

# **Systematic List of the Birds of Ria de Alvor 2016**

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A Rocha Life Portugal

A total of 185 species of birds, out of the 318 seen, were registered in the Ria de Alvor Natura 2000 site in 2016 (second best year after 2014 and 2015) and 2 new species were added to the list: Lesser Crested Tern (*Sterna bengalensis*) and Cirl Bunting (*Emberiza cirlus*)

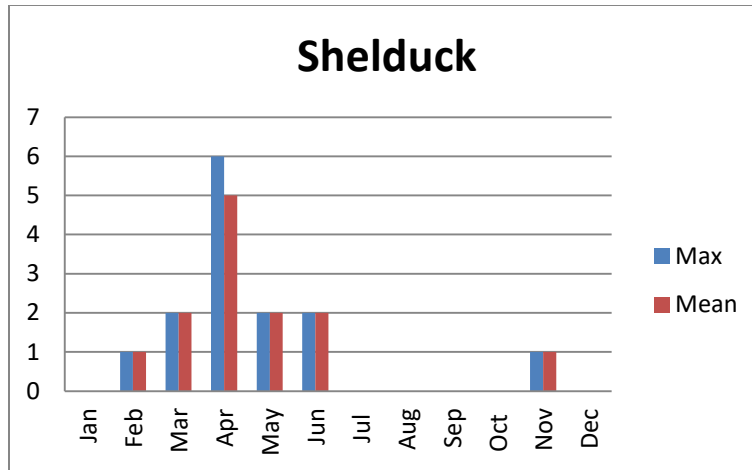
Highlights for 2016 were: the first Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) since 1988, a pair of Red-Crested Pochards (*Netta rufina*), not seen in the area since 1997, the presence all year and confirmed breeding of Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) at Abicada, the first Western Olivaceous Warbler (*Iduna opaca*) ever caught and ringed at Cruzinha (and only the 2<sup>nd</sup> observation, the last one being in 1997), 2 ringed Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) and at least another one seen in October, part of an influx in Europe.

Other interesting records were: mating Shelducks (*Tadorna tadorna*) at Abicada, sightings of Balearic Shearwaters (*Puffinus mauretanicus*), the firsts since 2011, the presence in winter of the same Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, the observation of an Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), not seen since 2010, low numbers of Avocets (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) through the year, a record number of Dunlins (*Calidris alpina*) (>500), and good numbers of Knots (*Calidris canutus*) in December, the presence of Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) almost all year round, the first sighting of a Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) since 2007, the almost absence of some species (Whitethroat, Reed Warbler, Nightingale) during autumn migration while others as Subalpine Warbler (*Sylvia cantillans*) showed in good numbers, and sightings of Orphean Warbler (*Sylvia hortensis*) and Ortolan Buntings (*Emberiza hortulana*), the firsts since 2011.

A few birds carrying rings were noted this year: Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*), Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*), Ringed (*Charadrius hiaticula*) and Kentish Plovers (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), Mediterranean (*Larus melanocephalus*), Yellow-legged (*Larus michahellis*) and Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*Larus fuscus*) and Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*).

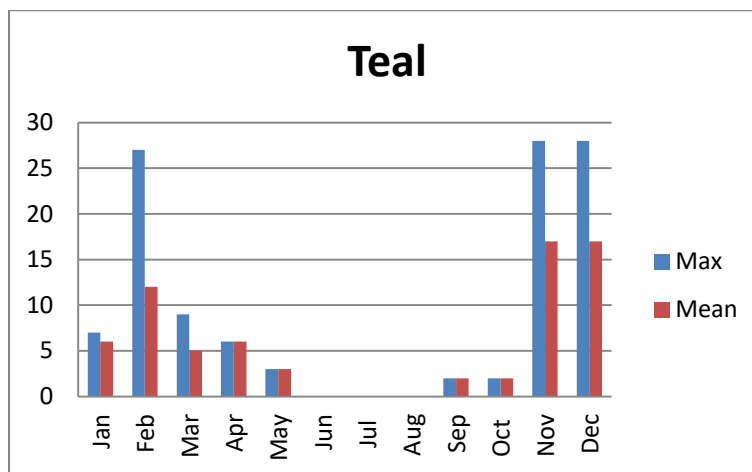
**The complete bird list for 2016 is described below (bird names follow the systematic list of Crochet and Joynt, 2015).**

**Common Shelduck** (*Tadorna tadorna*): Present between February and June, mostly at Abicada (maximum of 6 birds), with birds seen mating. Then, one sighting at the end of November (1 bird on the 23<sup>rd</sup>).

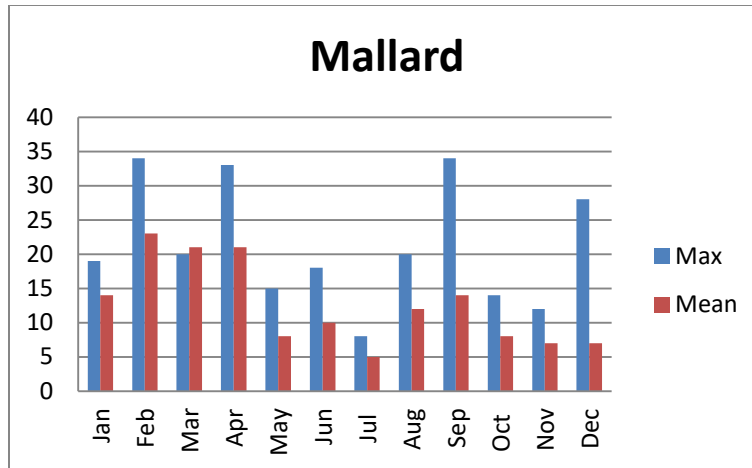


**Eurasian Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*): 2 on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November at Abicada.

**Eurasian Teal** (*Anas crecca*): Present from January to the beginning of April, with a maximum of 27 on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February at Abicada. Then, 3 birds were seen at Abicada on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May. In the autumn, they were present from early September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 28 on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November at Abicada.

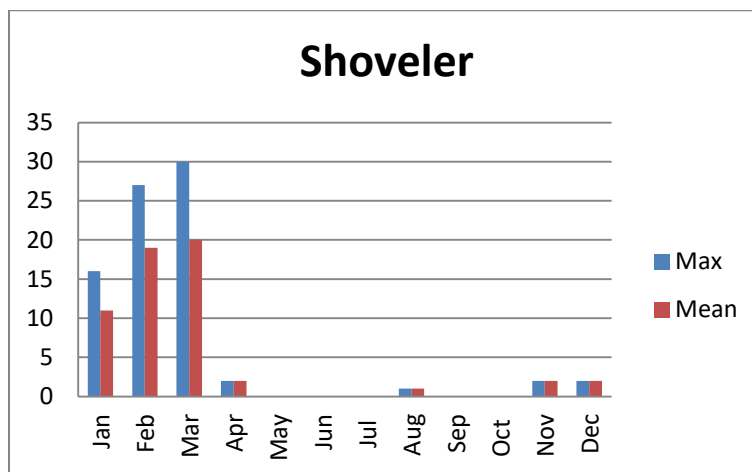


**Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*): Present all year. 1 bird ringed in Portugal was controlled several times during the year.



**Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*):** 2 sightings in the autumn, 1 female on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November and 3 birds (1 male and 2 females) on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, both at the Western Marsh.

**Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*):** Present from January to the beginning of April, with a maximum of 30 at the beginning of March at Abicada, then one bird sighted at the end of August and present from the end of November until the end of the year.



**Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*):** 2 (1 male and 1 female) at Abicada on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April.

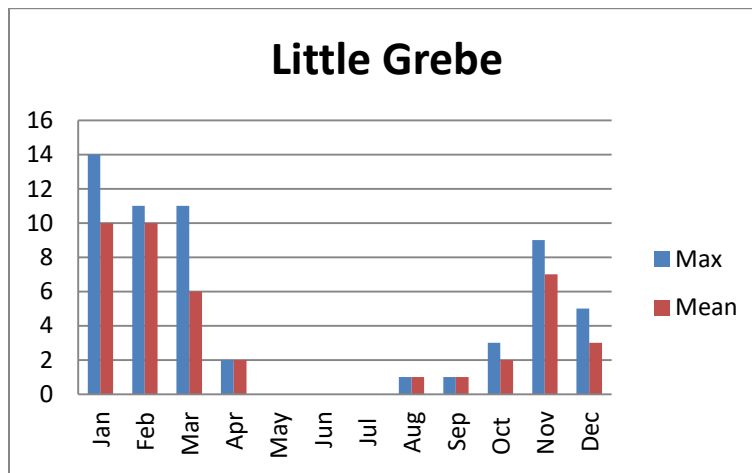
**Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*):** 1 at Abicada on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December.

**Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*):** First heard on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March, and present until the end of June.



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

**Little Grebe** (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*): Seen between January and the end of March, with a maximum of 14 at Abicada on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January. Then, present between late August until the end of the year with a maximum of 9 birds on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November at Abicada.



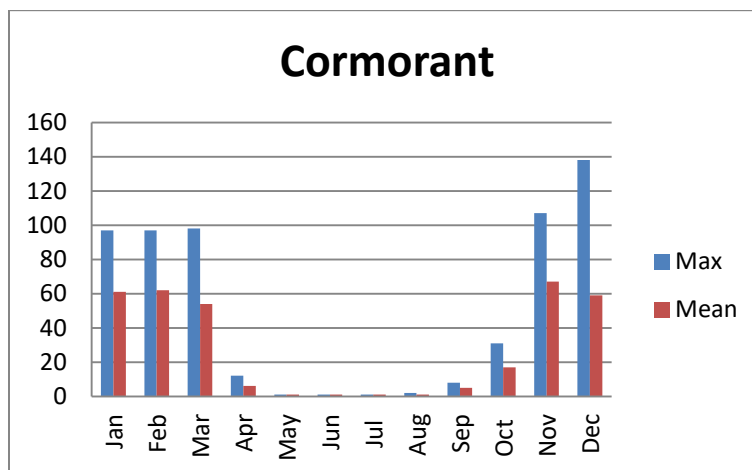
**Black-necked Grebe** (*Podiceps nigricollis*): 1 bird present in on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January at the estuary.

