27th of November, flying towards Sagres.

Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*): Present from January to June, with a maximum of 36 on the 5th of January. Then, from September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 29 on the 19th of October at Abicada; 11 ringed birds have been controlled over the year, 8 of them were Dutch, and 3 French. For some of these birds, it is their 3rd or 4th winter spent in the area.



Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*), Abicada, March 2010 (G.Réthoré)

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*): Present from January to April, with a maximum of 21 on the 9th of March. Then, from September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 31 on the 5th of October; 12 ringed birds have been controlled over the year, 9 of them were Spanish, 1 Algerian and 2 French.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*): Present from January to the end of April. Then, from September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 3 birds seen on the 13th of October.

Spanish Imperial Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*): 1 juvenile at Abicada on the 1st of September.

Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*): First sighting in March, then, seen at least once a month, except in July and October. Last one seen on the 29th of November.

Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*): 2 sightings in 2011, 1 on the 17th of November and 1 on the 2nd of December

Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*): 1 flying over Cruzinha on the 24th of March.

Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*): 2 flying over Cruzinha on the 14th of July.

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*): 2 sightings in 2011, 1 on the 28th of May and 1 on the 15th of August.

Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*): Present from January to mid April. Then, from September until the end of the year; 2 birds were seen on the 25th of November.

Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*): 1 female/juvenile seen on the 30th of November at Abicada.

Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*): 1 juvenile at Abicada on the 6th of September.

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*): Present in January and February. Then, from November until the end of the year.

Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*): 3 sightings in 2011, 1 on the 28th of March, 1 on the 4th of September, 1 on the 18th of November.

Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*): 1 at Abicada on the 13th of September.

Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*): Present from January to the end of February with 2 birds seen on the 23rd of February. Then, from September until the end of the year, with 2 birds seen on the 10th of September.



Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*), Ria de Alvor, December 2009 (G.Réthoré)

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*): Present all year; maximum of 6 on the 9th of February.

Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*): 1 on the 13th of September.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*): 2 sightings in February (1 on the 1st and 1 on the 17th), 2 birds on the 24th of March, 1 on the 4th of June, 2 sightings in September (1 on 1st and 1 on the 6th), 2 on the 18th of November, and 1 juvenile seen twice in December (on the 2nd and the 7th).

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 3 birds together on the 29th of June, 2 adults and 1 juvenile, which indicates a local breeding.

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 5 birds on the 17th and the 29th of June.

Coot (*Fulica atra*): Present from January to March and from September until the end of the year, mainly at Abicada.

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*): Present all year, with bigger numbers in winter and autumn (maximum of 42 on the 5th of January).

Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*): Present from January to mid-April, with a maximum of 32 in February and March. Then, from October until the end of the year, with a maximum of 37 birds at Abicada at mid-December; 1 bird with a Belgium ring seen on the 5th of January.

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 51 in April.

Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oediconemus*): Present from January to October, with a maximum of 10 in March, possibly present from October until December but not detected.

Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*): Seen twice in April, a flock of 9 birds on the 1st and a bird on the 13th.

Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*): Present all year, with bigger numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 230 on the 18th of October); 1 bird with an Iceland ring present at least from the 2nd until the 17th of August, and 1 bird ringed in Norway on the 28th of September.

Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 112 on the 17th of August.

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*): Present all year, with a maximum of 42 in January.

Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*): Present from January to March, with a maximum of 186 on the 19th of January. Then, from mid-November until the end of the year, with a maximum of 69 on the 18th of December.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*): Present in January and February, and then in November and December. One bird was seen at the end of August and 3 birds at the beginning of October.

Knot (*Calidris canutus*): Present from January to mid-May, with a maximum of 28 birds at the end of March. Then, from mid-August until the end of the year, with a maximum of 15 birds at the end of November.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*): Present from January until mid-May, with a maximum of 44 at the beginning of February. Then, from the end of July until the end of the year, with a maximum of 122 at mid-September.

Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*): Present from January to the beginning of June, with a maximum of 7 at the beginning of January. Then, from August until the end of the year, with a maximum of 14 at mid-August.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*): Present all year, with bigger numbers in winter and autumn (maximums of 175 on the 5th of January and 134 on the 18th of November).

