

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.

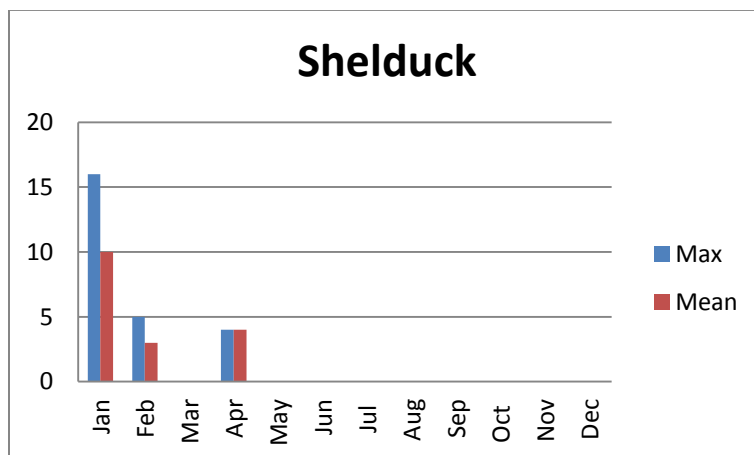
Other interesting records were: Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) and Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*) which haven't been seen since 2004, Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) and Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*), the last sightings being in 2005, Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*), the first 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).

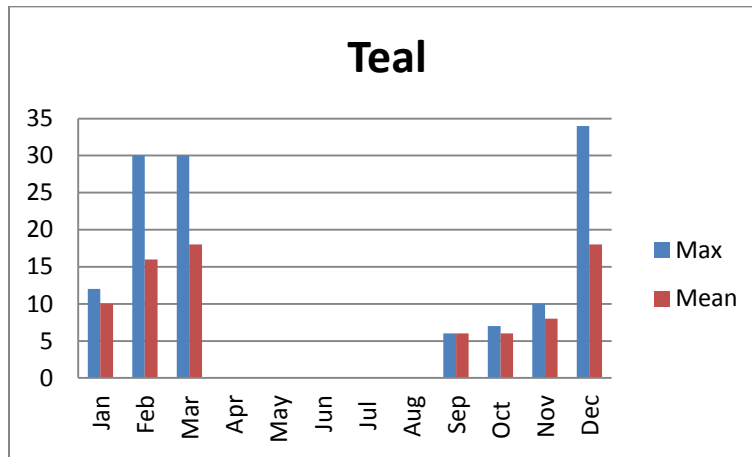
Black-necked Swan (*Cygnus melancoryphus*): 1 at the Western Marsh on the 12th of August.

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.



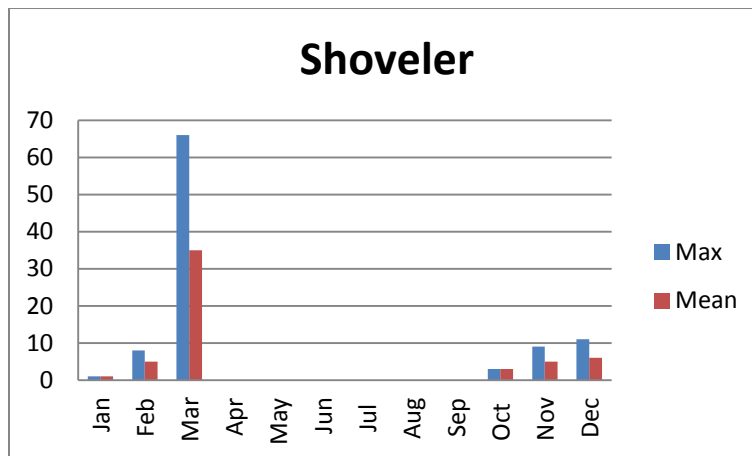
Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*): 1 near Cruzinha on the 5th of March.

Eurasian Teal (*Anas crecca*): Present from January to the end of March, with a maximum of 30 on the 7th of February at the Western Marsh and 8th 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 16th 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 8th of March at Abicada, then present from mid-October until the end of the year, with a maximum of 11 on the 7th of December at Abicada.

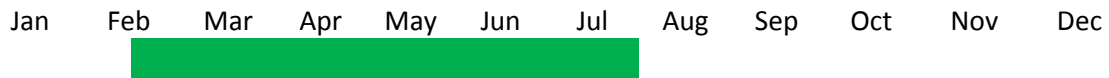


Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*): 2 to 5 birds present at the Western Marsh and Abicada between the 25th of October and the 2nd of November.

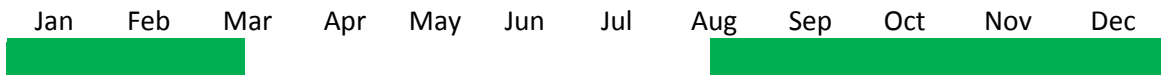
Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*): 2 sightings in March: 9 seen from Alvor beach on the 16th and 12 seen from Meia-Praia on the 30th of March.

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

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*): First heard on the 25th 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 7th of December at Abicada.

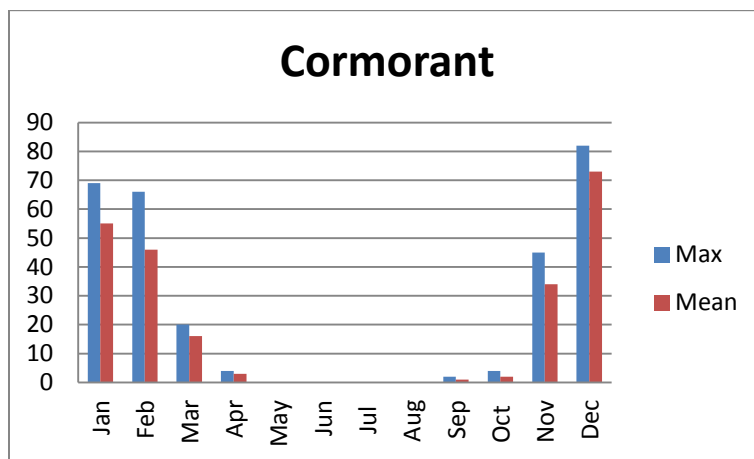


Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*): 1 bird present in January and the first half of February at the estuary.

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 26th of January at the Western Marsh. Then, present from September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 82 on the 16th of December.

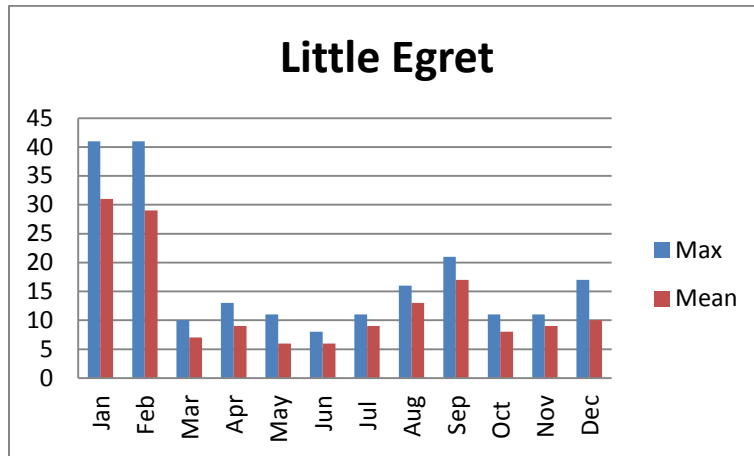


Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*): 1 heard at Cruzinha on the 7th of February.