**Cory's Shearwater** (*Calonectris diomedea*): 2 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July from Alvor beach, 1 found dead at Meia-Praia on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October.

**Balearic Shearwater** (*Puffinus mauretanicus*): 2 seen from Alvor beach on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, 3 from Alvor beach and Meia-Praia on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June and 6 from Alvor beach on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

**Northern Gannet** (*Morus bassanus*): Detected all year except in July and August. This species is probably under detected.

**Great Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*): Present all year, with maximums of 98 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March and 138 on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, both at the Western Marsh.

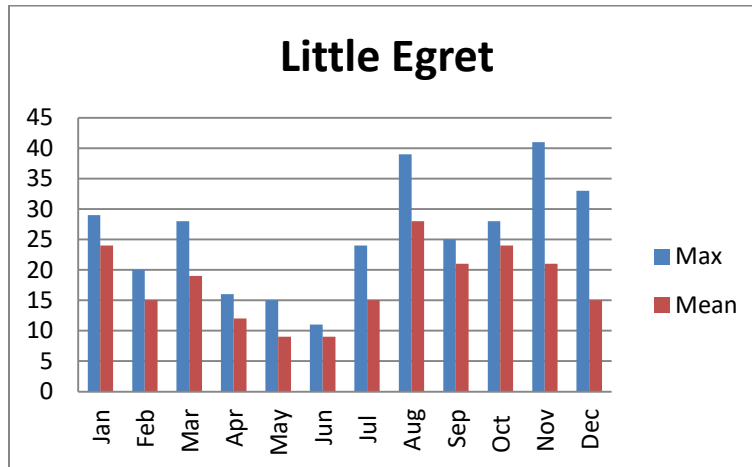


**Black-crowned Night Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*): 1 at Abicada on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March.

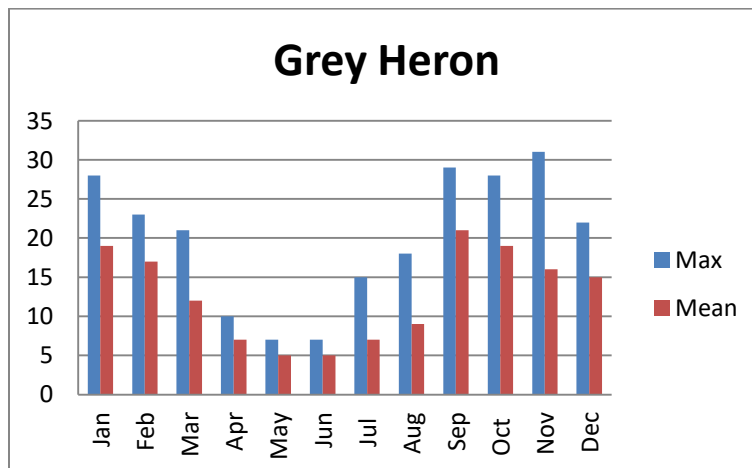
**Squacco Heron** (*Ardeola ralloides*): 2 at Abicada between the 28<sup>th</sup> of April and the 14<sup>th</sup> of May.

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

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



**Grey Heron** (*Ardea cinerea*): Present all year with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 28 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January and 31 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, both at the Western Marsh)

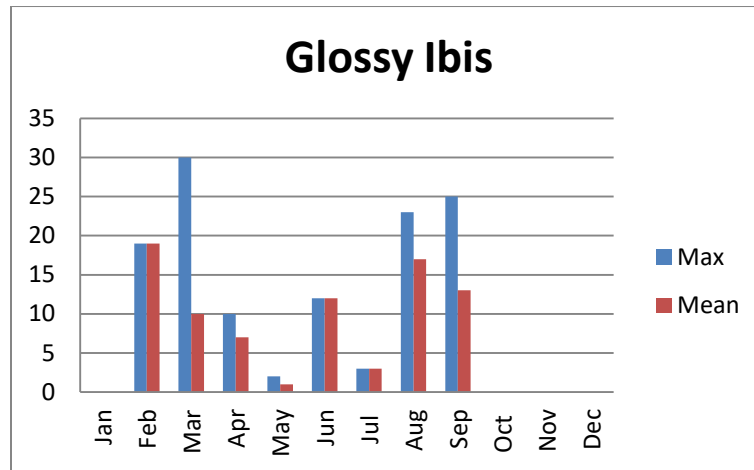


**Purple Heron** (*Ardea purpurea*): Seen between April and early-June with a maximum of 2 birds at Abicada. Then, a sighting at Abicada at the end of July and beginning of August (1 birds).

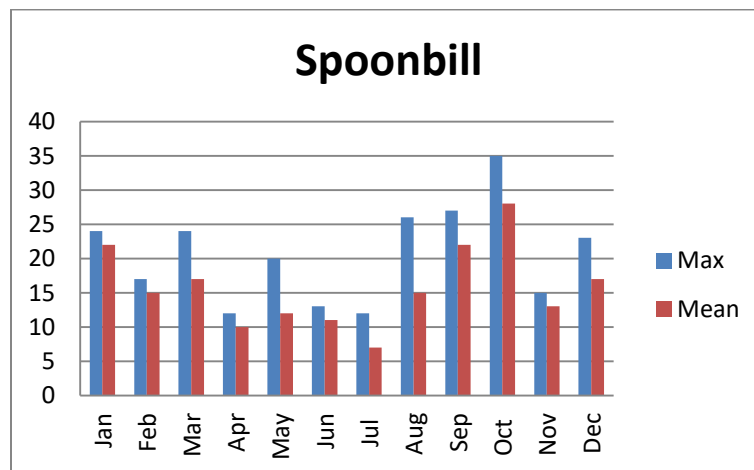


**White Stork** (*Ciconia ciconia*): Present all year; maximum of 212 at Odiaxere on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. 9 ringed birds have been controlled in October (from Portugal).

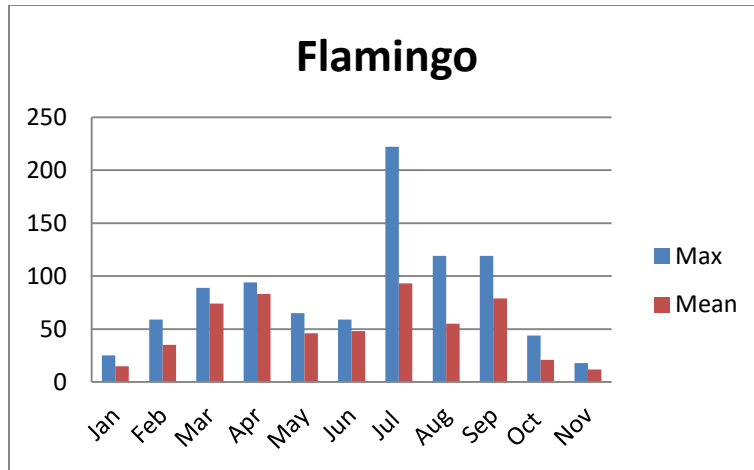
**Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*): Seen between February and September. Maximum of 30 birds on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March.



**Eurasian Spoonbill** (*Platalea leucorodia*): Present all year with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximums of 25 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January and 35 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, both at the Western Marsh). 9 ringed birds have been controlled over the year (8 from the Netherlands and 1 from France). Several of these birds are regular winter visitors.



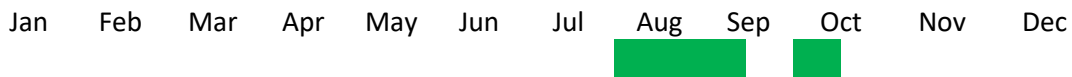
**Greater Flamingo** (*Phoenicopterus roseus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 222 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July at the Western Marsh. 25 ringed birds have been controlled over the year (19 from Spain and 6 from France).



**European Honey Buzzard** (*Pernis apivorus*): 1 flying over the Western Marsh on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August.

**Black-winged Kite** (*Elanus caeruleus*): Present all year.

**Black Kite** (*Milvus migrans*): Seen between early August and early October with a maximum of 10 birds on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October at Abicada.

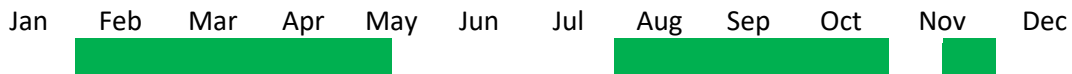


**Egyptian Vulture** (*Neophron percnopterus*): 1 juvenile seen from Abicada on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September.

**Griffon Vulture** (*Gyps fulvus*): 1 on a Stork nest at Odiaxere on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, 125 over Cruzinha on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, and 1 from Odiaxere salt pans on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October.

**Cinereous Vulture** (*Aegypius monachus*): 1 at the Western Marsh on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March.

**Short-toed Snake Eagle** (*Circaetus gallicus*): First sighting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February at the Western Marsh, then seen until mid-May. Seen again from August until the end of November.



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

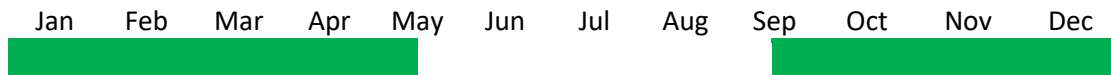
**Northern Harrier** (*Circus cyaneus*): 4 sightings of a bird in winter between January and March. Then 1 juvenile male was seen on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October at the Western Marsh.

**Montagu's Harrier** (*Circus pygargus*): 1 juvenile at the Western Marsh on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September.

