

# **Systematic List of the Birds of Ria de Alvor 2014**

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A Rocha Life Portugal

A total of 187 species of birds, out of the 314 seen, were registered in the Ria de Alvor Natura 2000 site in 2014 (the highest number since 2011) and 2 new species were added to the list: Black-necked Swan (*Cygnus melancoryphus*) and Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*), both being exotic species.

Highlights for 2014 were: a higher number of sightings of Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) than usual, the increase of Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) in the area, a record number of Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) in September, the observation of a Little Swift (*Apus affinis*), the stay of a Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) in Cruzinha garden for the second year in a row and the first sighting since 2001 of Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*) and Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) in the area.

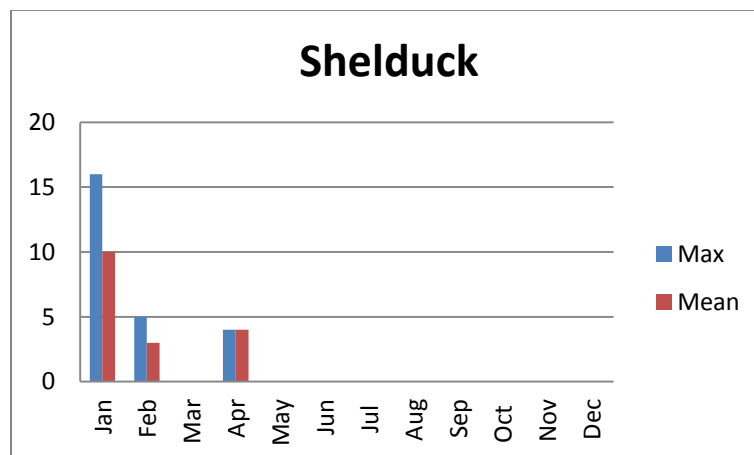
Other interesting records were: Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) and Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*) which haven't been seen since 2004, Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) and Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*), the last sightings being in 2005, Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*), the first sighting since 2006, as well as Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) and Penduline Tit (*Remiz pendulinus*), which haven't been seen since 2009.

A few birds carrying rings were noted this year: Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*), Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), Yellow-legged (*Larus michahellis*) and Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*Larus fuscus*), Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*), Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) and Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*). More ringed Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*) and Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) than usual were also seen this year.

**The complete bird list for 2014 is described below (bird names follow the systematic list of Crochet and Joynt, 2012).**

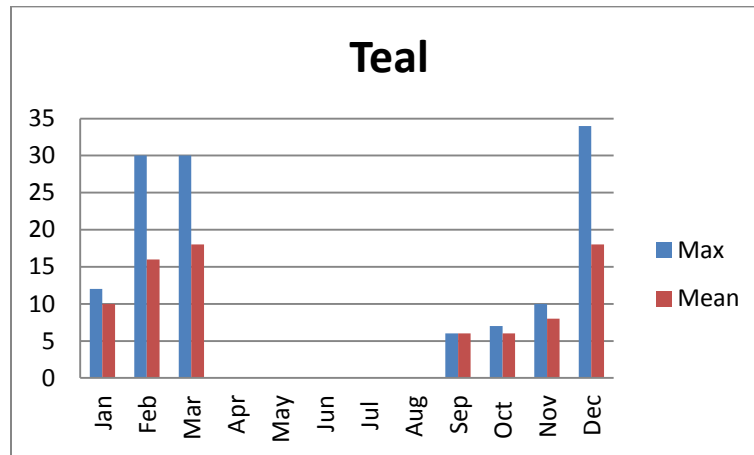
**Black-necked Swan** (*Cygnus melancoryphus*): 1 at the Western Marsh on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August.

**Common Shelduck** (*Tadorna tadorna*): Present in January and February at the Western Marsh (maximum of 16 birds). Then, 4 birds in flight over the area in April.



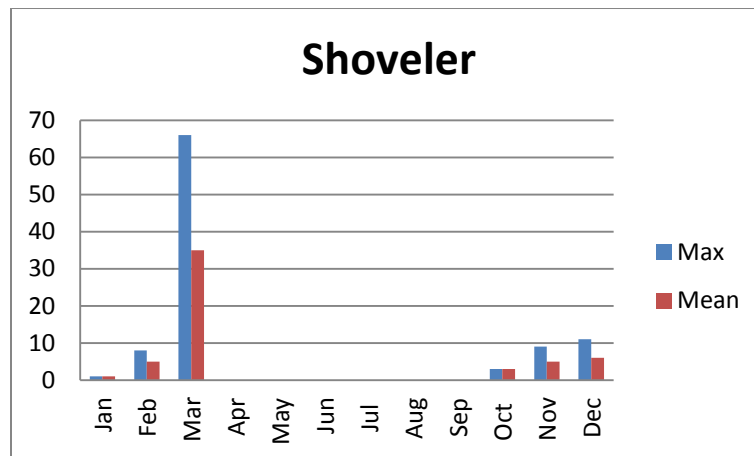
**Mandarin Duck** (*Aix galericulata*): 1 near Cruzinha on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March.

**Eurasian Teal** (*Anas crecca*): Present from January to the end of March, with a maximum of 30 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February at the Western Marsh and 8<sup>th</sup> of March at Abicada. Then they were present from the end of September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 34 on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December at the Western Marsh.



**Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*): Present all year. 1 bird from Portugal was controlled in April.

**Northern Shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*): Present from January to the end of March, with a maximum of 66 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March at Abicada, then present from mid-October until the end of the year, with a maximum of 11 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December at Abicada.

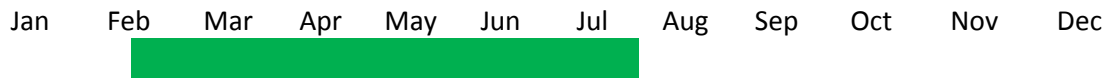


**Northern Pintail** (*Anas acuta*): 2 to 5 birds present at the Western Marsh and Abicada between the 25<sup>th</sup> of October and the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November.

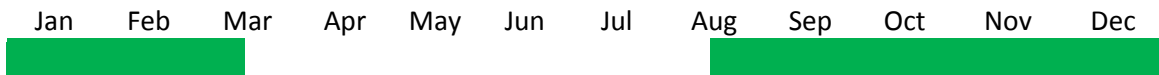
**Common Scoter** (*Melanitta nigra*): 2 sightings in March: 9 seen from Alvor beach on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 12 seen from Meia-Praia on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March.

**Red-legged Partridge** (*Alectoris rufa*): Present all year.

**Common Quail** (*Coturnix coturnix*): First heard on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February (same date as in 2013), and present until the end of July.



**Little Grebe** (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*): Present from January until mid-March with a maximum of 19 birds in the first half of February at Abicada, and then present from the end of August until the end of the year, with a maximum of 5 birds on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December at Abicada.

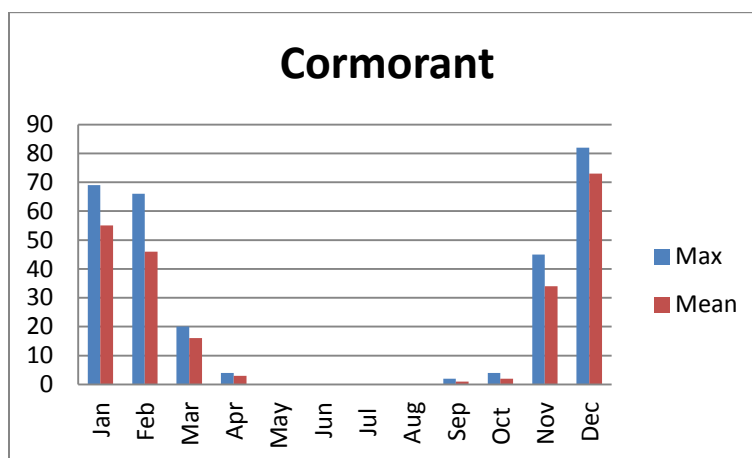


**Black-necked Grebe** (*Podiceps nigricollis*): 1 bird present in January and the first half of February at the estuary.

**Northern Gannet** (*Morus bassanus*): Present from January to the beginning of July, and then from September until the end of the year. This species is sometimes difficult to detect from the Western Marsh.



**Great Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*): Present from January until the beginning of May, with a maximum of 69 on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January at the Western Marsh. Then, present from September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 82 on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December.

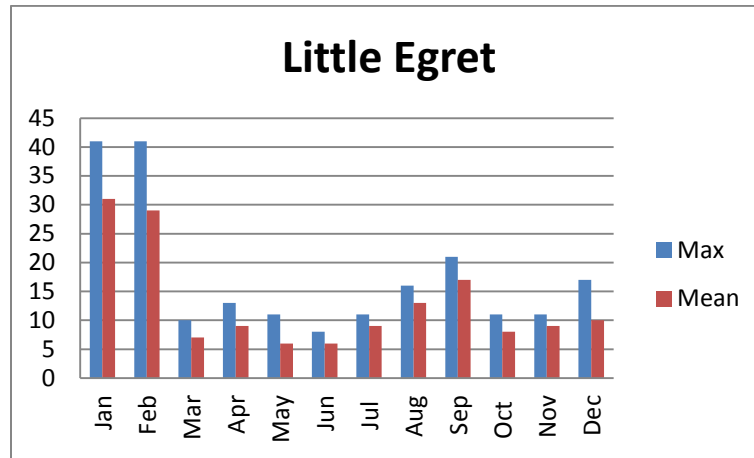


**Black-crowned Night Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*): 1 heard at Cruzinha on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February.