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

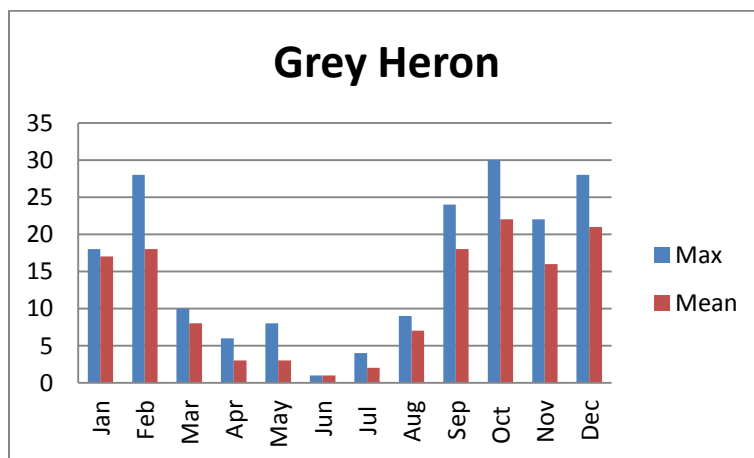
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*): Present all year.

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 18th of April.

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

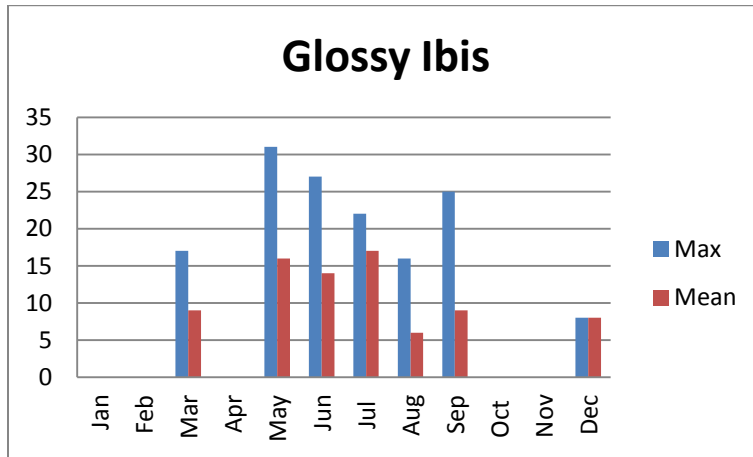


Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*): 2 sightings in spring: 5 on the 16th of March and 2 on the 18th of April, both at Abicada. 1 juvenile was also sighted at the Western Marsh on the 9th of July.

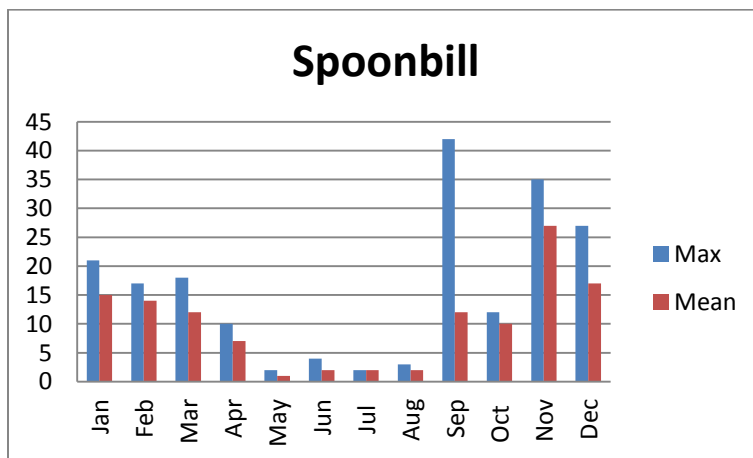
Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*): 2 seen in flight at Cruzinha on the 2nd of October, 1 in flight on the 18th of October at Abicada and 1 at Cruzinha on the 19th (same bird?), 1 on the 22nd of October at Abicada and 1 on the 2nd of November flying over the Western Marsh.

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

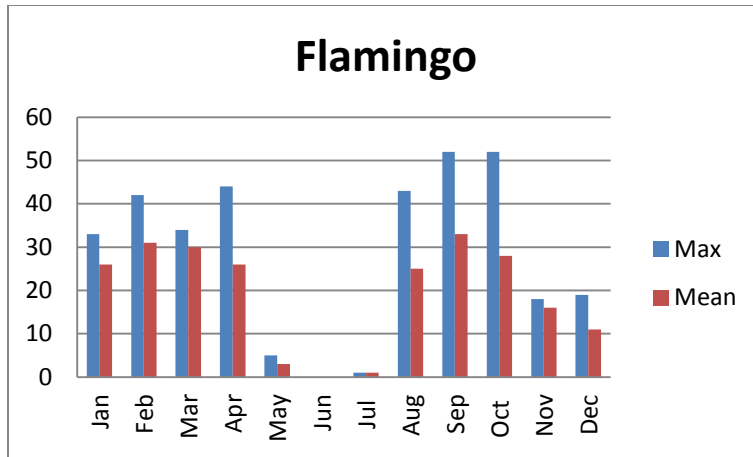
Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*): Seen in March, between May and September as well as in December. The March and December birds were seen at Abicada, the others mostly in flight over the Western Marsh.



Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*): Present all year with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximums of 21 on the 29th of January and 42 on the 25th 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 7th winter in the area.



Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*): Present all year except in June, with maximums of 42 on the 2nd of February at Abicada, 52 on the 17th of September at the Western Marsh and 18th 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 20th of September.

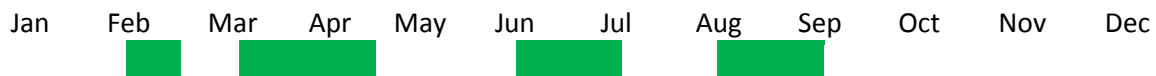
Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*): Present all year and probably bred again in the area this year as juveniles were seen during the summer.

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

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

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

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

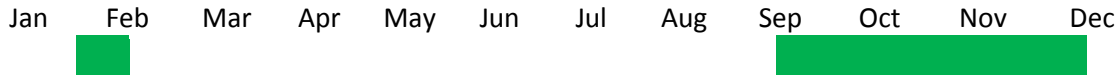
Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*): 1 female at the Western Marsh on the 30th and 31st of August and 1 juvenile near Cruzinha on the 17th of September.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*): 6 sightings in 2014: 1 on the 2nd and the 12th of February, 1 on the 4th and 15th of March, all at the Western Marsh, as well as 1 on the 20th of September and 1 on the 7th 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 16th of June.