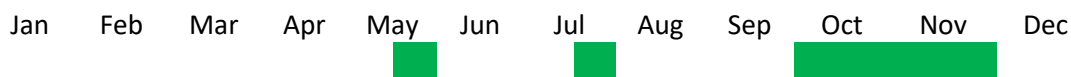


**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** (*Accipiter nisus*): 4 sightings in 2016: 1 on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January at Odiaxere salt pans, 1 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, 1 on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, both near the Western Marsh and 1 on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August at Cruzinha.

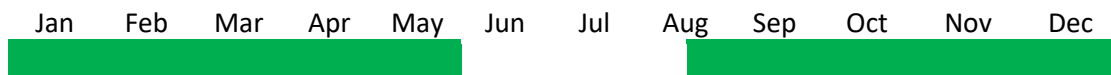
**Common Buzzard** (*Buteo buteo*): Present from January until the mid-May, then from the end of September until the end of the year.



**Booted Eagle** (*Aquila pennata*): 1 sighting in spring: 1 bird on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May at Abicada. Then, one there on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July. All the other sightings are in the autumn, between the 9<sup>th</sup> of October and the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November (1 to 13 birds).



**Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*): Seen all year except in June and July. 1 bird carrying a Portuguese metal ring was caught at the fish farm and brought to Cruzinha and it appeared it was the same bird as the previous year, confirming the presence of this bird for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Another bird, not ringed was caught at the same place in December and released at the Western Marsh.

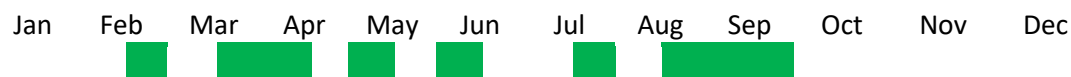


**Common Kestrel** (*Falco tinnunculus*): Present all year.

**Eurasian Hobby** (*Falco subbuteo*): 2 sightings in autumn, both at the Western Marsh: 1 on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September and 1 on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October.

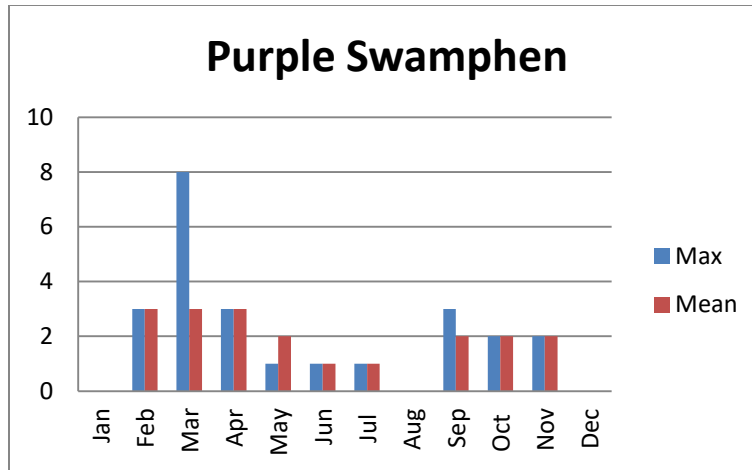
**Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*): Seen all year except in May.

**Water Rail** (*Rallus aquaticus*): Heard or seen between February September.

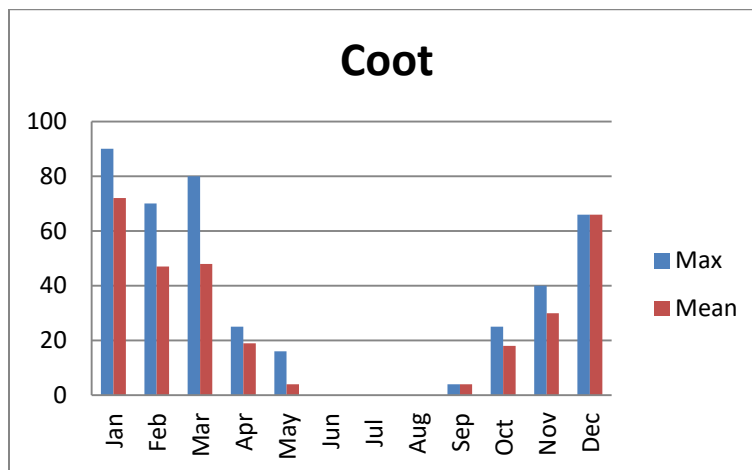


**Common Moorhen** (*Gallinula chloropus*): Present all year. Maximum of 8 birds at Abicada.

**Purple Swamphen** (*Porphyrio porphyrio*): Probably present all year at Abicada even if not detected in January, August and December. Maximum of 8 birds on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March. Confirmed breeding as 2 juveniles were seen with an adult on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September.



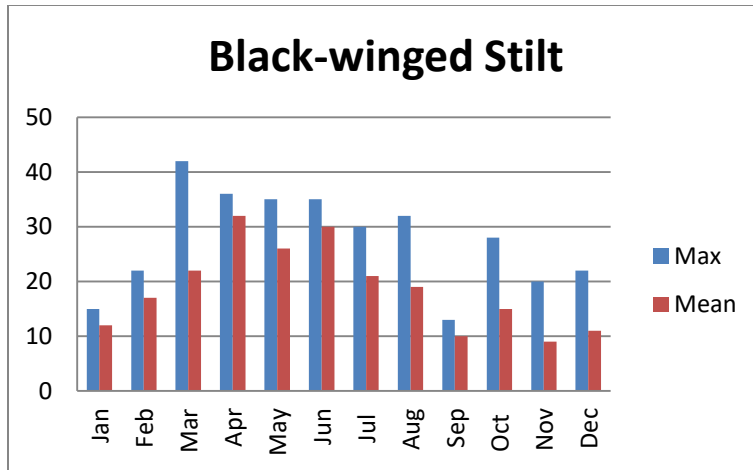
**Eurasian Coot** (*Fulica atra*): Present from January to the end of May, with a maximum of 90 birds on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January, and from mid-September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 66 birds on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. All the sightings are from Abicada.



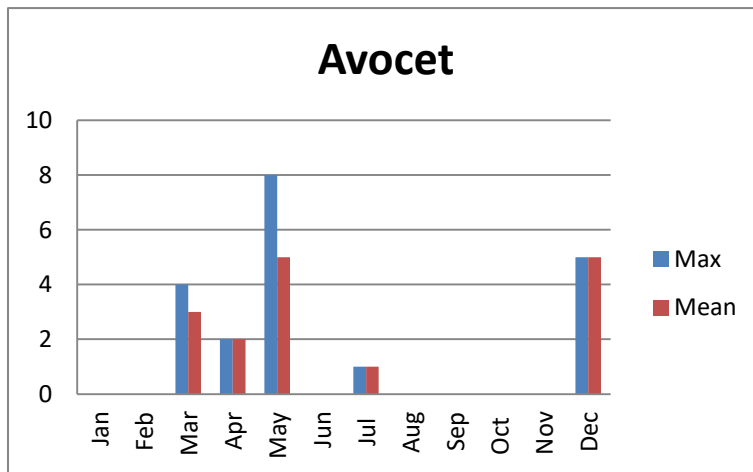
**Eurasian Stone Curlew** (*Burhinus oedicanus*): Heard or seen between January and September.



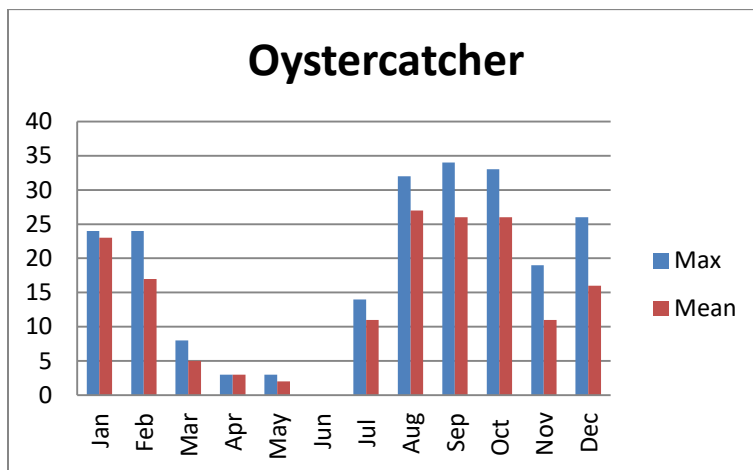
**Black-winged Stilt** (*Himantopus himantopus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 42 birds on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March at Abicada.



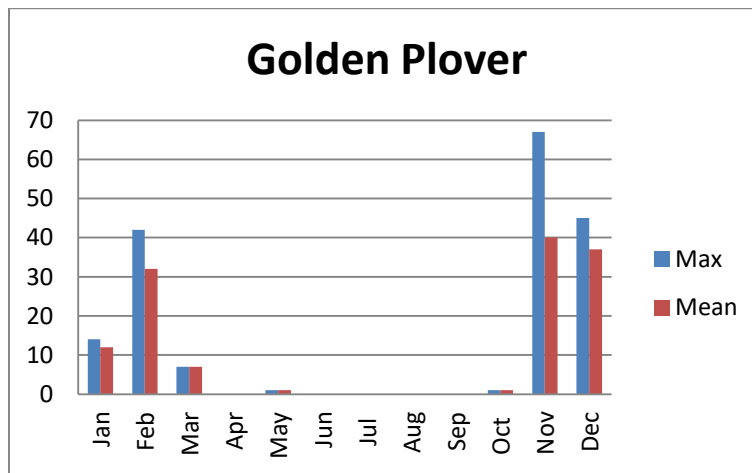
**Pied Avocet** (*Recurvirostra avosetta*): Present in January, then between March and July and in December, with a maximum of 8 birds on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May at Abicada.



