

Systematic List of the Birds of Ria de Alvor 2015

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A Rocha Life Portugal

A total of 187 species of birds, out of the 316 seen, were registered in the Ria de Alvor Natura 2000 site in 2015 (same number as in 2014) and 2 new species were added to the list: Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*) and Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*).

Highlights for 2015 were: a small group of Brant Geese (*Branta bernicla*), one of them staying for a few months, 2 Red-footed Falcons (*Falco vespertinus*), part of a big influx, seen at Abicada, the firsts since 1990, the first Franklin's Gull for Ria de Alvor, a Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), the first since 2003, the first sighting of a Savi's Warbler (*Locustella luscinioides*) in the area since 1995, the presence for the third consecutive year of a Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) in Cruzinha garden in the autumn, after one staying for two weeks in the same place in spring and the confirmed breeding of Redshank in the area.

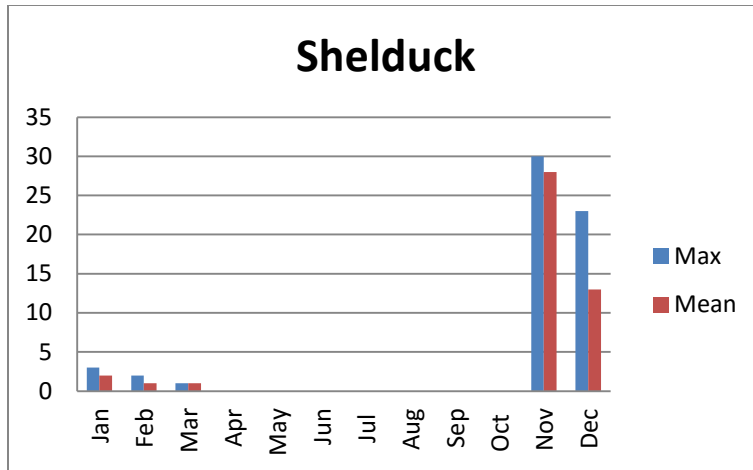
Other interesting records were: more sightings of Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*), Great Egret (*Egretta alba*) and Magpie (*Pica pica*), a record number of Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) in January and Dunlins (*Calidris alpina*) in December (>400), the presence of the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) almost all year round, the first sighting since 2007 of Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*) and the longer presence of Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*).

A few birds carrying rings were noted this year: Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*), Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*), Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*), Mediterranean (*Larus melanocephalus*), Audouin's, (*Larus audouinii*), Yellow-legged (*Larus michahellis*) and Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*Larus fuscus*) and Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*).

The complete bird list for 2015 is described below (bird names follow the systematic list of Crochet and Joynt, 2015).

Brant Goose (*Branta bernicla*): 5 immature at Vale de Lama and the estuary between the 3rd and 7th of January. Then, 1 bird (part of the group of 5?) at the estuary between the 15th of January and the 13th of March.

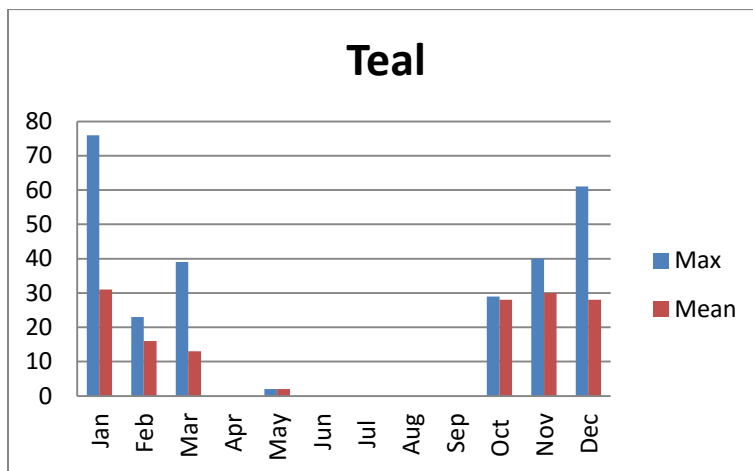
Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*): Present between January and March at the Western Marsh (maximum of 3 birds). Then, present from the end of November until mid-December, with a maximum of 30 on the 18th of November.



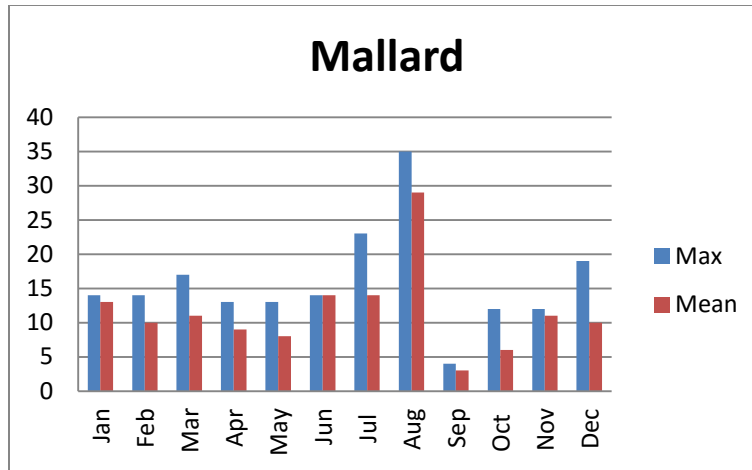
Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*): 1 on the 27th of October on the Alvor river.

Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*): 1 female in an irrigation channel near Cruzinha on the 3rd of April.

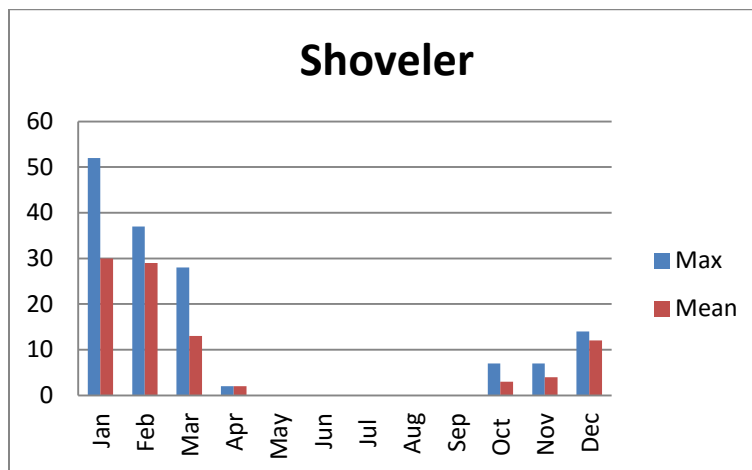
Eurasian Teal (*Anas crecca*): Present from January to the end of March, with a maximum of 76 on the 17th of January at Abicada. Then, 2 birds were seen at Abicada on the 20th of May. In the autumn, they were present from the end of October until the end of the year, with a maximum of 61 on the 11th of December at Abicada.



Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*): Present all year. 1 bird ringed in Portugal was controlled several times during the year (March, April, September).



Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*): Present from January to the beginning of April, with a maximum of 52 on the 17th of January at Abicada, then present from mid-October until the end of the year, with a maximum of 14 on the 17th of December at Abicada.



Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*): 3 sightings in December: 1 seen at Alvor harbour on the 11th and 1 at the estuary on the 15th and 23rd.

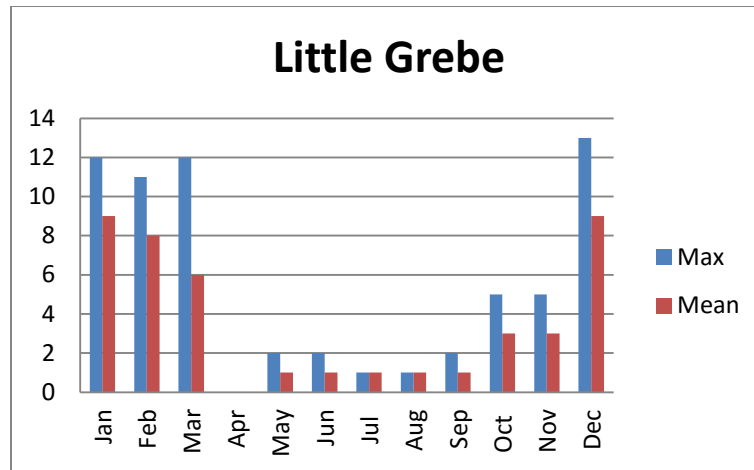
Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*): 1 near Alvor harbour between the 1st and the 17th of December.

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*): First seen on the 7th of January, and present until the end of July. 1 bird caught and ringed on the 21st of October at Cruzinha.