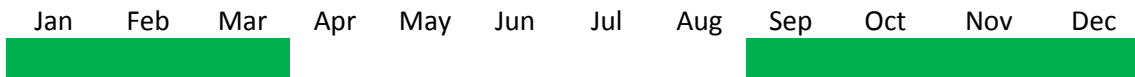


Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*): 1 sighting in winter: 1 bird at Abicada on the 2nd of February. All the other sightings are in the autumn, between the 16th of September and the 4th of December (1 to 3 birds).



Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*): 1 bird (4th calendar year) flying near Cruzinha on the 4th 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 13th 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 13th of July at Odixere 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).

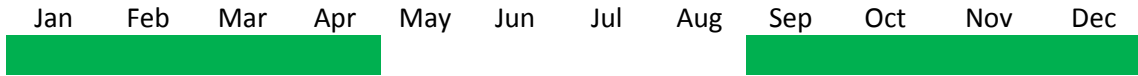


Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*): Heard during the second half of January, the first half of February and during March (Abicada). It was also heard at the beginning of June and July, the end of August and beginning of September, the second half of October, first half of November and the second half of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

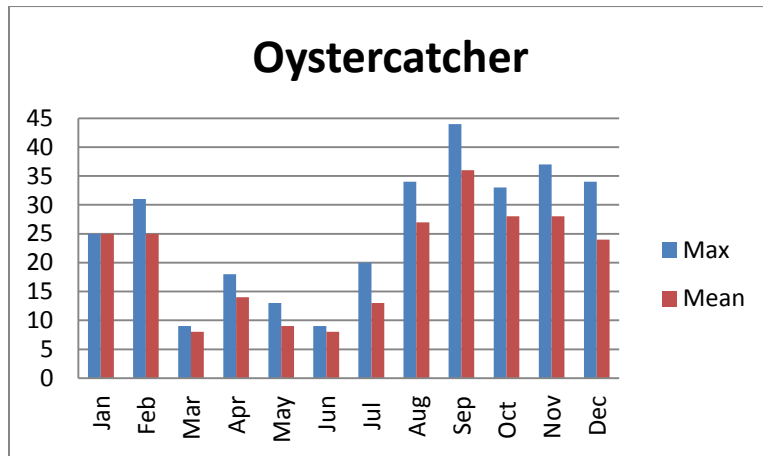


Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*): Present all year. Maximum of 5 birds on the 5th of January at Abicada.

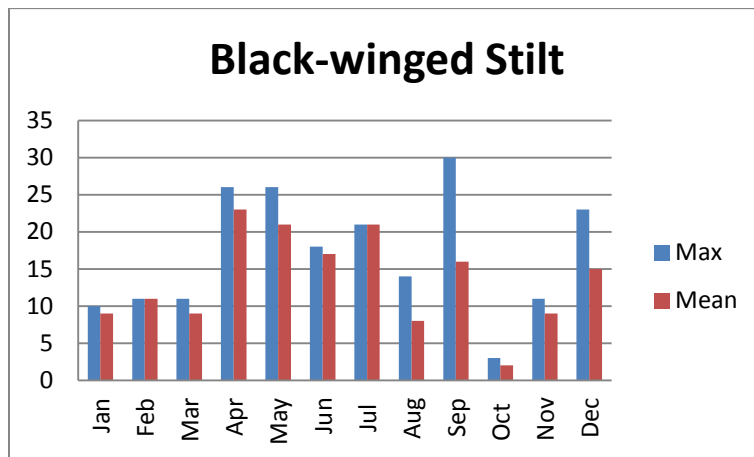
Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*): Present from January to the end of April, with a maximum of 83 birds on the 5th of January, and from the beginning of September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 142 birds on the 7th of December. Most of the sightings are from Abicada.



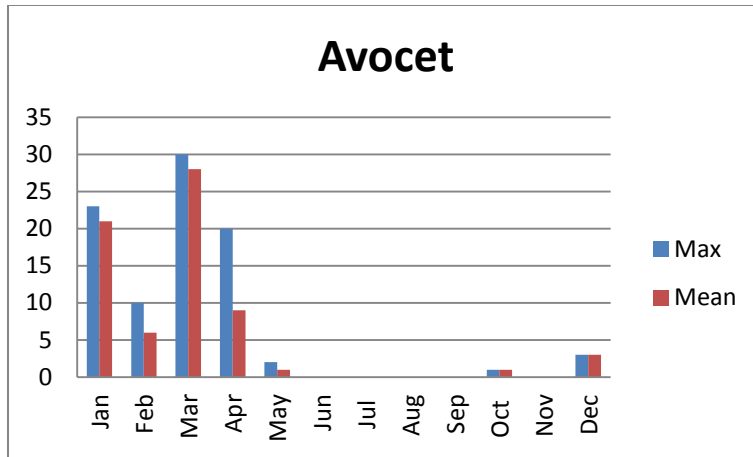
Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*): Present all year, with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 44).



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



Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*): Present from January until the beginning of May, with a maximum of 30 on the 8th of March at Abicada. Then 1 bird on the 25th of October and 3 on the 7th 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.

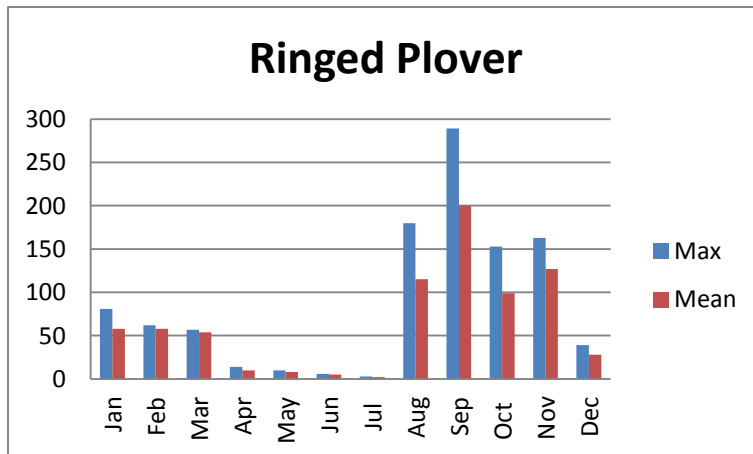


Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*): 2 sightings in 2014: 1 on the 18th of April at Abicada and 1 on the 29th of April at the Western Marsh.

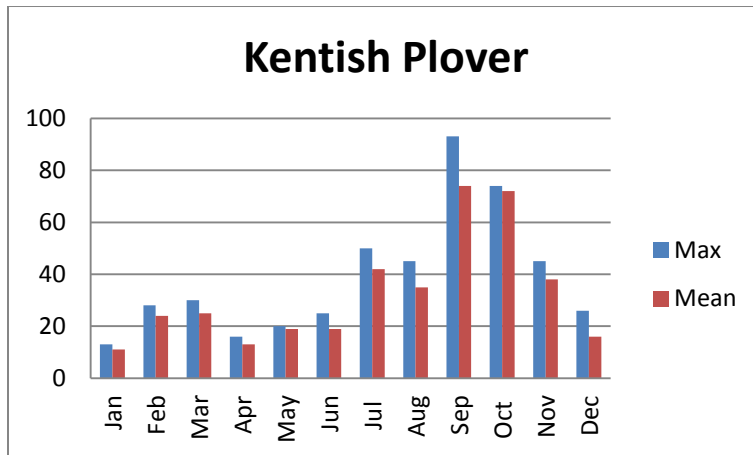
Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*): Present between the 8th of March (3 birds at the Western Marsh) and the 28th of June (1 bird at the Western Marsh). Maximum of 5 birds at Abicada on the 30th of March and confirmed breeding at Odiaxere salt pans.