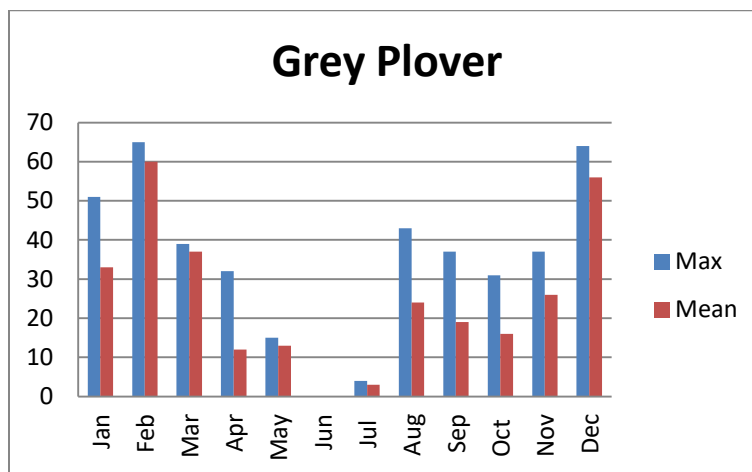
**Eurasian Oystercatcher** (*Haematopus ostralegus*): Present all year, except in June, with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 33).



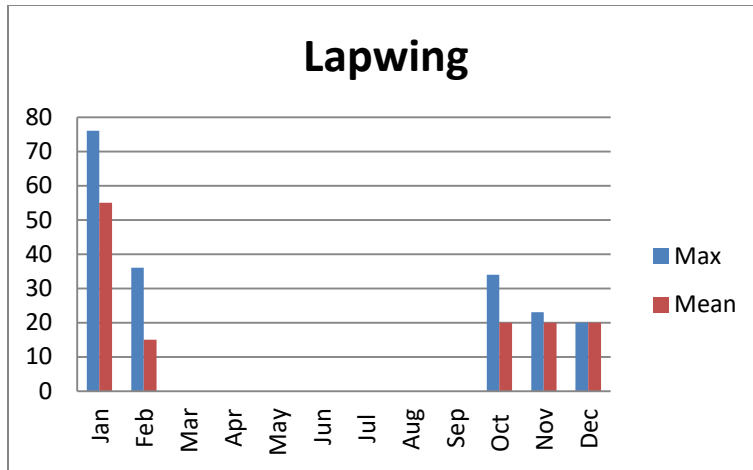
**European Golden Plover** (*Pluvialis apricaria*): Present between January and March, with a maximum of 42 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February at the Western Marsh. Then, 1 bird on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May and present from the end of October until the end of the year with a maximum of 67 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November.



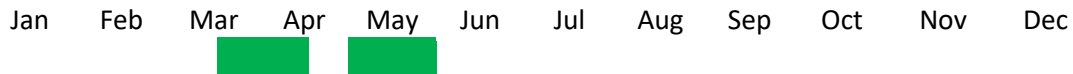
**Grey Plover** (*Pluvialis squatarola*): Present all year, except in June with maximums of 65 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February and 64 on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, both at the Western Marsh.



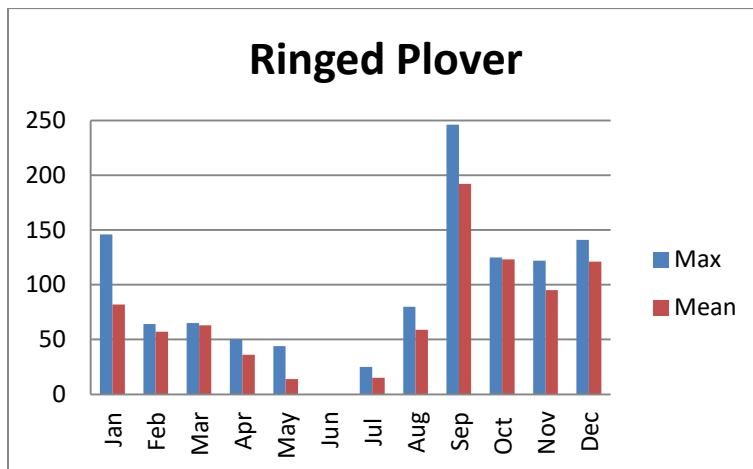
**Northern Lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*): Present from January to the end of February, and then again from of October until the end of the year; maximum of 74 on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January and 34 on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October, both at the Western Marsh.



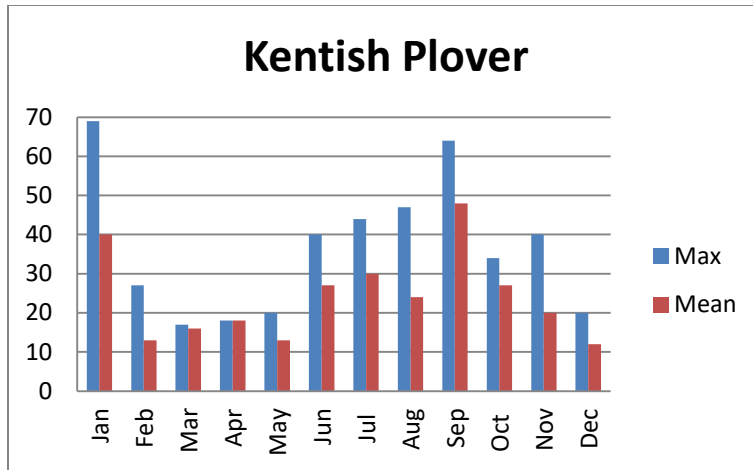
**Little Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius dubius*): Present between the 26<sup>th</sup> of March and the end of May, all sightings from Odiaxere salt pans.



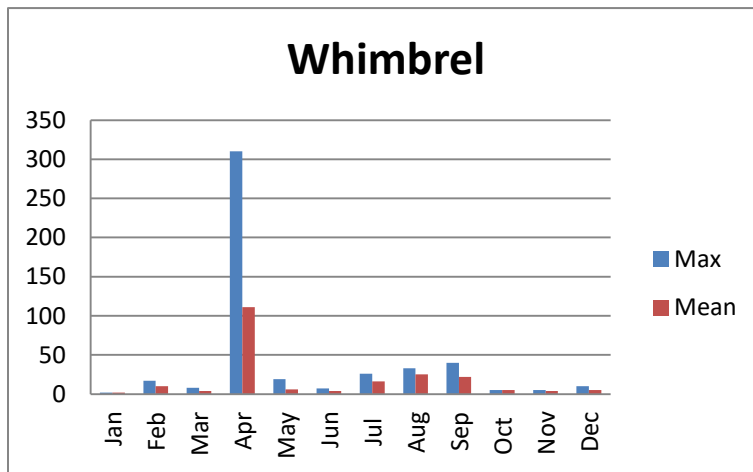
**Common Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius hiaticula*): Present all year, except in June, with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 246 on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September). 2 ringed birds controlled during the year, from Wales and Iceland.



**Kentish Plover** (*Charadrius alexandrinus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 69 on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January. 1 bird ringed in France was controlled in January and February.

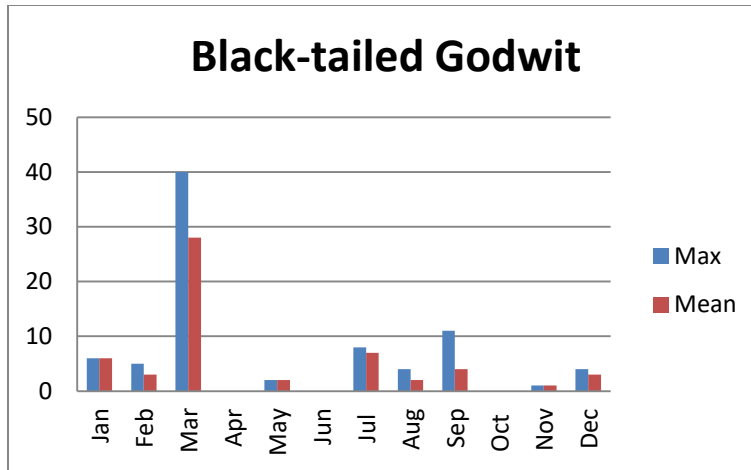


**Whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus*): Present all year, with a peak in April during migration (310 on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April).

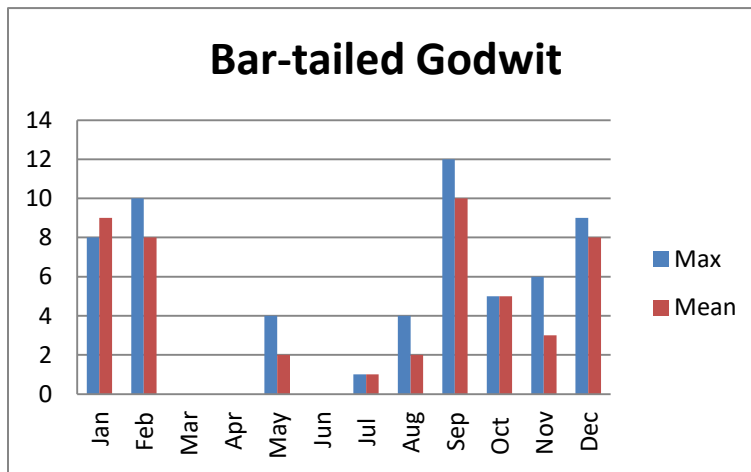


**Eurasian Curlew** (*Numenius arquata*): 5 sightings during the year: 1 between mid-February and early March, 1 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, and 1 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September.

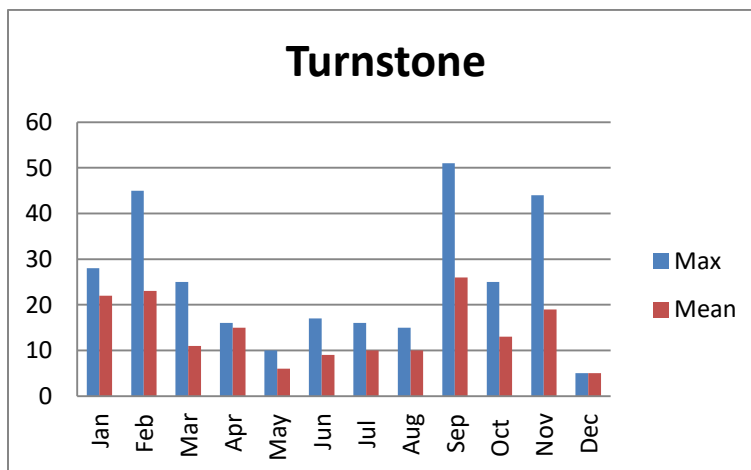
**Black-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa limosa*): Present from January until May (maximum of 40 birds on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March at Abicada), and from July until the end of the year (a maximum of 11 on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September).



