

**Systematic List of the Birds of Ria de Alvor  
2022**

**A ROCHA**  
PORTUGAL

By Guillaume RETHORE

A total of 191 species of birds, out of the 325 seen so far, were registered in the Ria de Alvor Natura 2000 site in 2022 including **five new species added to the site list**: Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*, Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* (if accepted by the Portuguese Rarity Committee, it will be the first for Portugal), Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis* and Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*! This is the highest total of species recorded since 1997 (192 species) and it is thanks to all the birdwatchers who visited the area, looking for the rare birds present and submitting their sightings.

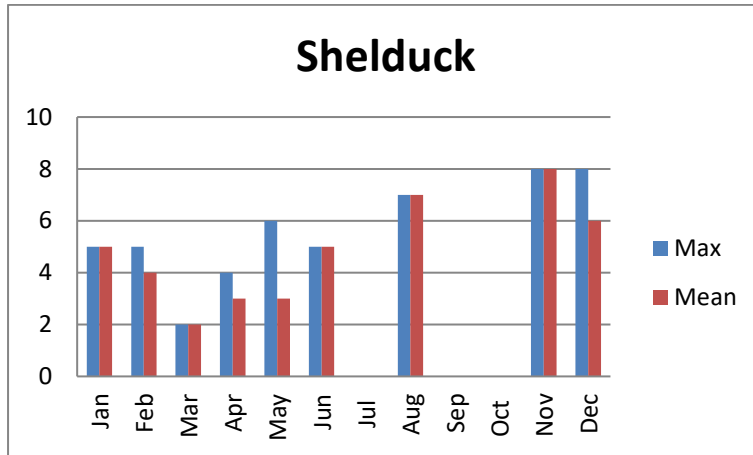
Besides the new species for the area highlights for 2022 were: the first Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* since 2005, the second ever European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* caught at Cruzinha ringing mornings and the first sighting since 2013, the first Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* since 1994 and the first Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* since 2004. The latter two were expected sightings as many were spotted along the coast in December. A West African Crested/Royal Tern *Thalasseus albidorsalis/maximus* depending on the species (really difficult to identify the species at a long distance since the split) would be the first record for the area if it was the African species and the 4<sup>th</sup> if it was the American species (and the first since 1996). The first Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* since 1989 was also spotted during the year, an Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* heard from Cruzinha was the first since 2013 and two Western Orphean Warblers *Curruca hortensis* caught at Cruzinha were the first records since 2016. Finally, a Moroccan Wagtail *Motacilla alba subpersonata* was spotted in the area in spring.

Other interesting records were: record numbers of Audouin's Gull *Ichthyaetus audouinii* and the observation of birds mating for the second consecutive year, low numbers of Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* and Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* at the end of the year, no sightings of Western Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* after April, most likely due to the drought, the observation of Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* for the second consecutive year, the wintering of Ruff *Calidris pugnax* and Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* in the area in larger number than usual, again at least one Great Egret *Ardea alba*, Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* and Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*, the first confirmed and successful breeding of Avocets *Recurvirostra avosetta* in the area, large numbers of Sandwich Terns *Thalasseus sandvicensis* and Common Terns *Sterna hirundo* in spring, probably due to the avian flu outbreak in northern Europe, the first Fischer's Loverbird *Agapornis fischeri* sighting since 2013, and only one sighting of Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*. It was the first year without sightings of Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* since 2012, Black Kite *Milvus migrans* since 2005 and Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* since 2013. Unlike previous years, Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* were only present in winter.

Several birds carrying rings were noted this year: Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*, Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*, Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*, Audouin's Gull, Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*, Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*, Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, Sandwich Tern, White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*, Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, Osprey, European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*.

The complete bird list for 2022 is described below (Bird names according to Gill F, D Donsker & P Rasmussen (Eds). 2022. IOC World Bird List (v12.1)).

**Common Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*: Up to six birds present between January and the end of June, then seven birds in August and up to eight birds between November and the end of the year.