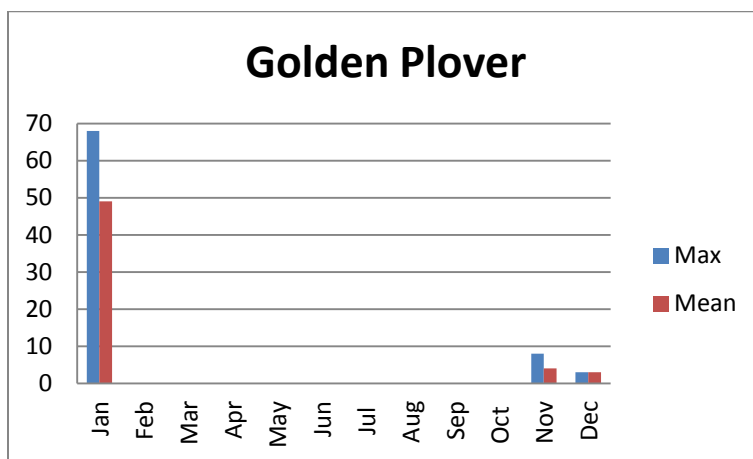
Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*): Present all year, with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 289 on the 11th of September). 1 bird from Norway was controlled in November.



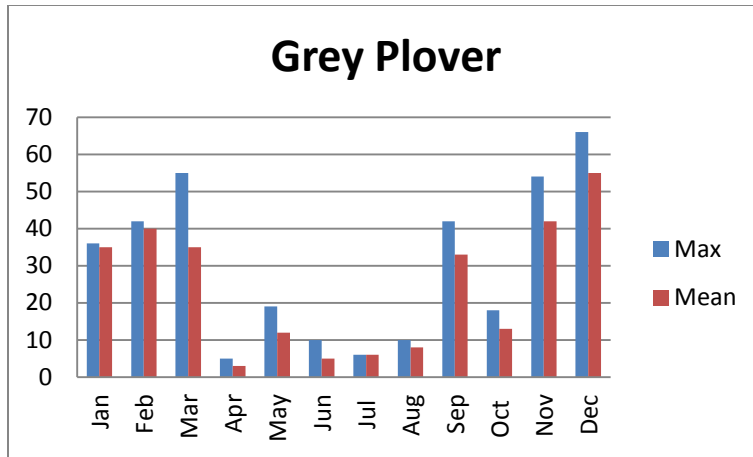
Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 93 on the 11th of September.



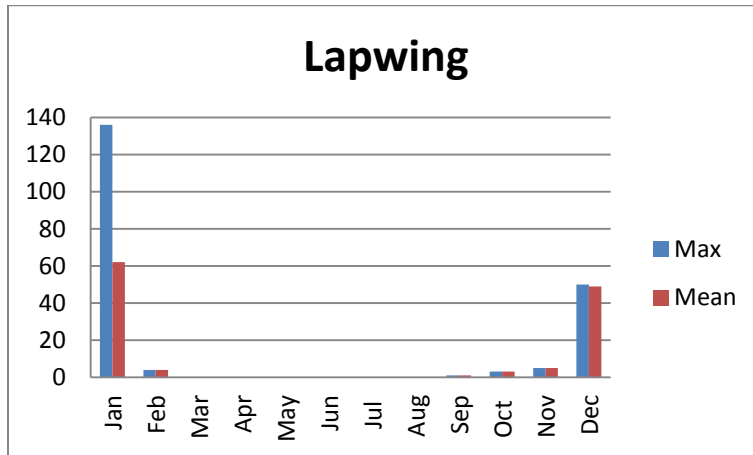
European Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*): Present in January, with a maximum of 68 on the 26th of January at the Western Marsh. Then present from November until the end of the year, with a maximum of 8 on the 14th of November.



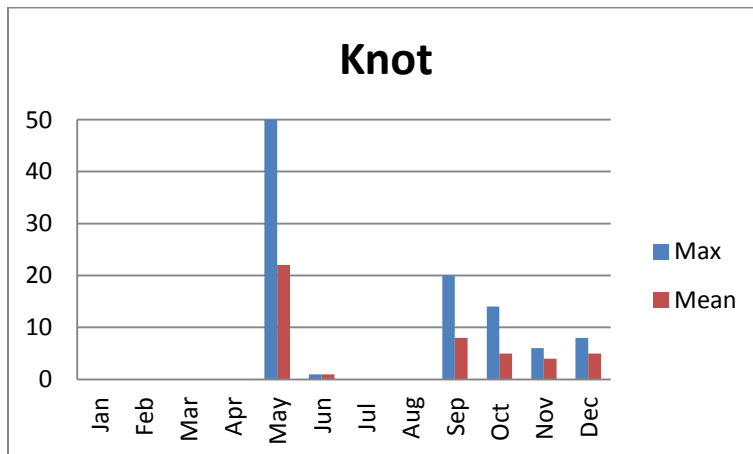
Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*): Present all year, except between mid-July and mid-August with a maximum of 55 on the 8th of March at Abicada and 66 on the 2nd of December at the Western Marsh.



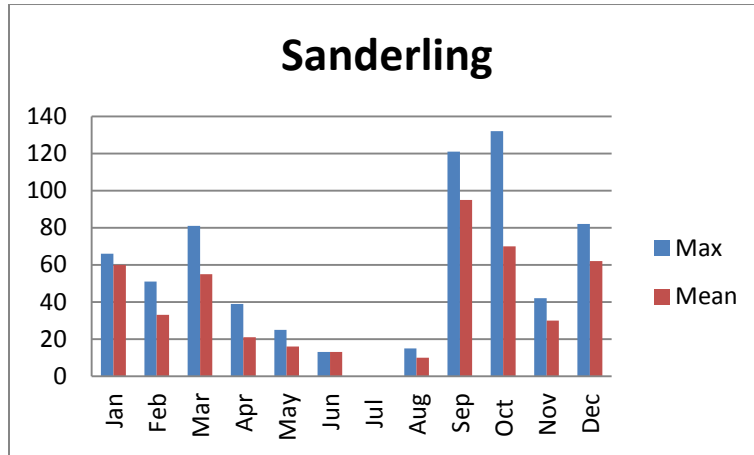
Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*): Present from January to the end of February, and then again from the end of September until the end of the year; maximum of 136 on the 13th of January at Odiaxere salt pans and 50 on the 6th of December at the Western Marsh.