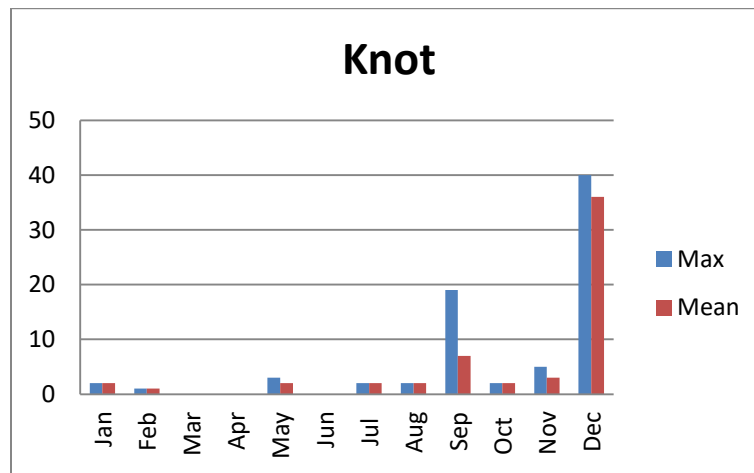
**Bar-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa lapponica*): Present in January and February, May and between July and the end of the year, with a maximum of 12 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September.



**Ruddy Turnstone** (*Arenaria interpres*): Present all year, with a maximum of 52 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September.

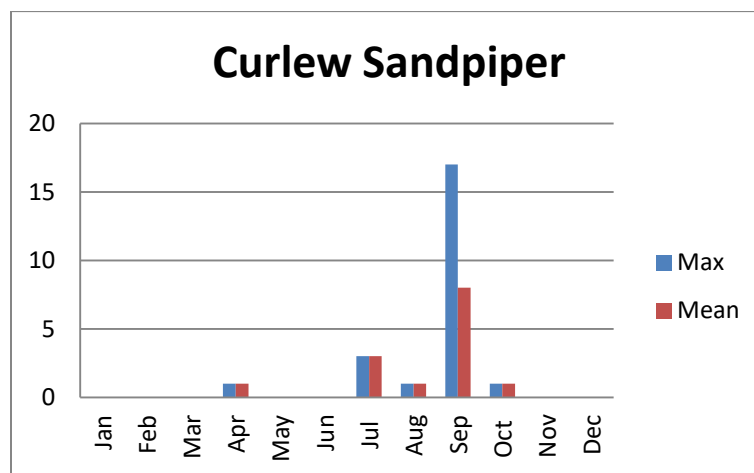


**Red Knot** (*Calidris canutus*): Present in January and February, then in May and July. Continuous presence between the end of August and the end of the year with a maximum of 40 birds on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December.



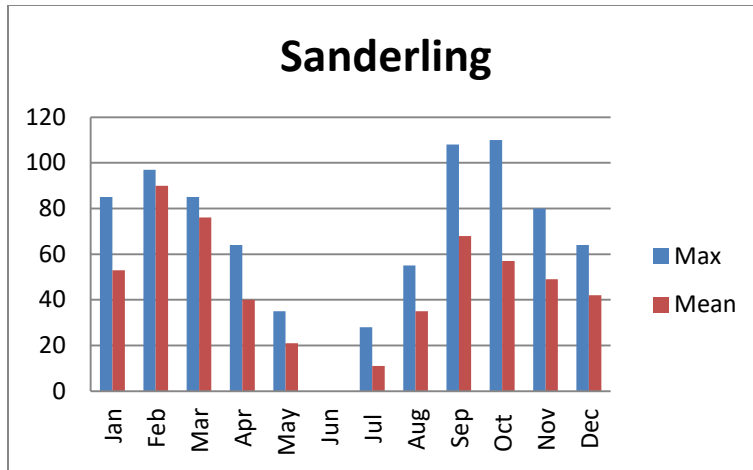
**Ruff** (*Calidris pugnax*): 1 sighting of a bird on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October at Abicada.

**Curlew Sandpiper** (*Calidris ferruginea*): There were a few observations during the year: 1 on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, and then present between July and October with a maximum of 17 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September.

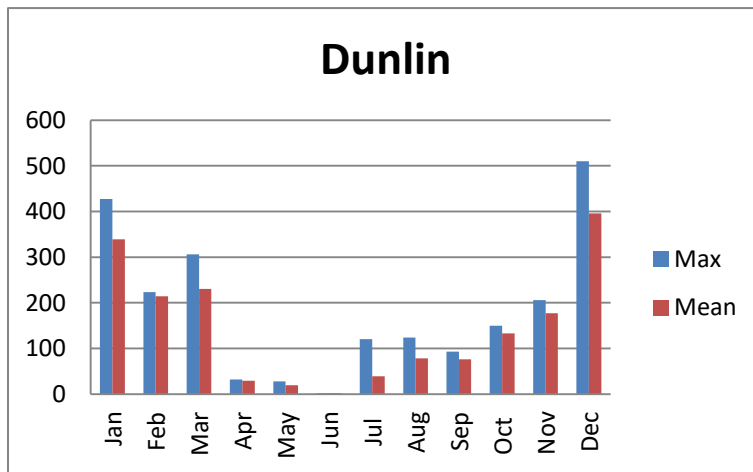


**Sanderling** (*Calidris alba*): Present all year, except in June, with maximums of 97 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February and 110 on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October.

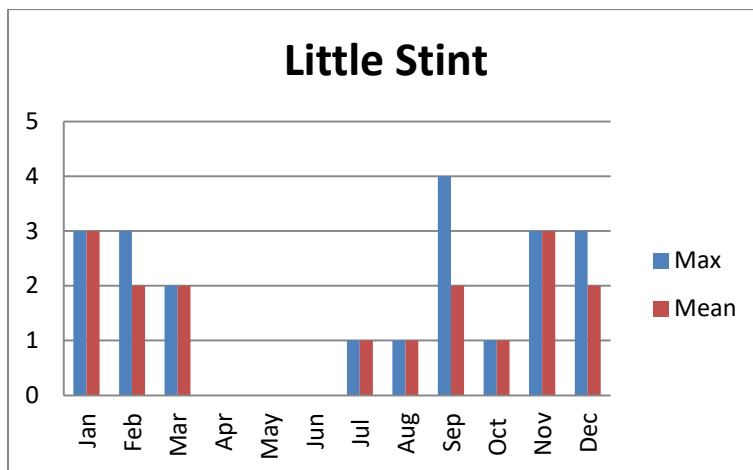




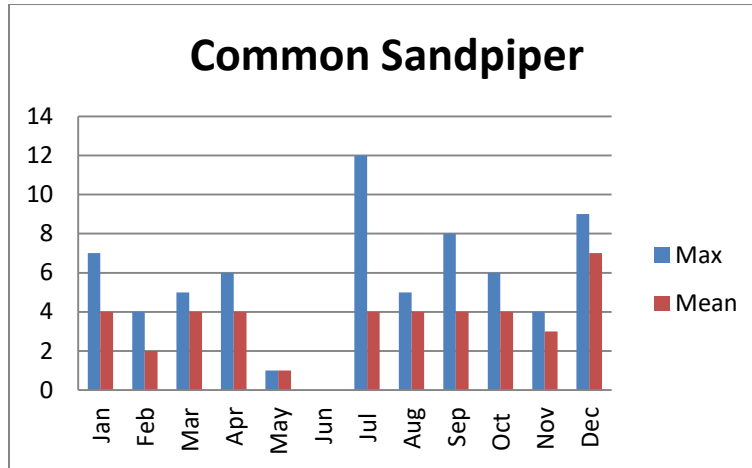
**Dunlin** (*Calidris alpina*): Present all year, with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 427 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January and 510 on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December).



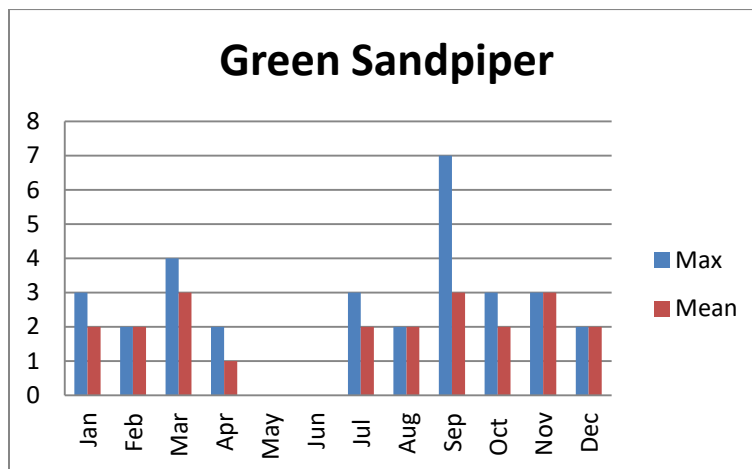
**Little Stint** (*Calidris minuta*): Present between January and March, in July and between August and the end of the year with a maximum of 4 birds on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September.



**Common Sandpiper** (*Actitis hypoleucos*): Present from January until mid-May, then from July until the end of the year, with a maximum of 12 on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July at Abicada.