**Squacco Heron** (*Ardeola ralloides*): 1 bird at Abicada on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May.

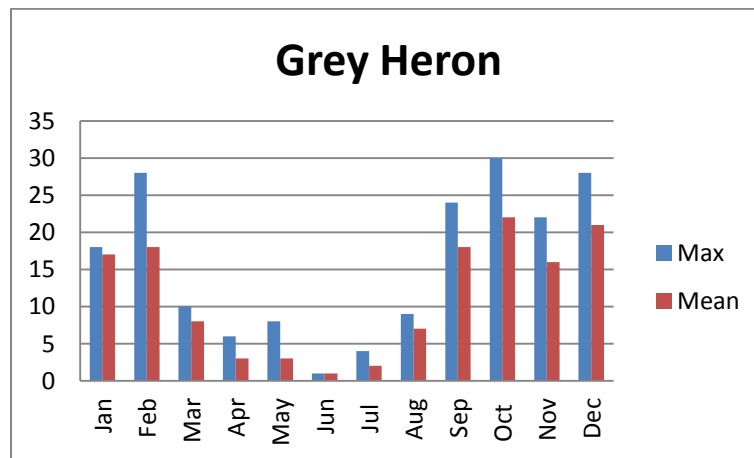
**Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*): Present all year.

**Little Egret** (*Egretta garzetta*): Present all year; maximum of 41 at the Western Marsh in January and February.



**Great Egret** (*Egretta alba*): 1 seen at Abicada on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April.

**Grey Heron** (*Ardea cinerea*): Present all year with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 28 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February and 30 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, both at the Western Marsh)

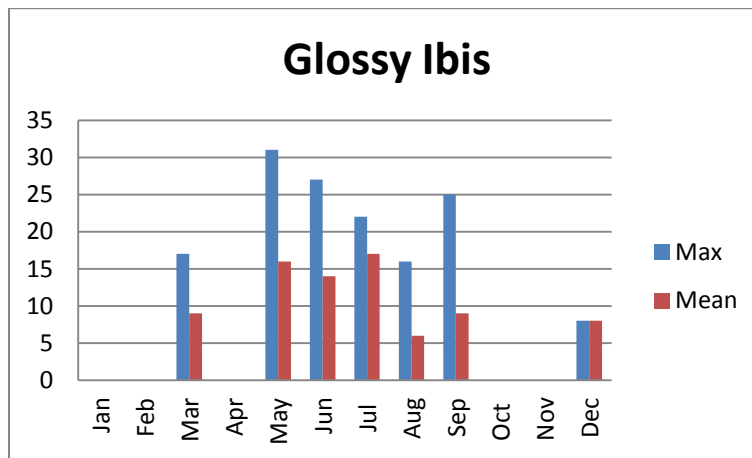


**Purple Heron** (*Ardea purpurea*): 2 sightings in spring: 5 on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March and 2 on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April, both at Abicada. 1 juvenile was also sighted at the Western Marsh on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July.

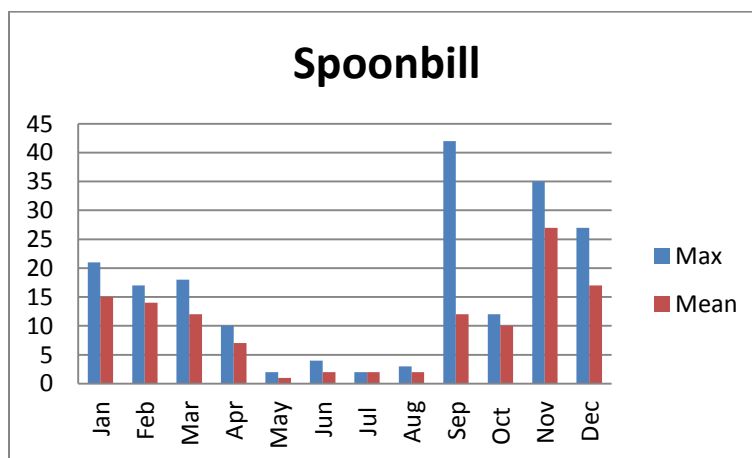
**Black Stork** (*Ciconia nigra*): 2 seen in flight at Cruzinha on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, 1 in flight on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October at Abicada and 1 at Cruzinha on the 19<sup>th</sup> (same bird?), 1 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October at Abicada and 1 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November flying over the Western Marsh.

**White Stork** (*Ciconia ciconia*): Present all year; maximum of 525 at Abicada on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November.

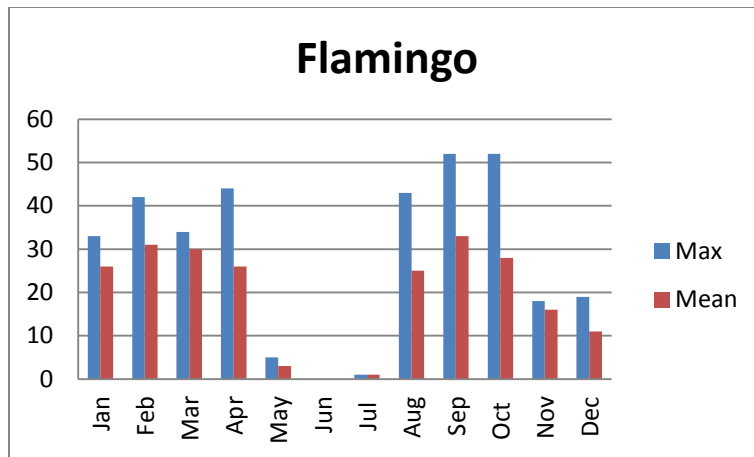
**Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*): Seen in March, between May and September as well as in December. The March and December birds were seen at Abicada, the others mostly in flight over the Western Marsh.



**Eurasian Spoonbill** (*Platalea leucorodia*): Present all year with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximums of 21 on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January and 42 on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, both at the Western Marsh). 10 ringed birds have been controlled over the year (8 from the Netherlands, 1 from Denmark and 1 from France). One of these birds is spending its 7<sup>th</sup> winter in the area.



**Greater Flamingo** (*Phoenicopterus roseus*): Present all year except in June, with maximums of 42 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February at Abicada, 52 on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September at the Western Marsh and 18<sup>th</sup> of October at Abicada. 15 ringed birds have been controlled over the year (11 from Spain and 4 from France). A flock of at least 100 birds was seen in flight over the area in August, but did not seem to stay in the area.



**European Honey Buzzard** (*Pernis apivorus*): 1 dark juvenile at Abicada on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September.

**Black-winged Kite** (*Elanus caeruleus*): Present all year and probably bred again in the area this year as juveniles were seen during the summer.

**Black Kite** (*Milvus migrans*): 6 sightings in 2014: 1 on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, 1 on both the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> of May as well as 1 on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, all at the Western Marsh. 1 was also seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November at Abicada and 1 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December at the Western Marsh.

**Red Kite** (*Milvus milvus*): 1 at Abicada on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December.

**Griffon Vulture** (*Gyps fulvus*): 19 in flight over Odiaxere salt pans on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November.

**Short-toed Snake Eagle** (*Circaetus gallicus*): First sighting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February at the Western Marsh, then seen on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March and in April. A few sightings occurred during summer and autumn: 2 on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, 4 on the 4<sup>th</sup> July as well as 1 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July. 1 was also sighted on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August and 1 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September, all at the Western Marsh.



**Western Marsh Harrier** (*Circus aeruginosus*): Probably present all year but only seen between January and April, and then between mid-June and the end of the year.

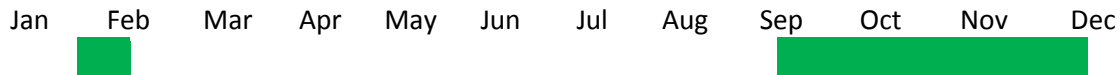
**Montagu's Harrier** (*Circus pygargus*): 1 female at the Western Marsh on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of August and 1 juvenile near Cruzinha on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** (*Accipiter nisus*): 6 sightings in 2014: 1 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup> of February, 1 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of March, all at the Western Marsh, as well as 1 on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September and 1 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December at Abicada.

**Common Buzzard** (*Buteo buteo*): Present from January until mid-April, then from the end of September until the end of the year. 1 sighting in spring of 1 bird at Cruzinha on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June.

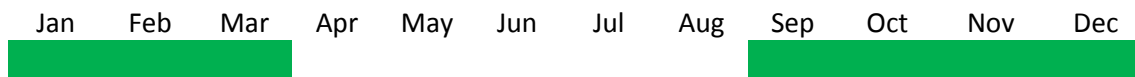


**Booted Eagle** (*Aquila pennata*): 1 sighting in winter: 1 bird at Abicada on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February. All the other sightings are in the autumn, between the 16<sup>th</sup> of September and the 4<sup>th</sup> of December (1 to 3 birds).