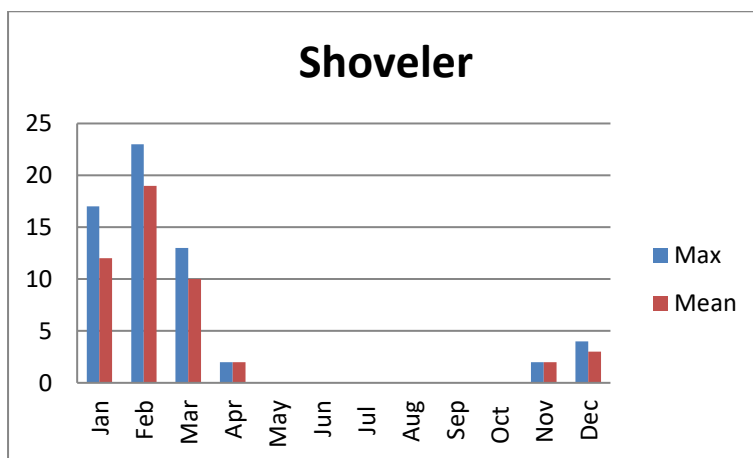


**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*: one juvenile on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July at the upper Western Marsh.

**Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*: one at Abicada on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January.

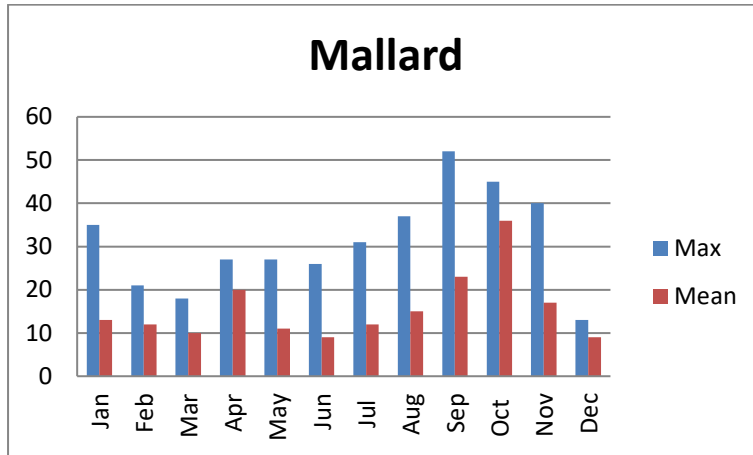
**Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors*: one female at the Western Marsh on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April, seen again on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April. First record for Ria de Alvor.

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*: Present from January until the end of April, with a maximum of 23 at Abicada in February, then present from November until the end of the year (maximum of four in December).



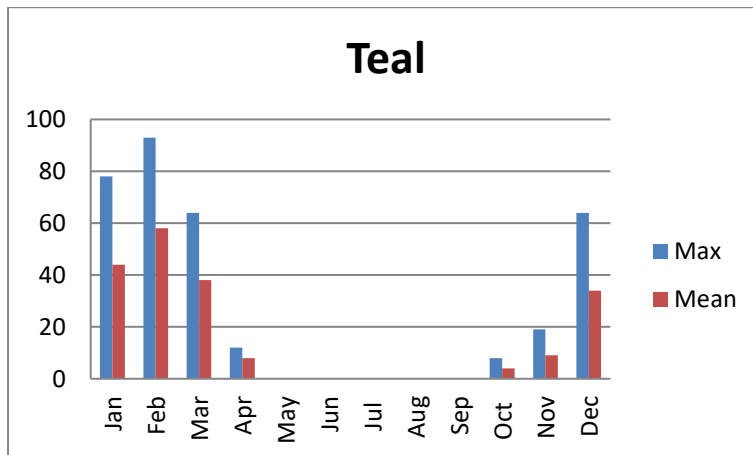
**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*: one male at Montes de Alvor reservoir on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February and seven on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November at the Western Marsh.

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



**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*: seven flying over the estuary and Western Marsh on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March.

**Eurasian Teal** *Anas crecca*: Present from January until the end of April, with a maximum of 33 on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February at the Western Marsh. Present from October until the end of the year, with a maximum of 64 on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December.

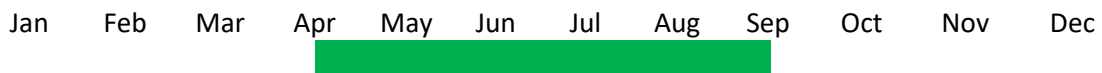


**Common Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*: Heard between April and July. Two birds heard at the end of October.