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

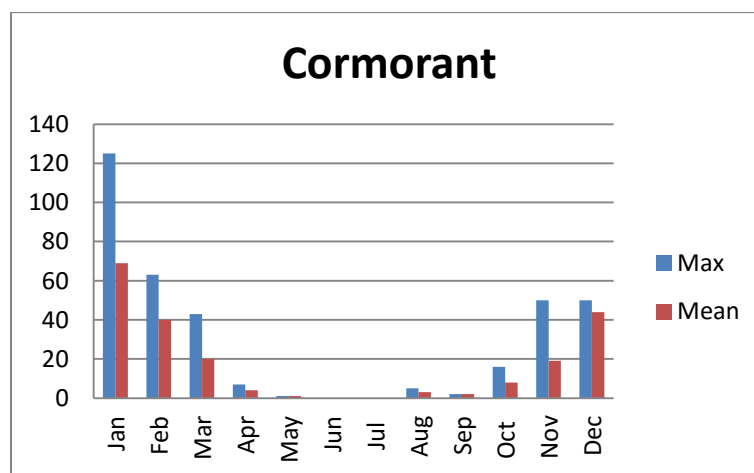
Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*): Seen all year except in April, with bigger numbers in winter (maximum of 13 birds at Abicada).



Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*): 1 bird present in on the 11th of December at Alvor harbour.

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*): Present from January to the beginning of June, and then from mid-August until the end of the year. This species is probably under detected.

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*): Present from January until mid-May, with a maximum of 125 on the 31st of January at the Western Marsh. Then, present from August until the end of the year, with a maximum of 50 on the 25th of November and 17th of December.



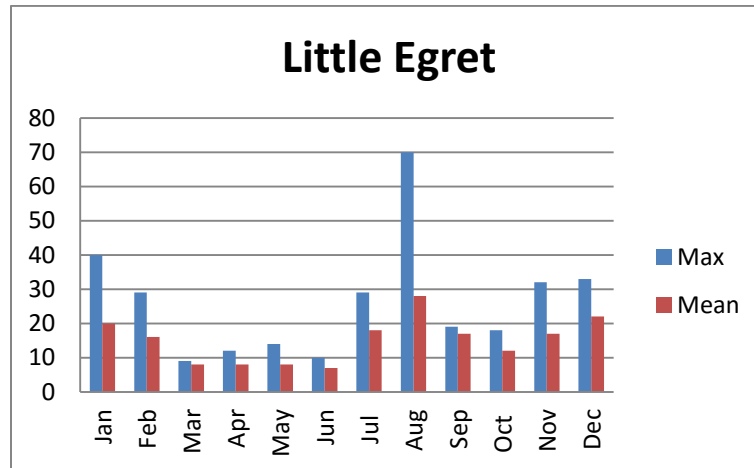
Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*): Several sightings in spring at Abicada: 1 female on the 29th of May and 1 male on the 17th and 27th of May.

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*): 2 sightings in 2015, both in May at Abicada: 1 adult on the 17th and 2 birds on the 29th.

Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*): 3 sightings this year, all in May: 1 at Montes de Alvor on the 13th, 1 on the 17th at Abicada and 1 bird at Montes de Alvor on the 27th.

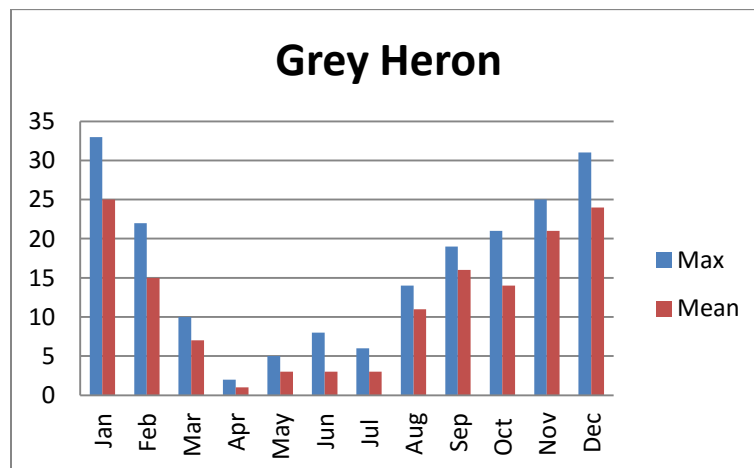
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*): Present all year with a maximum of 198 on the 30th of November (bird counted on their way to roost).

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*): Present all year; maximum of 70 at the Western Marsh in August.

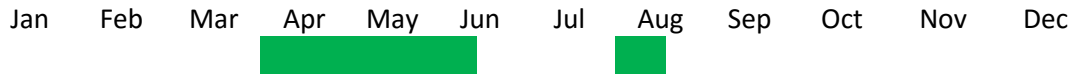


Great Egret (*Egretta alba*): 1 seen at Abicada on the 25th of September, 1 on the same place on the 25th of October, 2 birds flying towards the Western Marsh on the 17th of November and 1 there on the 16th and 17th of December.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*): Present all year with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 33 on the 14th of January and 31 on the 2nd of December, both at the Western Marsh)



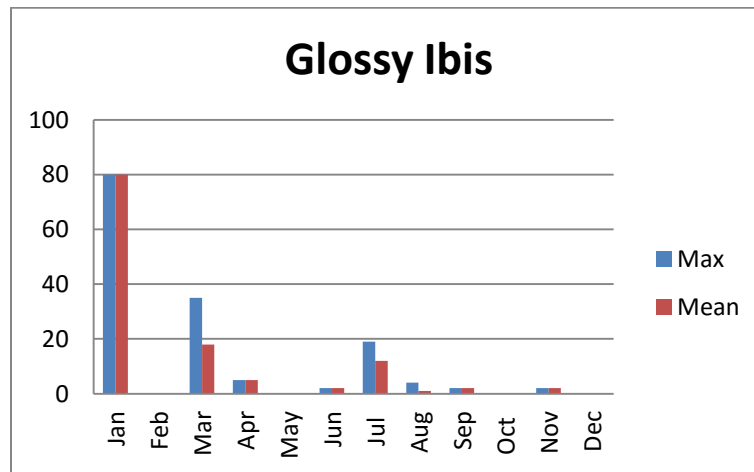
Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*): Seen between April and mid-June with a maximum of 2 birds at Abicada. Then, a couple of sightings at Abicada at the end of July and beginning of August (maximum of 2 birds).



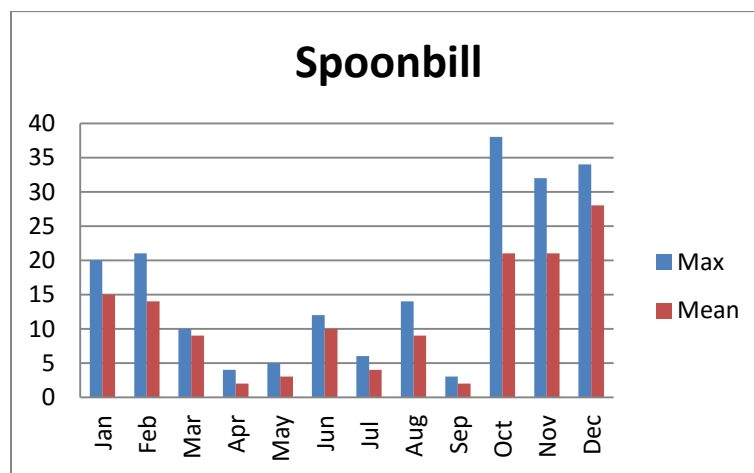
Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*): 2 sightings during the second half of November: 1 on the 17th and 1 on the 28th, both in flight.

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*): Present all year; maximum of 160 at Abicada on the 1st of November and 11th of December. 2 ringed birds have been controlled in December (from Portugal).

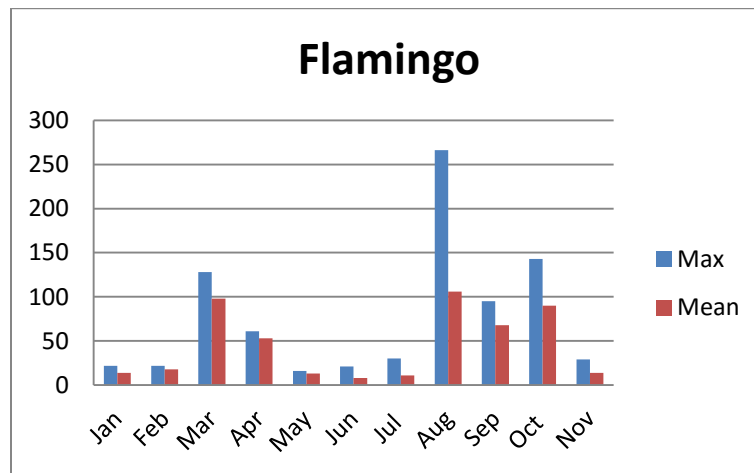
Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*): Seen every month except in February, May, October and December.



Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*): Present all year with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximums of 21 on the 27th of February and 38 on the 27th of October, both at the Abicada). 8 ringed birds have been controlled over the year (7 from the Netherlands and 1 from France). Several of these birds are regular winter visitors.



Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 226 on the 5nd of August at the Western Marsh. 20 ringed birds have been controlled over the year (18 from Spain and 2 from France).



European Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*): 1 flying over Cruzinha on the 21st of September.

Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*): Probably present all year but not seen in July and September.

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*): 2 sightings in 2015, both in May: 1 on the 14th at Abicada and 1 on the 19th at the Western Marsh.

Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*): 1 flying over Cruzinha on the 15th of October and 1 at Abicada on the 13th of November.

Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*): 1 in flight over Odiaxere salt pans on the 3rd of January, 1 at Abicada on the 25th of October and 195 over Cruzinha on the 27th of October.

Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*): First sighting on the 7th of February at the Western Marsh, then seen every month until the end of August. 1 sighting of a bird on the 27th of October at the Western Marsh.

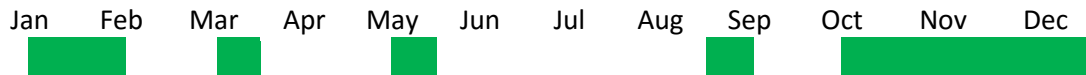


Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*): Present all year with at least 3 different birds in the area.

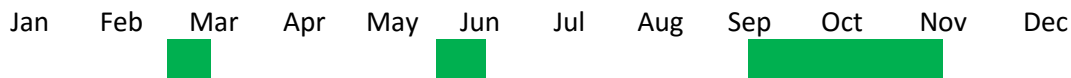
Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*): 3 sightings: 1 on the 22nd of March and 1 on the 21st of October, both at the Western Marsh, and 1 on the 11th of December at Abicada.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*): 1 sighting in 2015: 1 on the 13th of August at Cruzinha.

Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*): Present from January until the end of March, then from the beginning of September until the end of the year. 1 sighting in spring of 1 bird at the Western Marsh on the 22nd of May.



Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*): 2 sighting in spring: 1 bird on the 13th of March and 1 on the 6th of June, both at Abicada. All the other sightings are in the autumn, between the 25th of September and the 13th of November (1 to 10 birds).



Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*): Seen all year except in April, with a maximum of 3 birds in the autumn. 1 bird carrying a black ring was seen from October until the end of the year. Unfortunately, the code could not be read. This bird may come from Germany, Poland or Latvia.

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

Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*): 1 male and 1 female at Abicada on the 14th of May.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*): 1 male flying over the Western Marsh on the 13th of March.

Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*): 2 sightings in spring, both at Abicada: 1 on the 14th of May and 1 on the 12th of June and 1 sighting in the autumn, on the 16th of October, also at Abicada

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*): Seen all year.

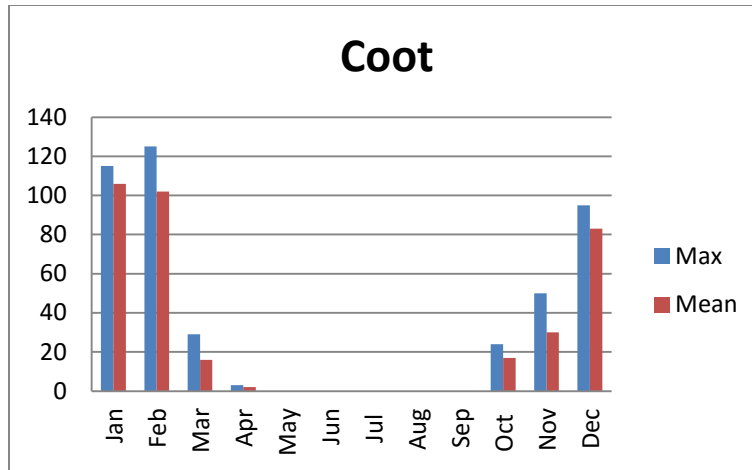
Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*): Heard in March and every month between May and August. Then, heard during the second half of October and first half of November.



Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*): Present all year. Maximum of 7 birds on the 17th of January at Abicada.

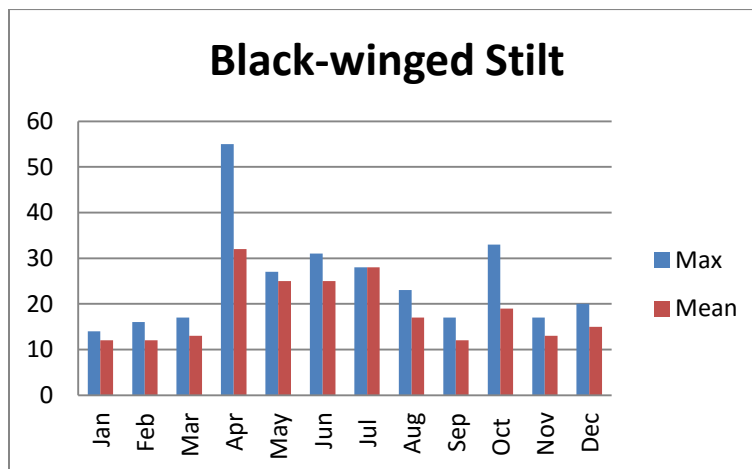
Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*): 1 at Abicada on the 25th of October.

Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*): Present from January to the end of April, with a maximum of 125 birds on the 1st of February, and from the end of October until the end of the year, with a maximum of 95 birds on the 11th of December. All the sightings are from Abicada.

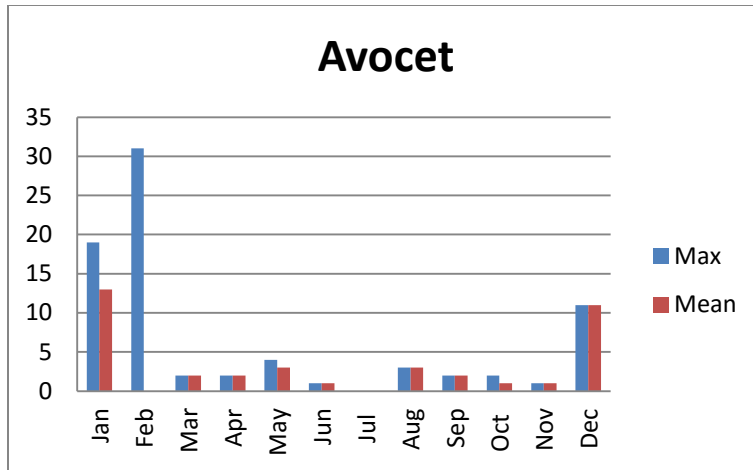


Eurasian Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oedicnemus*): Heard or seen all year except in September and December.

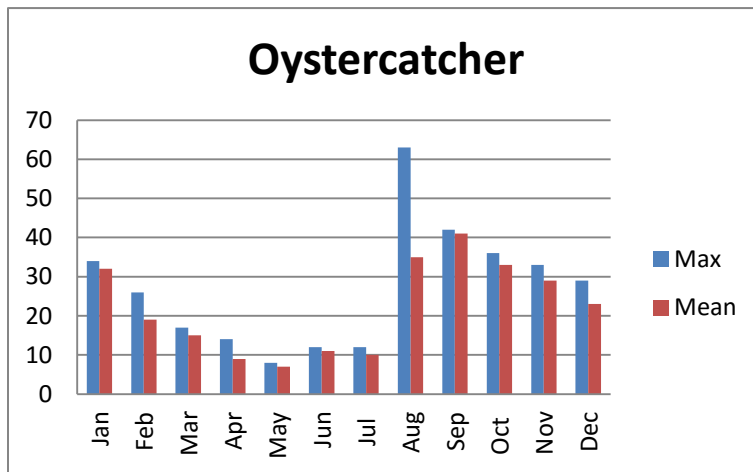
Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 55 birds on the 3rd of April at Abicada.



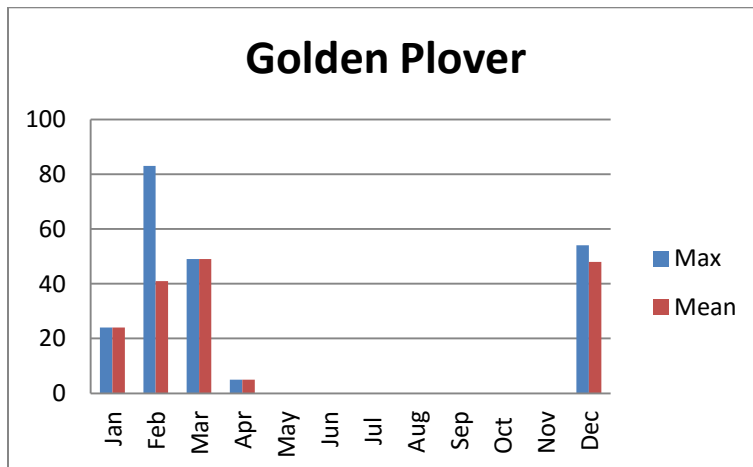
Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*): Present every month except in July, with a maximum of 31 birds on the 13th of February at Abicada.