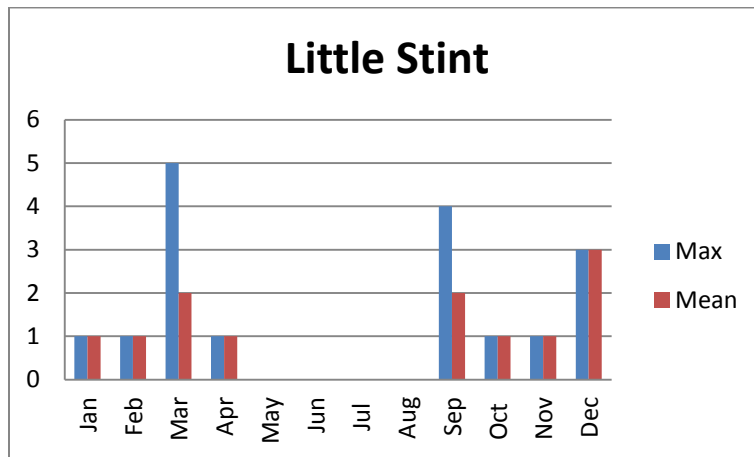
Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*): Present during the first half of May (maximum of 50 birds on the 14th), 1 on the 10th of June and from September until the end of the year (maximum of 20 birds on the 11th of September).



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 8th of March and 132 on the 8th of October.



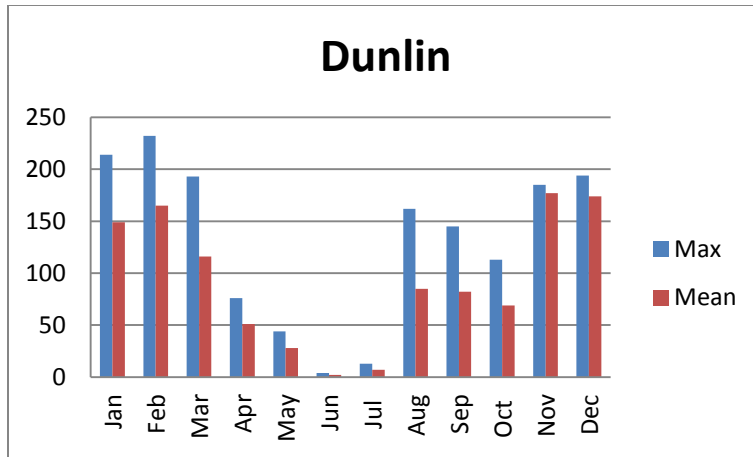
Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*): Present in the first half of February, March and first half of April (maximum of 5 birds on the 8th of March at the Western Marsh). Also present during September, the second half of October, the first half of November and the second half of December (maximum of 4 birds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



Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*): There were a few observations during the year: 1 on the 8th of April and 2 on the 5th 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 20th of September at Abicada), 3 birds on the 23rd of October at the Western Marsh and 1 at Abicada on the 7th of December.

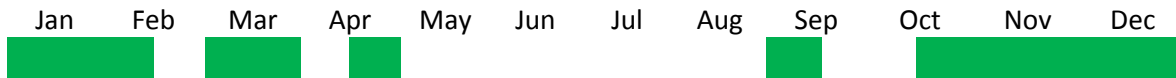


Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*): Present all year, with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 232 on the 7th of February and 194 on the 6th of December). 1 bird ringed in Spain was seen in October.

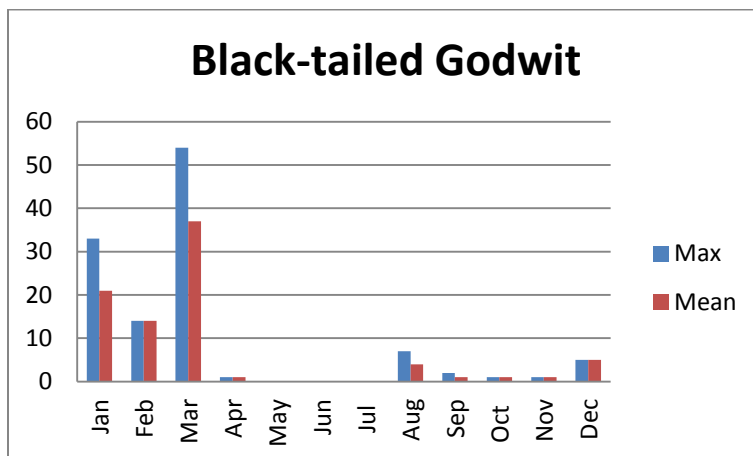


Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*): Present in March (2 birds), September (1 to 2 birds) and 1 bird on the 23rd of October at the Western Marsh.

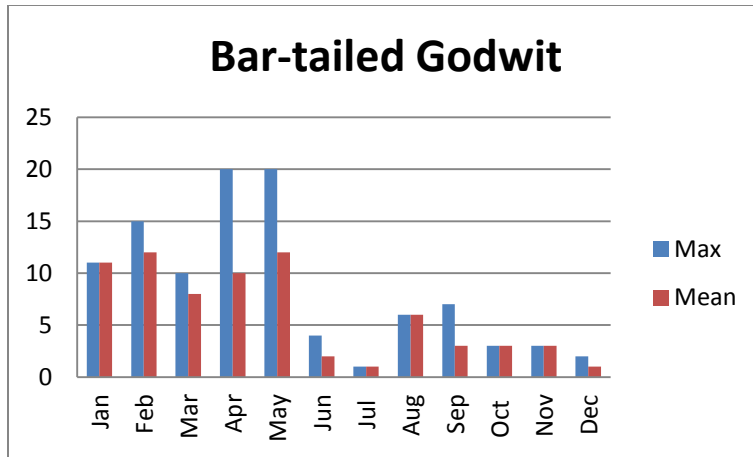
Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*): Present from January to the end of March, with 1 bird still at Abicada on the 18th of April. 1 was also seen on the 3rd of September at the Western Marsh and then from the end of October until the end of the year, with a maximum of 10 on the 8th of March at the Western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



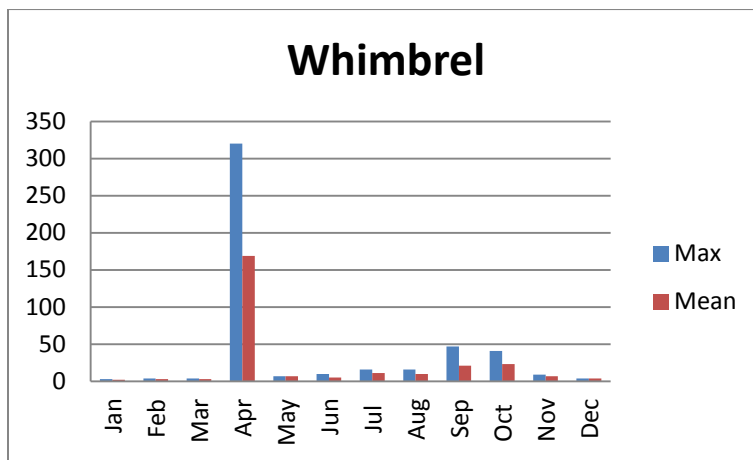
Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*): Present from January until mid-April (a maximum of 54 birds on the 8th of March at Abicada), and from August until the end of the year (a maximum of 7 on the 2nd of August at the Western Marsh). 2 ringed birds from Iceland were also found during the year.