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

**Red-necked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus ruficollis*: First heard on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April and then present until the beginning of September.



**European Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*: one bird caught at Cruzinha on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September.

**Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba*: Present from the beginning of April (the first one was seen on the 5<sup>th</sup>) until the beginning of July.



**Common Swift** *Apus apus*: Present from the beginning of April (the first one was seen on the 1<sup>st</sup>) until the beginning of September.



**Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus*: one bird on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February at Abicada. Then, present from the beginning of April until the end of August.



**Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius*: one on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*: one on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May.

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

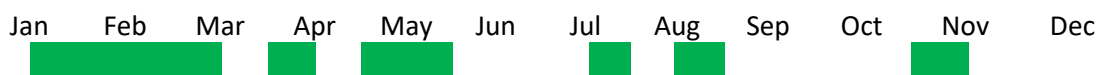
**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*: two on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November and two on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December, both at Quinta da Rocha.

**Common Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus*: Recorded all year except in December, mostly at Abicada. Maximum of 120 birds in January.

**European Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*: three sightings in spring: one on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April, two individuals on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, one on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May. One sighting in autumn: two individuals on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August.

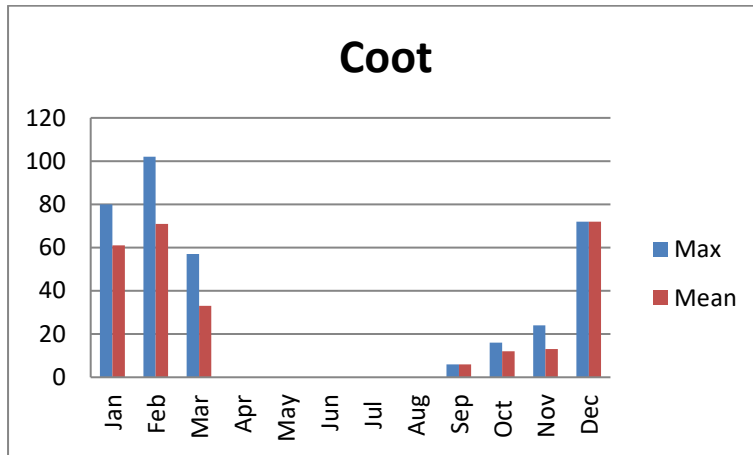
**Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*: Present all year.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*: Heard or seen between January and May and in July, August and November.



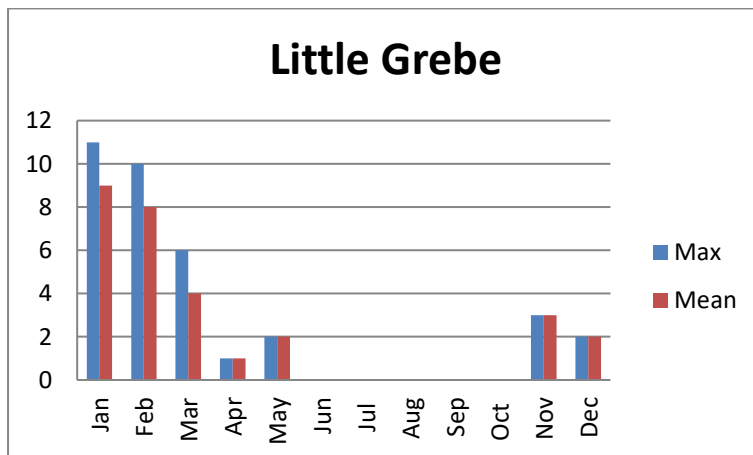
**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*: Present all year.

**Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra*: Seen at Montes de Alvor reservoir between January and the end of March, with a maximum of 102 birds on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February, and between mid-September and the end of the year, with a maximum of 72 birds on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October.

