

Systematic List of the Birds of Ria de Alvor 2017

Guillaume RETHORE



A Rocha Life Portugal

A total of 189 species of birds, out of the 318 seen, were registered in the Ria de Alvor Natura 2000 site in 2017 (best year since 1997) but no new species were added to the list.

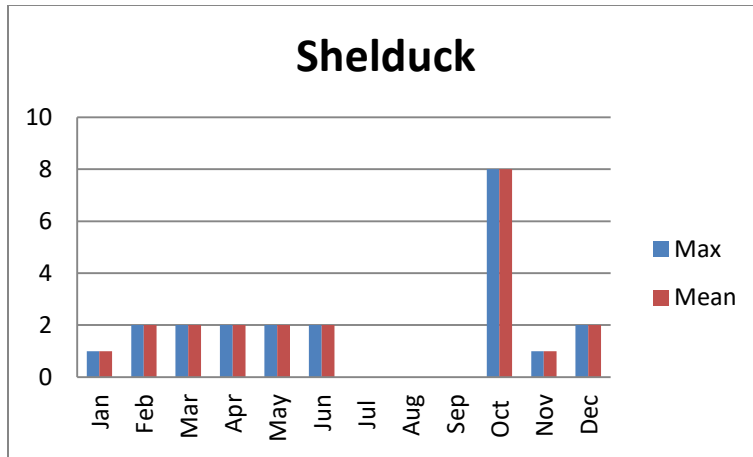
Highlights for 2017 were: the first Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) since 1996, no sighting of Great Spotted Cuckoo (*Clamator glandarius*) for the first time since 2007, a Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*), not seen in the area since 2005, a Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*), the species had not been registered since 2008, the first Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*) since 1994, several sightings of Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*), not seen in the area since 2002.

Other interesting records were: the observation of Garganey (*Anas querquedula*), the first since 2011, the observation of a Great Northern Loon (*Gavia immer*), the last one being in 2010, a Rock Pipit (*Anthus petrosus*), not seen in the area since 2013, no sightings of Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) for the first time since 2014 and no Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) for the first time since 2013, long-staying Pintails (*Anas acuta*) and Great White Egret (*Egretta alba*), few Shovelers (*Anas clypeata*) but a record number of Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) in winter, few Griffon Vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) but huge numbers out of the study area, the presence almost all year long of at least an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) and 2 Ravens (*Corvus corax*), the confirmed breeding for the 2nd consecutive year of the Purple Swampphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) at Abicada and also for a pair of Coots (*Fulica atra*), small numbers of Black-winged Stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*) at the end of the year, no peak (or at least not detected) during the spring migration of Whimbrels (*Numenius phaeopus*), good numbers of Knots (*Calidris canutus*) at the beginning of the year (same group as at the end of the previous year) a record number of Dunlins (*Calidris alpina*) (>600, continuation of big groups from the previous year), 2 Slender-billed Gull (*Larus genei*), the biggest number ever recorded, 3 subspecies of Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) in spring, a Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*) in December, "only" one sighting of Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) during the year and big numbers of Siskins (*Carduelis spinus*).

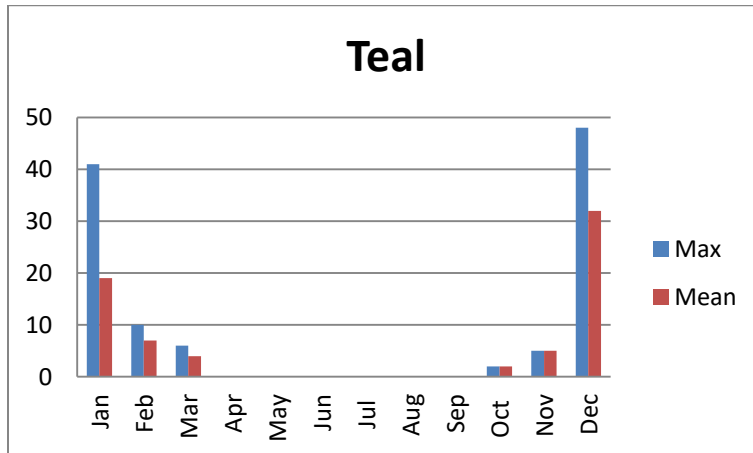
A few birds carrying rings were noted this year: Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*), Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*), Osprey (even though it was not possible to be sure of the origin of the bird), Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), Mediterranean (*Larus melanocephalus*), Yellow-legged (*Larus michahellis*) and Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*Larus fuscus*), Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*), Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) and Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*).

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

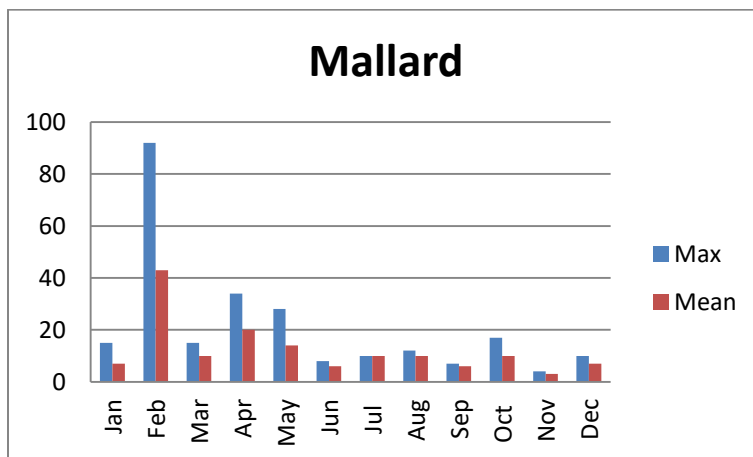
Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*): Between 1 and 2 birds present between January and June, then, present from October until the end of the year (maximum of 8 birds in October).



Eurasian Teal (*Anas crecca*): Present from January to the end of March, with a maximum of 41 on the 30th of January. Then, present from early October until the end of the year, with a maximum of 48 on the 10th of December at Abicada.



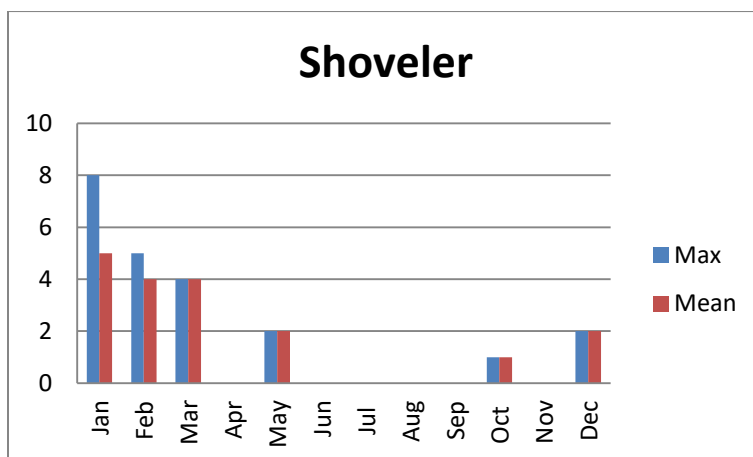
Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*): Present all year.



Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*): Up to 4 birds present between January and the end of March. Then, 7 birds seen in flight on the 28th of November at the Western Marsh.

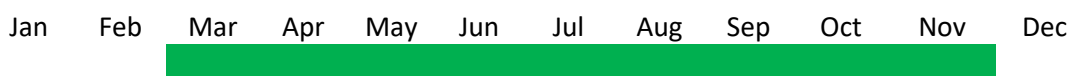
Garganey (*Anas querquedula*): 1 seen at Abicada on the 16th and 24th of June.

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*): Present from January to the end of March, with a maximum of 8 on the 13th of January, then 2 birds sighted on the 18th of May at Odiaxere salt pans and present from the end of October until the end of the year.



Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*): 3 sightings: 19 from Alvor on the 26th of March, 6 from Meia-Praia on the 29th of April and 5 from Alvor on the 30th of October.

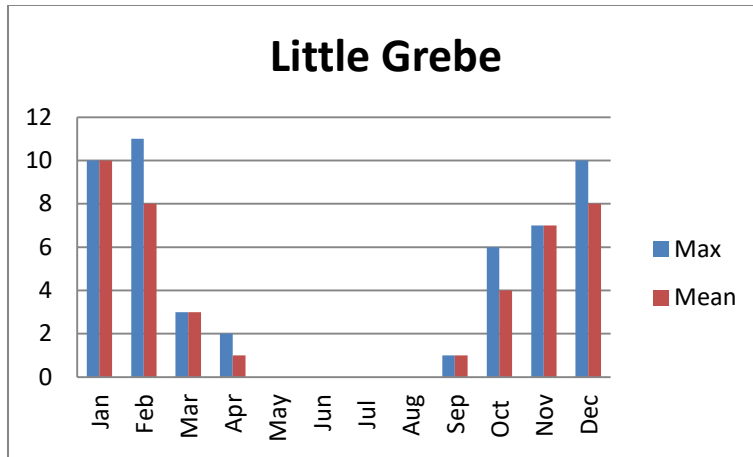
Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*): First heard on the 6th of March, and present until the end of November.