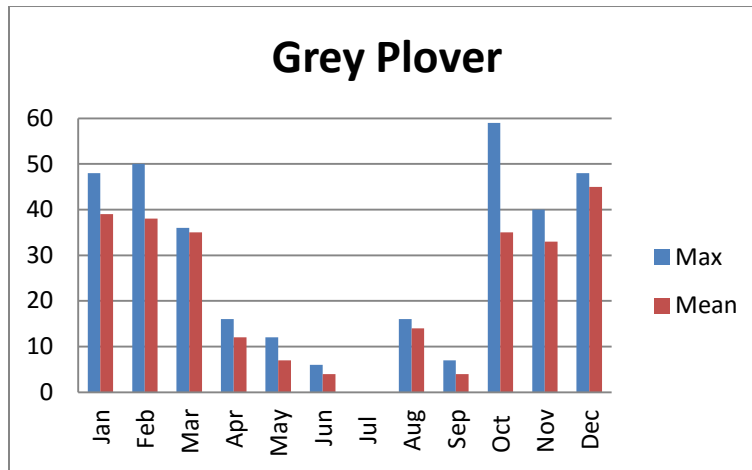
Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*): Present all year, with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 63).



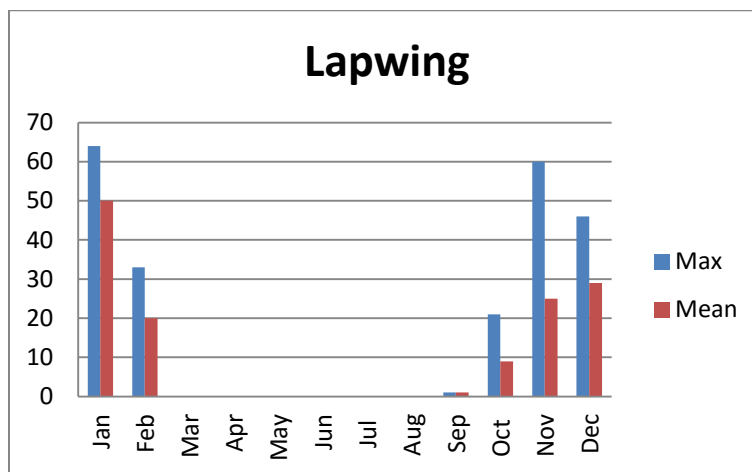
European Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*): Present between January and mid-March, with a maximum of 83 on the 18th of February at the Western Marsh. Then, 5 birds on the 24th of April at Abicada and present in December with a maximum of 54 on the 15th of December.



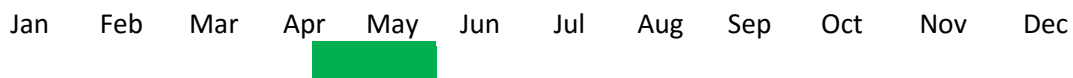
Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*): Present all year, except in July with maximums of 50 on the 14th of February and 59 on the 26th of October, both at the Western Marsh.



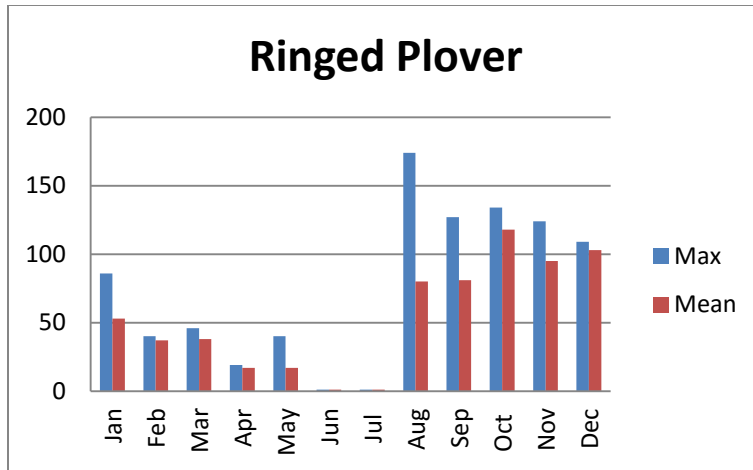
Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*): Present from January to the end of February, and then again from of September until the end of the year; maximum of 64 on the 24th of January at Abicada and 60 on the 4th of November at the Western Marsh.



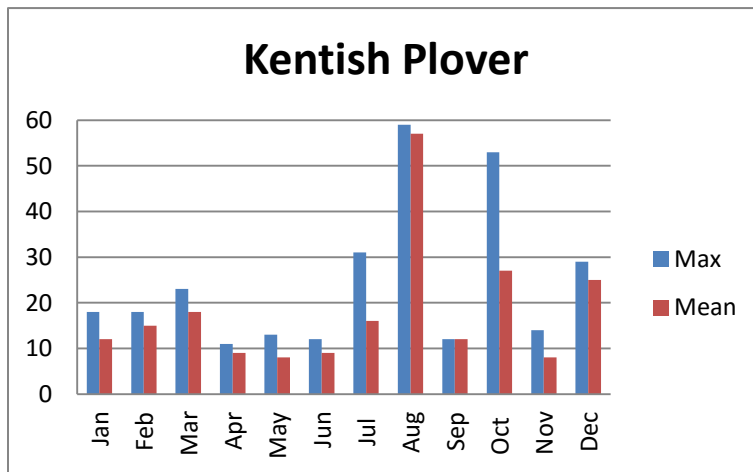
Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*): Present between the 16th of April and the end of May, all sightings from Abicada and Odiaxere salt pans.



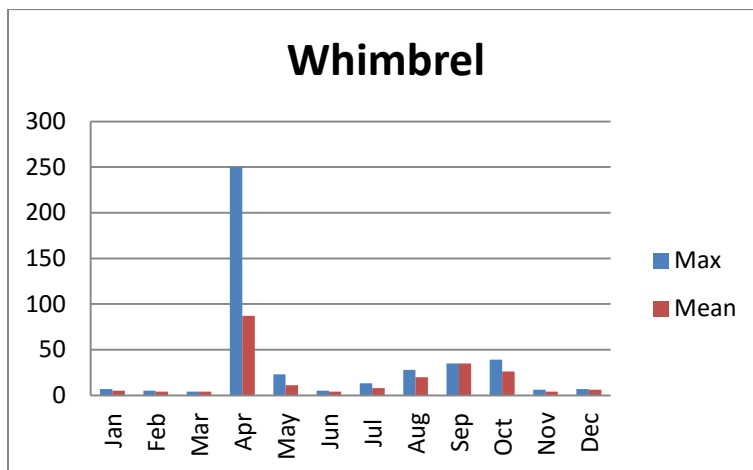
Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*): Present all year, with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 174 on the 19th of August).



Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 59 on the 5th and 31st of August. 1 bird ringed in France was controlled in December.

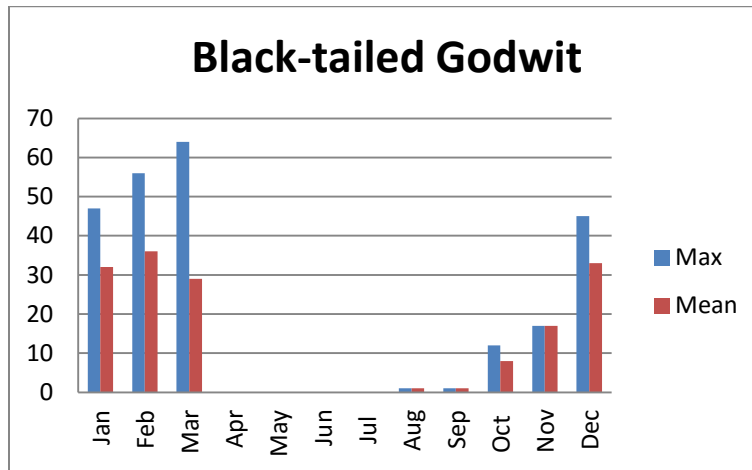


Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*): Present all year, with a peak in April during migration (250 on the 18th of April). One bird ringed in Wales was controlled during the migration.