**Bonelli's Eagle** (*Aquila fasciata*): 1 bird (4<sup>th</sup> calendar year) flying near Cruzinha on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November.

**Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*): Present from January to the end of March, then, from September until the end of the year.



**Common Kestrel** (*Falco tinnunculus*): Present all year.

**Hobby** (*Falco subbuteo*): 1 on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August, seen from Mexilhoeira Grande train station.

**Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*): Seen at the beginning of February (2 birds), in April and May (1 bird), 2 birds on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July at Odiaxere salt pans, with other sightings in the second half of August, beginning of September and from October until the end of the year (between 1 and 3 birds).



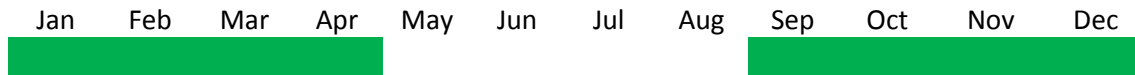
**Water Rail** (*Rallus aquaticus*): Heard during the second half of January, the first half of February and during March (Abicada). It was also heard at the beginning of June and July, the end of August and beginning of September, the second half of October, first half of November and the second half of December.



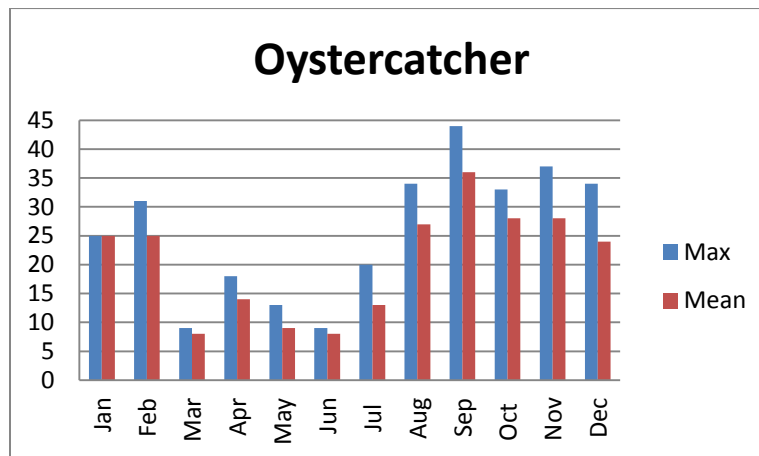
**Common Moorhen** (*Gallinula chloropus*): Present all year. Maximum of 5 birds on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January at Abicada.



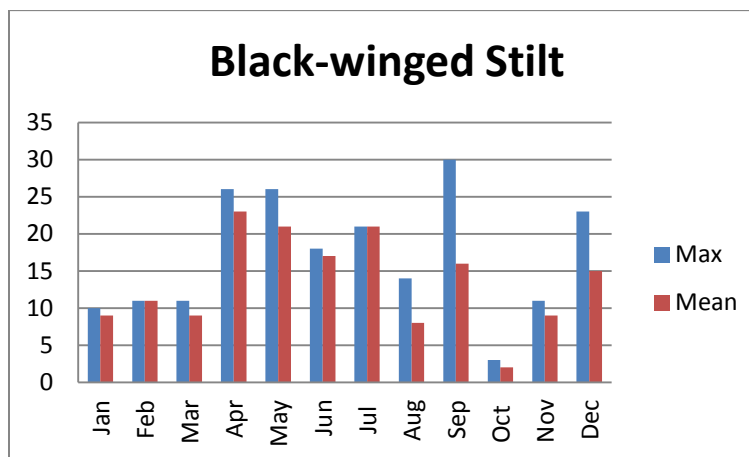
**Eurasian Coot** (*Fulica atra*): Present from January to the end of April, with a maximum of 83 birds on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January, and from the beginning of September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 142 birds on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December. Most of the sightings are from Abicada.



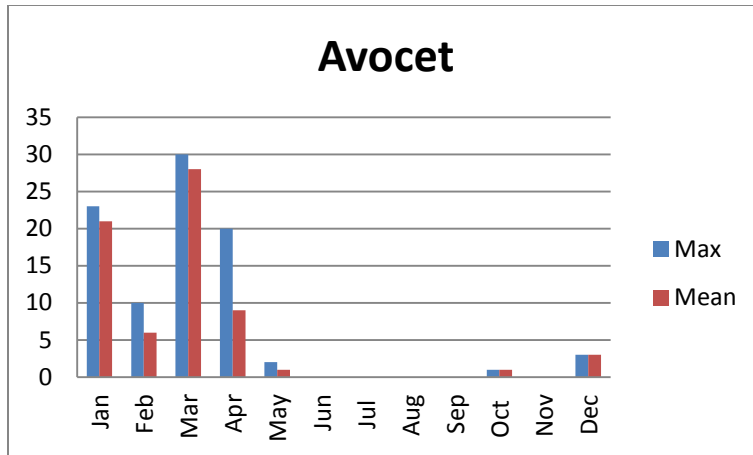
**Eurasian Oystercatcher** (*Haematopus ostralegus*): Present all year, with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 44).



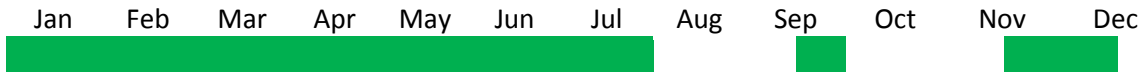
**Black-winged Stilt** (*Himantopus himantopus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 30 birds on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September.



**Pied Avocet** (*Recurvirostra avosetta*): Present from January until the beginning of May, with a maximum of 30 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March at Abicada. Then 1 bird on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October and 3 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December at Abicada. 1 bird from Spain has been controlled in March.



**Eurasian Stone Curlew** (*Burhinus oedicnemus*): Heard between January and July. Then, heard in the second half of September, second half of November and first half of December.

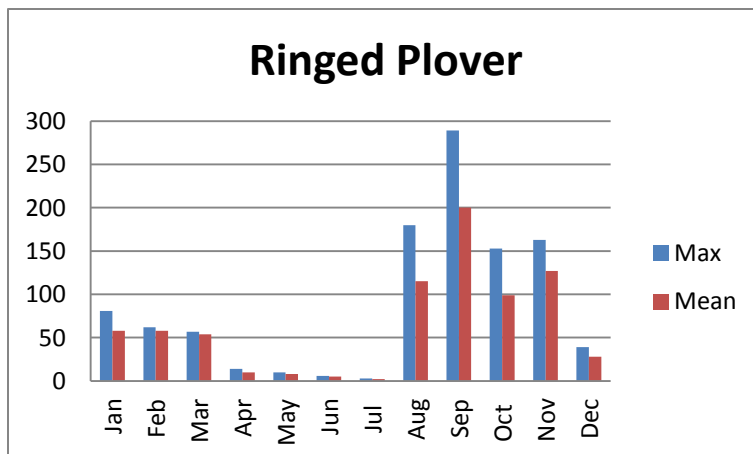


**Collared Pratincole** (*Glareola pratincola*): 2 sightings in 2014: 1 on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April at Abicada and 1 on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April at the Western Marsh.

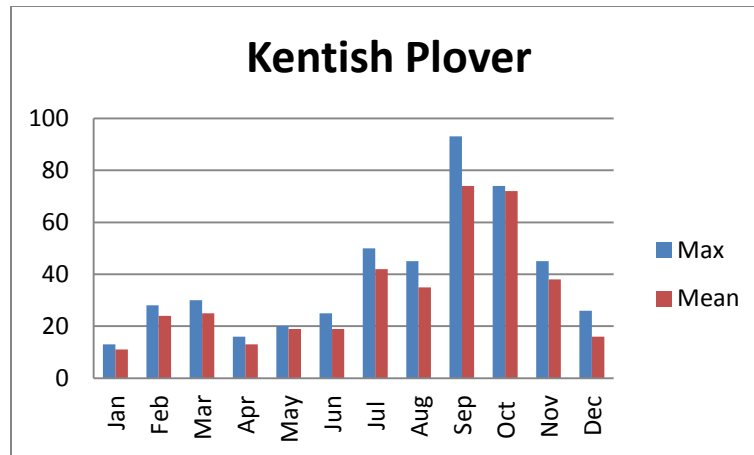
**Little Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius dubius*): Present between the 8<sup>th</sup> of March (3 birds at the Western Marsh) and the 28<sup>th</sup> of June (1 bird at the Western Marsh). Maximum of 5 birds at Abicada on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March and confirmed breeding at Odiaxere salt pans.