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

Great Northern Loon (*Gavia immer*): 1 at the estuary on the 17th and 18th of November.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*): Seen between January and the end of April, with a maximum of 11 at Abicada in February. Then, present between late September until the end of the year with a maximum of 10 birds on the 23rd of December at Abicada.

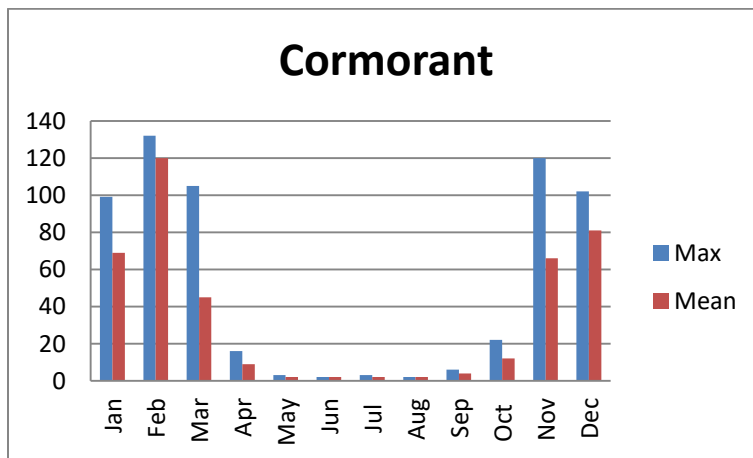


Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*): 1 on the 2nd of November.

Balearic Shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*): 3 seen from Meia-Praia on the 2nd of November.

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*): Detected all year except in February, April, June, August and September. This species is probably under detected.

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*): Present all year, with maximums of 132 on the 22nd of February and 120 on the 17th of December, both at the Western Marsh.



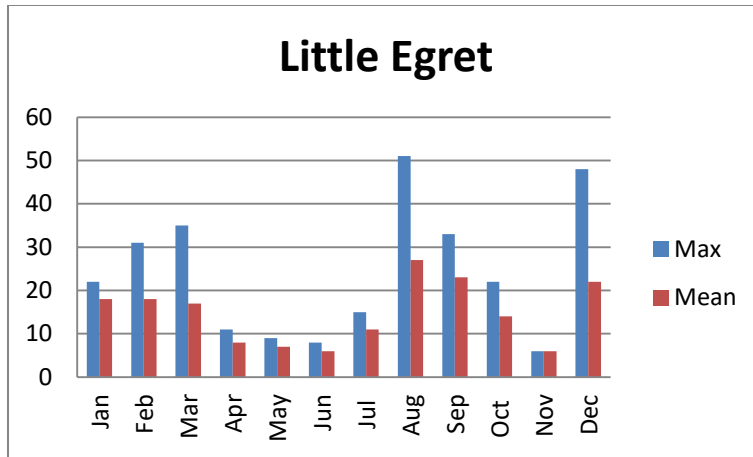
European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*): 4 seen from Meia-Praia on the 2nd of November.

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*): 1 juvenile at Abicada on the 24th of April. 1 juvenile was found weak at the fish farms on the 31st of October but died before it could be brought to the RIAS.

Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*): 1 at Abicada on the 19th of April and 1 at Quinta da Rocha on the 21st of April.

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

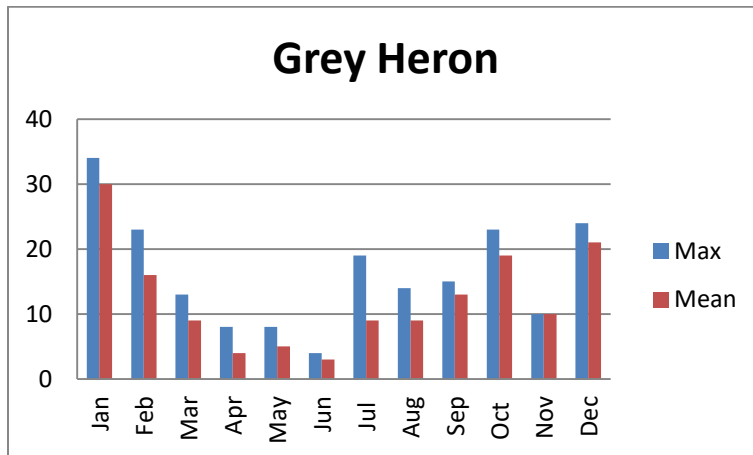
Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*): Present all year; maximum of 51 at the Western Marsh in August.



Great Egret (*Egretta alba*): Present at Abicada between the end of July and the end of the year.



Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*): Present all year with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 34 on the 8th of January and 24 on the 1st of December, both at the Western Marsh).



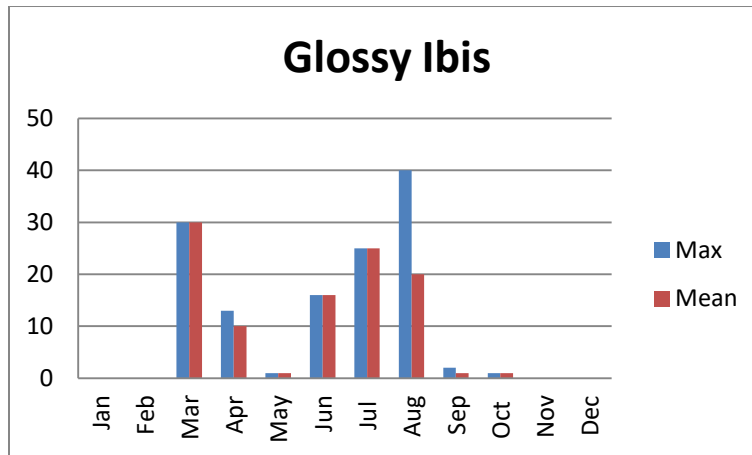
Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*): Seen between April and the end of June with a maximum of 2 birds at Abicada. Then, 2 sightings at Abicada and the Western Marsh at the end of August.



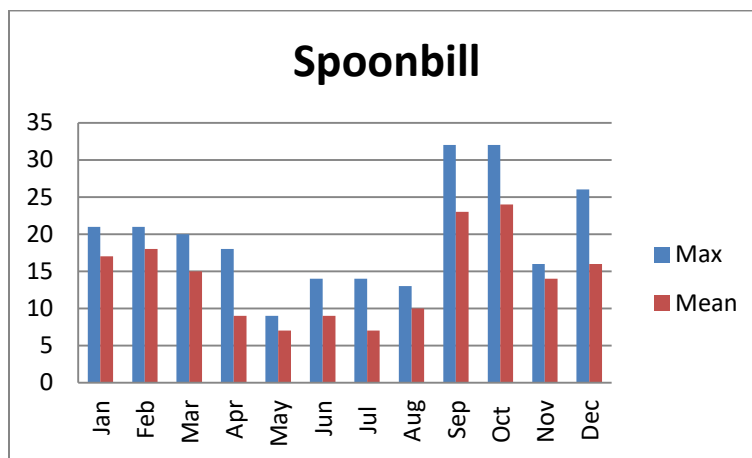
Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*): 2 sightings in the autumn: 1 bird at Abicada on the 29th of October and 3 flying eastward on the 4th of December.

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*): Present all year.

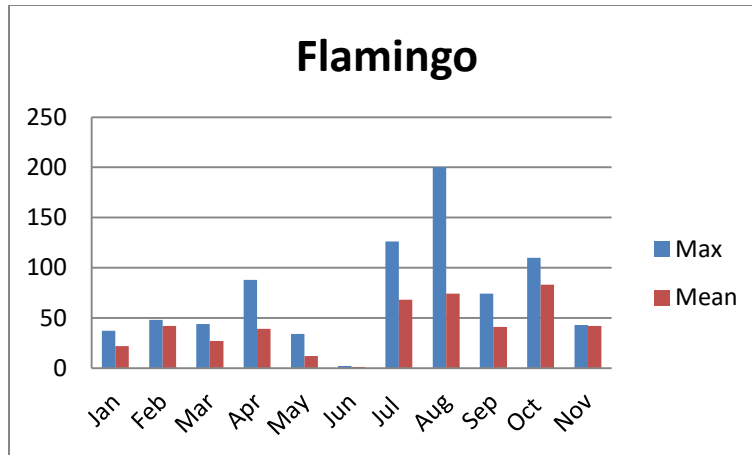
Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*): Seen between March and October. Maximum of 40 birds on the 4th of August at Abicada.



Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*): Present all year with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximums of 21 in February and 32 in September and October, both at the Western Marsh). 5 ringed birds have been controlled over the year (all from the Netherlands). Several of these birds are regular winter visitors.



Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 200 on the 4th of August at Abicada. 22 ringed birds have been controlled over the year (19 from Spain, 1 from Italy and 2 from France).



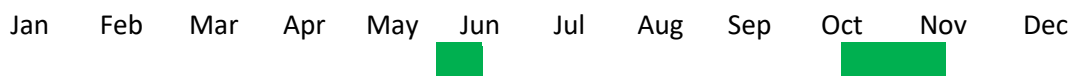
Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*): Present all year.

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*): Seen in April, July and September, always 1 bird.



Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*): 1 on the 25th of October and 1 on the 4th of December, both at the Western Marsh.

Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*): 1 at Mexilhoeira Grande on the 8th of June, 27 at Abicada on the 21st of October, 11 over Cruzinha on the 22nd of October and 2 at the same place on the 9th of November. Passage of a flock of about 1000 birds north of the study area at the end of October.



Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*): First sighting on the 12th of March at the Western Marsh, then seen until mid-April. Seen again from the end of June until the early December.



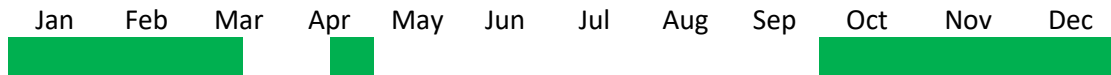
Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*): Present all year with at least 4 different birds in the area.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*): 1 sighting of a female on the 25th of October at Abicada.

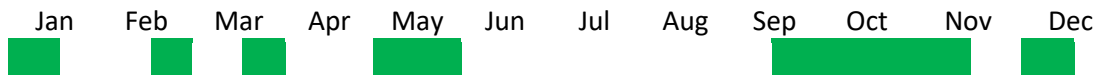
Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*): 1 juvenile at Meia-Praia on the 28th of April.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*): 1 sighting of a bird on the 26th of August at Abicada.

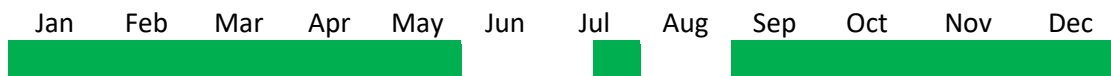
Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*): Present from January until early March, then, 1 bird on the 29th of April at Abicada and from October until the end of the year with a maximum of 5 birds at Abicada on the 3rd of December.



Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*): Seen between January and May, except in April (maximum of 3 birds) and from mid-September until the end of the year (maximum of 9 birds at Abicada in October).



Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*): Seen all year except in June and August. 1 bird carrying a black darvic ring was seen in the area, possibly a bird from Germany.

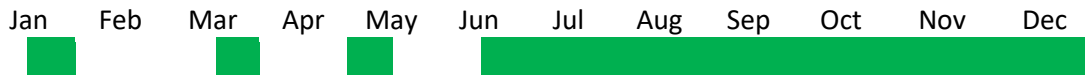


Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*): Present all year.

Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*): 1 sighting in spring, 1 bird at Abicada on the 19th of May and 2 sightings in the autumn: 1 on the 7th and 1 on the 10th of October.

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

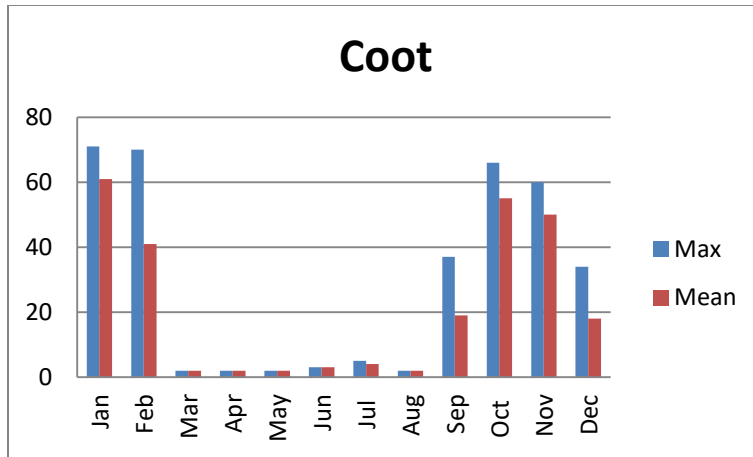
Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*): Heard or seen every month except February and April.



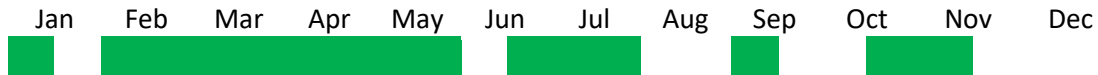
Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*): Present all year. Maximum of 7 birds at Abicada.

Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*): Present all year at Abicada. Confirmed breeding for the 2nd consecutive year.

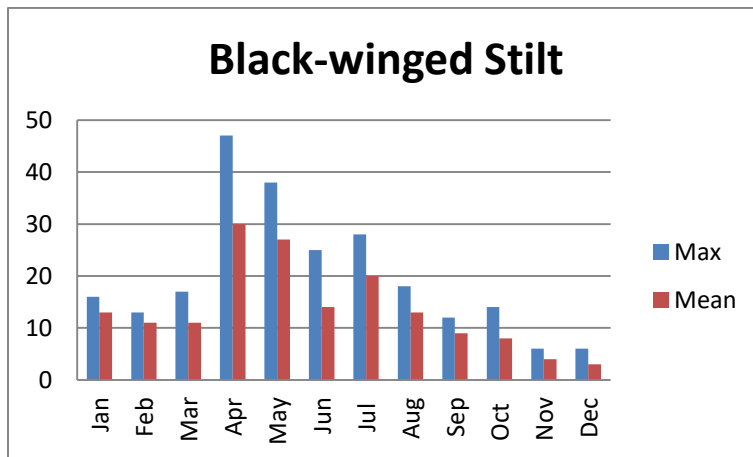
Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*): Present all year, with bigger numbers in winter and autumn (maximum of 71 birds on the 7th of January and 66 on the 31st of October). All the sightings are from Abicada where breeding was confirmed.



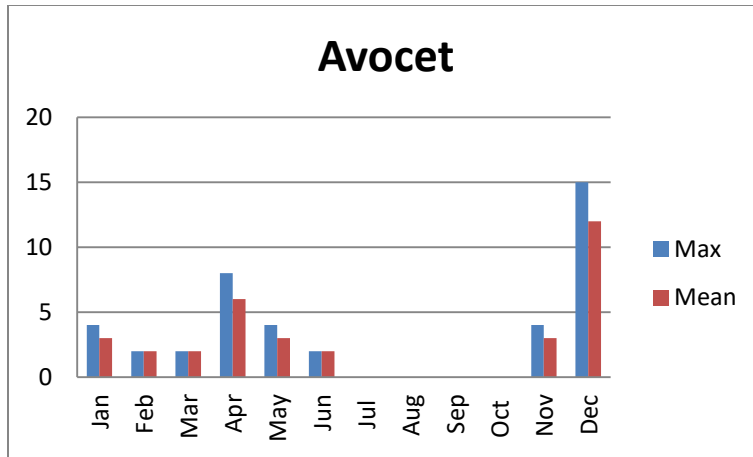
Eurasian Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oedichnemus*): Heard or seen between January and November, except August.



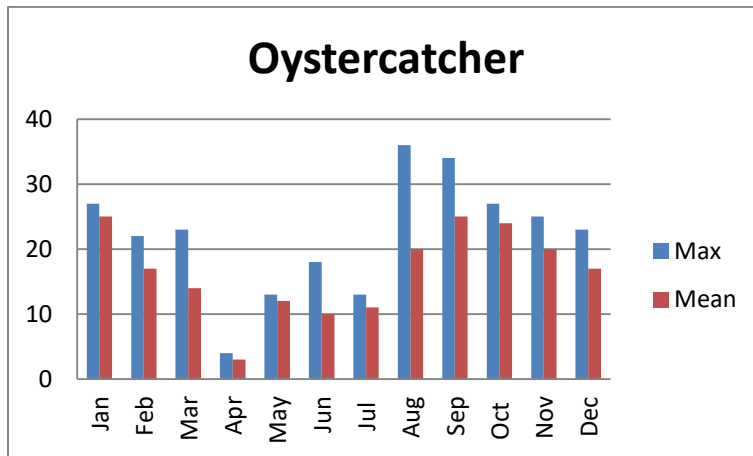
Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 47 birds on the 28th of April at Odiaxere salt pans.



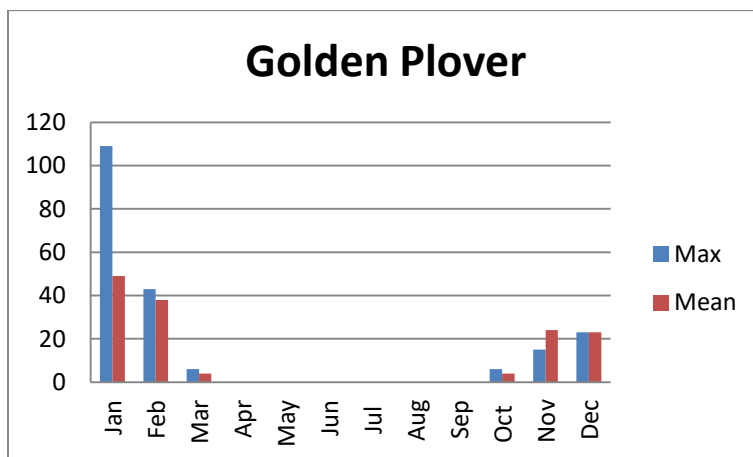
Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*): Present between January and mid-June, then from mid-November until the end of the year, with a maximum of 15 birds on the 23rd of December at Abicada.