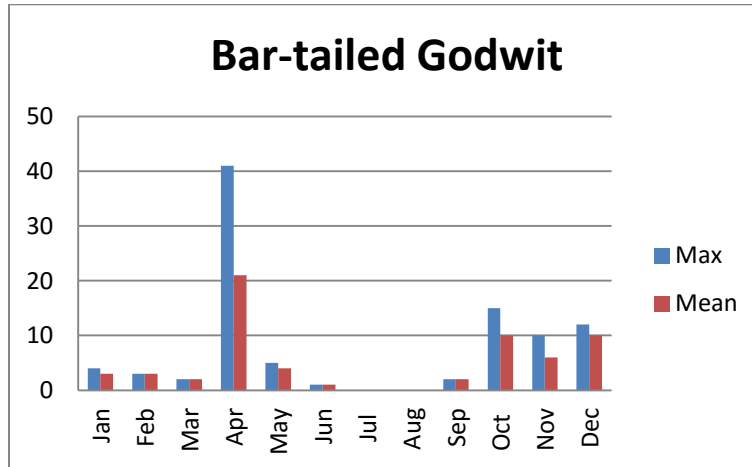


Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*): 3 sightings during the year: 1 on the 31st of August, 1 on the 23rd of October and 1 on the 5th of November, all at the Western Marsh.

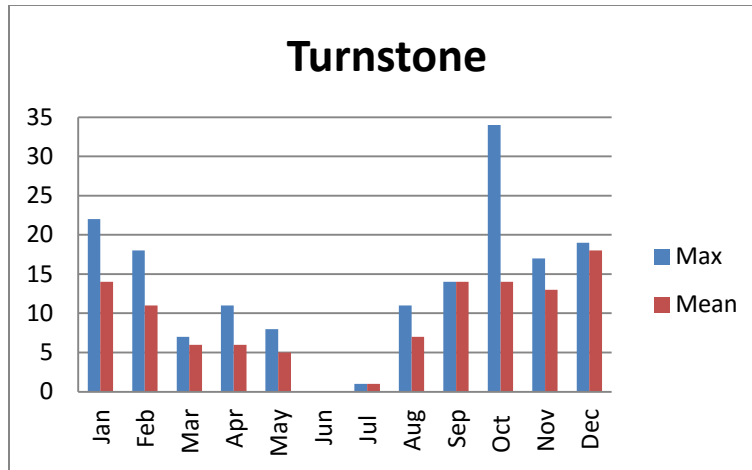
Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*): Present from January until the end of March (maximum of 64 birds on the 7th of March at Abicada), and from August until the end of the year (a maximum of 45 on the 11th of December at Abicada).



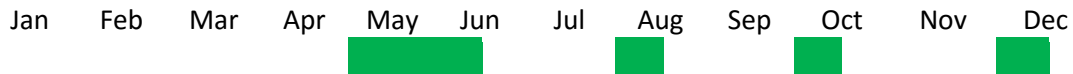
Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*): Present between January and June and between the end of September and the end of the year, with a maximum of 41 on the 29th of May.



Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*): Present all year, except in June with a maximum of 34 on the 30th of October.



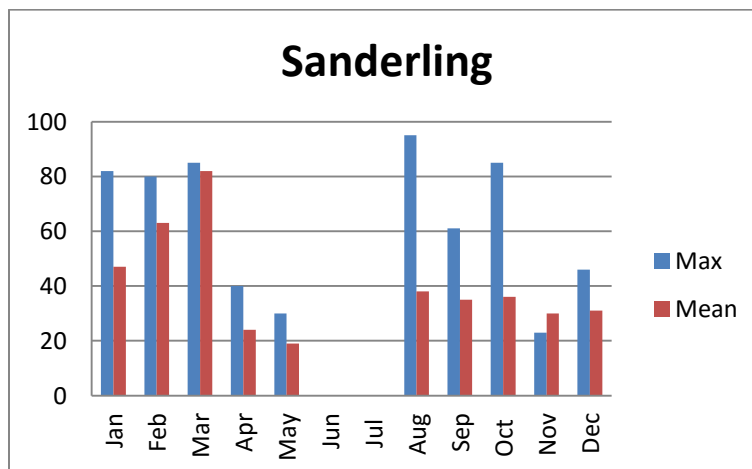
Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*): Present during the second half of May (maximum of 8 birds on the 29th), 6 on the 3rd of June, 1 on the 14th of August, 1 on the 2nd of October and 2 on the 8th of December.



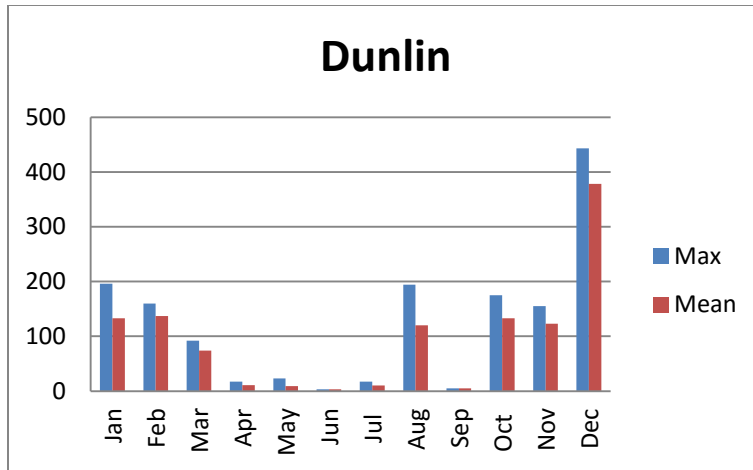
Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*): Present at the end of March (2 birds) and beginning of April (1 bird) all at the Western Marsh.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*): There were a few observations during the year: 1 on the 12th of May, 6 on the 5th and 2 on the 19th of August, all at the Western Marsh.

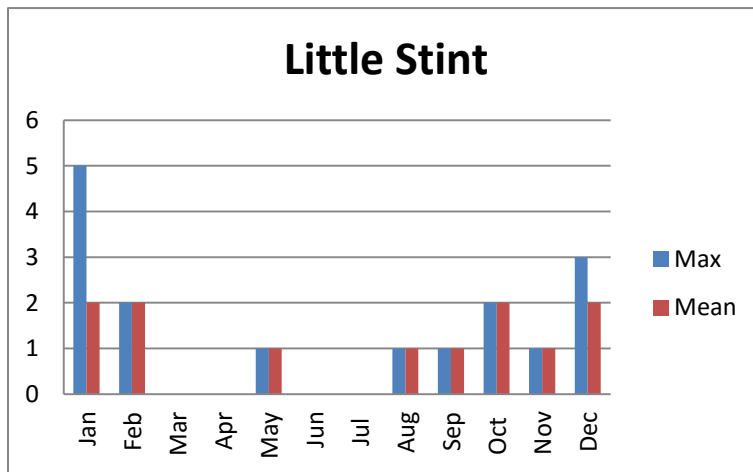
Sanderling (*Calidris alba*): Present from January to the end of May and from August until the end of the year, with maximums of 85 on the 27th of March and 95 on the 19th of August.



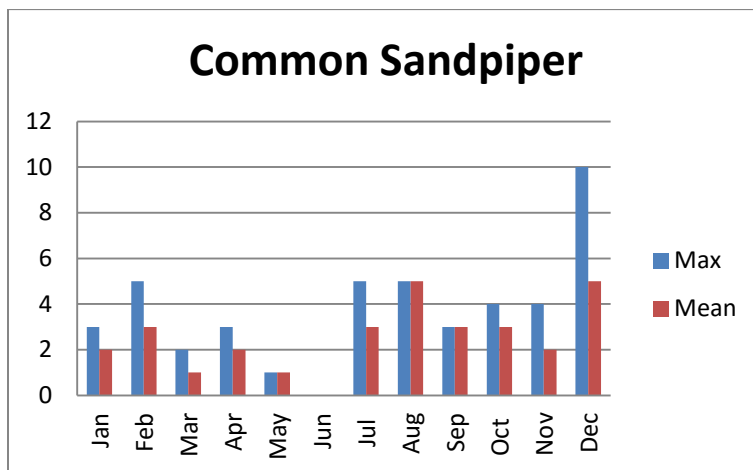
Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*): Present all year, with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 196 on the 1st of January and 443 on the 8th of December). 1 bird ringed in Spain was seen in January and probably wintered in the area (previous control at Ria de Alvor in October 2014).



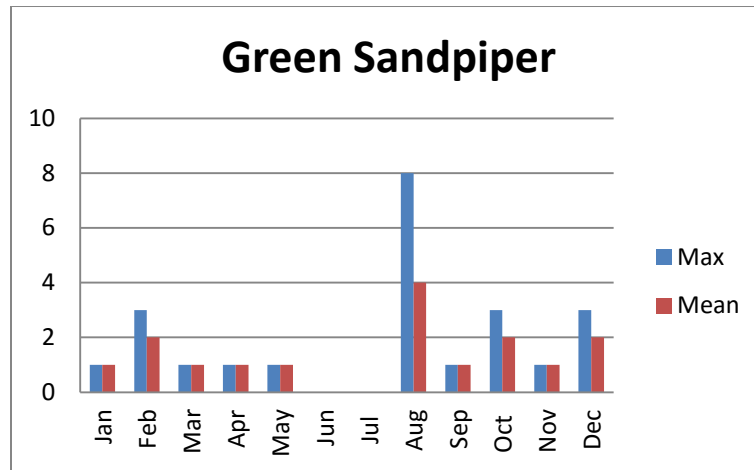
Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*): Present in January and February, in May and between August and the end of the year with a maximum of 5 birds on the 5th of January.