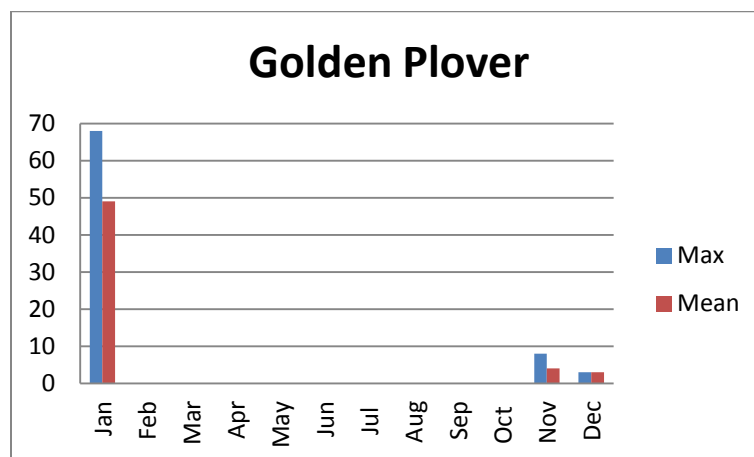
**Common Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius hiaticula*): Present all year, with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 289 on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September). 1 bird from Norway was controlled in November.



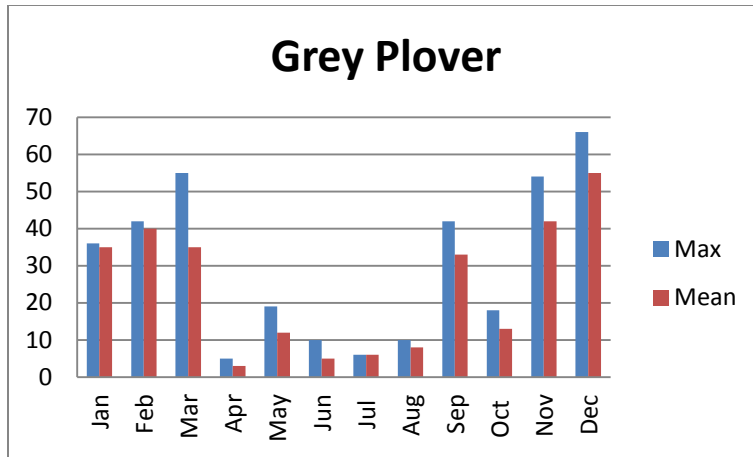
**Kentish Plover** (*Charadrius alexandrinus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 93 on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September.



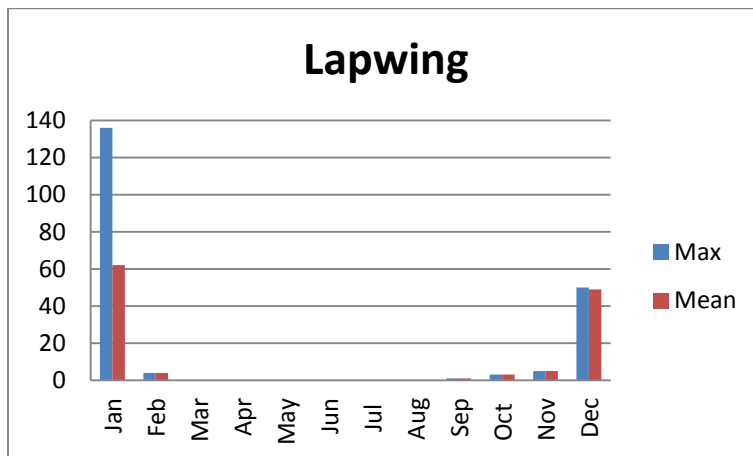
**European Golden Plover** (*Pluvialis apricaria*): Present in January, with a maximum of 68 on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January at the Western Marsh. Then present from November until the end of the year, with a maximum of 8 on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November.



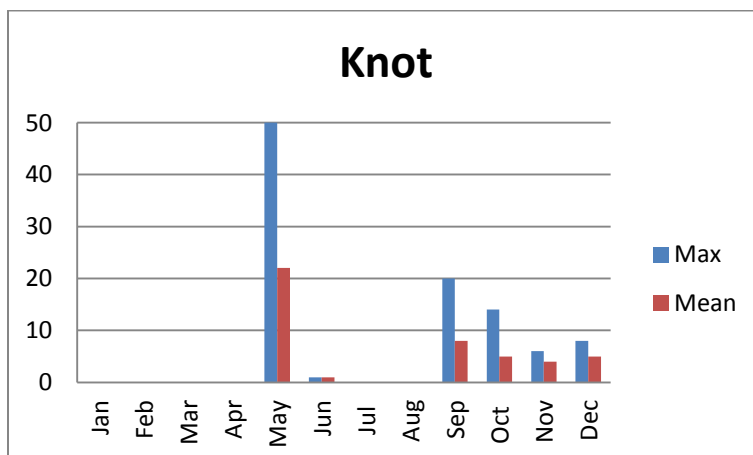
**Grey Plover** (*Pluvialis squatarola*): Present all year, except between mid-July and mid-August with a maximum of 55 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March at Abicada and 66 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December at the Western Marsh.



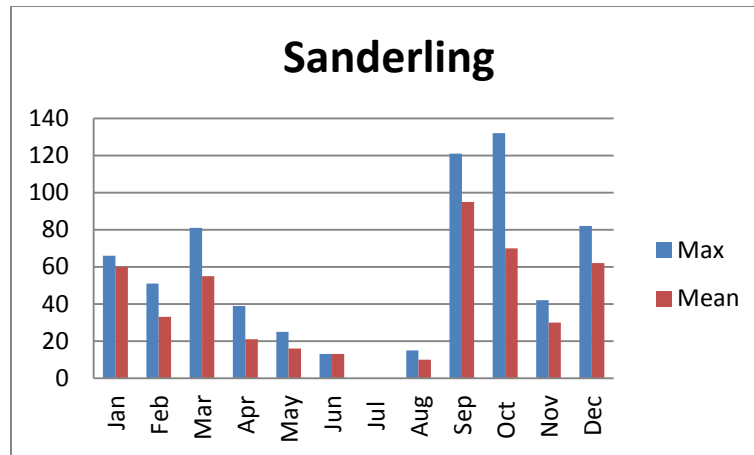
**Northern Lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*): Present from January to the end of February, and then again from the end of September until the end of the year; maximum of 136 on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January at Odiaxere saltpans and 50 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December at the Western Marsh.



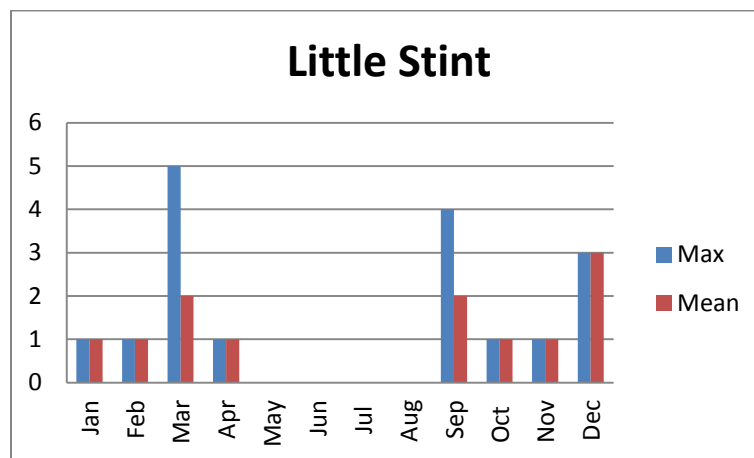
**Red Knot** (*Calidris canutus*): Present during the first half of May (maximum of 50 birds on the 14<sup>th</sup>), 1 on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June and from September until the end of the year (maximum of 20 birds on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September).



**Sanderling** (*Calidris alba*): Present from January to mid-June and from August until the end of the year, with a maximum of 81 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March and 132 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October.



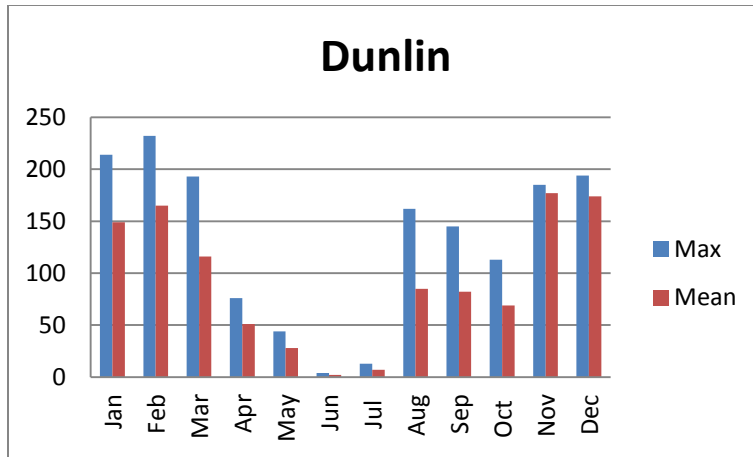
**Little Stint** (*Calidris minuta*): Present in the first half of February, March and first half of April (maximum of 5 birds on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March at the Western Marsh). Also present during September, the second half of October, the first half of November and the second half of December (maximum of 4 birds on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September at Odiaxere salt pans).