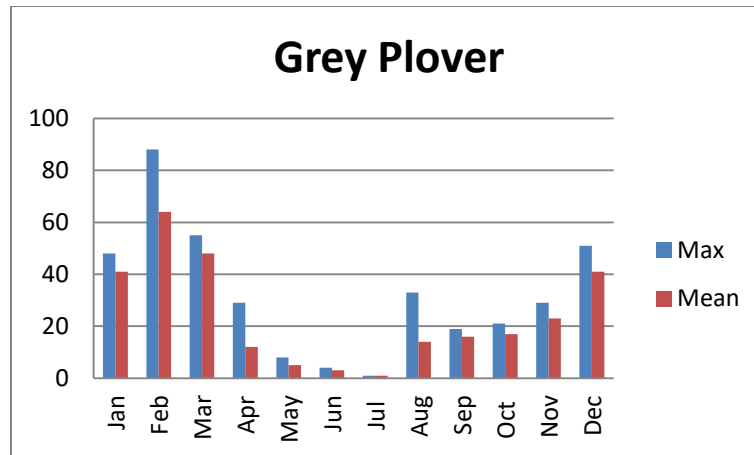
Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*): Present all year.



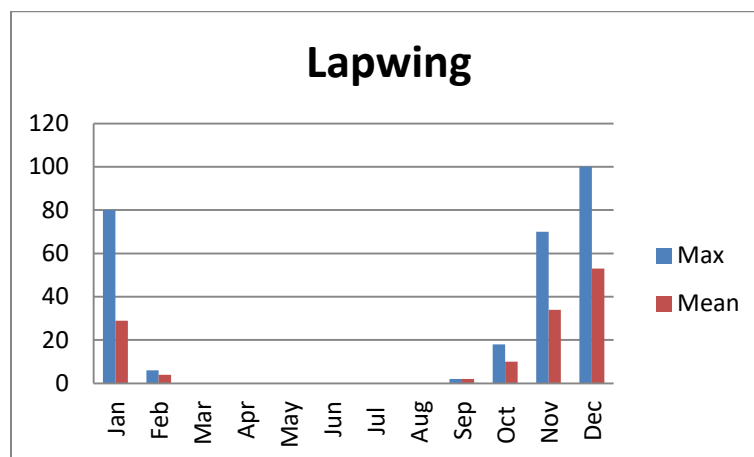
European Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*): Present between January and March, with a maximum of 109 on the 30th of January at the Western Marsh. Then, present from mid-October until the end of the year with a maximum of 23 on the 10th of December.



Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*): Present all year, with maximums of 88 on the 9th of February and 51 on the 29th of December, both at the Western Marsh.

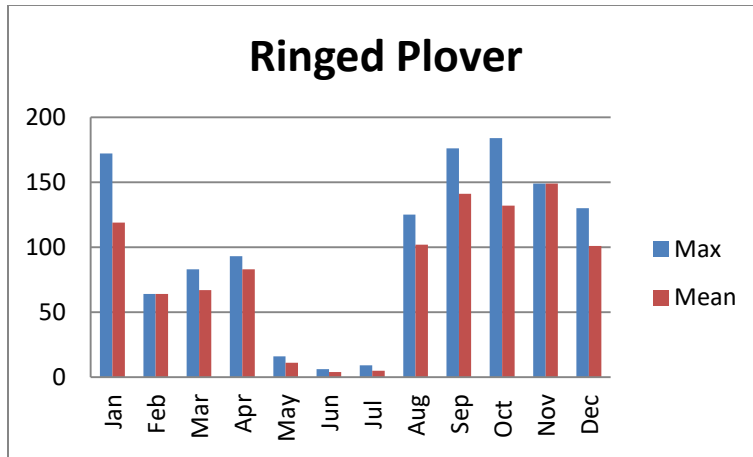


Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*): Present from January to the end of February, and then again from mid-September until the end of the year; maximum of 80 on the 14th of January and 100 on the 9th of December.

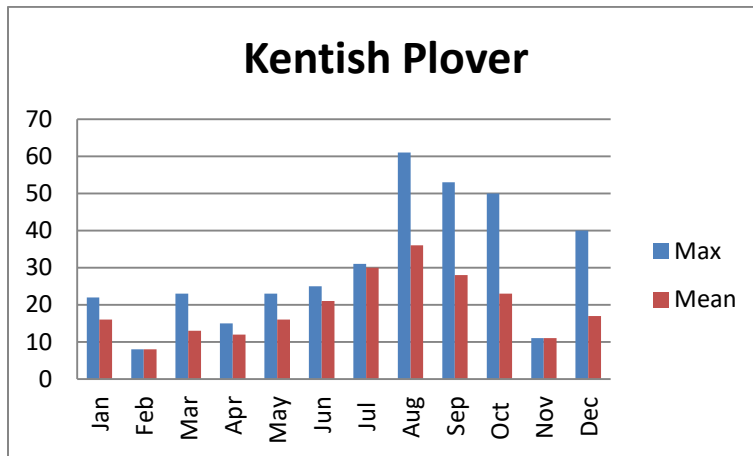


Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*): Present between mid-April and mid-May, all sightings from Odiachere salt pans and Abicada.

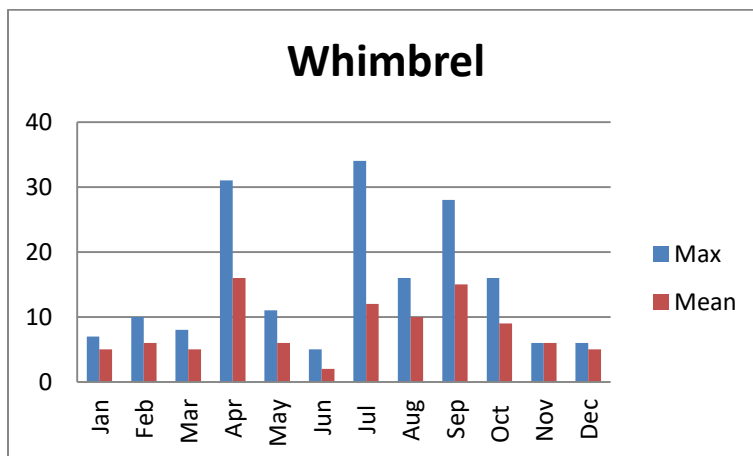
Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*): Present all year, with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 172 on the 30th of January and 184 on the 3rd of October). 1 ringed bird controlled during the year, from Iceland.



Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*): Present all year, with a maximum of 61 on the 23rd of August.

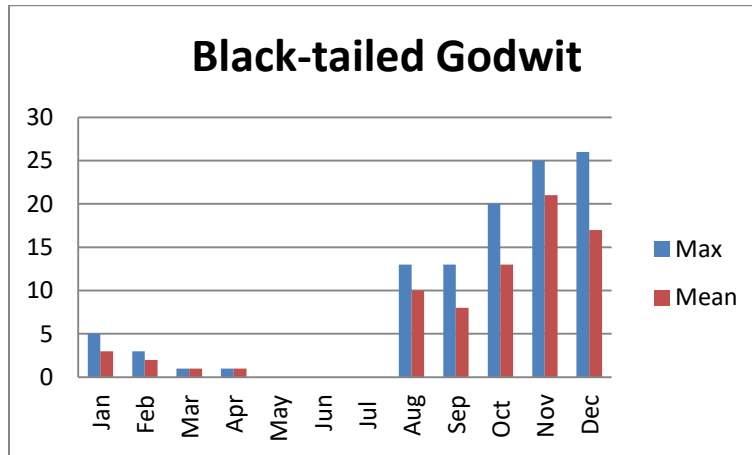


Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*): Present all year. No peak noticed this year in April during migration.

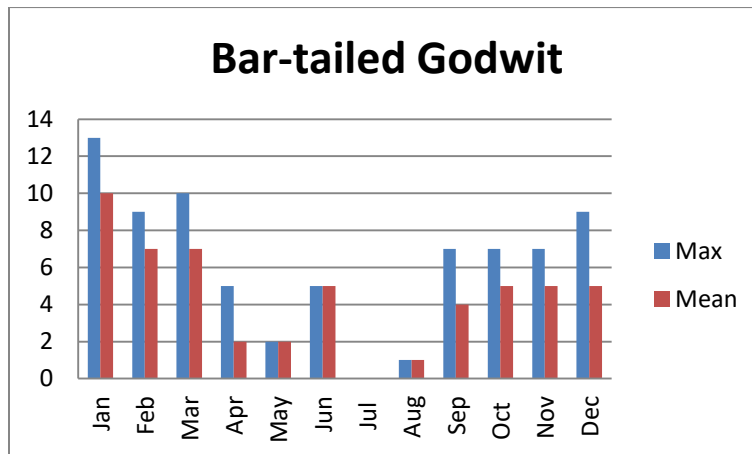


Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*): 2 on the 1st of December.