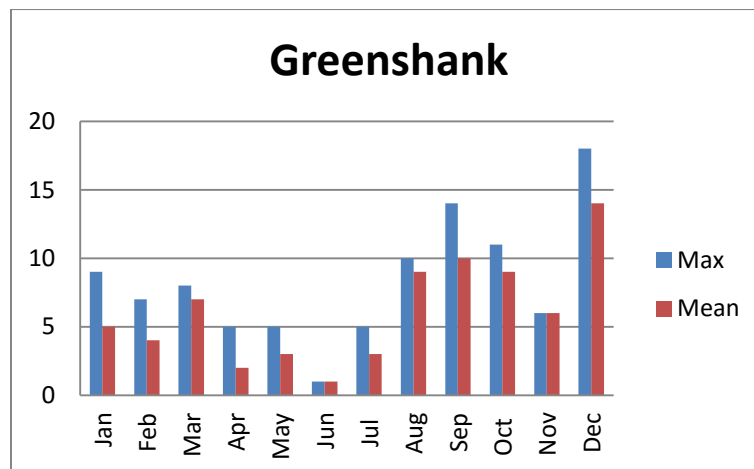
Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*): Present from January until mid-May, then from July until the end of the year, with a maximum of 10 on the 11th of December at Abicada.



Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*): Present between January and May, then, between August and the end of the year.

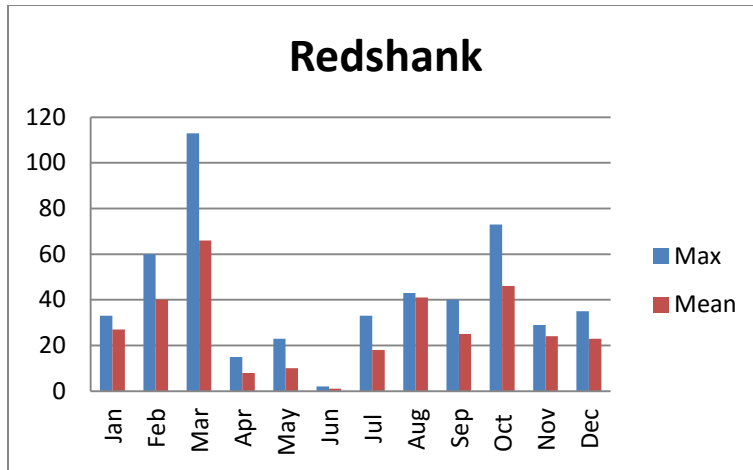


Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*): Present all year with a maximum of 18 on the 15th of December at the Western Marsh.



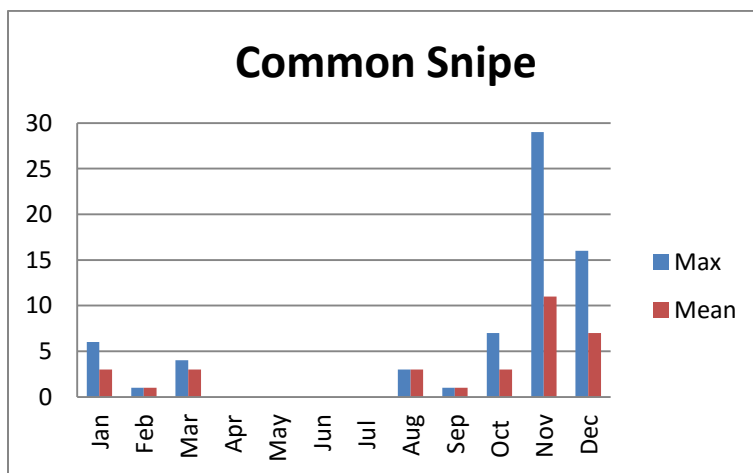
Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*): 1 sighting in 2015: 1 bird at Abicada on the 16th of April.

Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*): Present all year with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximums of 113 on the 14th of March and 73 on the 2nd of October). Confirmed breeding in the area as a non-flying chick and an adult alarming were seen in June.



Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*): 4 near Horta 2 on the 4th of November.

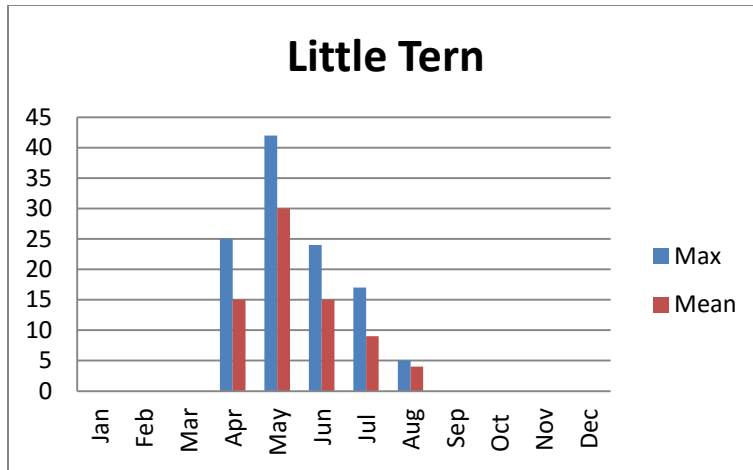
Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*): Present from January to the end of March and then from the end of August until the end of the year, with a maximum of 29 on the 4th of November.



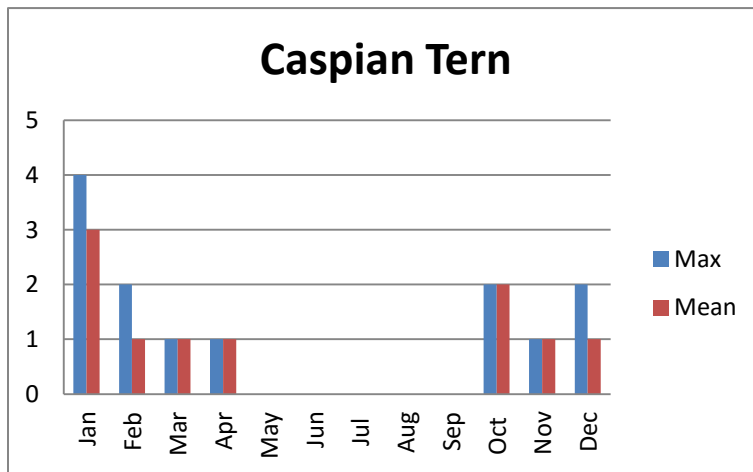
Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*): 2 sightings in 2015, both in April: 1 on the 9th in flight at Cruzinha and 1 on the 29th at Abicada.

Great Skua (*Stercorarius skua*): 2 sighting during the year, both from Alvor beach: 1 on the 19th of January and 1 on the 11th of December.

Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*): Present between April (first birds seen on the 11th) and August (last bird seen on the 19th).

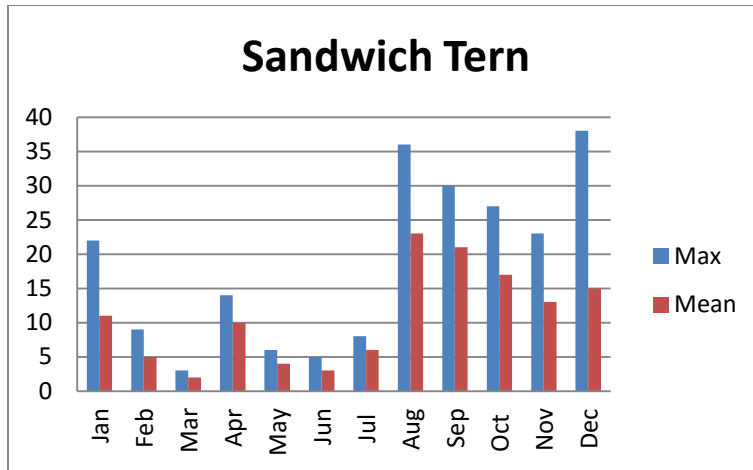


Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*): Present from January to the beginning of April, with a maximum of 4 birds. Then present from October until the end of the year, with a maximum of 2 birds.



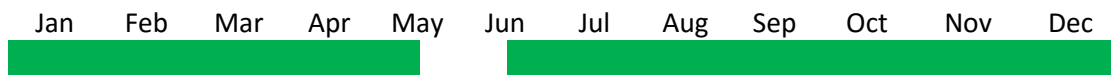
Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*): 3 sightings in 2015: 1 bird on the 17th of June, 1 on the 22nd of October and 1 on the 5th of November, all at the Western Marsh.

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*): Present all year, with a maximum of 38 on the 8th of December.