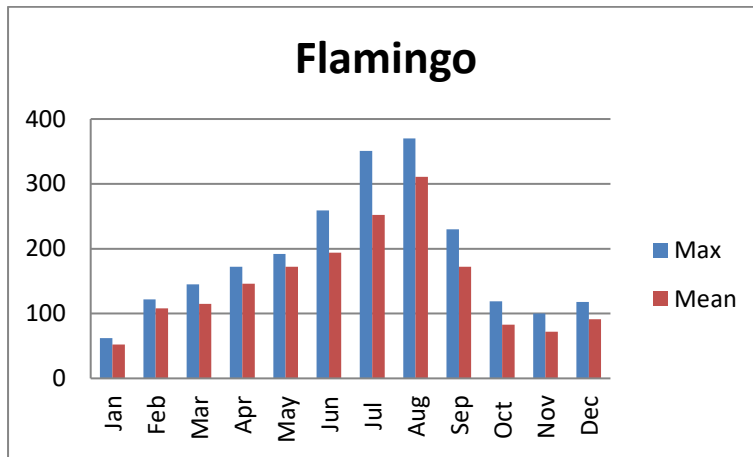


**Western Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*: Seen at Abicada between January and April with a maximum of two birds.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*: Seen between January and May, with a maximum of 10 at Montes de Alvor reservoir. Then, present in November and December with a maximum of three birds at Montes de Alvor reservoir.

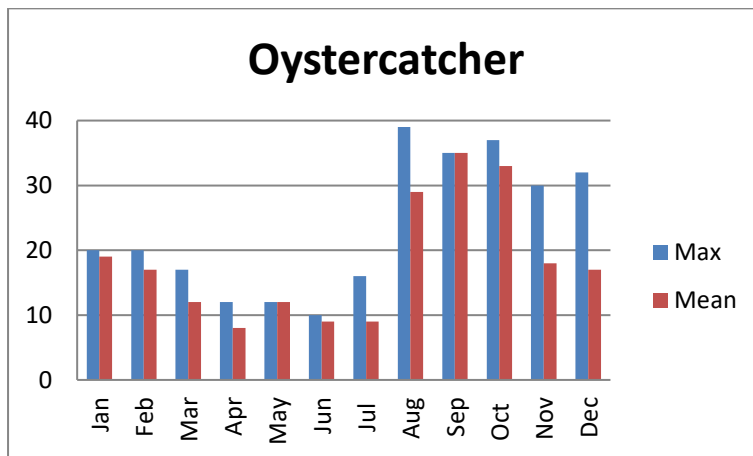


**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus*: Present all year, with a maximum of 370 on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August at the Western Marsh. 54 ringed birds have been controlled over the year (49 from Spain and five from France).

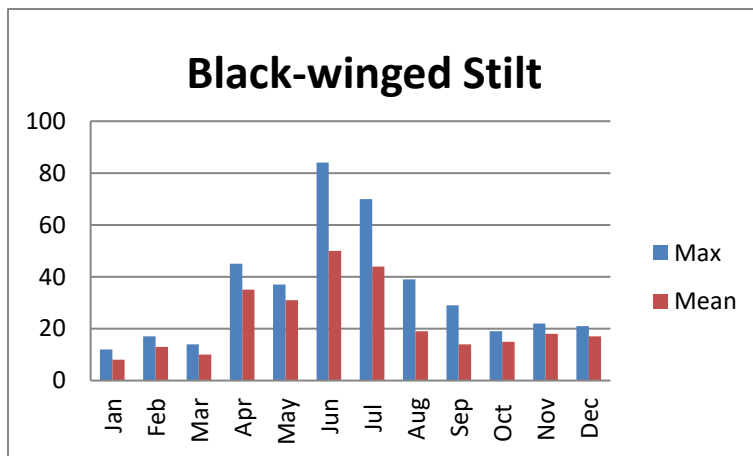


**Eurasian Stone Curlew** *Burhinus oedicnemus*: Heard or seen between January and July and again between October and the end of the year.