**Curlew Sandpiper** (*Calidris ferruginea*): There were a few observations during the year: 1 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April and 2 on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May at the Western Marsh, they were seen at Abicada in July, were present from mid-August to the end of September (maximum of 16 birds on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September at Abicada), 3 birds on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October at the Western Marsh and 1 at Abicada on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December.

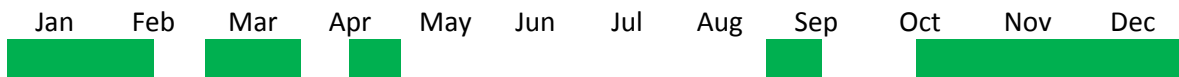


**Dunlin** (*Calidris alpina*): Present all year, with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 232 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February and 194 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December). 1 bird ringed in Spain was seen in October.

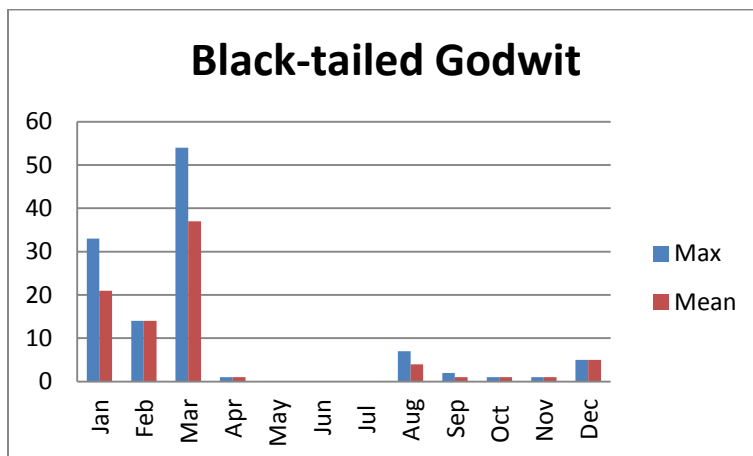


**Ruff** (*Philomachus pugnax*): Present in March (2 birds), September (1 to 2 birds) and 1 bird on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October at the Western Marsh.

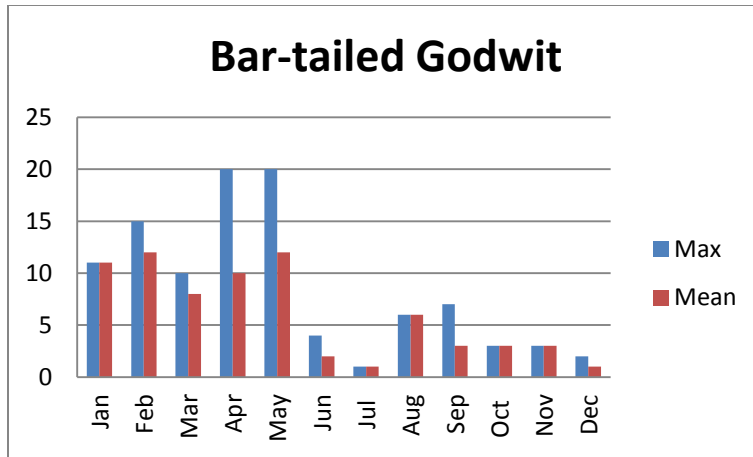
**Common Snipe** (*Gallinago gallinago*): Present from January to the end of March, with 1 bird still at Abicada on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April. 1 was also seen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September at the Western Marsh and then from the end of October until the end of the year, with a maximum of 10 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March at the Western Marsh.



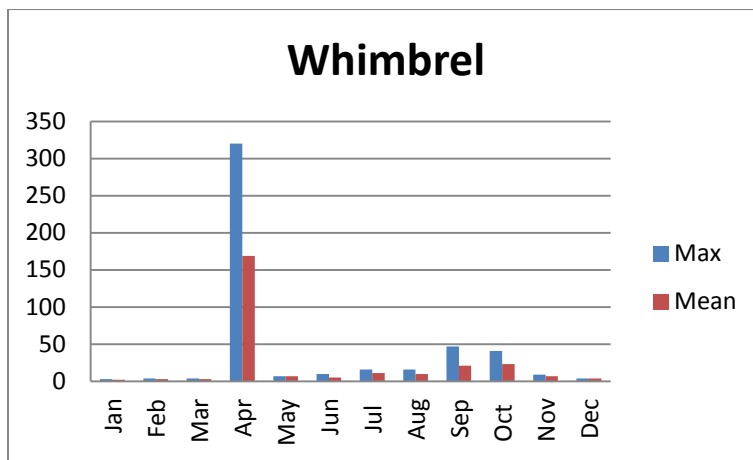
**Black-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa limosa*): Present from January until mid-April (a maximum of 54 birds on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March at Abicada), and from August until the end of the year (a maximum of 7 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August at the Western Marsh). 2 ringed birds from Iceland were also found during the year.



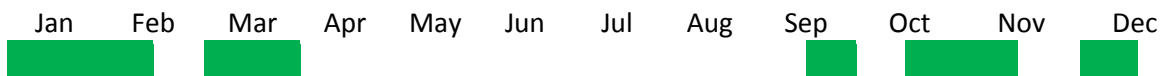
**Bar-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa lapponica*): Present all year, except between mid-July and mid-August, with higher numbers in autumn and winter (a maximum of 20 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April).



**Whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus*): Present all year, with a peak in April during migration (320 on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April).



**Eurasian Curlew** (*Numenius arquata*): Present from January until March, during the second half of September, between mid-October and mid-November and in the first half of December (1 to 4 birds).



**Common Sandpiper** (*Actitis hypoleucos*): Present from January until mid-May, then from July until the end of the year (a maximum of 12 birds on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September at Abicada).

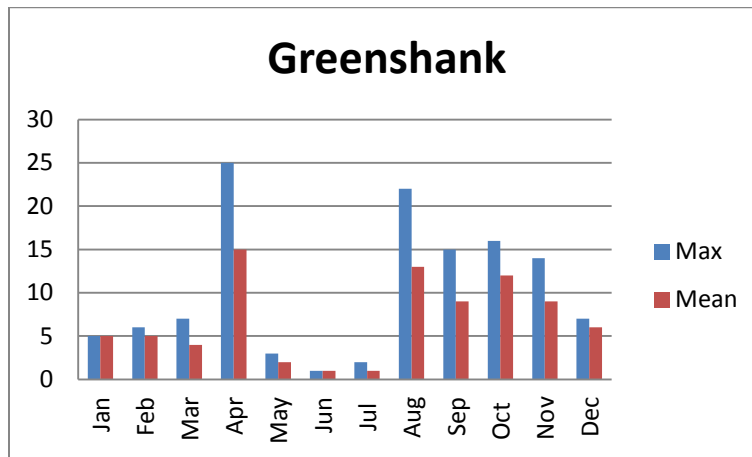


**Green Sandpiper** (*Tringa ochropus*): Present in January, February and March. Then, present from July until the end of the year.



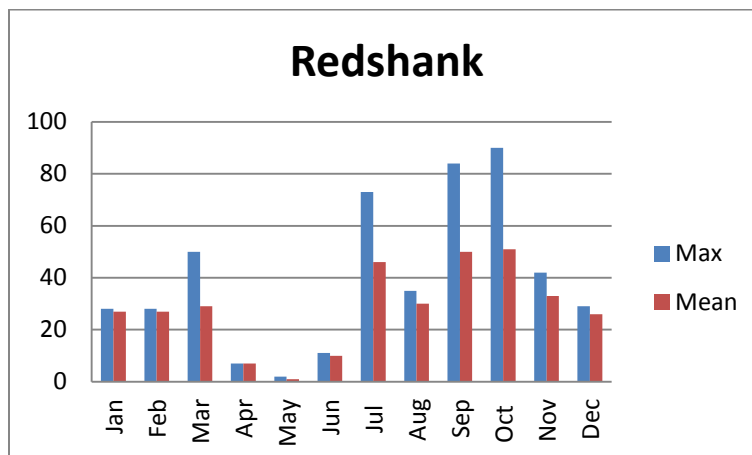
**Spotted Redshank** (*Tringa erythropus*): 1 sighting during the year: 2 birds on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October at the Western Marsh.

**Common Greenshank** (*Tringa nebularia*): Present from January until May (maximum of 25 on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April), 1 on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June at the Western Marsh and 2 on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July at Odiaxere salt pans. Then, present from mid-August until the end of the year (maximum of 22 on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August at the Western Marsh).