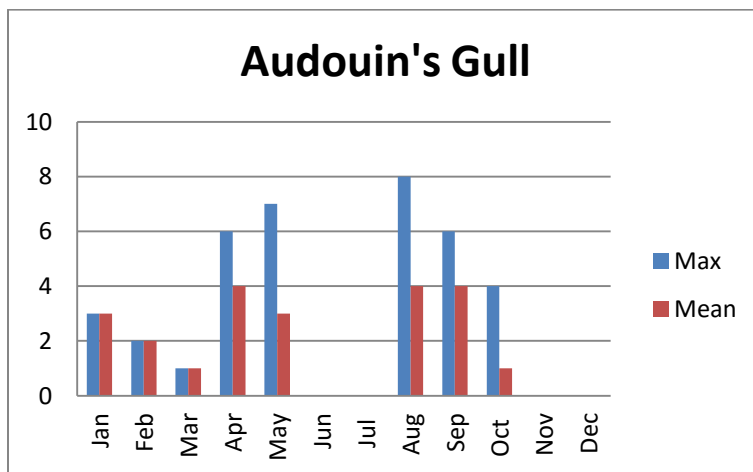
Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*): 8 on the 20th of May at the Western Marsh.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*): Present all year except in May with a maximum of 96 on the 24th of July at the Western Marsh.

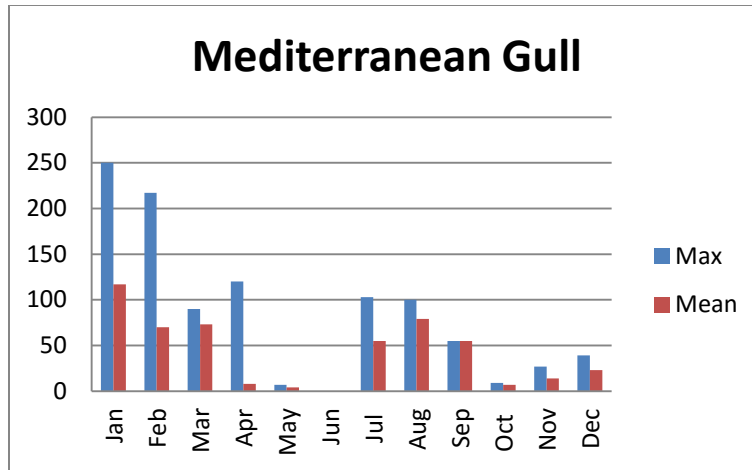


Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*): 1 seen on the 30th and 31st of October at the saltpans and Vale de Lama.

Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*): Present all year, except in June, July, November and December, with a maximum of 8 birds on the 2nd of August. 2 birds were controlled in 2015 (from Spain and Portugal).



Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*): Present all year, except in June, with a maximum of 250 on the 13th of January. 3 birds were controlled in 2015 (2 from Belgium and 1 from Ireland).

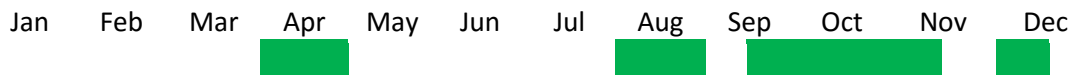


Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*): Present all year. 4 ringed birds were found during the year (2 from the Netherlands, 1 from Germany and 1 from Scotland).

European Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*): 1 at the saltpans of the Western Marsh on the 4th of September.

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

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*): Present in April at Alvor harbor (1 to 2 birds) and 1 bird present between August and the end of the year.



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

Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*): Several sightings during the year, most of them at Abicada: 35 on the 19th of January, 2 on the 20th of May, 13th on the 25th, 4 on the 27th and 1 on the 28th of October. 570 flying west of the Western Marsh in several flocks on the 6th of November.


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

European Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*): 3 on the 17th and 1 on the 19th of May.

Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*): 1 at Abicada on the 21st of December.

Great Spotted Cuckoo (*Clamator glandarius*): 1 seen at the Western Marsh on the 2nd of July.

Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*): Seen (or heard) every week between the 23rd of March and the end of May.

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



Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*): Several sightings in 2015, in January, April, May, July and November (always 1 bird).

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

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

Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*): 1 at Cruzinha on the 11th of November. Heard again on the 2nd and 8th of December on the track to Cruzinha and on the 16th at Cruzinha.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*): 1 at the Western Marsh on the 20th of February and up to 4 present between the end of November and the end of the year.

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

Red-necked Nightjar (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*): First heard on the 22nd of April and then present until the end of August (up to 3 birds together).

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

Common Swift (*Apus apus*): Present from mid-March until mid-August. 1 bird seen on the 25th of October at Abicada.

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

Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*): Present from the 3rd of March (2 birds) until the end of August.

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

Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*): Present between mid-March (1 bird on the 12th) and the end of August. 8 birds were seen on the 14th of September.

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

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*): Present all year.

European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*): Present from the 31st of March until the end of August.

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

European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*): 1 on the 14th of May.

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





Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*): 1 sighting in 2015: 1 on the 17th November at Alvor dunes.

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

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*): A few observations during the year, between July and August and in November and December.

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

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



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

Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*): Seen between April and June.

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

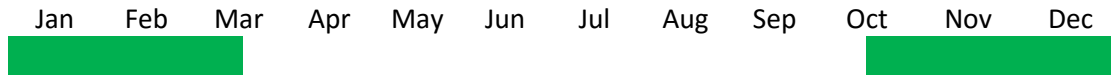
Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*): Present all year.

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

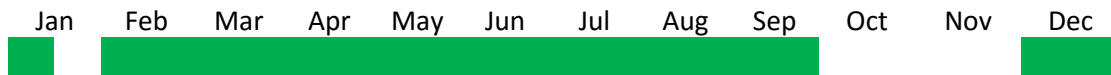
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
											

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*): 1 on the 13th of May.

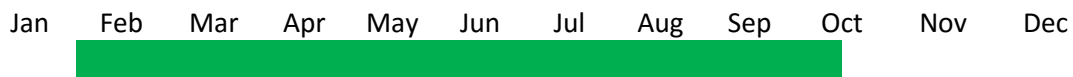
Eurasian Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*): Present from January until March and then from mid-October until the end of the year.



Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): Present from January until the end of September. 2 birds still present on the 11th and 22nd of December at Abicada.



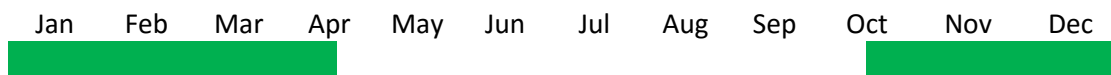
Common House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*): Present from the 7th of February (1 bird) until the beginning of October.



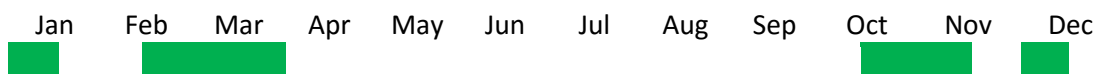
Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*): Present from the 15th of February (1 bird) until the beginning of November (4 birds on the 4th).



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



Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*): Present between January and the end of March. Then, present from the end of October until the end of the year.



Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*): Present from the 25th of February until the end October.

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

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*): Present in spring at Abicada where it bred, present between mid-October and December.

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*): Present from January until mid-April. Then, present from mid-October until the end of the year.

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

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*): Present in January, April, May and between July and the end of the year.

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

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

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

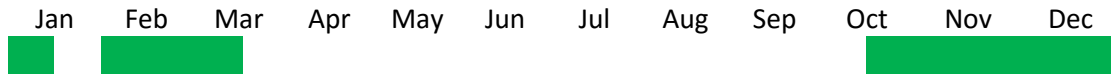
Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*): Detected from the 18th of April (same date as in 2014) until mid-June, then from the 20th of August until the end of September.

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

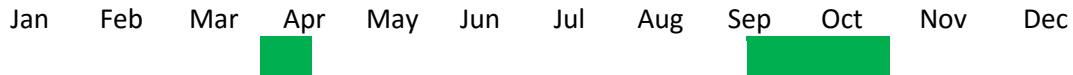
Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*): Present from January until the beginning of March, with a maximum of 6 birds on the 17th of January at Abicada. Then, present from the end of September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 5 birds.

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

Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*): Present between January and mid-March and then from the end of October until the end of the year.



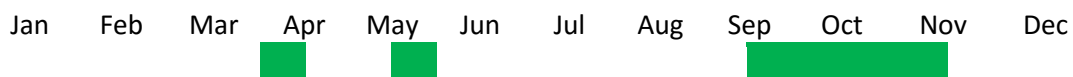
Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*): 1 on the 14th of April, and then, present from the end of September until the end of October.



Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*): 1 bird on the 15th of May, and present in September and October.