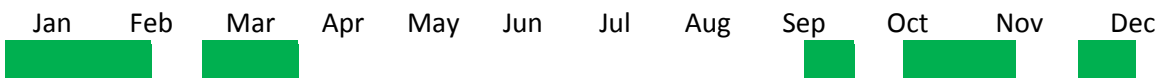
Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*): Present all year, except between mid-July and mid-August, with higher numbers in autumn and winter (a maximum of 20 on the 3rd of April).



Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*): Present all year, with a peak in April during migration (320 on the 10th 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 20th of September at Abicada).

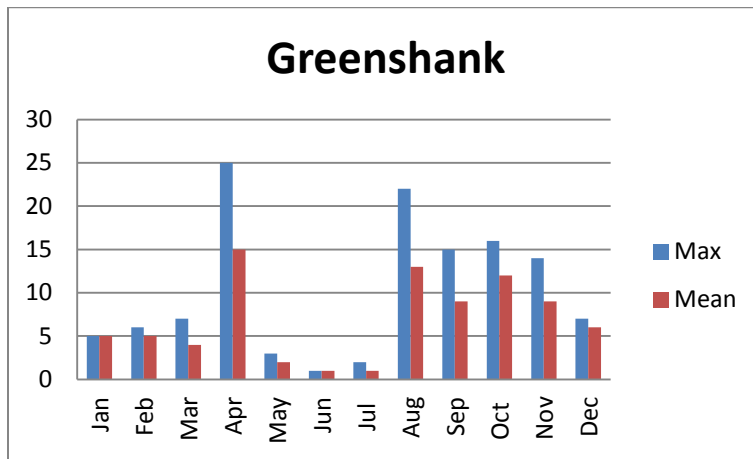


Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*): Present in January, February and March. Then, present from July until the end of the year.



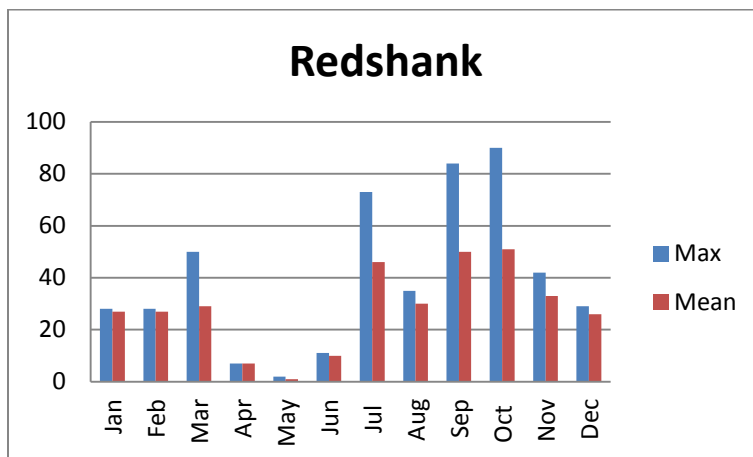
Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*): 1 sighting during the year: 2 birds on the 8th of October at the Western Marsh.

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

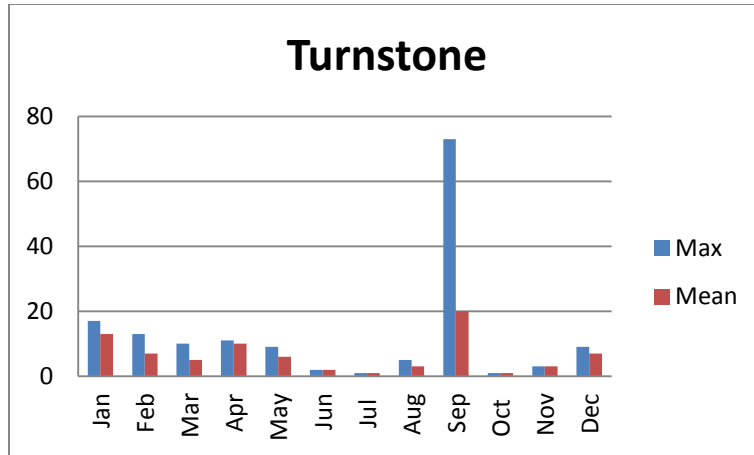


Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*): 2 sightings in 2014: 1 bird at Abicada on the 18th of April and 1 bird at the Western Marsh on the 4th of September.

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

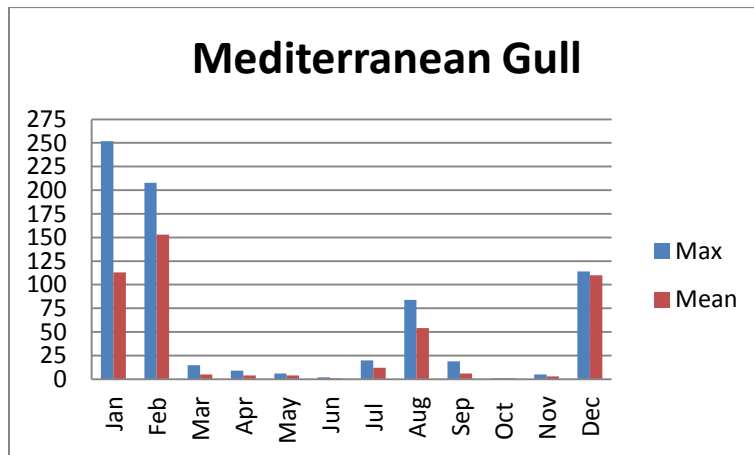


Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*): Present all year, except during the first half of August with a maximum of 73 on the 28th of September.



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

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



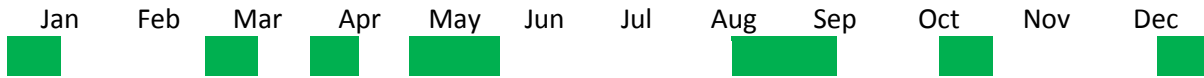
Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*): Present from January to April and from mid-June to the end of the year with a maximum of 56 on the 25th of September at the Western Marsh.



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

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

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



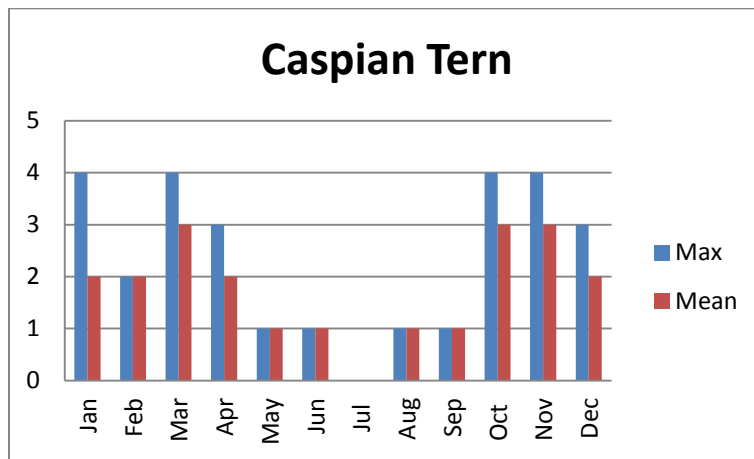
Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*): Present all year. 1 ringed bird was found during the year (from the Netherlands).