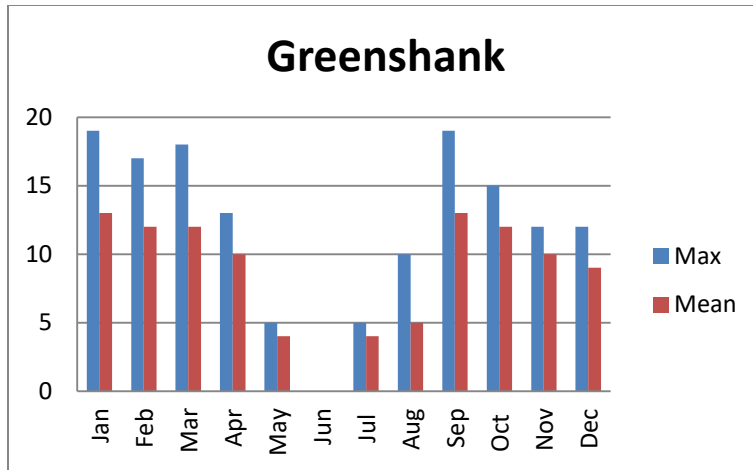


**Green Sandpiper** (*Tringa ochropus*): Present between January and April, then, between July and the end of the year.



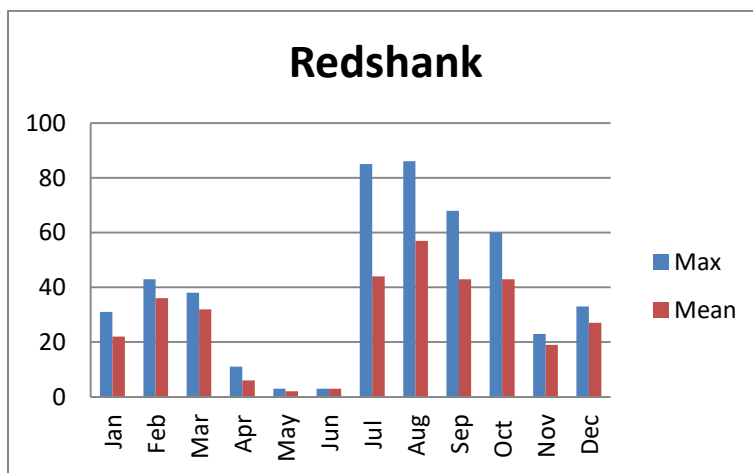
**Spotted Redshank** (*Tringa erythropus*): 1 on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May at Abicada.

**Common Greenshank** (*Tringa nebularia*): Present all year except in June with a maximum of 19 in January and September.



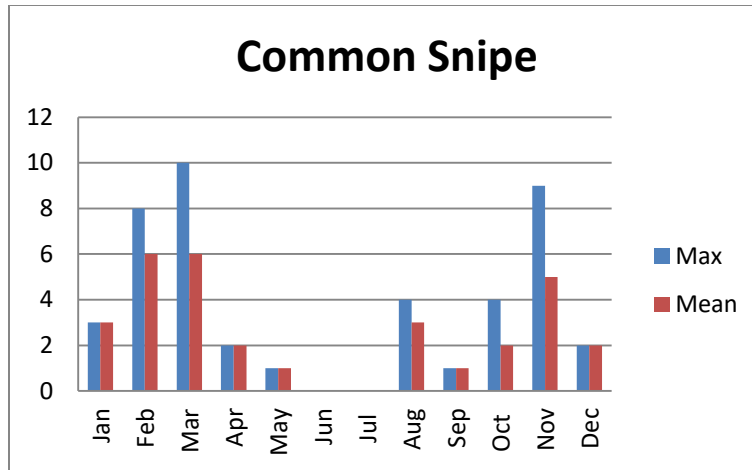
**Wood Sandpiper** (*Tringa glareola*): 2 sightings in 2016: 1 bird on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of August.

**Common Redshank** (*Tringa totanus*): Present all year with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximums of 38 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March and 86 on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August). Possible breeding in the area.



**Jack Snipe** (*Limnocryptes minimus*): 1 at Abicada on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March.

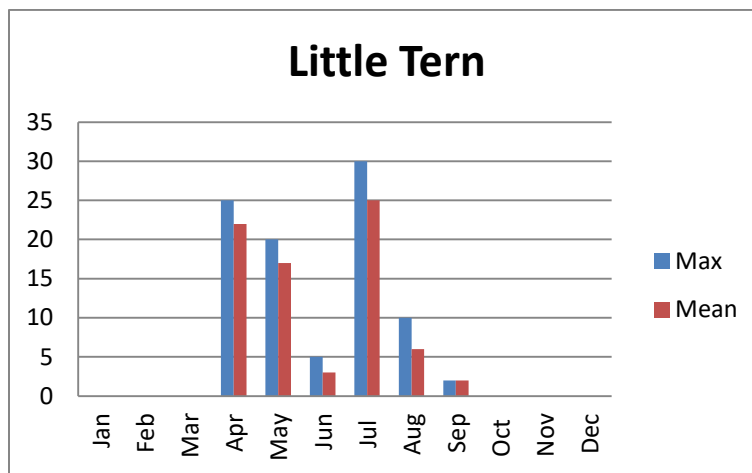
**Common Snipe** (*Gallinago gallinago*): Present from January to the mid-May and then from the end of August until the end of the year, with a maximum of 10 on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March.



**Great Skua** (*Stercorarius skua*): 1 sighting during the year from Alvor beach: 1 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February.

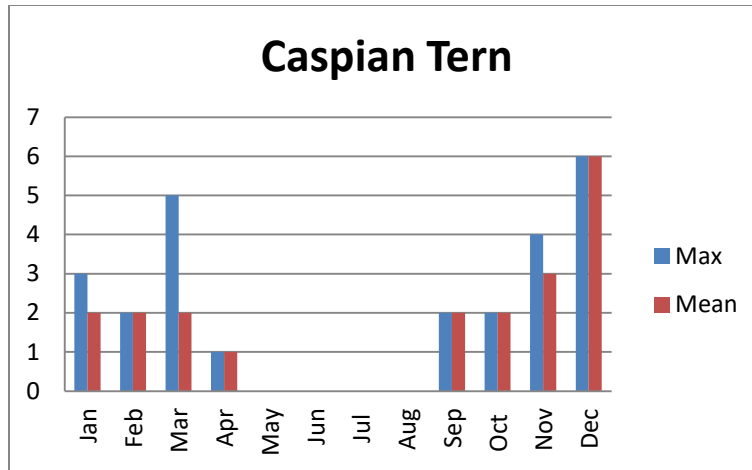
**Razorbill** (*Alca torda*): 1 found dead at Alvor beach on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January and 1 at the estuary on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March.

**Little Tern** (*Sternula albifrons*): Present between April (first birds seen on the 11<sup>th</sup>) and mid-September (last bird seen on the 15<sup>th</sup>).



**Gull-billed Tern** (*Gelochelidon nilotica*): 3 on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October and 4 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, all at the estuary.

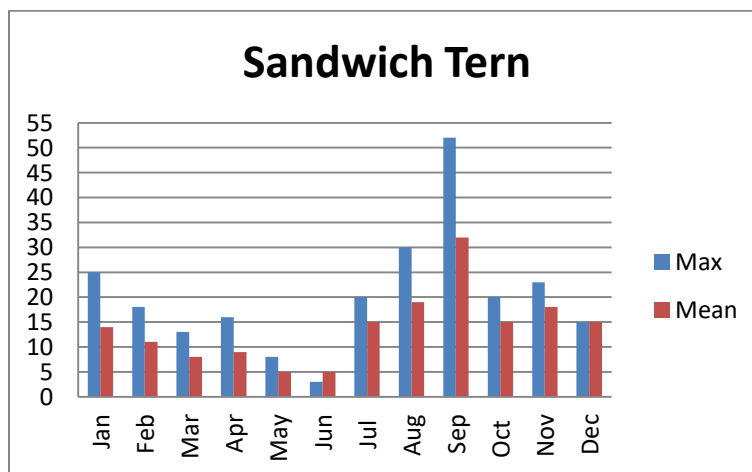
**Caspian Tern** (*Hydroprogne caspia*): Present from January to the beginning of April, with a maximum of 5 birds. Then present from September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 6 birds.



**Whiskered Tern** (*Chlidonias hybrida*): 1 at the Western Marsh on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Black Tern** (*Chlidonias niger*): 2 sightings in 2016: 3 birds on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April and 1 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September.

**Sandwich Tern** (*Sterna sandvicensis*): Present all year, with a maximum of 52 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September.



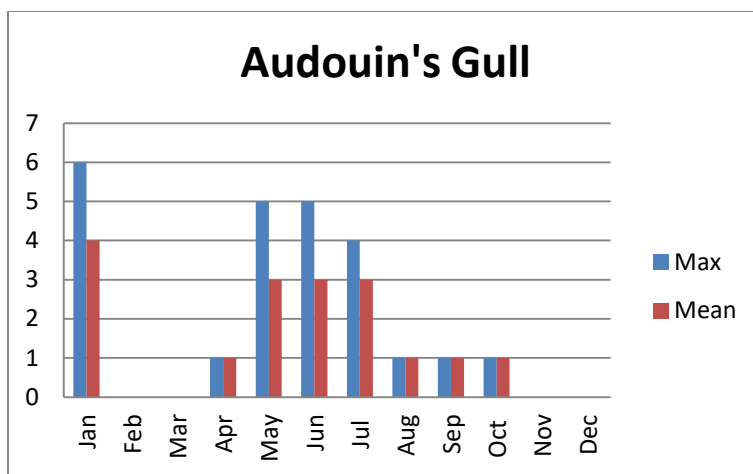
**Lesser Crested Tern** (*Sterna bengalensis*): 1 at the Western Marsh on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of June. 1<sup>st</sup> record for Ria de Alvor.

**Common Tern** (*Sterna hirundo*): 1 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of July at the Western Marsh and 1 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September at Alvor.