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*): a few observations during the year, 3 on the 5th of January, 5 on the 9th and 1 on the 30th of March, 1 on the 29th of July, 3 on the 3rd of August, 3 on the 2nd of September.

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*): Present in January and February (between 1 and 3 birds) and a few sightings from the end of June until the beginning of September.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*): 2 sightings of a bird between the 4th and the 7th of September.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*): 3 sightings of a bird between the end of February and the beginning of April. Then, from September until the end of the year.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*): Present from January until mid-April (always 1 bird), then from July until the end of the year, with a maximum of 4 on the 3rd of September.

Redshank (*Tringa totanus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 54 on the 28th of September.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*): 1 bird seen at the Western Marsh on the 23rd of September.



Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*), Ria de Alvor, January 2012 (G.Réthoré)

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*): Present all year, with a maximum of 20 on the 23rd of March.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*): Present from January to March, with a maximum of 56 on the 19th of January. Then, present from the end of July until the end of the year, with a maximum of 13 on the 28th of October; 1 bird with an Iceland ring was controlled at Abicada in the autumn and winter. This bird was already seen at the same place in 2008.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*): Present all year, with bigger numbers in winter and autumn (maximums of 58 on the 5th of January and 44 on the 18th of November).

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*): A few sightings, 1 on the 11th of February, 7 on the 23rd and 3 on the 30th of March, 1 on the 30th of May, 1 on the 23rd of June, 1 on the 11th of September.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*): Present all year, with a peak in April during migration (300 on the 20th of April).

Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*): Present from January to April, and then from October until the end of the year. Low numbers detected (4 at the maximum) but probably underdetected.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*): 2 on the 7th and on the 17th of September, 1 on the 2nd of October.

Great Skua (*Stercorarius skua*): 1 seen from the Western Marsh on the 6th of February, then, 13 seen from Meia Praia during one hour on the 27th of November.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*): Present all year.

Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 102 on the 12th of September.

Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*): Present all year; 1 bird with a Spanish ring on the 2nd of December.

Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*): a few sightings during the year, 1 on the 14th and 5 on the 26th of January, 6 on the 9th and 2 on the 23rd of March, 12 on the 19th of April, 2 on the 11th of May and 1 on the 11th of September.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*): Present all year; 1 bird ringed at Guernsey present on the 17th of August, and 1 bird ringed in Norway on the 14th of September.

Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*): Present between April (first birds seen on the 17th) and September (last bird seen on the 13th).

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*): Present from January to mid-May, then from August until the end of the year.

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*): 5 flying over Alvor Dunes on the 2nd of April and 1 on the 11th of May at the Western Marsh.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*): Present from January to mid-June, with a maximum of 7 birds. Then, from September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 8 birds.

Razorbill (*Alca torda*): 1 seen from Meia Praia on the 27th of November.

Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*): Present all year.

Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*): 200 flying over Cruzinha on the 17th of November.

Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): Present all year.

Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*): Only seen in September (1 on the 8th, 3 on the 9th, 1 on the 12th, 5 on the 13th).

Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*): Seen (or heard) every week between the 28th of April and mid-May. Then, 1 on the 6th of September.

Great Spotted Cuckoo (*Clamator glandarius*): 1 on the 22nd of March flying over Cruzinha and 1 juvenile at the Western Marsh on the 26th of June.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*): Present from January until mid-April (1 flushed at Meia-Praia on the 19th of April), with a maximum of 2 birds on the 17th of February. Then, present in December.

Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*): 1 caught and ringed on the 9th of June (1st ever ringed at the centre).

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*): 1 on the 22nd of February and a feather found at the Western Marsh on the 17th of July.

Little Owl (*Athene noctua*): Present all year.

Scop Owl (*Otus scops*): 1 caught and ringed on the 25th of September.



Scops Owl (*Otus scops*), Cruzinha, September 2011 (F.Bragança)

Red-necked Nightjar (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*): first heard on the 8th of June, then, present from the end of June until the beginning of September. Last seen on the 3rd of October.

Swift (*Apus apus*): Present from April until the beginning of October.

Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*): First seen on the 10th of March and present until the beginning of September.

Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*): First seen on the 2nd of April, then, seen weekly between the 24th of April and the 17th of June; 2 sightings in July and 2 in September (3 on the 4th and 2 on the 11th).

Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*): Present all year.

Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*): Present from January until the end of February. Then, from the end of June until the end of the year; maximum of 3 on the 6th of July and the 3rd of September.

Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*): Present from the 28th of March until the beginning of September (18 on the 3rd).



Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*), Ria de Alvor, March 2010 (G.Réthoré)

Roller (*Coracias garrulus*): 1 on the 18th of April.

Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*): 1 present from the 6th of July until the 5th of August, then, 1 present on the 17th of November and during the first week of December.

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*): A few observations during the year; 1 heard on the 13th of January, 1 on the 26th of April at Abicada, 1 on the 20th of May, 1 on the 8th of July, 1 on the 10th and 23rd of August, 1 on the 28th of November.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*): A few observations during the year; 1 on the 16th of January, 1 on the 11th of April, 1 on the 8th of September, 1 on the 19th of November.

Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*): A few observations during the year; 1 on the 27th of November, 1 on the 14th of October, 1 caught and ringed on the 29th of October.

Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*): Present from January until mid-February and then from the end of October until the end of the year.

Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*): Present all year.

Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*): First bird seen on the 23rd of March, and then seen weekly until mid-May. One more sighting on the 6th of July.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*): A few sightings during the year; 1 on the 23rd of March, 4 on the 10th of May, 1 on the 6th of July and 1 on the 5th of September.

Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*): Present from January until mid-March and then from the end of November until the end of the year.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): Present from mid-January until the beginning of October and then, 2 present from the 2nd of December until the end of the year.

Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*): Present from the 9th of February until the 10th of October.

House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*): Present from the 22nd of January until the beginning of October.

Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*): 1 in breeding plumage on the 22nd of March.

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*): Present from January until mid-April, then, from mid-November until the end of the year.

Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*): 1 caught in April (carrying a British ring), 1 on the 6th of September and 1 seen in November.

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*): Present from January until mid-April. Then, 1 on the 11th of May and 1 on the 11th of September. Present from mid-October until the end of the year.

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*): Present from the 9th of March until mid October and 1 bird seen in November. On the 23rd of September, 1 bird of the *flavissima* subspecies was present.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*): A few sightings during the year, 1 on the 25th of February, 1 on the 8th of September, 1 in October and 1 on the 17th of November.

Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*): Present from January until the end of March. Then, from the end of September until the end of the year.

Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*): Heard from the 23rd of March until mid-April. Then, from the 3rd of August until the beginning of October.

Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*): Present from January until the beginning of March, with a maximum of 2 birds on the 1st of March. Then, from the 6th of September until the end of the year with a maximum of 3 birds on the 13th of October.

Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*): 2 sightings in spring: 1 bird on the 7th and 1 on the 13th of April. Then, present in October.

Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*): Present from January until the beginning of March and from the beginning of November until the end of the year.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*): Present in the first half of April and from the end of August until the end of October with a maximum of 6 birds on the 6th of September.

Winchat (*Saxicola rubetra*): 3 on the 13th of April and from the 7th of September until the 19th of October with a maximum of 2 birds on the 14th of September.

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*): Present all year.



Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*), Ria de Alvor, April 2011 (F.Bragança)

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*): Present from January until the end of March and from the end of October until the end of the year.

Blackbird (*Turdus merula*): Present all year.

Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*): 1 caught and ringed on the 12th of May and from the 3rd of September until mid-October.

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*): Present from January until the end of April and from mid-September until the end of the year; 1 with a Belgian ring caught at Cruzinha on the 17th of November.

Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*): 2 sightings in spring, 1 on the 14th and 1 on the 28th of April and from the 25th of August until the 6th of October.

Orphean Warbler (*Sylvia hortensis*): 1 on the 13th of April.

Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*): Present all year.

Spectacled Warbler (*Sylvia conspicillata*): 1 at Alvor Dunes on the 2nd of April and 1 on the 11th of September.