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

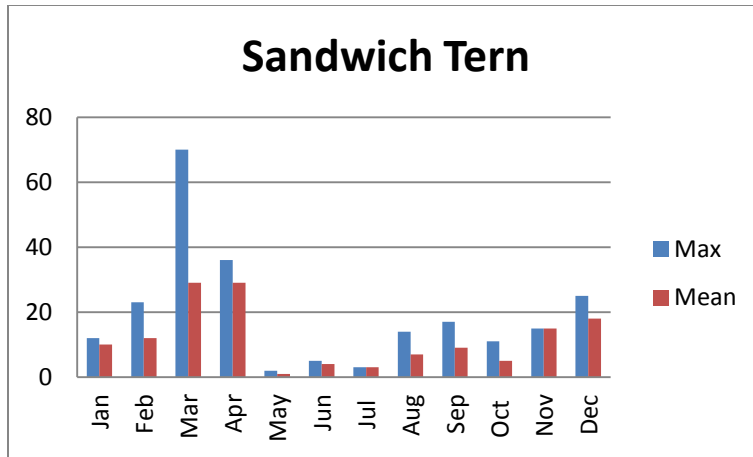
Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*): A 2nd winter bird at Abicada in March, then 1 adult at the Western Marsh in October and a 3rd winter (same bird as in March?) at Abicada in December.

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*): 1 at the Western Marsh on the 16th 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 10th and 16th. Then there was 1 bird sighted on the 2nd 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 14th of November. 1 ringed bird from Sweden was also found in March.

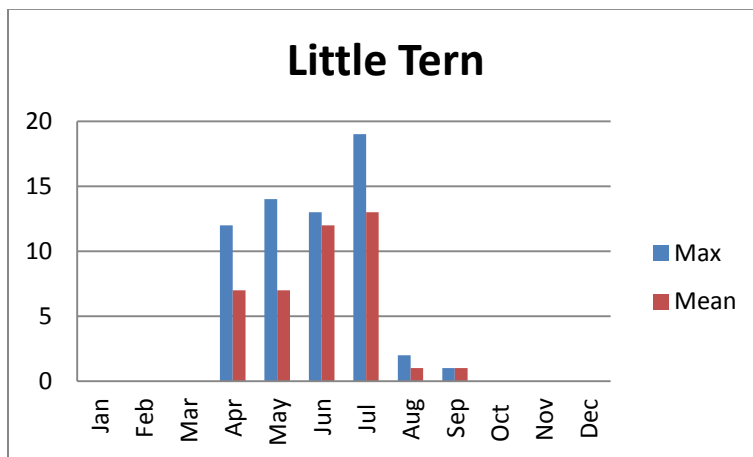


Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*): Present all year, with numbers in June and July and a maximum of 70 on the 30th of March.



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

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



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 22nd of October and 1 near Cruzinha on the 3rd of November.

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

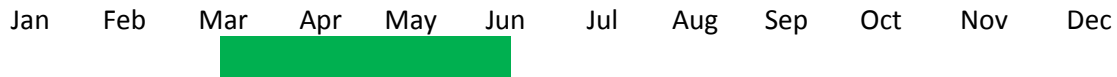
Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): Present all year.

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

Budgerigar (*Melopsittacus undulatus*): 1 at Cruzinha on the 27th 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 29th of March and the beginning of June.



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

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

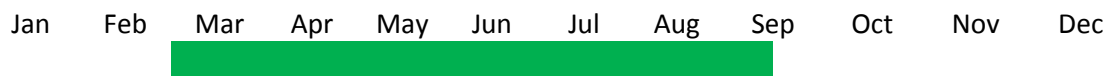
Little Owl (*Athene noctua*): Present all year.

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

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



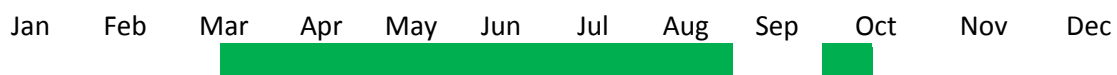
Common Swift (*Apus apus*): Present from the 4th of March (5 birds) until the beginning of September (1 bird on the 8th).



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

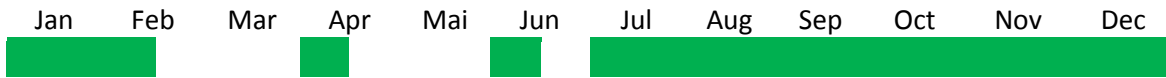


Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*): Present between mid-March (2 birds on the 19th) and the end of August. A flock of 29 was also seen flying over Cruzinha on the 14th of October.



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

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



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

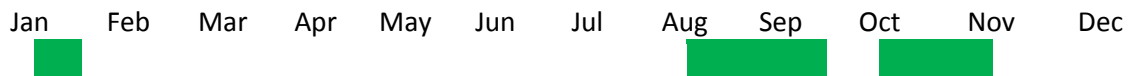


Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*): Present all year.

Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*): 2 sightings in 2014: 1 on the 17th of September and 1 on the 27th 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 14th 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.



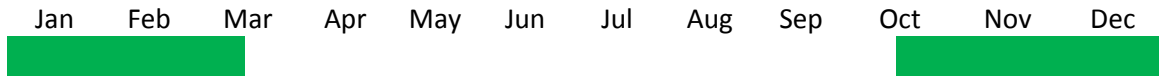
Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*): Seen between April and July, then again in September.



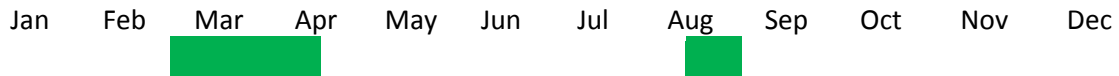
Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*): Present all year.

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

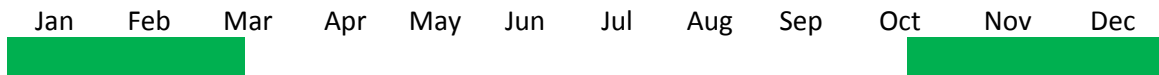
Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*): Present from January until mid-March and then from the end of October until the end of the year.



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



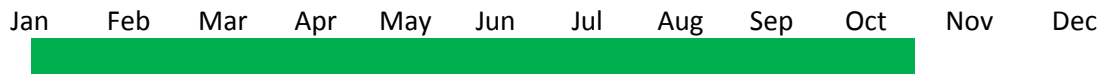
Eurasian Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*): Present from January until mid-March and then from the end of October until the end of the year.



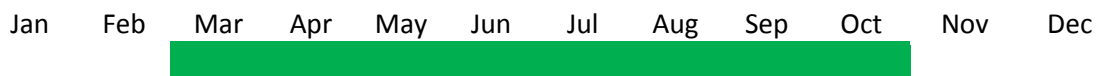
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): Present from January until mid-November.