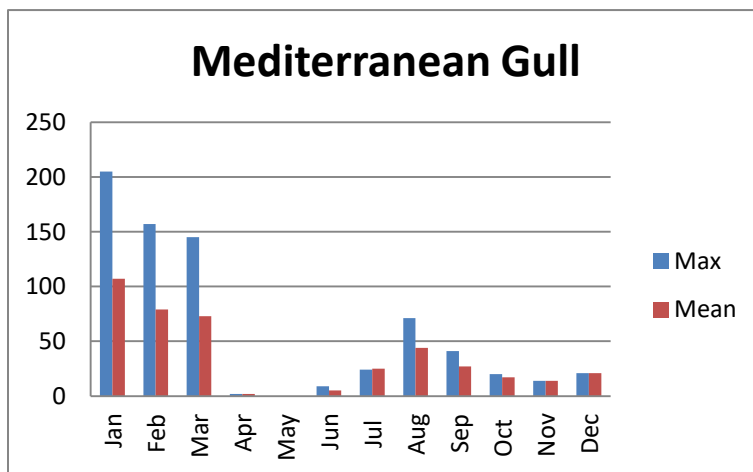
**Slender-billed Gull** (*Larus genei*): 1 at the Western Marsh on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September.

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

**Audouin's Gull** (*Larus audouinii*): Present all year, except in February, March and November, with a maximum of 6 birds on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January.



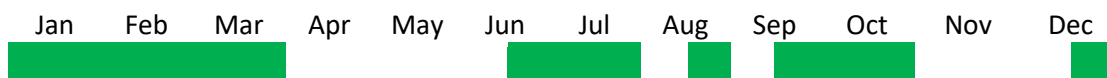
**Mediterranean Gull** (*Larus melanocephalus*): Present all year, except in May, with a maximum of 205 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January. 4 birds were controlled in 2016 (1 from Belgium, 2 from France and 1 from Ireland).



**Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*): Present all year. 7 ringed birds were found during the year (1 from Portugal, 1 from Germany, 4 from Guernsey and 1 from Belgium).

**Yellow-legged Gull** (*Larus michahellis*): Present all year. 2 ringed birds were found during the year (1 from Portugal and 1 from Spain).

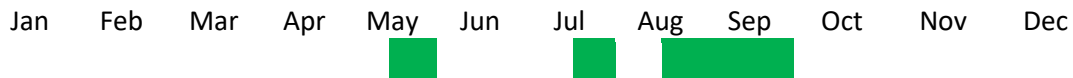
**Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*): Seen every month except in April, May and November with a maximum of 3 birds in the 8<sup>th</sup> of January.



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

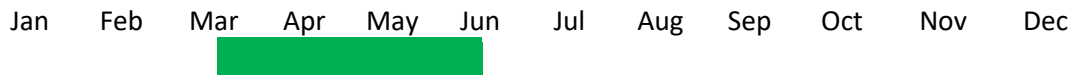
**Eurasian Collared Dove** (*Streptopelia decaocto*): Present all year.

**European Turtle Dove** (*Streptopelia turtur*): 1 on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, 2 on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July, seen between mid-August and the end of September (1 to 3 birds).



**Great Spotted Cuckoo** (*Clamator glandarius*): 1 seen at Abicada on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Common Cuckoo** (*Cuculus canorus*): Seen (or heard) every week between the 27<sup>th</sup> of March and the beginning of June.

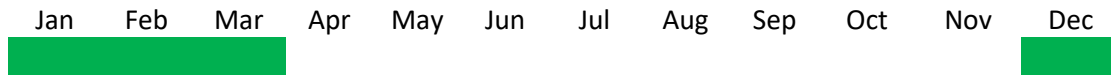


**Barn Owl** (*Tyto alba*): 3 sightings in 2016, in May, November and December (always 1 bird).

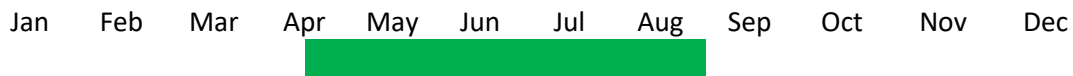
**Little Owl (*Athene noctua*):** Present all year.

**Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*):** 1 at Cruzinha on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April.

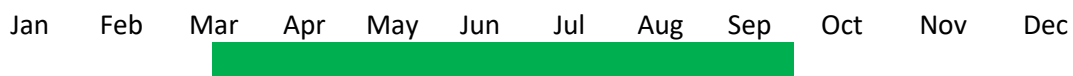
**Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*):** 1 to 4 birds at the Western Marsh between January and March. 2 sightings of a bird on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of December at the Western Marsh.



**Red-necked Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*): First heard on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April and then present until the end of August.



**Common Swift** (*Apus apus*): Present from the end of March until the end of September.



**Pallid Swift** (*Apus pallidus*): Present from the 17<sup>th</sup> of March (15 birds) until the beginning of September.

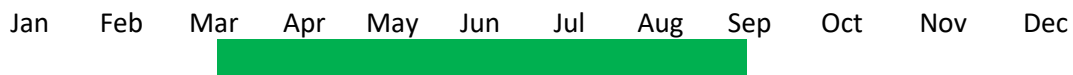


**Alpine Swift** (*Apus melba*): Present between the beginning of March (2 bird on the 3<sup>rd</sup>) and the beginning of July. 2 birds were seen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September.



**Common Kingfisher** (*Alcedo atthis*): Seen all year except in April and June.

**European Bee-eater** (*Merops apiaster*): Present from the 28<sup>th</sup> of March until the beginning of September.



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

**Eurasian Wryneck** (*Jynx torquilla*): 2 sightings in 2016: 1 on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September and 1 on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October.

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

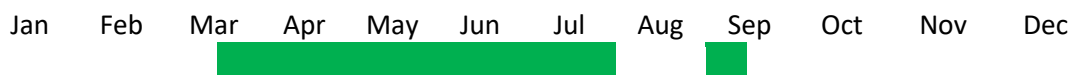
**Great Spotted Woodpecker** (*Dendrocopos major*): A few observations during the year, in May, between July and October and in December.



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



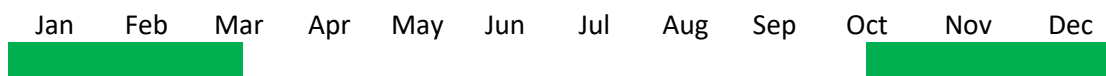
**Greater Short-toed Lark** (*Calandrella brachydactyla*): Seen between the end of March and July. 5 birds seen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September.



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

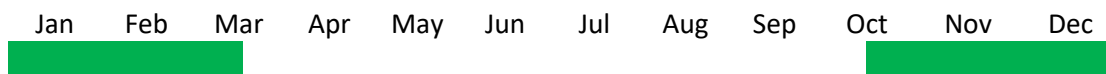
**Eurasian Skylark** (*Alauda arvensis*): Present from January until mid-March and then from the end of October until the end of the year.





**Sand Martin** (*Riparia riparia*): 1 on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, 1 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, 1 on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of August and 1 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September.

**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-October.



**Common House Martin** (*Delichon urbicum*): Present from the 27<sup>th</sup> of January (2 birds) until mid-October.

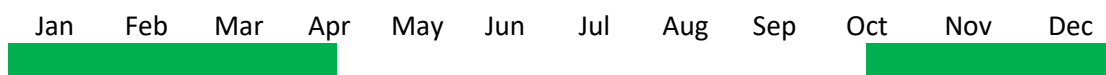


**Red-rumped Swallow** (*Cecropis daurica*): Present from the 7<sup>th</sup> of February (1 bird) until mid-October.

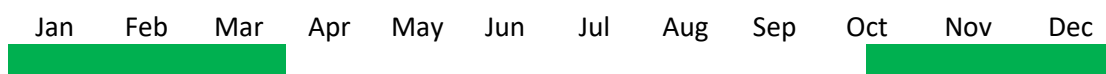


**Tree Pipit** (*Anthus trivialis*): 2 sightings in 2016: 1 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April at Abicada and 5 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September at the Western Marsh.

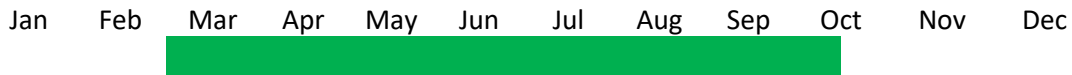
**Meadow Pipit** (*Anthus pratensis*): Present from January until the beginning of April, then from mid-October until the end of the year.



**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 2<sup>nd</sup> of March until mid-October.



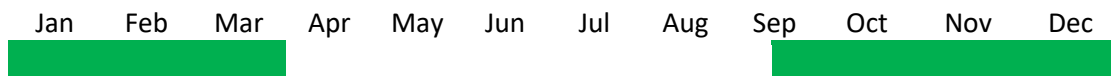
**Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*):** Seen every month between January and April and in October.

**White Wagtail** (*Motacilla alba*): Present from January until mid-April. 2 sightings in summer, 1 on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July and 1 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. Then, present from the beginning of October until the end of the year.

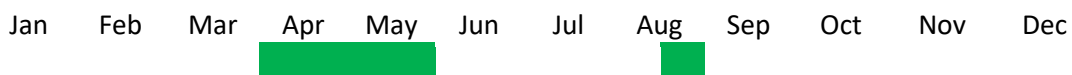


**Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*):** Present all year.

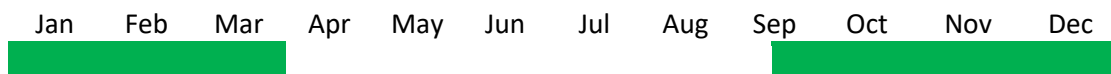
**European Robin** (*Erithacus rubecula*): Present from January until the end of March, then from the end of September until the end of the year.



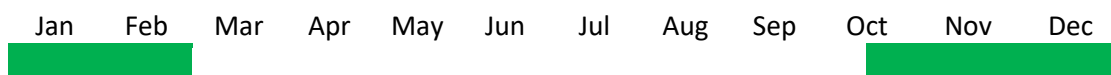
**Common Nightingale** (*Luscinia megarhynchos*): Detected from the 10<sup>th</sup> of April until the end of May, then a few records at the end of August.



