

A ROCHA RINGING REPORT FOR 2020

Guillaume Réthoré

In 2020, 57 ringing sessions and 4 ringing demonstrations were realized and 656 new birds of 46 species were caught and ringed at Cruzinha and Estômbar. The number of species is a little below average (Fig. 1) but the number of ringed birds is the worst ever (Fig. 2). This low number can be explained by a smaller ringing effort with fewer ringing sessions, like the absence of ringing at Ponta de Almádena and the few ringers who came to visit during the autumn because of the current pandemic (which reflects in the number of some species caught, such as Blackcaps). This however did not stop the weekly ringing at Cruzinha all year round.

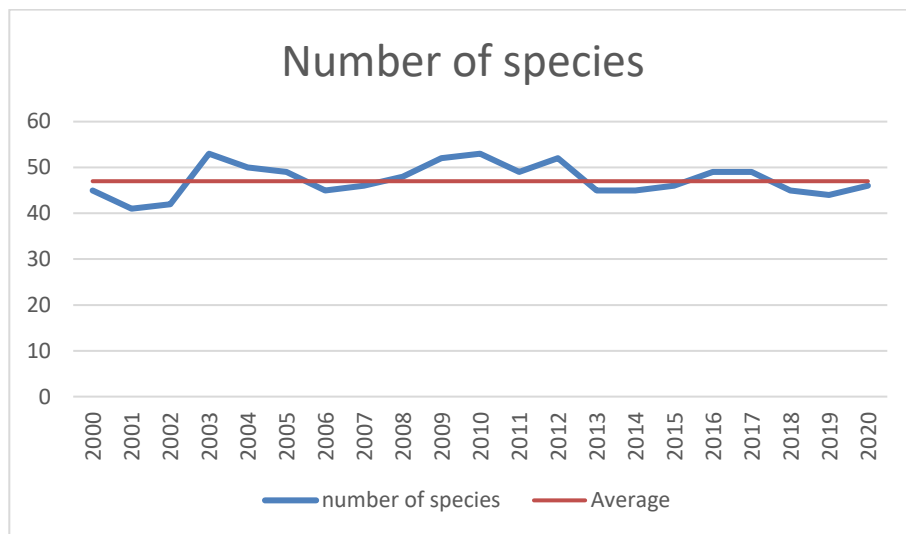


Figure 1: Number of species caught every year at Cruzinha.

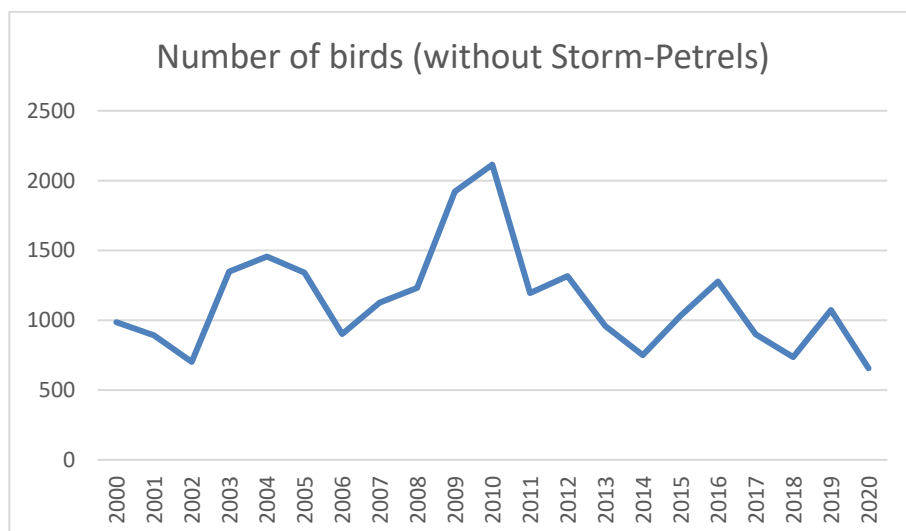


Figure 2: Number of birds caught per year (without Storm-Petrels), between 2000 and 2020

For the 3rd consecutive year, a Wryneck was caught but the date was a bit of a surprise since it was in December during the last session of the year. The grand total of Iberian Magpies is now over 400 birds caught, over 2600 for the Blackbirds and over 2000 for the Pied Flycatchers. It was however the worst

year for Blue Tits since 2007 (Fig. 3) and probably the worst ever for Great Tits (Fig. 4), Chiffchaffs (Fig. 5), Robins (Fig. 6) and Serins (Fig. 7).