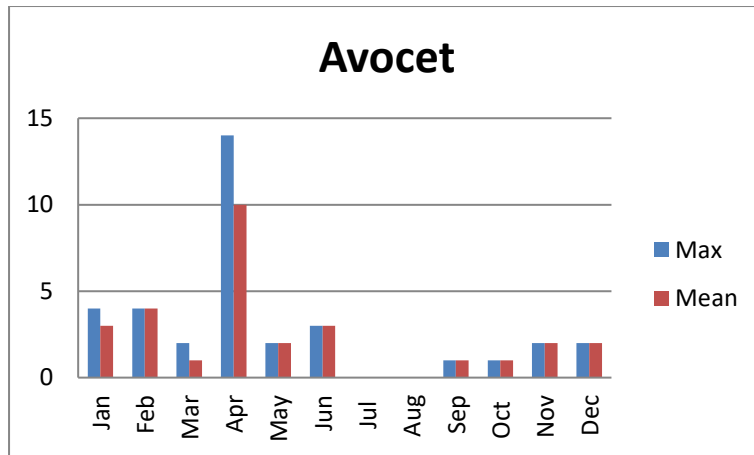
**Eurasian Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*: Present all year with maximums of 20 in January and February and 39 in August. One bird ringed in Spain was controlled during the year.



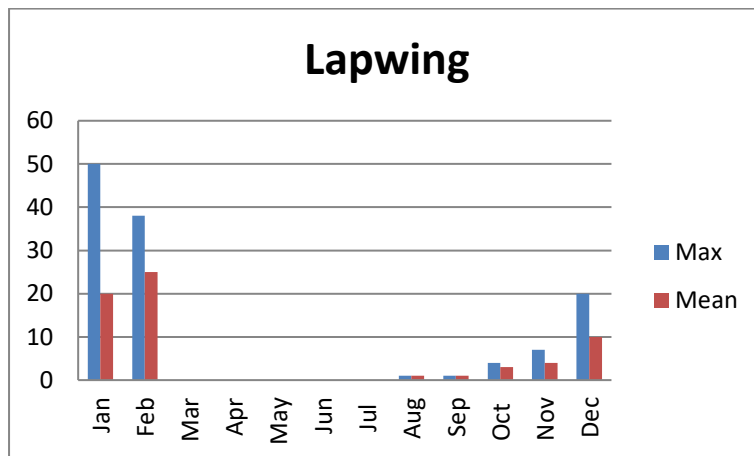
**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*: Present all year, with a maximum of 84 birds on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June. One bird ringed in Spain was controlled during the year.



**Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*: Present between January and June, with a maximum of 14 birds in April, and between September and December (maximum of two birds). One bird sitting on eggs was seen at the upper Western Marsh on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June and two adults with a chick on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June. This was the first confirmed breeding of the species in the area.

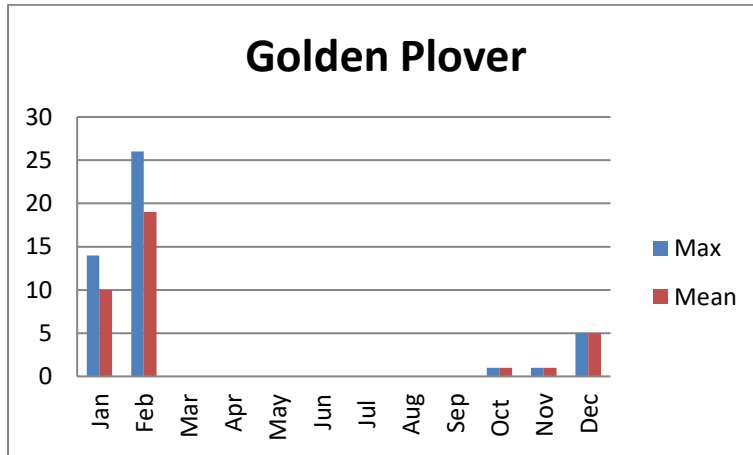


**Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*: Present in January and February and then from the end of August until the end of the year. Maximum of 50 on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January at Abicada.

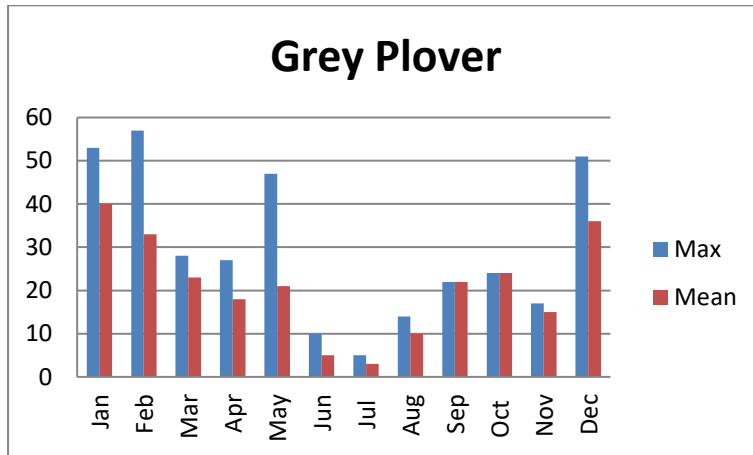


**European Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*: Present in January and February, with a maximum of 26 birds on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February. Then, present from October until the end of the year with a maximum of five on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December at the Western Marsh.