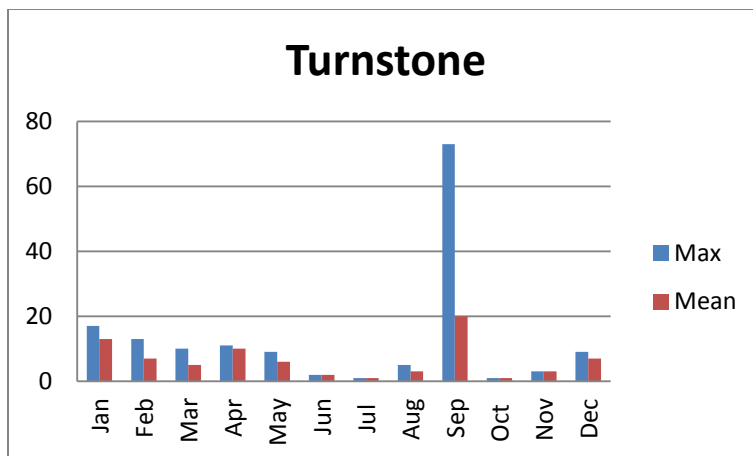
**Wood Sandpiper** (*Tringa glareola*): 2 sightings in 2014: 1 bird at Abicada on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April and 1 bird at the Western Marsh on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September.

**Common Redshank** (*Tringa totanus*): Present from January until mid-May (a maximum of 50 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March at Abicada) and from mid-June until the end of the year (a maximum of 90 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October). Possible breeding in the area as 3 juveniles were seen in June.



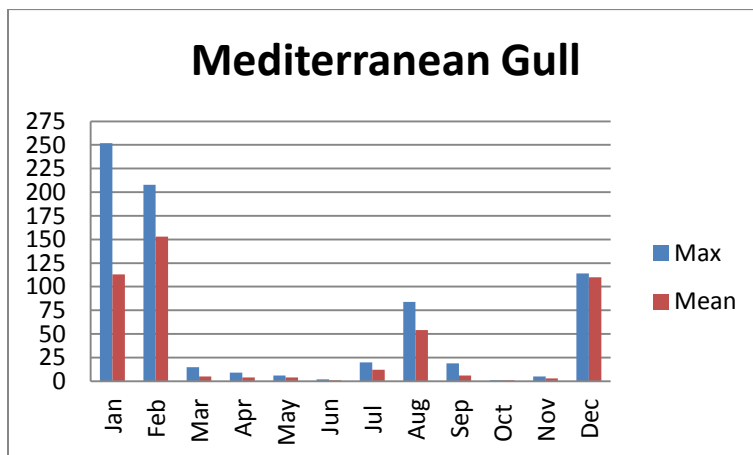


**Ruddy Turnstone** (*Arenaria interpres*): Present all year, except during the first half of August with a maximum of 73 on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September.



**Great Skua** (*Stercorarius skua*): 2 sightings during the year: 1 from Alvor beach on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March, and 2 from Meia-Praia on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March.

**Mediterranean Gull** (*Larus melanocephalus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 252 on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January.



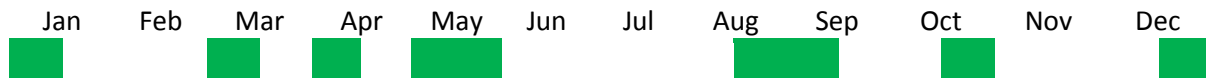
**Black-headed Gull** (*Larus ridibundus*): Present from January to April and from mid-June to the end of the year with a maximum of 56 on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September at the Western Marsh.



**Slender-billed Gull** (*Larus genei*): 1 seen at Vale de Lama on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March.

**Audouin's Gull** (*Larus audouinii*): A few sightings during the year: 1 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January, present in the first half of March (a maximum of 6 birds on the 8<sup>th</sup>), the first half of April, throughout May and the

second half of August. 1 was also seen on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October, as well as 1 on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 3 on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December, all at the Western Marsh.



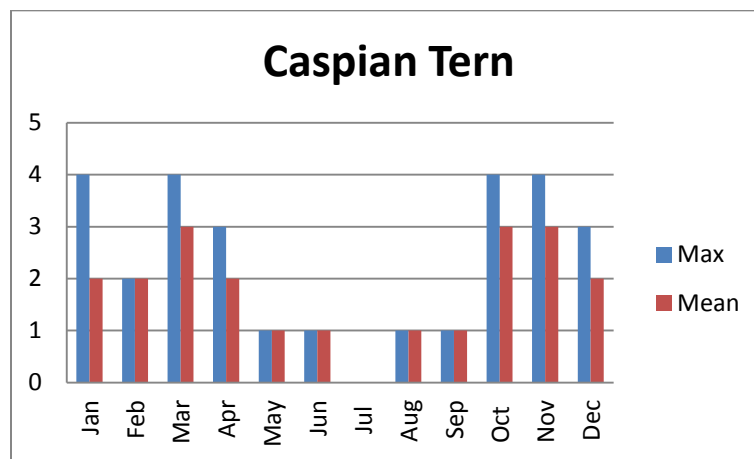
**Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*): Present all year. 1 ringed bird was found during the year (from the Netherlands).

**Yellow-legged Gull** (*Larus michahellis*): Present all year. 1 ringed bird was found during the year (from Portugal).

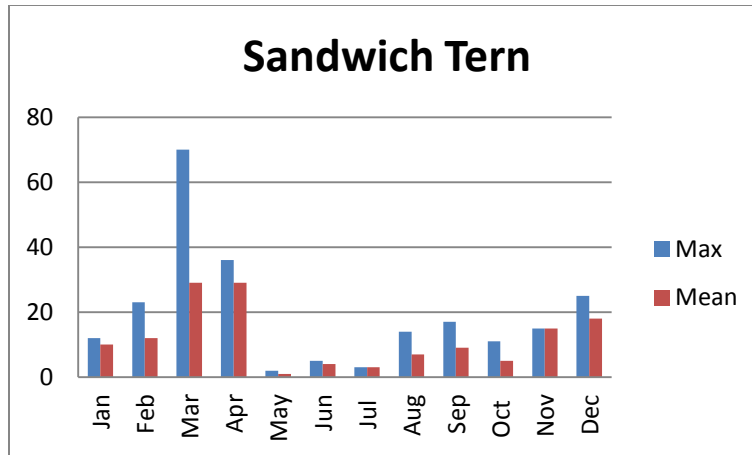
**Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*): A 2<sup>nd</sup> winter bird at Abicada in March, then 1 adult at the Western Marsh in October and a 3<sup>rd</sup> winter (same bird as in March?) at Abicada in December.

**Gull-billed Tern** (*Gelochelidon nilotica*): 1 at the Western Marsh on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August.

**Caspian Tern** (*Hydroprogne caspia*): Present from January to May, with a maximum of 4 birds. There was 1 sighting at the end of May and 2 sightings in June with 1 bird at the Western Marsh on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Then there was 1 bird sighted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August and a continual presence from the end of September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 4 birds on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. 1 ringed bird from Sweden was also found in March.

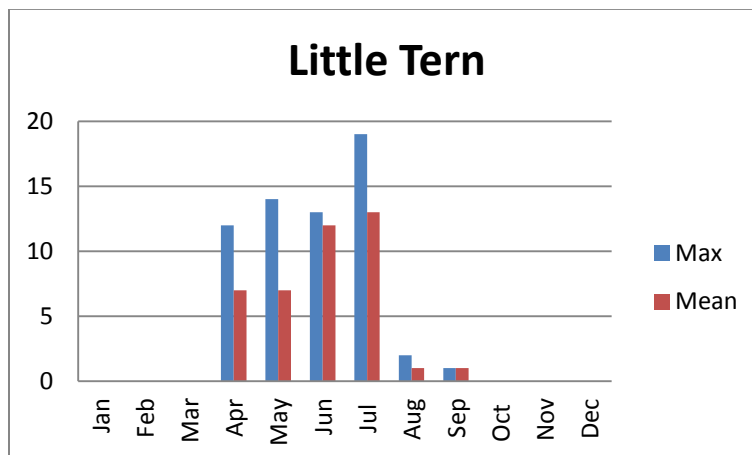


**Sandwich Tern** (*Sterna sandvicensis*): Present all year, with numbers in June and July and a maximum of 70 on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March.



**Common Tern** (*Sterna hirundo*): 3 on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May and 5 on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June at the Western Marsh.

**Little Tern** (*Sternula albifrons*): Present between April (first birds seen on the 12<sup>th</sup>) and September (last bird seen on the 3<sup>rd</sup>).



**Razorbill** (*Alca torda*): 3 birds found dead: 2 at Meia-Praia in January and April and 1 at Alvor beach in March.

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

**Stock Dove** (*Columba oenas*): 6 at Abicada on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October and 1 near Cruzinha on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November.

**Common Wood Pigeon** (*Columba palumbus*): Approximately 550 flying over Abicada on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November.

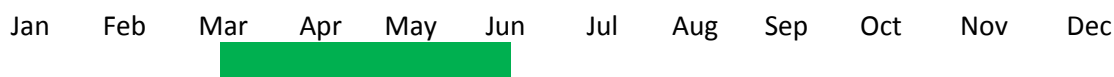
**Eurasian Collared Dove** (*Streptopelia decaocto*): Present all year.

**European Turtle Dove** (*Streptopelia turtur*): 1 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May at Abicada and 3 on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September at the Western Marsh.

**Budgerigar** (*Melopsittacus undulatus*): 1 at Cruzinha on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June.

**Great Spotted Cuckoo** (*Clamator glandarius*): 1 seen at Abicada at the end of July.

**Common Cuckoo** (*Cuculus canorus*): Seen (or heard) every week between the 29<sup>th</sup> of March and the beginning of June.