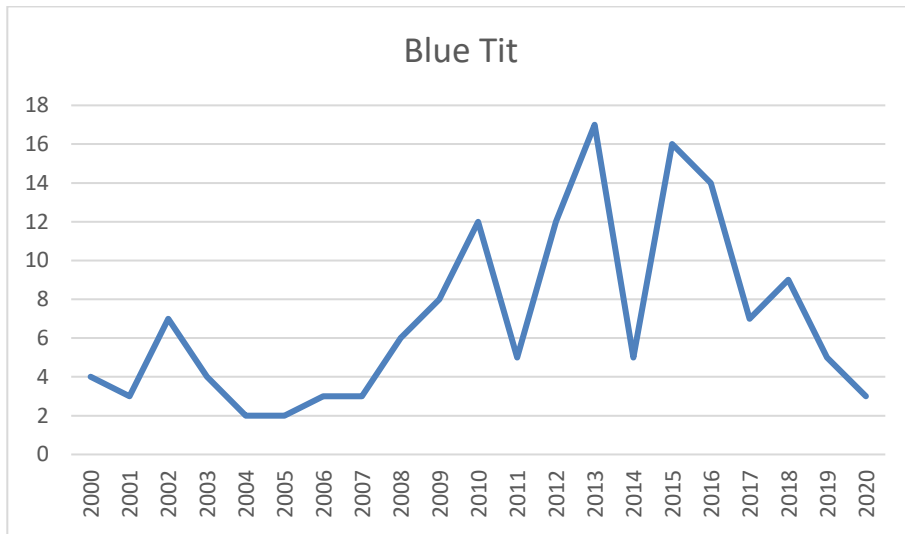


Figure 3: Number of Blue Tits caught per year at Cruzinha, between 2000 and 2020

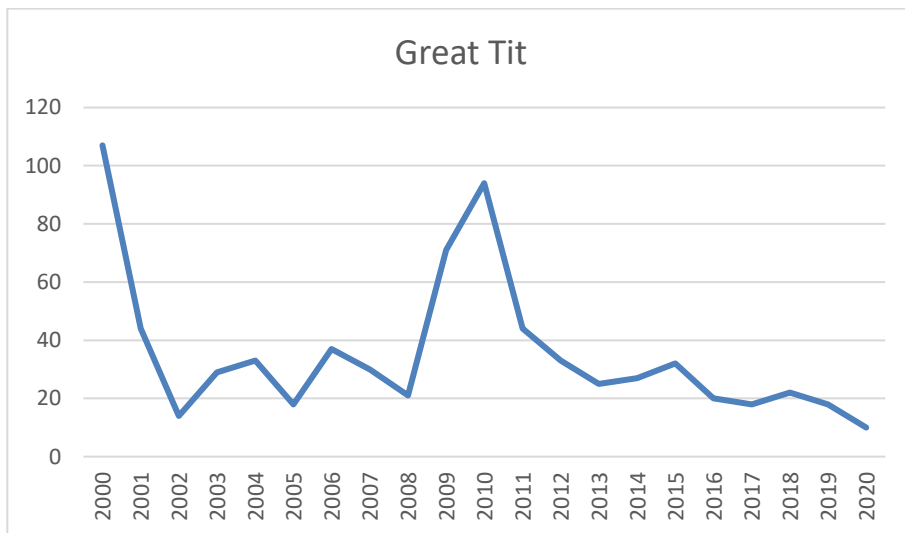


Figure 4: Number of Great Tits caught per year at Cruzinha, between 2000 and 2020