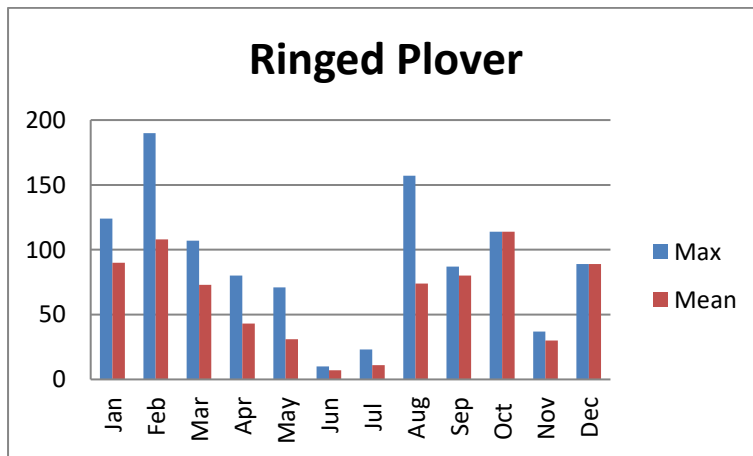




**Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*:** Present all year. Maximums of 57 in February and 51 in December, both at the Western Marsh.

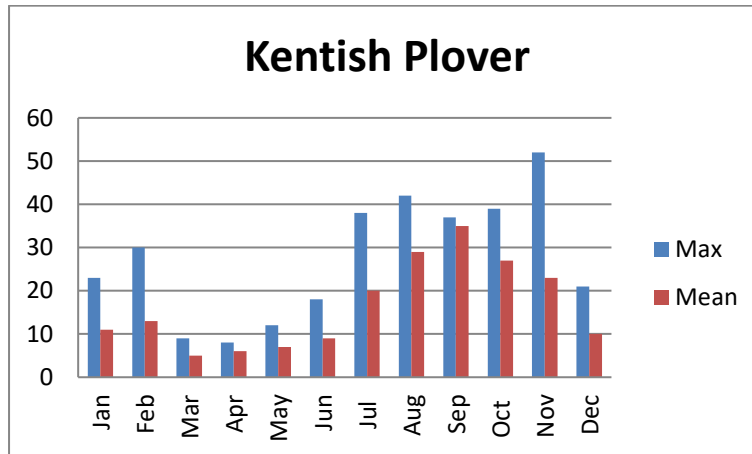


**Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*:** Present all year, with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 190 on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February and 157 on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August).



**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*: Seen in March, April, September and October.

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*: Present all year, with a maximum of 52 in November. One bird ringed in France was controlled in August.

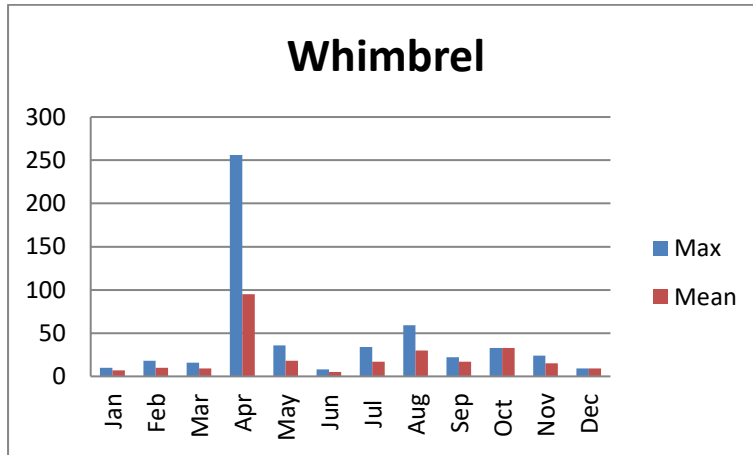


**Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*: one bird was seen at the Western Marsh on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April and again on the 21<sup>st</sup>. If confirmed by the Portuguese Rarities Committee this will be the 1<sup>st</sup> record for Portugal.