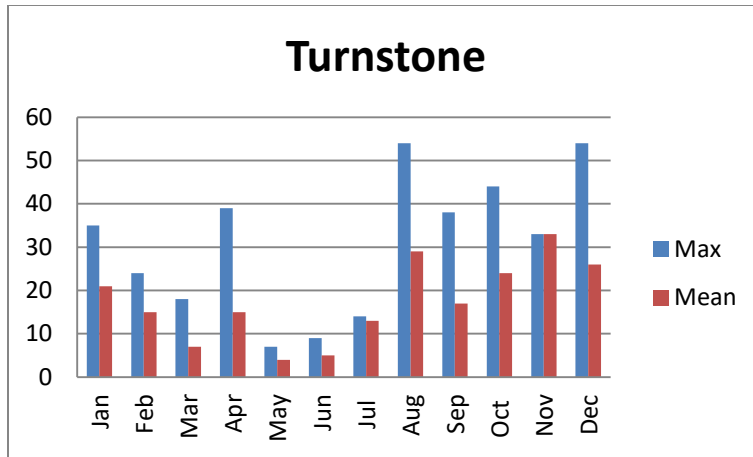
Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*): Present from January until April (maximum of 5 birds on the 19th of January at Abicada), and from August until the end of the year (a maximum of 26 on the 10th of December).



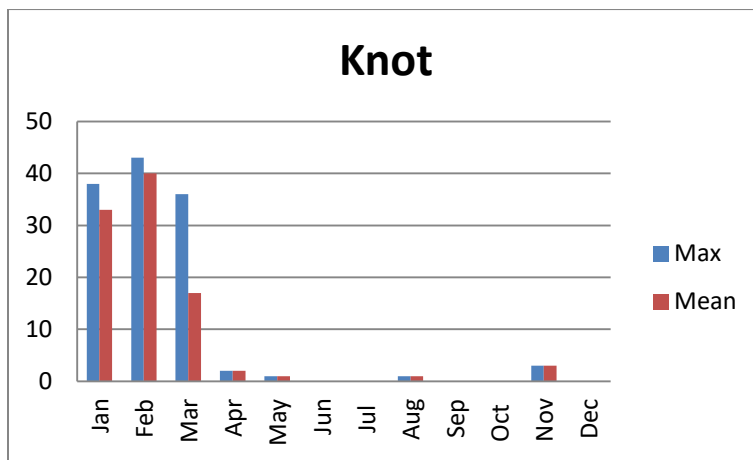
Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*): Present all year, except in July, with a maximum of 13 in January.



Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*): Present all year, with maximums of 52 on the 23rd of August and 4th of December.

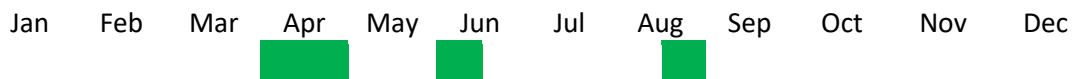


Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*): Present between January and April (maximum of 43 in February), then in May, August and November.

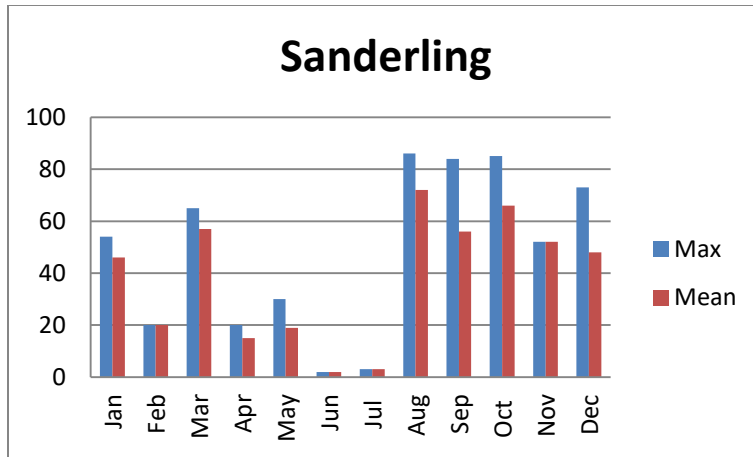


Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*): 4 sightings between mid-September and early November.

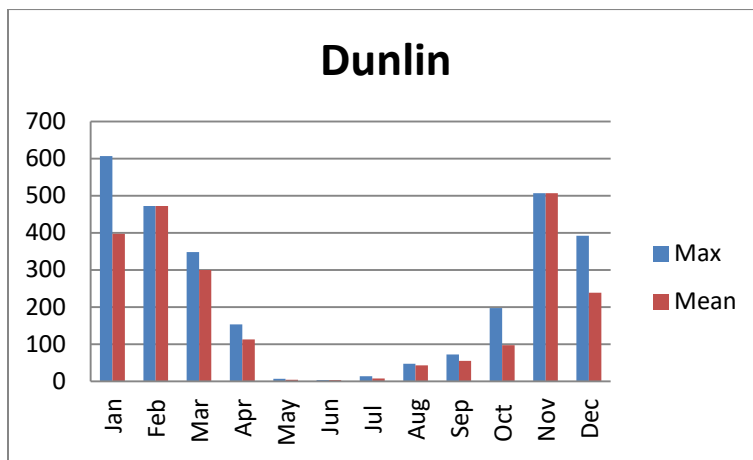
Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*): There were a few observations during the year: 1 on the 12th and 4 on the 21st of April, 1 on the 15th of June, 1 on the 23rd and 4 on the 30th of August,



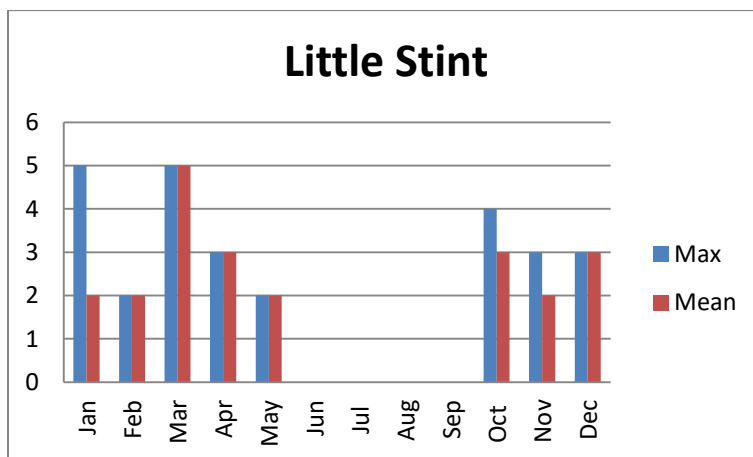
Sanderling (*Calidris alba*): Present all year with maximums of 65 on the 6th of March and 86 on the 23rd of August.



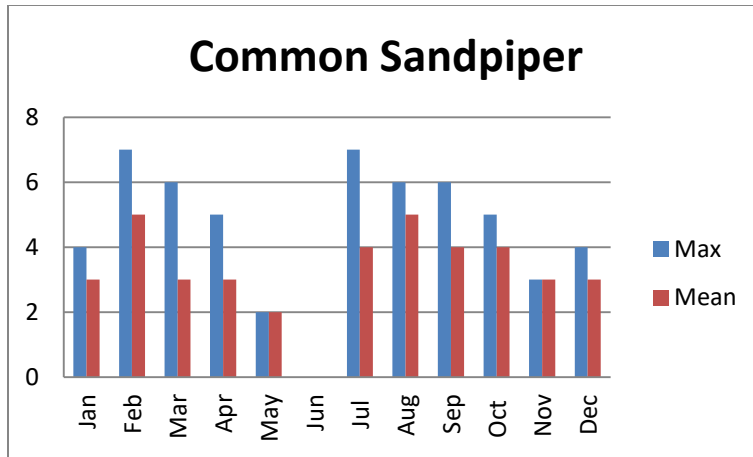
Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*): Present all year, with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 607 on the 30th of January and 507 on the 17th of November).



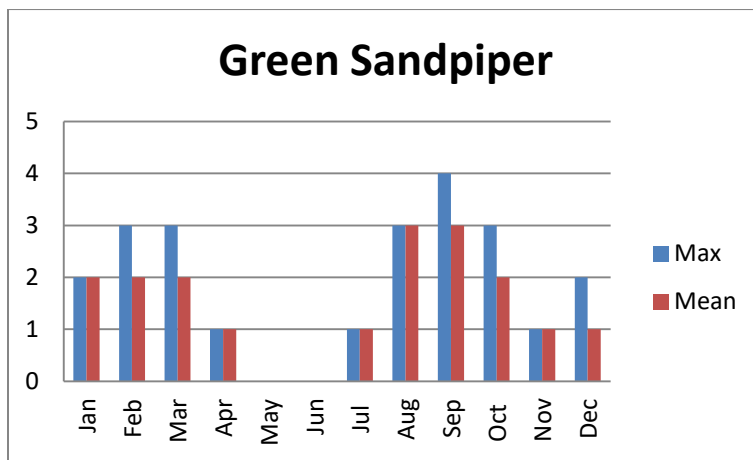
Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*): Present between January and early May and between October and the end of the year with a maximum of 5 birds.



Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*): Present all year, except in June.