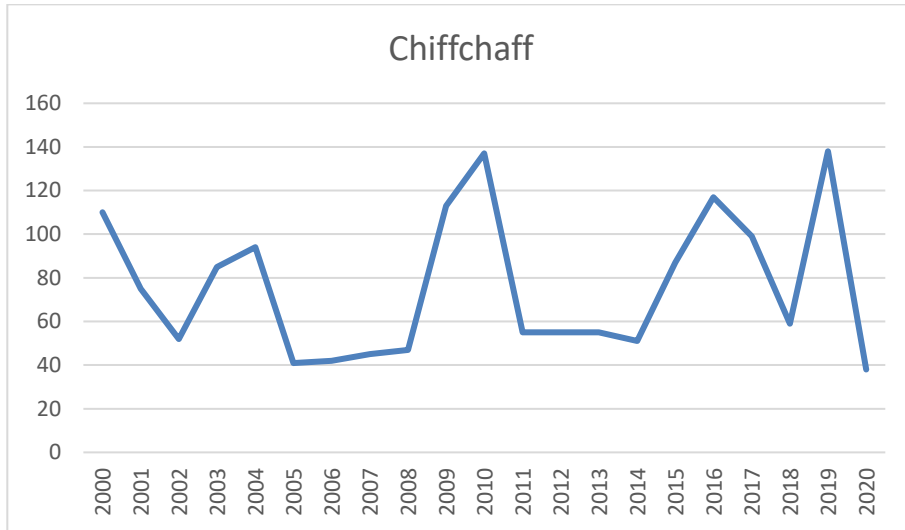


Figure 5: Number of Chiffchaffs caught per year at Cruzinha, between 2000 and 2020.

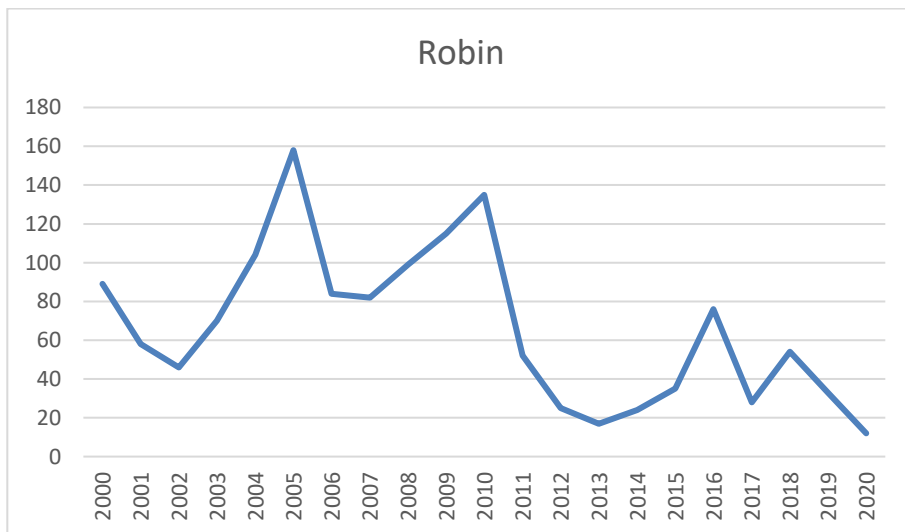


Figure 6: Number of Robins caught per year at Cruzinha, between 2000 and 2020.

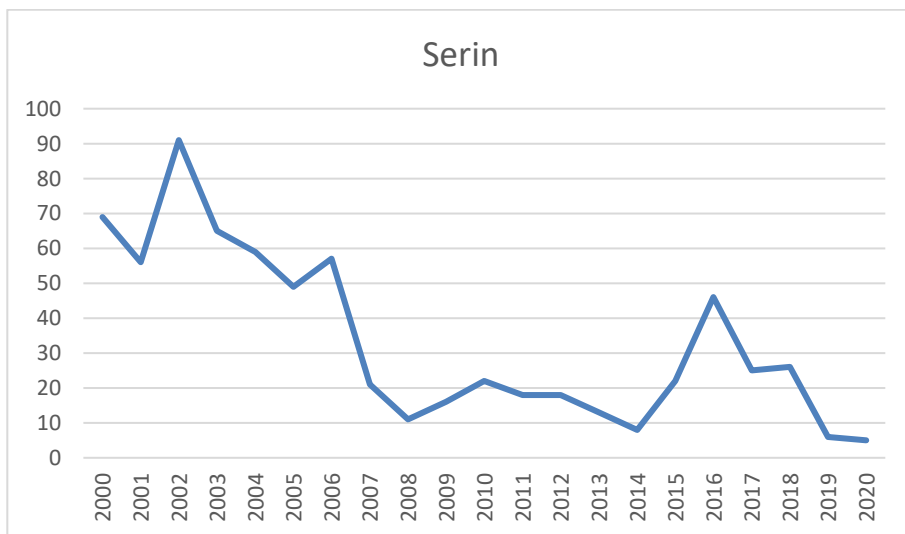


Figure 7: Number of Serins caught per year at Cruzinha, between 2000 and 2020.