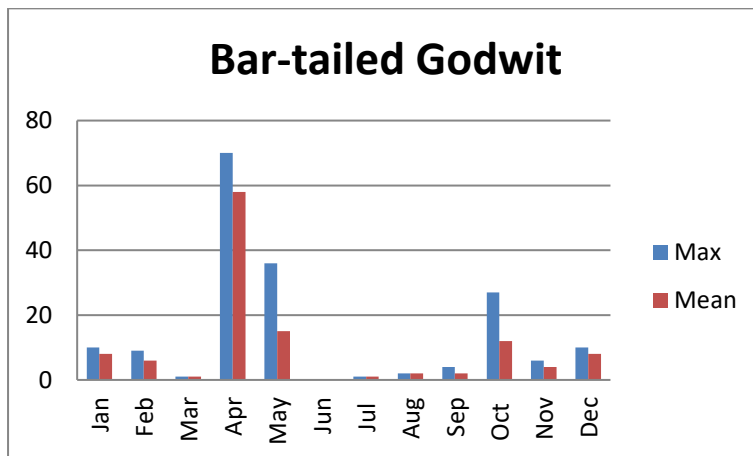
Photo 1 - Greater Sand Plover – Western Marsh © G.Réthoré

**Eurasian Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*: Present all year. Migration peaked in April with 256 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. One Whimbrel carrying a GPS transmitter was seen at the estuary on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August. This bird was tagged in France in April 2022 during the pre-breeding migration. It bred in Russia before migrating south via Denmark, the Netherlands and France.

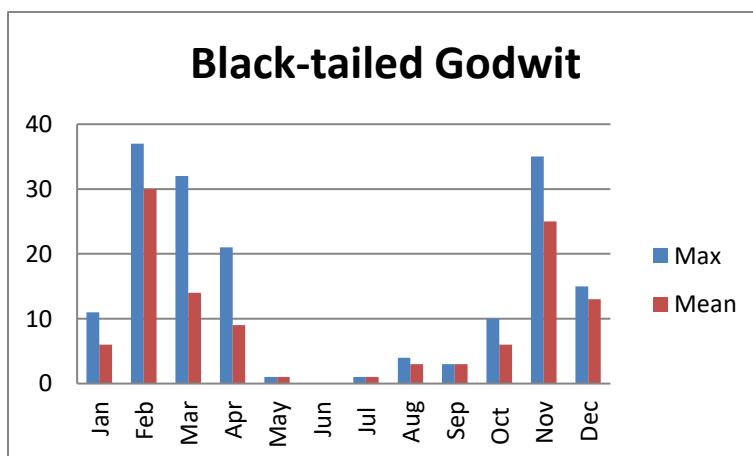


**Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata*: Seen all year, with a maximum of three birds in March and December.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*: Present between January and the end of May (maximum of 70 on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April), and between the end of July and the end of the year (maximum of 27 of the 9<sup>th</sup> of October). one bird ringed in Poland was controlled in February.

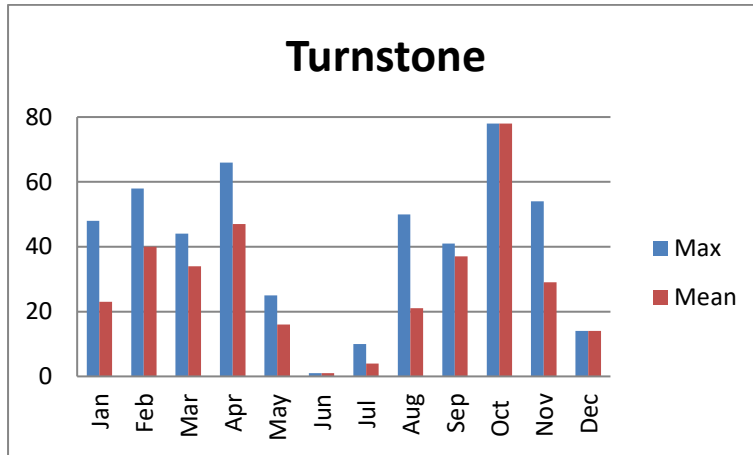


**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*: Present between January and the end of May (maximum of 37 on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February), and between the end of July and the end of the year (maximum of 35 in November).