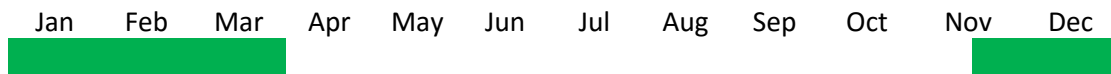
European Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*): Present all year.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*): 3 sightings in spring: 1 on the 3rd of April at Alvor dunes, then 1 on the 7th of April at the Western Marsh and 1 on the 28th of May at Meia-Praia. Then, present from mid-September until the beginning of November, with a maximum of 26 birds on the 21st of October at the Western Marsh.



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.



Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*): 1 on the 1st of December at Cruzinha.

Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*): 1 at Alvor dunes on the 4th of March.

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

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

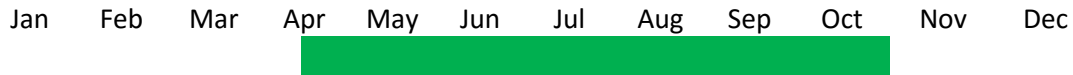
Common Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*): 1 on the 18th of September at Cruzinha.

Savi's Warbler (*Locustella luscinioides*): 1 heard at Abicada on the 16th and 17th of May.

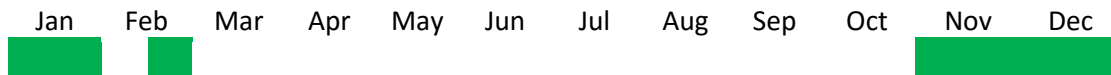
Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*): Present from the beginning of July until the beginning of September. 1 bird caught and ringed on the 11th of October.

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*): 1 on the 31st of September at Cruzinha.

Eurasian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*): Present from mid-April to the end of October (even if not detected in July), mostly at Abicada.



Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*): 1 at Alvor between January and mid-February and 1 at the Western Marsh between the 30th of October and the end of the year.



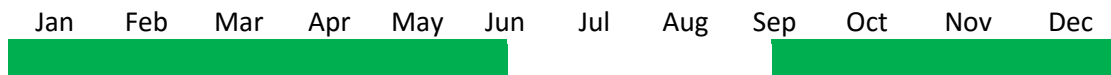
Subalpine Warbler (*Sylvia cantillans*): Present in the second half of July and the second half of September.

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*): 2 sightings in spring: 1 on the 14th of April and 1 on the 14th of May, then, present from the end of August until the end of October.

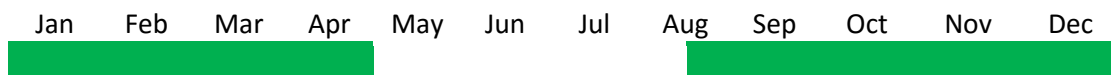
Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*): Present from January until mid-June and from the end of September until the end of the year. 1 ringed bird from Great Britain was also caught at Cruzinha.



Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*): 1 at Cruzinha between the 9th and 23rd of April. Then, 1 near the salt pans on the 29th of October and 1 (the same?) at Cruzinha on the 31st of October.

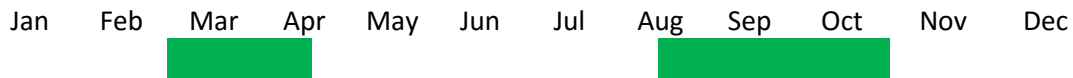
Western Bonelli's Warbler (*Phylloscopus bonelli*): Present from the end of August until the beginning of October.

Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*): Present from January until the end of April and then a continual presence from mid-August until the end of the year.

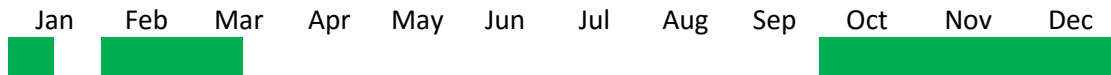


Iberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus ibericus*): Present in August and the second half of October.

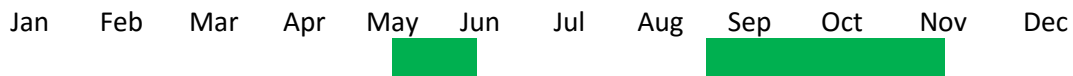
Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*): Present between mid-March and the beginning of April and from the end of August until the end of October.



Common Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*): Present between January and mid-March and between October and the end of the year.



Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*): 3 sightings in spring: 1 on the 14th and 1 on the 19th of May and 1 on the 7th of June. Then, present from September until the beginning of November.



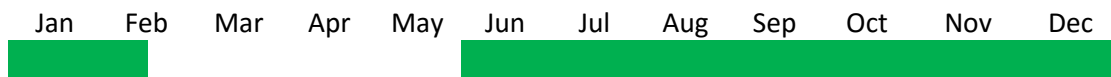
European Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*): Present from the end of August until the beginning of November.

Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*): 1 at Cruzinha on the 14th and 20th of January and also 1 on the 17th of December.

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

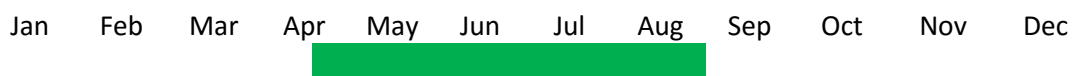
Great Tit (*Parus major*): Present all year.

Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*): Present in January and February and then from the end of May until the end of the year.



Eurasian Penduline Tit (*Remiz pendulinus*): 1 on the 22nd of December at Montes de Alvor.

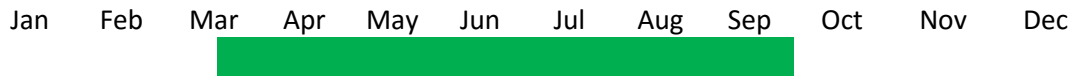
Eurasian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*): First detected on the 23rd of April, then present until the end of August.



Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*): Seen from the end of July until the end of the year.



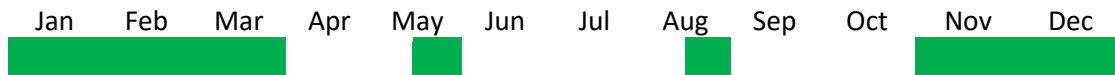
Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*): Present from the 31st of March until the end of September.



Azure-winged Magpie (*Cyanopica cyanus*): Present all year with a maximum of 175 in November.

Common Magpie (*Pica pica*): Several sightings during the year: 1 on the 20th of February, 4 (record number) on the 28th of April, 1 on the 12th of May, all at the Western Marsh, 1 on the 15th of September at Cruzinha, 1 on the 1st and 6th of November at the Western Marsh.

Western Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*): Present between January and the beginning of March (maximum of 8 birds on the 1st of March), then present in the second half of May (between 1 and 5 birds), 1 sighting in August of a bird on the 12th and from November until the end of the year.

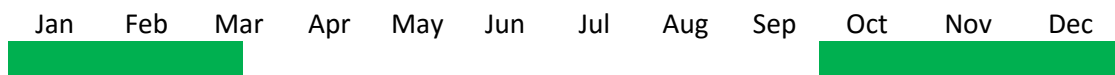


Spotless Starling (*Sturnus unicolor*): Present all year.

Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*): Present from the end of October until the end of the year.

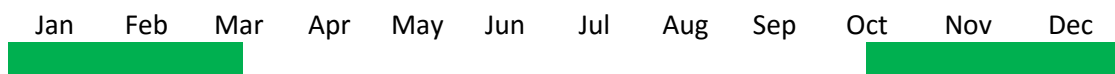
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*): Present all year.

Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*): Present from January to the beginning of March, then present from the beginning of October until the end of the year, with a maximum of 80 birds on the 27th of October.



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

Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*): Present from January to mid-March, and then a continual presence from mid-October until the end of the year.



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*): 1 to 3 birds between January and April.

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

2015 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, Nuno dos Santos, Lars Gonçalves, Willem Scheres, Heather Coats, Esther Brouwer, Marcial Felgueiras, Isabel Soares, Rob Thomas, Riley and Barbara Massey, Marie-Jane and Gérard Réthoré, Sara Roda, Jens d'Haeseleer, Filipe Bally, Alexandre Leitão, Hannah Cheverton, Georges Oliosos, Bernard Volet, Valerie Lambert, Alan Clark, Ricardo Lima, Stanley Martin, Tony and Jean Mercer, Jack Devlin, John Callinan, Nuno Alexandre, Eli Strom, Jacob Williams, Tim and Lucy Greenslade, Malcolm and Sarah Watts, Gary and Jeannette Guinness, Ian and Hilary Marlow, Elaine and Simon Brown, David Nathan, Steve Butler, Linda Adenis-Lamarre, Luisa Brome.

References

Crochet P.-A., Joynt G. (2015). AERC list of Western Palearctic birds. July 2015 version.



Audouin's Gull (top) and Brant Goose (bottom) - Western Marsh © G.Réthoré



Audouin's Gull (left) and Franklin's Gull (right) - Western Marsh © W.Scheres



Yellow-browed Warbler- Cruzinha © G.Réthoré