On the other hand, it was one of the best years for some other species, like the Sardinian Warbler with 37 birds (same total as in 2015 and 2013) (Fig. 8). The grand total of Short-toed Treecreeper is now over 70 birds and 2020 was the best year since 2015 (Fig. 9).

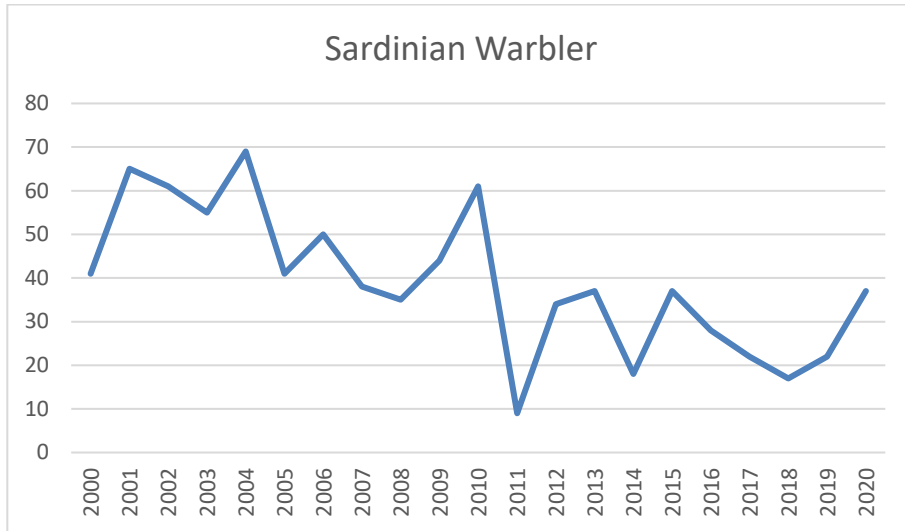


Figure 8: Number of Sardinian Warblers caught per year at Cruzinha, between 2000 and 2020.

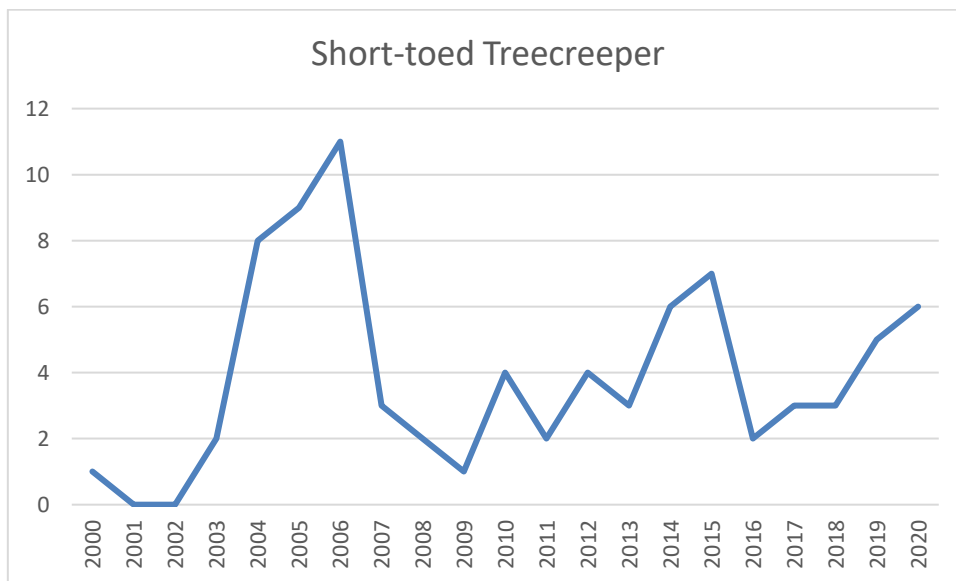


Figure 9: Number of Short-toed Treecreepers caught per year at Cruzinha, between 2000 and 2020.

We caught the first House Martin since 2000 (a bird was ringed in 2011 but was brought wounded at Cruzinha) and the 1st Linnet, Grasshopper and Cetti’s Warblers since 2017. Two Cetti’s Warblers were caught, one at Cruzinha and the other at Estômbar where the A Rocha ringing team did a ringing demonstration. At least one Spotless Starling has been caught every year since 2014 and 44 % of all the Spotless Starlings were ringed between 2014 and 2020. It was also a good year for Nightingale, with 7 birds, a total not reached since 2014, but the phenology of some of these birds is interesting too. The two first birds were caught quite early, in March and the last one in November, probably one of the latest records in Portugal.