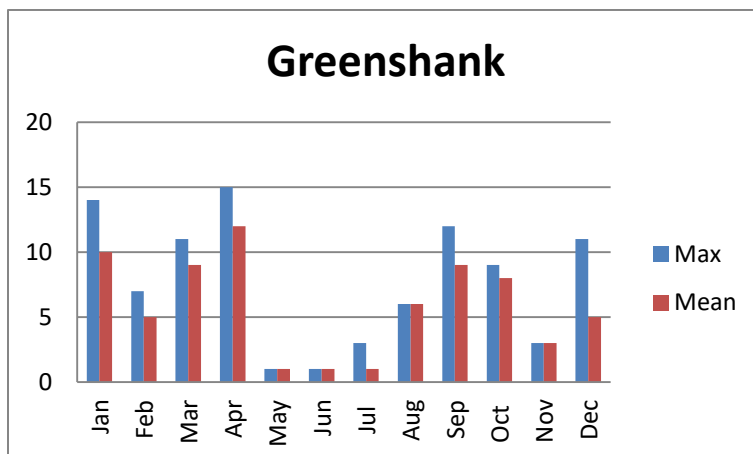


Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*): Present between January and April, then, between July and the end of the year.

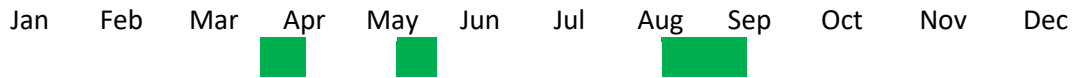


Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*): 1 on the 1st of October and 1 on the 1st of December, both at the Western Marsh.

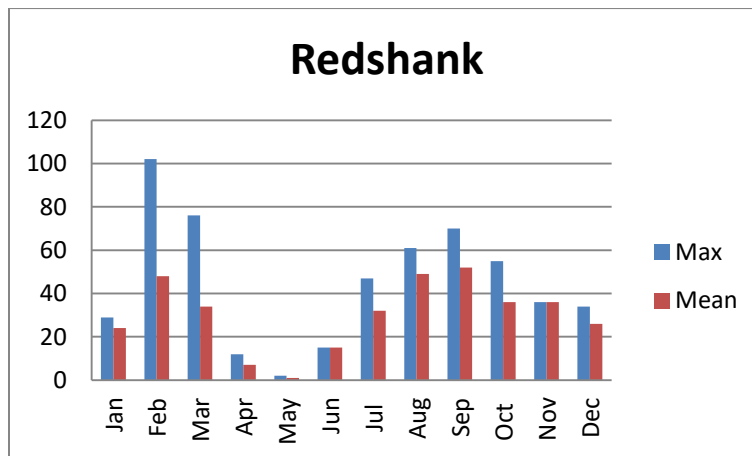
Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*): Present all year except in June, with a maximum of 15 in April.



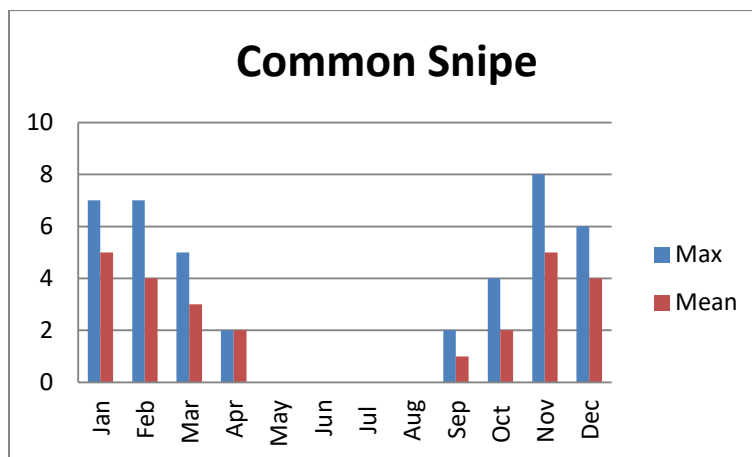
Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*): Several sightings in 2017: 1 bird on the 10th of April and 18th of May, both at Odiaxere salt pans, 1 on the 20th and 4 on the 25th of August, both at Abicada and 1 at the Western Marsh in the 14th of September.



Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*): Present all year with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximums of 102 on the 19th of February and 70 on the 9th of September, both at Abicada).



Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*): Present from January to April and then from September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 8 on the 17th of November.

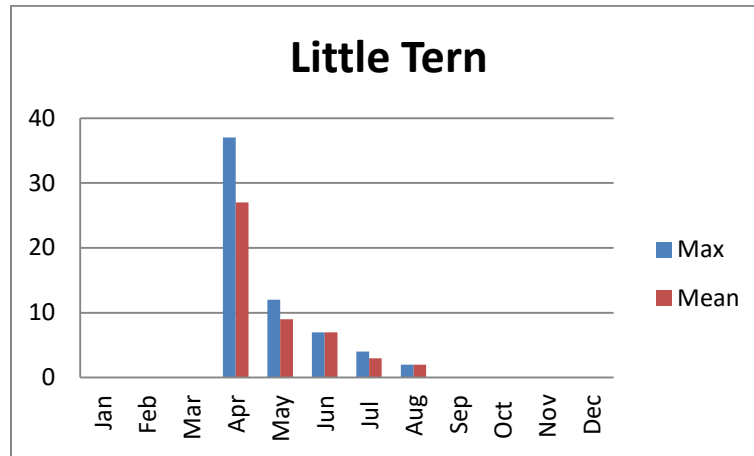


Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*): 2 sightings in spring, both in April: 3 on the 10th and 1 on the 29th.

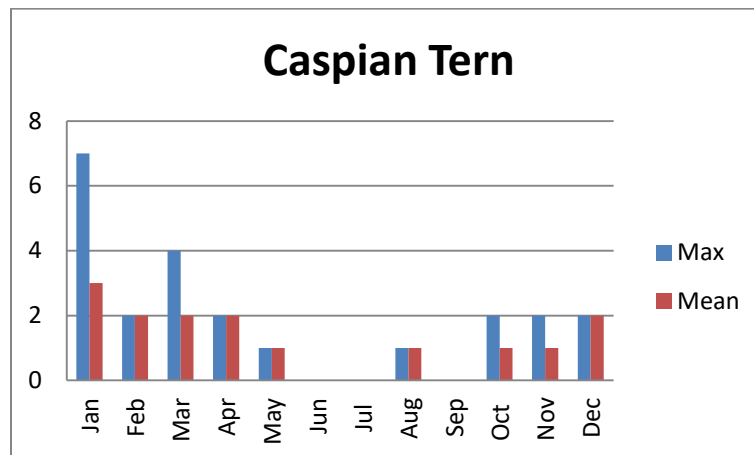
Great Skua (*Stercorarius skua*): 2 sighting during the year from Alvor beach and Meia-Praia: 1 on the 5th of February and 1 on the 26th of March.

Razorbill (*Alca torda*): 1 found dead at Meia-Praia on the 26th of March.

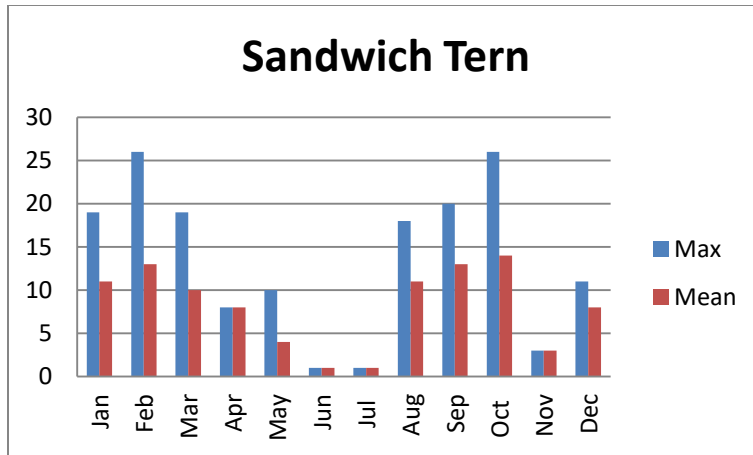
Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*): Present between April (first birds seen on the 19th) and August (last bird seen on the 23rd).



Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*): Present from January to mid-May, with a maximum of 7 birds on the 20th of January. Then, 1 bird seen at the end of August and present from mid-October until the end of the year, with a maximum of 2 birds.



Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*): Present all year, with a maximum of 26 in October and February.

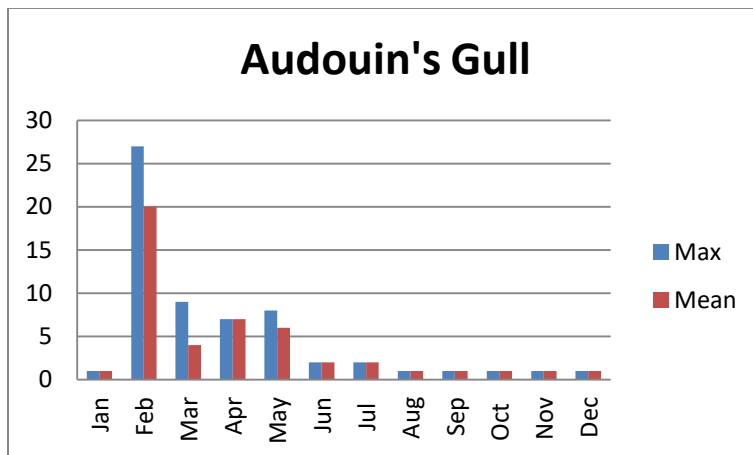


Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*): 1 on the 29th of April at Abicada.