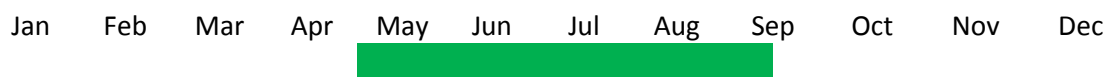
**Barn Owl** (*Tyto alba*): 1 on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June and 1 on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, both at Cruzinha.

**Eurasian Scops Owl** (*Otus scops*): 1 caught and ringed on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September at Cruzinha.

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

**Tawny Owl** (*Strix aluco*): 1 at Cruzinha on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September.

**Red-necked Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*): First heard on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May and then present until the beginning of September.



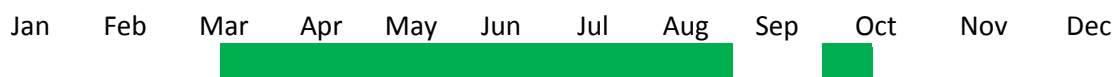
**Common Swift** (*Apus apus*): Present from the 4<sup>th</sup> of March (5 birds) until the beginning of September (1 bird on the 8<sup>th</sup>).



**Pallid Swift** (*Apus pallidus*): Present from the end of March (5 birds on the 28<sup>th</sup>) until the end of September.



**Alpine Swift** (*Apus melba*): Present between mid-March (2 birds on the 19<sup>th</sup>) and the end of August. A flock of 29 was also seen flying over Cruzinha on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October.

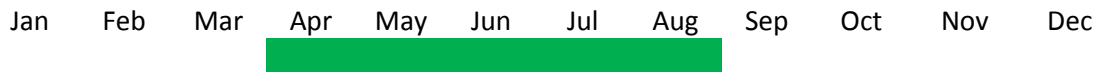


**Little Swift** (*Apus affinis*): 1 at Cruzinha on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October.

**Common Kingfisher** (*Alcedo atthis*): Present throughout January. Then, 2 sightings in spring: 1 bird at Abicada on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April and 1 at the Western Marsh on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June and then a continual presence from July until the end of the year.



**European Bee-eater** (*Merops apiaster*): Present from the 8<sup>th</sup> of April until the end of August with a flock of 50 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

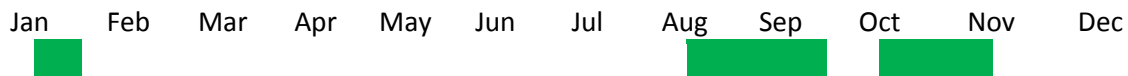


**Hoopoe** (*Upupa epops*): Present all year.

**Eurasian Wryneck** (*Jynx torquilla*): 2 sightings in 2014: 1 on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September and 1 on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, both at the Western Marsh.

**European Green Woodpecker** (*Picus viridis*): Present all year

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** (*Dendrocopos major*): A few observations during the year: 1 on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January and then seen almost weekly between the end of August and mid-November.



**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** (*Dendrocopos minor*): Seen all year except in May and July.



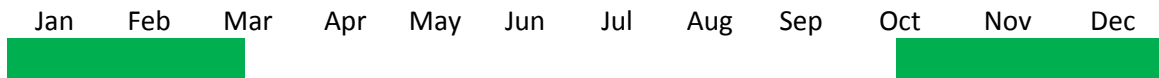
**Greater Short-toed Lark** (*Calandrella brachydactyla*): Seen between April and July, then again in September.



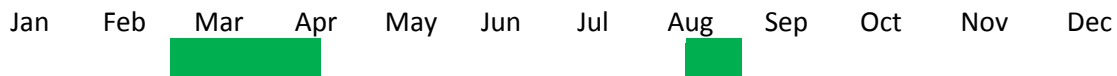
**Crested Lark** (*Galerida cristata*): Present all year.

**Woodlark** (*Lullula arborea*): 1 heard at the Western Marsh on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October.

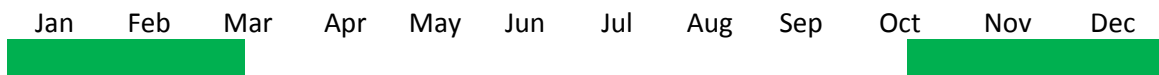
**Eurasian Skylark** (*Alauda arvensis*): Present from January until mid-March and then from the end of October until the end of the year.



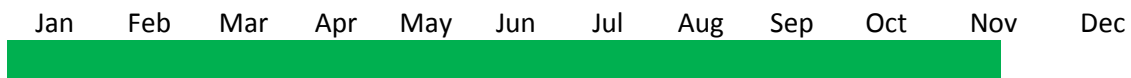
**Sand Martin** (*Riparia riparia*): Seen in March and April, then at the end of August.



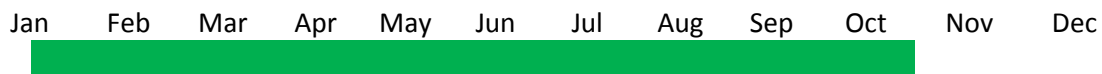
**Eurasian Crag Martin** (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*): Present from January until mid-March and then from the end of October until the end of the year.



**Barn Swallow** (*Hirundo rustica*): Present from January until mid-November.



**Common House Martin** (*Delichon urbicum*): Present from the 15<sup>th</sup> of January (2 birds) until the end of October.



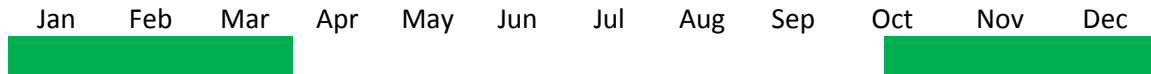
**Red-rumped Swallow** (*Cecropis daurica*): Present from the 4<sup>th</sup> of March until the end of October.



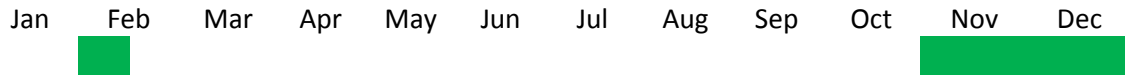
**Tawny Pipit** (*Anthus campestris*): 1 at Odiaxere saltpans on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September.

**Tree Pipit** (*Anthus trivialis*): Heard at the end of October.

**Meadow Pipit** (*Anthus pratensis*): Present from January until the beginning of April, then from mid-October until the end of the year with a maximum of 120 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November.



**Water Pipit** (*Anthus spinoletta*): 1 sighting in winter with a bird on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February at the Western Marsh. Then, present from November until the end of the year, with a maximum of 6 birds at Abicada.

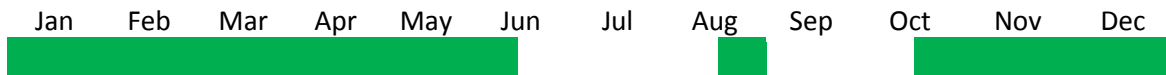


**Yellow Wagtail** (*Motacilla flava*): Present from the 8<sup>th</sup> of March until the end of September with 1 bird belonging to the *flava* subspecies which was seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March.

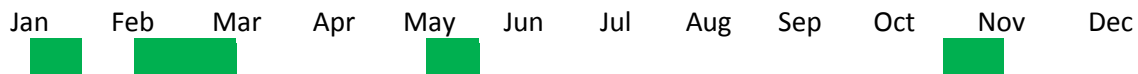


**Grey Wagtail** (*Motacilla cinerea*): 1 bird on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May and then present between mid-October and mid-November.

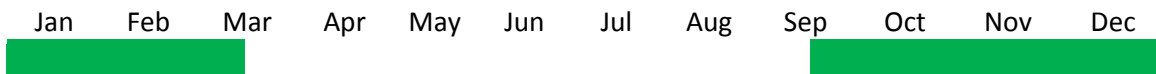
**White Wagtail** (*Motacilla alba*): Present from January until the beginning of June. Then, 1 sighting in August and a continual presence from the end of October until the end of the year.



**Winter Wren** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*): Present in January and February, in the first half of May, and 1 sighting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November.



**European Robin** (*Erithacus rubecula*): Present from January until mid-March, then from the end of September until the end of the year.



**Common Nightingale** (*Luscinia megarhynchos*): Detected from the 18<sup>th</sup> of April until the end of May, then from the 11<sup>th</sup> of September until mid-October.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

**Bluethroat** (*Luscinia svecica*): Present from January until mid-March. Then present from mid-September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 15 birds on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

**Black Redstart** (*Phoenicurus ochruros*): A few observations in winter, during the second half of January and the first half of March. Then, present from the end of October until the end of the year.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

**Common Redstart** (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*): Present in September.

**Winchat** (*Saxicola rubetra*): Present in September and the first half of October.

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

**Northern Wheatear** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*): 3 sightings in spring and 1 in summer: 2 on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March at Abicada, then 1 on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April and 1 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, both at the Western Marsh. 1 was also sighted on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July at Odiaxere saltpans, then present from mid-August until the beginning of November, with a maximum of 9 birds on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September at the Western Marsh.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

**Blue Rock Thrush** (*Monticola solitarius*): 1 at the Western Marsh between the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, then 1 also at the Western Marsh on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October and 1 at Odiaxere saltpans on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November.