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



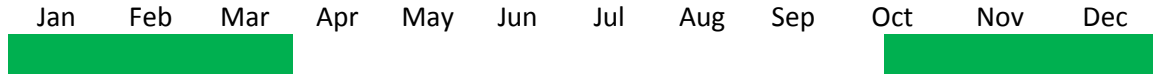
Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*): Present from the 4th of March until the end of October.



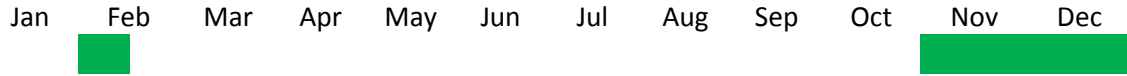
Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*): 1 at Odiaxere salt pans on the 8th of September.

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

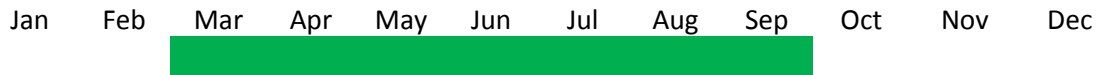
Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*): Present from January until the beginning of April, then from mid-October until the end of the year with a maximum of 120 on the 3rd of November.



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

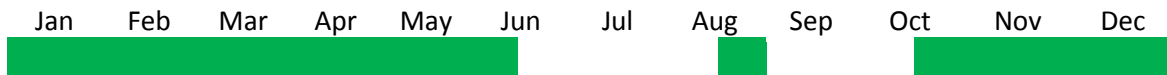


Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*): Present from the 8th of March until the end of September with 1 bird belonging to the *flava* subspecies which was seen on the 8th of March.

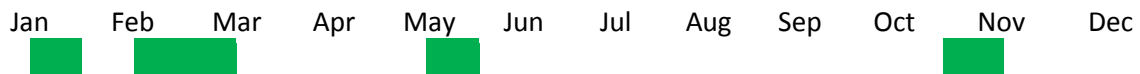


Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*): 1 bird on the 22nd of May and then present between mid-October and mid-November.

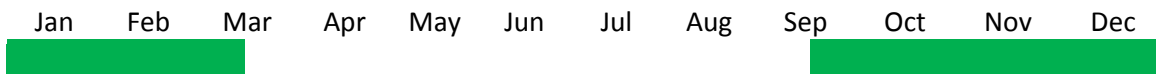
White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*): Present from January until the beginning of June. Then, 1 sighting in August and a continual presence from the end of October until the end of the year.



Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*): Present in January and February, in the first half of May, and 1 sighting on the 14th 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 18th of April until the end of May, then from the 11th 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 7th 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 16th of March at Abicada, then 1 on the 13th of April and 1 on the 6th of May, both at the Western Marsh. 1 was also sighted on the 10th of July at Odiaxere saltpans, then present from mid-August until the beginning of November, with a maximum of 9 birds on the 25th 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 16th and the 18th of June, then 1 also at the Western Marsh on the 26th of October and 1 at Odiaxere saltpans on the 2nd 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 12th of July.

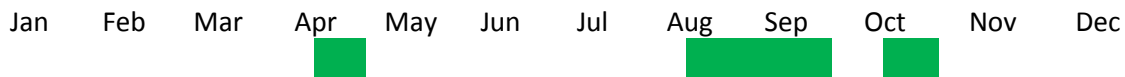
Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*): Present all year, mostly at Abicada.

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 21st 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 29th of January at the Western Marsh and between the 29th of October and the end of the year at the Western Marsh.

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

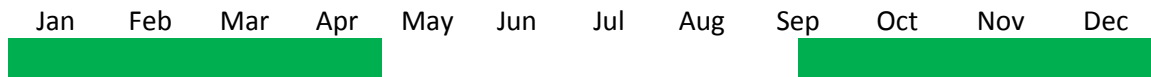
Subalpine Warbler (*Sylvia cantillans*): Present in the second half of September and 1 bird seen on the 2nd of November at Abicada.

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.

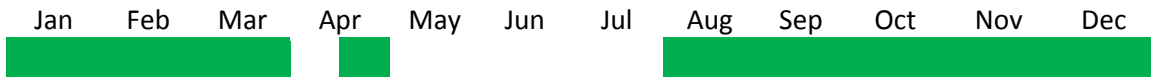
Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*): Present from January until May and from the end of September until the end of the year. 1 ringed bird from Britain was also caught at Cruzinha.



Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*): 1 at Cruzinha on the 27th of October and 1 (the same?) present between the 3rd and the 9th 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 17th of April, 1 on the 2nd 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 20th of September (wing length of 72 mm).

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

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

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

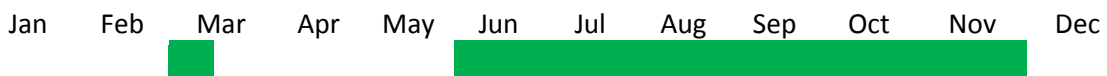


Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*): 2 at Cruzinha on the 6th of December.

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

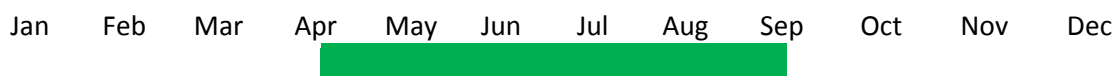
Great Tit (*Parus major*): Present all year.

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 2nd and at least 5 on the 5th of November at Abicada.

Eurasian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*): First detected on the 17th 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 8th of April until the end of September.

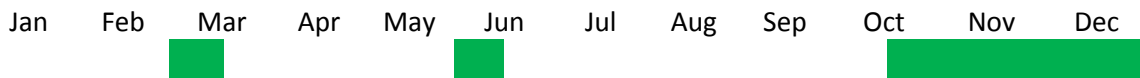


Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*): 1 on the 29th of October and 1 on the 14th of November.

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 5th of May.

Western Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*): 1 on the 15th 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.



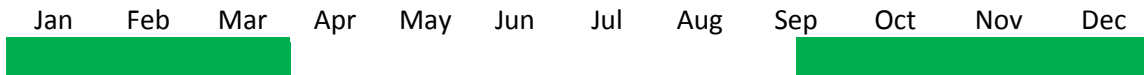
Northern Raven (*Corvus corax*): 2 birds at Abicada at the end of January and beginning of February. Then, 1 bird seen at Cruzinha on both the 6th and 16th of October.

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

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

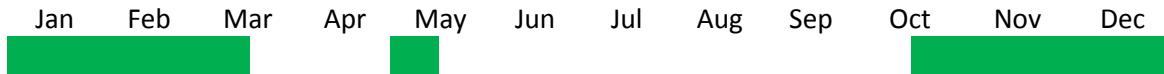
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*): Present all year.

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 14th of November.



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

Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*): Present from January to mid-March, 1 bird seen on the 8th 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 23rd of January.

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

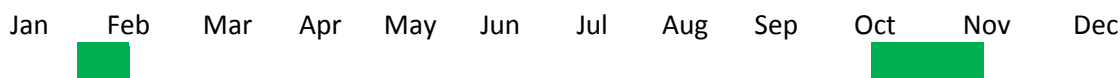
European Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*): Present all year.

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 12th 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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