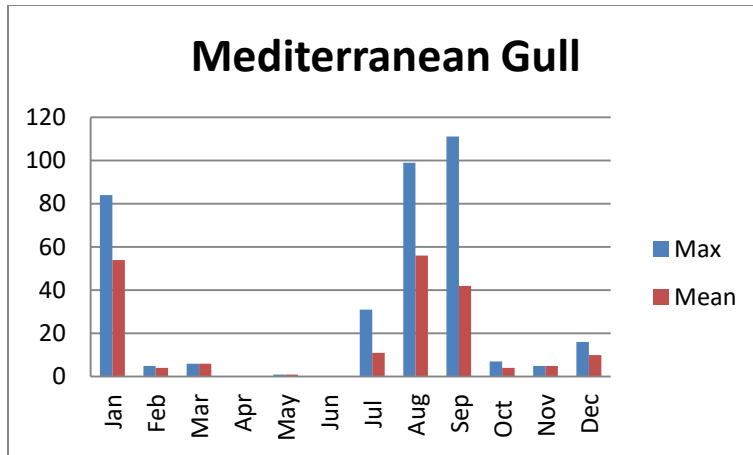
Slender-billed Gull (*Larus genei*): 2 at the Western Marsh on the 3rd of October.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*): Present all year except in April and May.

Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*): Present all year with a maximum of 27 birds on the 22nd of February.



Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*): Present all year, except in April and June with a maximum of 111 on the 1st of September. 4 birds were controlled in 2016 (1 from Belgium and 3 from France).



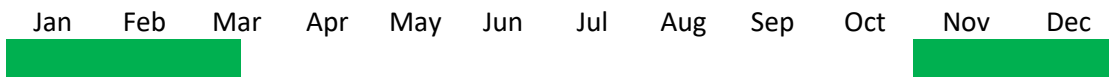
Mew Gull (*Larus canus*): 1 at Abicada on the 24th of March.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*): Present all year. 11 ringed birds were found during the year (3 from the Netherlands, 2 from Scotland, 2 from Portugal, 2 from France, 1 from Denmark and 1 from Norway).

European Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*): 1 at Alvor on the 4th of November.

Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*): Present all year. 5 ringed birds were found during the year (all from Portugal).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*): Seen between January and March and November and December, always only 1 bird.



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

Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*): seen in January, April, August and November. Maximum of 8 birds, mostly at Abicada.

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

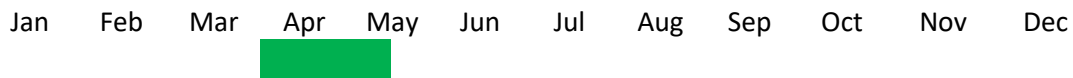
African Collared Dove (*Streptopelia roseogrisea*): 1 bird, escaped from captivity, on the 18th of October at Quinta da Rocha.

European Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*): 1 on the 29th of April, 1 on the 9th, 2 on the 10th and 1 on the 15th of May, 1 on the 5th of July, 1 on the 20th and 2 on the 27th of August.



Cockatiel (*Nymphicus hollandicus*): 1 bird seen twice in April around Cruzinha.

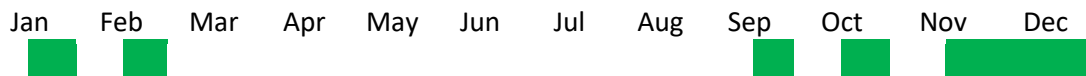
Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*): Seen (or heard) every week between April and mid-May.



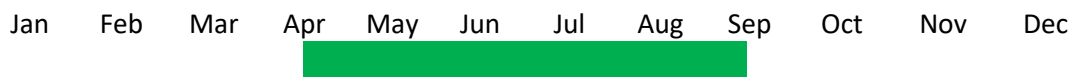
Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*): 5 sightings in 2017, between June and September and in November (always 1 bird).

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

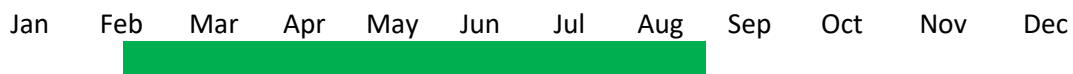
Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*): Only a few sightings: 1 bird on the 27th of January and 21st of March at the Western Marsh. Then, 4 sightings of a bird between mid-September and the end of the year.



Red-necked Nightjar (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*): First heard on the 26th of April and then present until the beginning of September.



Common Swift (*Apus apus*): Present from the end of February until the end of August.



Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*): Present from the 2nd of March until the end of August. 2 birds seen on the 1st of October at Abicada.



Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*): Present between the beginning of March (1 bird on the 8th) and mid-August. 4 birds were seen on the 17th of October.



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

European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*): Present from the 30th of March until the end of September.



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

Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*): 2 sightings in 2017: 1 on the 7th of March and 1 on the 10th of April.

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

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*): Seen all year except in April and May.

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

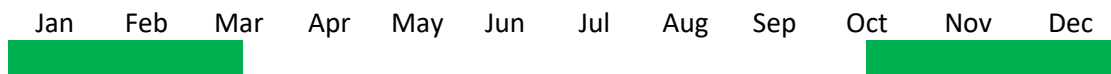
Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*): Seen between the end of March and July.



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

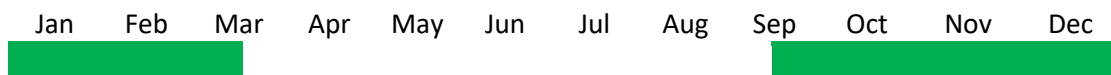
Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*): 1 on the 22nd and 1 on the 25th of October.

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*): 10 on the 21st of February at Abicada, 2 on the 1st of March at Odixere salt pans, 1 on the 8th of May and 1 on the 17th of September.

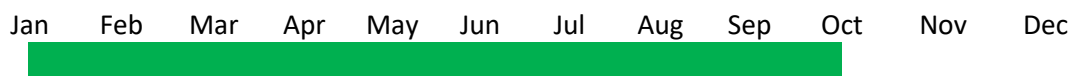
Eurasian Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*): Present from January until mid-March and then from mid-September until the end of the year.



Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): Present from January until the end of September. Then, 1 sighting in October and 1 in December.



Common House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*): Present from the 19th of January (2 birds) until mid-October.



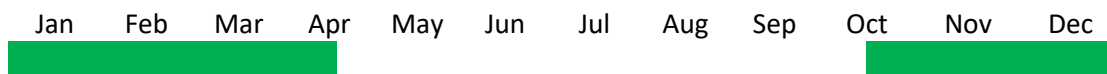
Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*): Present from the 19th of January (1 bird) until the end of October.



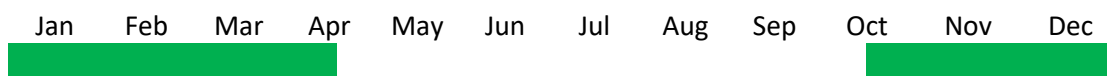
Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*): 1 bird heard at the Western Marsh on the 7th of October.

Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*): 2 on the 28th 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.

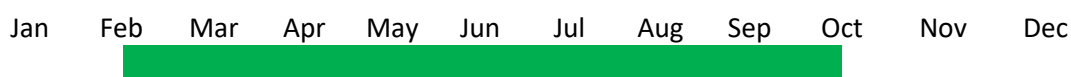


Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*): Present between January and the beginning of April. Then, present from mid-October until the end of the year.



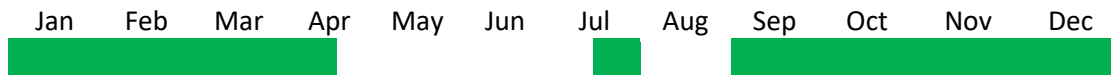
Eurasian Rock Pipit (*Anthus petrosus*): 1 seen at Alvor on the 15th of January.

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*): Present from the 22nd of February until mid-October. Birds belonging to the *flava* and *thunbergi* subspecies were recorded in April.



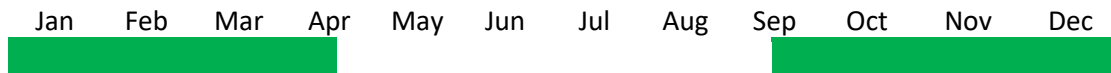
Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*): Seen in February and between October and December.

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*): Present from January until mid-April. 1 on the 24th of July. Then, present from September until the end of the year.

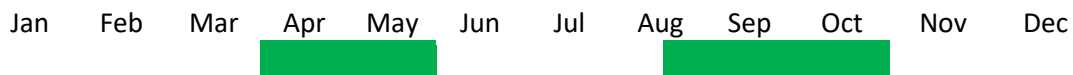


Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*): Present all year.

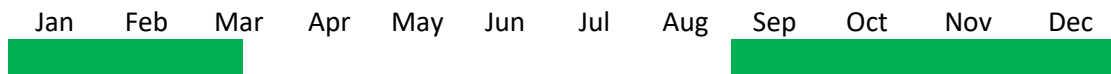
European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*): Present from January until April, then from the end of September until the end of the year.



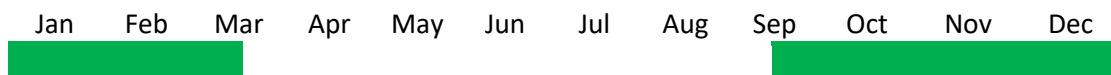
Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*): Detected from the 29th of April until the end of May, then, from the end of August until the end of October.