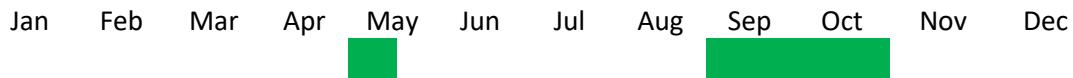
**Bluethroat** (*Luscinia svecica*): Present from January until the end of March, with a maximum of 6 birds on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. Then, present from mid-September until the end of the year.



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



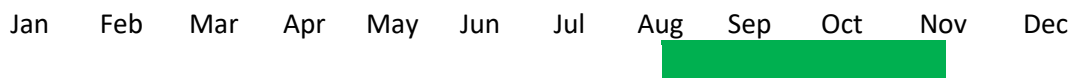
**Common Redstart** (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*): 1 on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, and then, present in September and October.



**Whinchat** (*Saxicola rubetra*): Present in September and October.

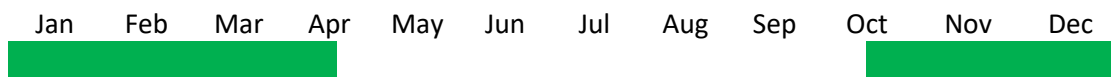
**European Stonechat** (*Saxicola rubicola*): Present all year.

**Northern Wheatear** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*): No sighting in spring. Then, present from the end of August until the beginning of November.



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

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



**Redwing** (*Turdus iliacus*): 1 on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January at Cruzinha.

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

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

**Western Olivaceous Warbler** (*Iduna opaca*): 1 caught and ringed at Cruzinha on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May.

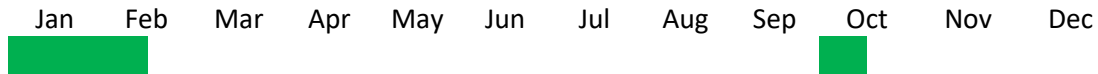
**Melodious Warbler** (*Hippolais polyglotta*): Present from the beginning of August until mid-September.

**Sedge Warbler** (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*): 1 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August at the Western Marsh.

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



**Dartford Warbler** (*Sylvia undata*): Present between January and mid-February and 1 at the Western Marsh on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October.



**Subalpine Warbler** (*Sylvia cantillans*): 1 on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, 1 on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August and then present in October (last sighting on the 12<sup>th</sup>).

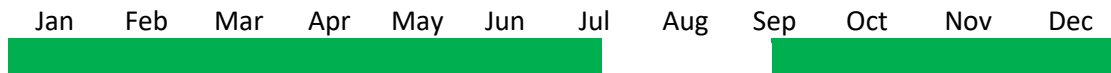
**Sardinian Warbler** (*Sylvia melanocephala*): Present all year.

**Western Ophrean Warbler** (*Sylvia hortensis*): 1 caught and ringed at Cruzinha on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May.

**Common Whitethroat** (*Sylvia communis*): 2 sightings in September.

**Garden Warbler** (*Sylvia borin*): Present from in September and October.

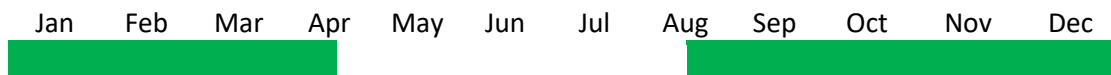
**Eurasian Blackcap** (*Sylvia atricapilla*): Present from January until July and from the end of September until the end of the year. 2 ringed birds from Belgium were caught at Cruzinha.



**Yellow-browed Warbler** (*Phylloscopus inornatus*): 4 sightings in October: 2 caught and ringed at Cruzinha on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 1 heard (the same) on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 1 seen at Mexilhoeira Grande on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

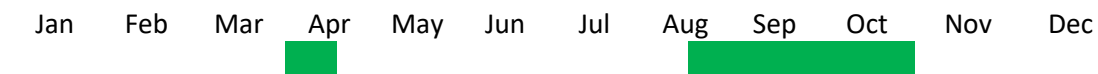
**Western Bonelli's Warbler** (*Phylloscopus bonelli*): Present in the second half of August and 1 bird caught and ringed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October.

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

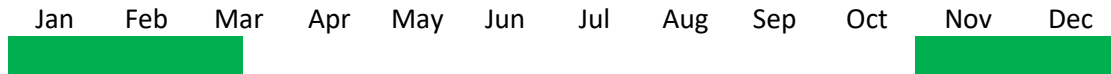


**Iberian Chiffchaff** (*Phylloscopus ibericus*): 1 bird heard at Cruzinha on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September.

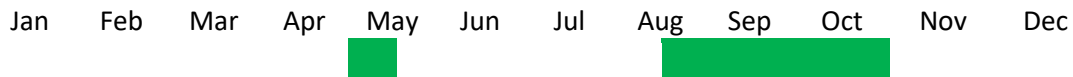
**Willow Warbler** (*Phylloscopus trochilus*): 1 bird on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April and then present between the end of August until the end of October.



**Common Firecrest** (*Regulus ignicapilla*): Present between January and mid-March and in November and December.



**Spotted Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa striata*): 1 sighting in spring: 1 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May. Then, present from the end of August until the end of October.



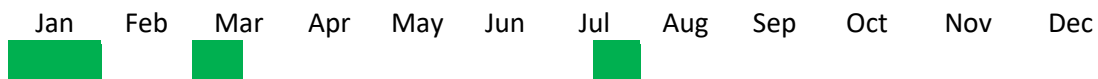
**European Pied Flycatcher** (*Ficedula hypoleuca*): Present from the beginning of August until the end of October.

**Long-tailed Tit** (*Aegithalos caudatus*): 1 at Cruzinha on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October.

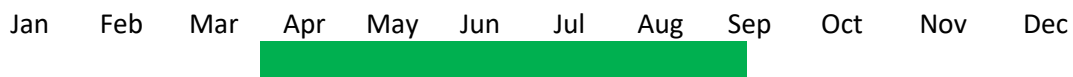
**Eurasian Blue Tit** (*Cyanistes caeruleus*): Present all year.

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

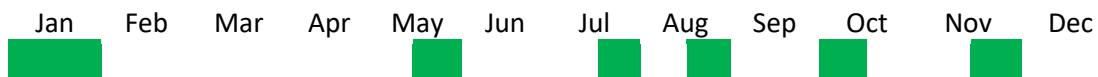
**Short-toed Treecreeper** (*Certhia brachydactyla*): Present in January, March and July.



**Eurasian Golden Oriole** (*Oriolus oriolus*): First detected on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April, then present until the beginning of September



**Southern Grey Shrike** (*Lanius meridionalis*): Seen in January, May, July, August, October and November.



**Woodchat Shrike** (*Lanius senator*): Present from the 19<sup>th</sup> of March until mid-September.

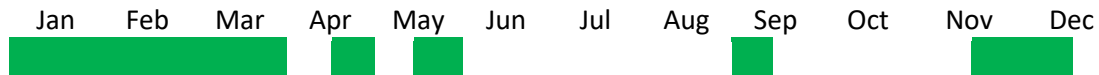


**Eurasian Jay** (*Garrulus glandarius*): 1 on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August.

**Azure-winged Magpie** (*Cyanopica cyanus*): Present all year.

**Common Magpie** (*Pica pica*): Several sightings during the year: 1 on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of April, 1 on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, 1 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October and 1 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November, all at the Western Marsh.

**Western Jackdaw** (*Corvus monedula*): Present between January and the second half of May (maximum of 5 birds on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March), then sightings in September, November and December.

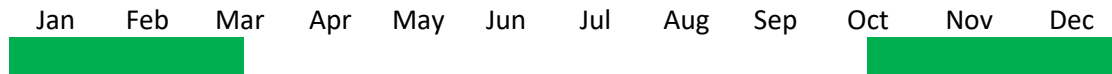


**Spotless Starling** (*Sturnus unicolor*): Present all year.

**Common Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*): Present in January and February (maximum of 25 birds on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February), in October and November.

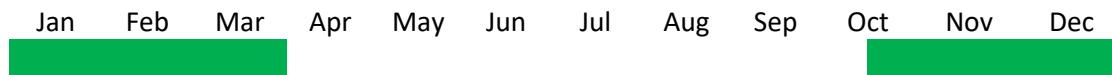
**House Sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*): Present all year.

**Spanish Sparrow** (*Passer hispaniolensis*): Present from January to mid-March, then present from mid-October until the end of the year, with a maximum of 61 birds on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January.



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

**Common Chaffinch** (*Fringilla coelebs*): Present from January to the end of 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 January and February and 1 bird caught and ringed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November.

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

**Cirl Bunting** (*Emberiza cirlus*): 1 at Odiaxere salt pans on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January.

**Ortolan Bunting** (*Emberiza hortulana*): 1 at Abicada on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April and 4 near the Western Marsh on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October.

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

2016 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, Keith and Rosy Miller, Gonçalo and Maria Elias, Paula Banza, Lieske de Wilde, Nuno dos Santos, Lars Gonçalves, Willem Scheres, Heather Coats, Marcial Felgueiras, Isabel Soares, Rob Thomas, Riley and Barbara Massey, Marie-Jane and Gérard Réthoré, Sara Roda, Filipe Bally, Alexandre Leitão, Jorge Safara, Carlos Pereira, Peter Adriaens, Filipe Canario, Nuno Alexandre, Jacob Williams, John Callinan, Esther Brouwer, Linda Adenis-Lamarre, Charles and Eileen Russell, John and Barbara Townsend, Neil and Virginia Lettinga, Daniel Klaver, Julio Reis, Ellie Huckle, Micheline and Jean-Michel Paulus, Christine and John Woulds

## References

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



Lesser Crested Tern (centre) - Ria de Alvor © G.Réthoré



Western Olivaceous Warbler - Cruzinha  
© G.Réthoré



Yellow-browed Warbler- Cruzinha © F.Bragança