Subalpine Warbler (*Sylvia cantillans*): 2 sightings in the spring, 2 on the 22nd of March and 1 on the 7th of April. Present in the autumn from mid-September until the beginning of October.

Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*): 1 at the Western Marsh on the 6th of February.

Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*): Present all year.

Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*): 2 caught and ringed in the autumn (1 on the 3rd and 1 on the 21st of September).

Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*): Present all year at Abicada.

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*): Present from the end of April until the end of May and from mid-August until mid-October.

Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais poliglotta*): Present from mid-July until mid-September with a maximum of 4 birds on the 17th of August.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*): 1 on the 10th of March and 1 on the 17th of April and from mid-August until the end of October with a maximum of 7 birds on the 7th of September.

Bonelli's Warbler (*Phylloscopus bonelli*): 1 on the 14th of July and present in the first half of September.

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*): Present from January until mid-April and from the end of July until the end of the year.

Iberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus ibericus*): 1 caught and ringed on the 17th of November.

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*): A few sightings during the year, 1 on the 11th of August, 1 on the 4th, 1 on the 9th and 1 on the 26th of September.

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*): Present in the first half of September.

Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*): First on the 11th of August, then from the beginning of September until the end of October.

Great Tit (*Parus major*): Present all year.

Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*): Present all year, but most of the sightings between June and September.

Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*): A few sightings during the year, all in the autumn, 1 on the 7th, the 12th and the 27th of September, and 1 on the 29th of October.

Iberian Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*): Seen almost every week between the beginning of January until mid-February. Then, a few sightings during the year, 1 on the 21st of March, 1 on the 4th and 1 on the 29th of June, 1 on the 17th of July, 1 on the 2nd and 1 on the 6th of September, 1 on the 21st of December.

Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*): Present from the end of March until the beginning of September, with a maximum of 3 birds on the 21st of March.

Azure-winged Magpie (*Cyanopica cyanus*): Present all year with bigger numbers in the autumn and spring (165 on the 9th of September).

Magpie (*Pica pica*): 1 on the 16th of March.

Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*): 1 on the 19th of October at Abicada.

Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*): Present from January until the beginning of April and from the beginning of September until the end of the year (maximum of 43 on the 4th of December).

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*): at least 2 on the 22nd of January at Abicada.

Spotless Starling (*Sturnus unicolor*): Present all year with a maximum of 120 on the 6th of September.

Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*): First detected on the 20th of April. Present until mid-September, with a maximum of 7 on the 18th of August.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*): Present all year.

Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*): Present from January to the beginning of March and from the beginning of October until the end of the year, with a maximum of 20 on the 21st of December.



Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*), Ria de Alvor, November 2009 (G.Réthoré)

Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*): 1 caught and ringed on the 27th of April.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*): Present from January to the beginning of May and from mid-October until the end of the year;

Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*): Present all year long, with a maximum of 40 on the 6th of September.

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*): Present all year.

Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*): Present all year.

Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*): Present from January to mid-February.

Serin (*Serinus serinus*): Present all year.

Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*): 1 at the Western Marsh on the 18th of November.

Ortolan Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*): 1 at Abicada on the 6th of September.

Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*): Present all year.

Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*): 5 at the Western Marsh on the 21st of March.



Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*), Ria de Alvor, November 2011 (G.Réthoré)

Cockatiel (*Nymphicus hollandicus*): 1 on the 4th of May, seen again flying over Cruzinha on the 5th of May.

Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*): Present all year with a maximum of 3 birds together.

Fischer's Lovebird (*Agapornis fischeri*): 4 on the 26th of May, 1 on the 3rd and on the 26th of June.

Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*): Present all year.

2011 was a good year for sightings on Ria de Alvor. This was possible thanks to all the birders who were in the area and registered all their observations. A very big thank you to: Alan Clark, Bert Van der Auwermeulen, Esther Pawley, Filipa Bragança, Filipe Bally, Gérard Réthoré, Heather Coats, Ineke Blijleven, Isabel Soares, João Lino, Juliana Barroso, Leila Duarte, Luis Calaim, Marcial Felgueiras, Mark Meulman, Paula Banza, Reda Garmute, Riley Massey, Sara Roda, Tony Martin, Trevor D. Codlin and Willem Scheres.