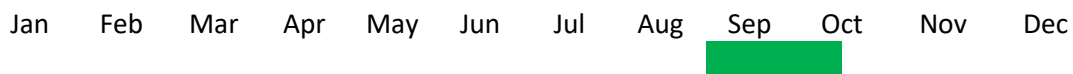
Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*): Present from January until mid-March. Then, present from the beginning of September until the end of the year with a maximum of 7 birds.



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



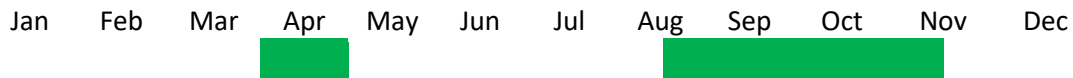
Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*): Present in September and October.



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

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

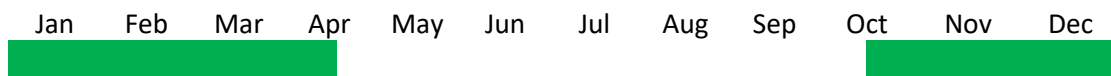
Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*): 2 sightings in spring: 2 on the 12th and 1 on the 19th of April. Then, present from the end of August until the beginning of November.



Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*): 1 at Alvor on the 3rd 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*): Seen in January, February, November and December.

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

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

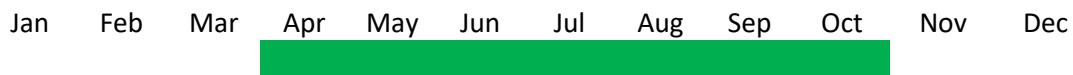
Common Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*): 1 on the 24th of August.

Savi's Warbler (*Locustella luscinioides*): 1 bird singing at Abicada between mid-April and the end of June.

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

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*): 1 on the 10th of August and 1 on the 9th of September.

Eurasian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*): Present from April to the end of October, mostly at Abicada. 1 bird carrying a Belgium ring was caught at Cruzinha.



Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*): 1 on the 19th of April at Abicada.

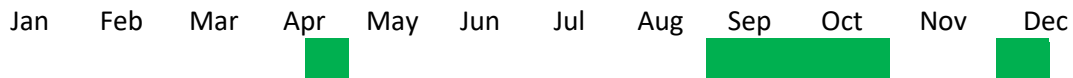
Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*): Present in January and November and December.

Subalpine Warbler (*Sylvia cantillans*): Present in September and October.

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

Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*): 1 bird on the 12th of April and 2 sightings in September.

Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*): 1 sighting on the 19th of April, then present in September and October. 1 bird present at Cruzinha at least between the 7th and 14th of December.

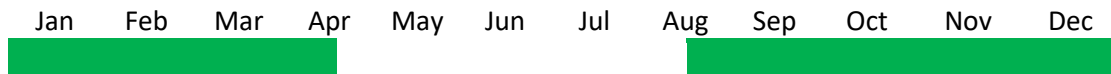


Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*): Present all year. 2 ringed birds from UK and France were caught at Cruzinha.

Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*): 1 on the 31st of October at Cruzinha.

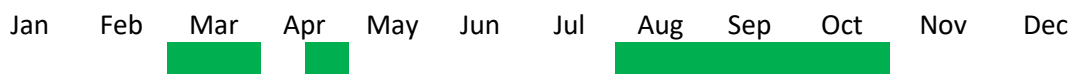
Western Bonelli's Warbler (*Phylloscopus bonelli*): Present from the end of July until the end of September.

Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*): Present from January until mid-April and then a continual presence from the end of August until the end of the year. 1 bird carrying a British ring was caught at Cruzinha.

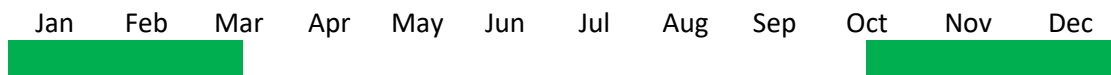


Iberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus ibericus*): 1 bird heard at Cruzinha on the 20th of April and then at the end of August and beginning of September.

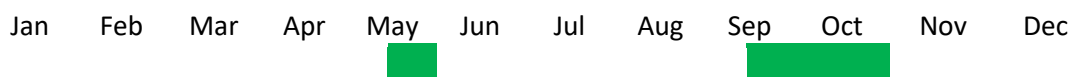
Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*): Several sightings in spring: 1 bird on the 9th and 5 birds on the 21st of March and 1 on the 25th of April and then present between the beginning of August until the end of October.



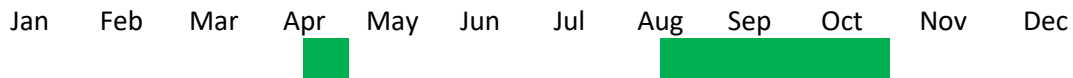
Common Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*): Present between January and March and from the end of October until the end of the year.



Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*): 1 sighting in spring: 1 on the 19th of May. Then, present from the end of September until the end of October.



European Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*): 1 sighting in April and then present from mid-August until the end of October.



Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*): 2 at Cruzinha on the 22nd of October.

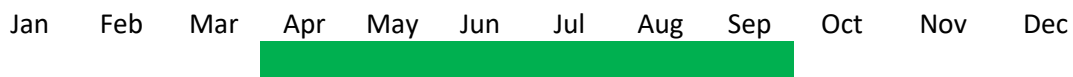
Eurasian Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*): Present all year.

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

Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*): Present in January, between June and September and in December.



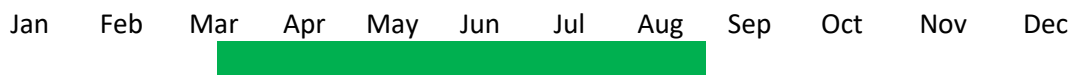
Eurasian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*): First detected on the 13th of April, then present until the end of September



Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*): Seen in July, August and between October and the end of the year.



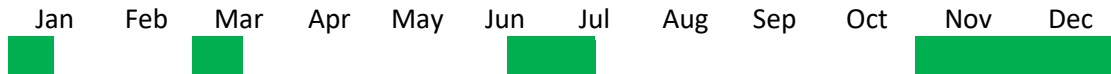
Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*): Present from the 28th of March until the end of August.



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

Common Magpie (*Pica pica*): Several sightings during the year: 1 on the 3rd of April, 1 on the 23rd of October and 1 on the 13th of December, all at the Western Marsh.

Western Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*): Seen in January, March, June, July, November and December. Maximum of 17 birds in November.



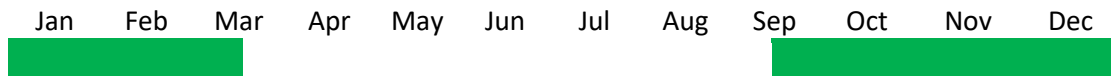
Northern Raven (*Corvus corax*): 2 birds present in the area between mid-March and mid-December.

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

Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*): Present between October and the end of the year.

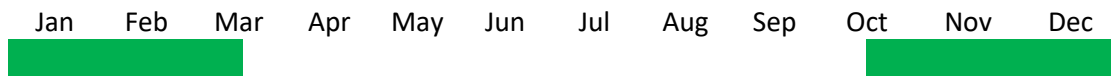
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*): Present all year.

Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*): Present from January to mid-March, then present from the end of September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 42 birds on the 14th of February.



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

Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*): Present from January until mid-March, and then 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*): Present between the end of October until the end of the year. Maximum of 40 on the 25th of October.

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

Eurasian Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*): 1 on the 24th and 1 on the 30th of October at Cruzinha.

Ortolan Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*): Maximum of 3 birds seen in the first decade of October at Quinta da Rocha.

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

2017 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, Barbara Duerksen, Steven and Nelson Goering, Lars Gonçalves, Natalia Marreiros, Carolyn Dawson, Tiago Guerreiro, Roger Skan, Arjan van Vuuren, Yassir Bouchnafar, Ellie Huckle, Nuno dos Santos, Nuno Barros, Danica Wieler, Winston Bensley, Tony Myerson, Bert van der Auwermeulen, Willem Scheres, David and Gillian Fielder, Megan Howells, Hugh Fay, Siobahn Moriarty, Vera Ferreira, Debora Campos, Chloé Cornic, Pamela and Fiona Copley, Jonathan Starks, Carl Hawker, John and Linda Marshall, Lucy Rowley, João Tomás, Paulo Belo, Heather Coats, Stephen Vickers, Jason Fidorra, Angela and Doug Patterson, Gerry Rawcliffe, Artur Jorge Alves, Rui Caratão, Emile Dirks, Alexandre Leitão, Paulo Alves, Sergio Correia, Pedro Cardia, Amélie Ploquin, Marcial Felgueiras, Isabel Soares, Rob Thomas, Marie-Jane and Gérard Réthoré, Sara Roda, Filipe Bally, Riley and Barbara Massey, Karen Armitage, Carol Goovaert.

References

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



Grey-headed Yellow Wagtail - Abicada
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Wood Sandpiper - Abicada © G.Réthoré



Ortolan Bunting - Quinta da Rocha ©
G.Réthoré