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

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

**Mistle Thrush** (*Turdus viscivorus*): 1 at the Western Marsh on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July.



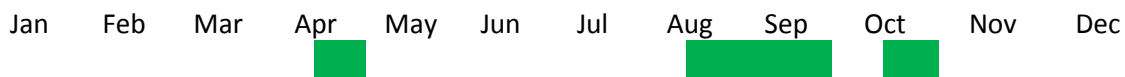
**Cetti's Warbler** (*Cettia cetti*): Present all year, mostly at Abicada.

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

**Melodious Warbler** (*Hippolais poliglotta*): Present from the beginning of July until the end of September.

**Sedge Warbler** (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*): 1 on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September at Odiaxere salt pans.

**Eurasian Reed Warbler** (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*): Present in the second half of April at Abicada, probably present longer but not detected. Then, they were present during the second half of August, in September and the second half of October. 2 ringed birds from Britain were also caught at Cruzinha.



**Dartford Warbler** (*Sylvia undata*): 1 on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January at the Western Marsh and between the 29<sup>th</sup> of October and the end of the year at the Western Marsh.

**Spectacled Warbler** (*Sylvia conspicillata*): 1 on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September at Vale de Lama.

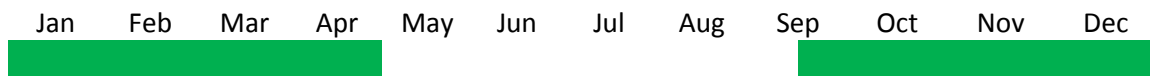
**Subalpine Warbler** (*Sylvia cantillans*): Present in the second half of September and 1 bird seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November at Abicada.

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

**Common Whitethroat** (*Sylvia communis*): Present from the end of August until the end of September.

**Garden Warbler** (*Sylvia borin*): Present from the beginning of September until the beginning of November.

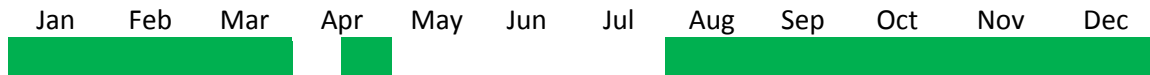
**Eurasian Blackcap** (*Sylvia atricapilla*): Present from January until May and from the end of September until the end of the year. 1 ringed bird from Britain was also caught at Cruzinha.



**Yellow-browed Warbler** (*Phylloscopus inornatus*): 1 at Cruzinha on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October and 1 (the same?) present between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> of November.

**Western Bonelli's Warbler** (*Phylloscopus bonelli*): Present from the end of August until the end of September.

**Common Chiffchaff** (*Phylloscopus collybita*): Present from January until the end of March, 1 bird on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, 1 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August and then a continual presence from the end of August until the end of the year.



**Willow Warbler** (*Phylloscopus trochilus*): Present from the beginning of September until the beginning of November. 1 possibly belonging to the *acredula* subspecies was caught and ringed at Cruzinha on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September (wing length of 72 mm).

**Firecrest** (*Regulus ignicapilla*): 1 at Cruzinha on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September and 14<sup>th</sup> of October, then 2 present between the 28<sup>th</sup> of September and the 15<sup>th</sup> of November.

**Spotted Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa striata*): Present from September until mid-October.

**European Pied Flycatcher** (*Ficedula hypoleuca*): 1 caught and ringed on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May and 31<sup>st</sup> of July. Then present from the end of August until the end of October.

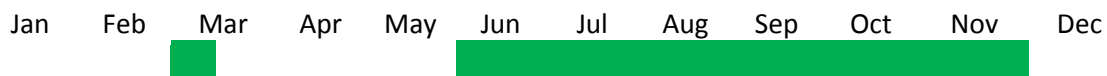


**Long-tailed Tit** (*Aegithalos caudatus*): 2 at Cruzinha on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December.

**Eurasian Blue Tit** (*Parus caeruleus*): Present all year.

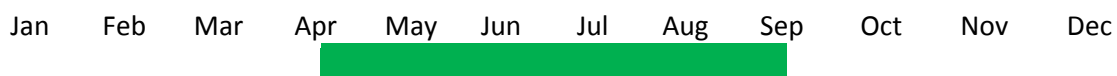
**Great Tit** (*Parus major*): Present all year.

**Short-toed Treecreeper** (*Certhia brachydactyla*): 1 sighting in March and then present from June until the end of November.



**Eurasian Penduline Tit** (*Remiz pendulinus*): 6 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and at least 5 on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November at Abicada.

**Eurasian Golden Oriole** (*Oriolus oriolus*): First detected on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, then present until the beginning of September.



**Southern Grey Shrike** (*Lanius meridionalis*): Seen in February and March, then from the end of July until the beginning of September, as well as in October, November and December.



**Woodchat Shrike** (*Lanius senator*): Present from the 8<sup>th</sup> of April until the end of September.

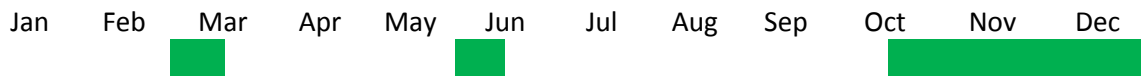


**Eurasian Jay** (*Garrulus glandarius*): 1 on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October and 1 on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November.

**Azure-winged Magpie** (*Cyanopica cyanus*): Present all year with a maximum of 142 in September.

**Common Magpie** (*Pica pica*): 1 at the Western Marsh on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May.

**Western Jackdaw** (*Corvus monedula*): 1 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, then present in the first half of June (between 2 and 5 birds) and from the end of October until the end of the year.



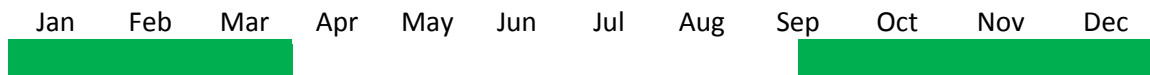
**Northern Raven** (*Corvus corax*): 2 birds at Abicada at the end of January and beginning of February. Then, 1 bird seen at Cruzinha on both the 6<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of October.

**Spotless Starling** (*Sturnus unicolor*): Present all year, with a maximum of 90 on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August.

**Common Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*): Present in January, February and December at the Western Marsh.

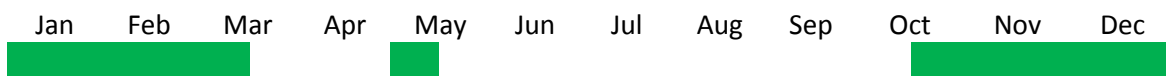
**House Sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*): Present all year.

**Spanish Sparrow** (*Passer hispaniolensis*): Present from January to the end of March, then present from the end of September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 60 birds on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November.



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

**Common Chaffinch** (*Fringilla coelebs*): Present from January to mid-March, 1 bird seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, and then a continual presence from mid-October until the end of the year.



**Brambling** (*Fringilla montifringilla*): 1 bird caught and ringed at Cruzinha on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January.

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

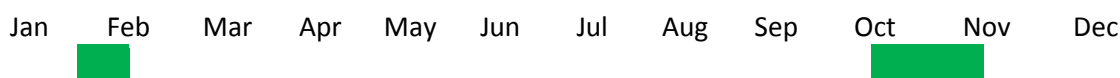
**European Greenfinch** (*Carduelis chloris*): Present all year.

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

**Eurasian Siskin** (*Carduelis spinus*): Seen in November and December.

**Common Linnet** (*Carduelis cannabina*): Present all year.

**Common Reed Bunting** (*Emberiza schoeniclus*): 2 birds at the Western Marsh on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February. Then, 1 bird at Abicada between mid-October and mid-November.



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

2014 was another good year for sightings at the 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: Filipa Bragança, Helen Rodda, Keith and Rosy Miller, Gonçalo and Maria Elias, Paula Banza, Lieske de Wilde, Dave Bookless, Willem Scheres, Heather Coats, Esther Brouwer, Marcial Felgueiras, Isabel Soares, Peter Harris, Klaas Brouwer, Chris Baillie, Anthony and Pauline Hereward, Ann Rolinson, Salome van het Riet, Tiphaine Le Bris, Rob Thomas, Sophie Lee Lane, Jennifer Grigg, Ymke Franssen, Andrew Graham, Timm Knautz, Ben Porter, John and Vicky Smiley, Riley and Barbara Massey, Dinah and Dawn Winslow, David Coxon, Val and Clinton Grant, Pat and Philip Dale, Sian Cheverton, Rosemary Gale, Mike Turton and Maureen Morris.

## References

Crochet P.-A., Joynt G. (2012). AERC list of Western Palearctic birds. December 2012 version



Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*)  
- Ria de Alvor © Ben Porter



Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) - Cruzinha © Ben Porter



Scops Owl (*Otus scops*) - Cruzinha  
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