This year, for the first time since many years, Heather Coats did not come, however, her trainees Jo Conway and Richard Dann came for a few days of ringing during the autumn migration.

Monthly and annual totals of birds ringed by A Rocha in 2020 and the total for all years (2000 to 2020) (bird names according to Gill F, D Donsker & P Rasmussen (Eds). 2020. IOC World Bird List (v10.2))

| Species | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | 2020 | Grand Total |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|------|-------------|
| Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i> | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 112 |
| Eurasian Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i> | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | | | 6 | 592 |
| Common Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i> | | 1 | | | 1 | | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | 10 | 329 |
| Eurasian Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 32 |
| Lesser Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dryobates minor</i> | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 10 |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i> | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 | 6 |
| Eurasian Golden Oriole <i>Oriolus</i> | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | 2 | 107 |
| Iberian Magpie <i>Cyanopica cooki</i> | | | | | 4 | 4 | 6 | | 1 | 3 | 2 | | 20 | 408 |
| Eurasian Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> | | | | | | 2 | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 196 |
| Great Tit <i>Parus major</i> | | | | 1 | | 5 | 1 | | 3 | | | | 10 | 980 |
| Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | | | | 3 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | | | | 7 | 1647 |
| Common House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i> | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 70 |
| Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i> | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | 153 |
| Western Bonelli's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i> | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 3 | 129 |
| Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> | | | | | | | | 2 | 32 | 8 | | | 42 | 2885 |
| Common Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> | | 3 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | | | 3 | 13 | 12 | 2 | 38 | 9053 |
| Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 257 |
| Eurasian Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> | | | | | | | | | 3 | 2 | | | 5 | 2446 |
| Melodious Warbler <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i> | | | | | | | 4 | 3 | 2 | | | | 9 | 902 |
| Common Grasshopper Warbler | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 63 |
| Eurasian Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> | 6 | 6 | 4 | 4 | | | | | 3 | 47 | 20 | 3 | 93 | 12749 |
| Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i> | | | | 2 | | | | | 2 | 3 | | | 7 | 4123 |
| Sardinian Warbler <i>Curruca melanocephala</i> | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 11 | 4 | 2 | | 37 | 1644 |
| Western Subalpine Warbler <i>Curruca iberiae</i> | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 4 | 294 |
| Common Whitethroat <i>Curruca communis</i> | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 516 |
| Common Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i> | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 79 |

| Species | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | 2020 | Grand Total |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------|-------------|
| Eurasian Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | | 2 | | | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | 6 | 58 |
| Short-toed Treecreeper <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i> | | | | | | 4 | | | 1 | 1 | | | 6 | 75 |
| Spotless Starling <i>Sturnus unicolor</i> | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 | 25 |
| Common Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i> | | | 6 | 10 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 5 | 12 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 78 | 2606 |
| Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i> | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 5 | 1 | 7 | 671 |
| Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i> | | | | | | | | | 1 | 4 | | | 5 | 217 |
| European Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 7 | 3 | | 12 | 3022 |
| Common Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> | | | 2 | | | | | | 4 | | 1 | | 7 | 637 |
| European Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i> | | | | | 1 | | | | 23 | 7 | | | 31 | 2010 |
| Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> | | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | | 4 | 166 |
| House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i> | 2 | 2 | 6 | 14 | 15 | 14 | 30 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 102 | 2594 |
| Common Waxbill <i>Estrilda astrild</i> | | 1 | | 2 | | | | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | | 13 | 1833 |
| Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 62 |
| Common Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 7 | 1074 |
| European Greenfinch <i>Chloris</i> | | 2 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 3 | 44 | 3091 |
| Common Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i> | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 2 | 71 |
| European Goldfinch <i>Carduelis</i> | | | 2 | | 3 | 2 | | | 2 | 1 | | | 10 | 2387 |
| European Serin <i>Serinus</i> | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | 5 | 1632 |
| Eurasian Siskin <i>Spinus</i> | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 4 | 120 |
| Corn Bunting <i>Emberiza calandra</i> | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 188 |
| Totals | 16 | 24 | 37 | 46 | 43 | 53 | 60 | 29 | 125 | 140 | 68 | 15 | | |