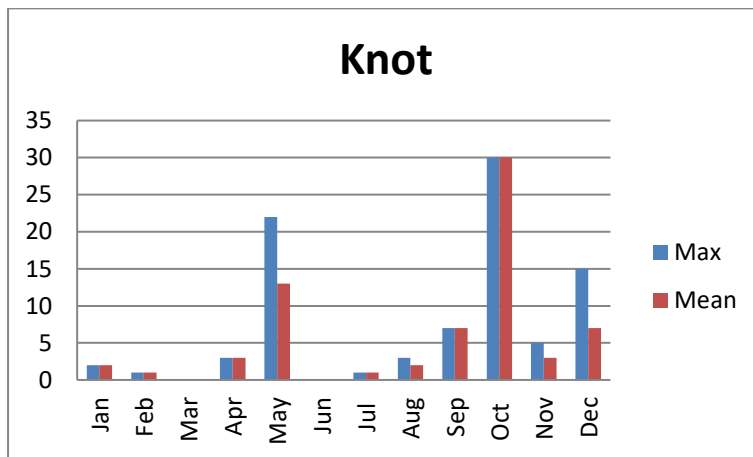


One bird ringed in the Netherlands was controlled in February (this bird had already been seen at Abicada in 2020).

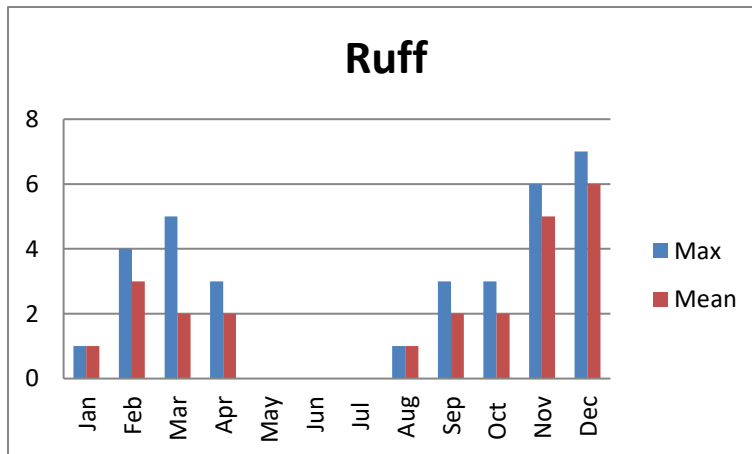
**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*: Present all year, with maximums of 66 on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April and 78 on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October.



**Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*: Present all year except in March and June (maximum of 30 birds on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October).



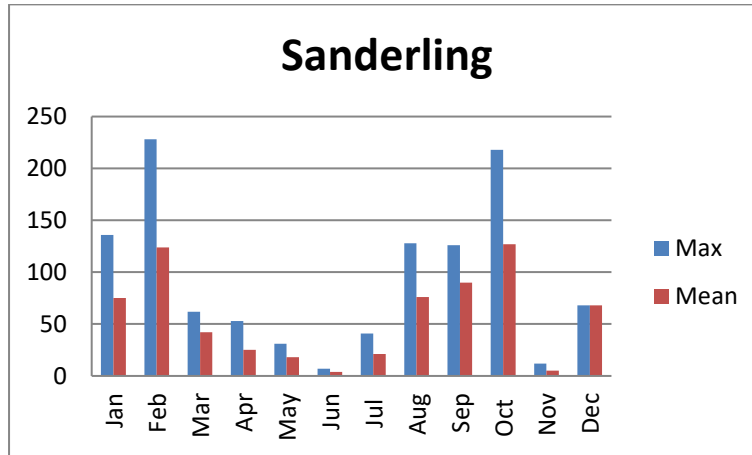
**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*: Present all year except in May, June and July with a maximum of seven birds in December at the Western Marsh.



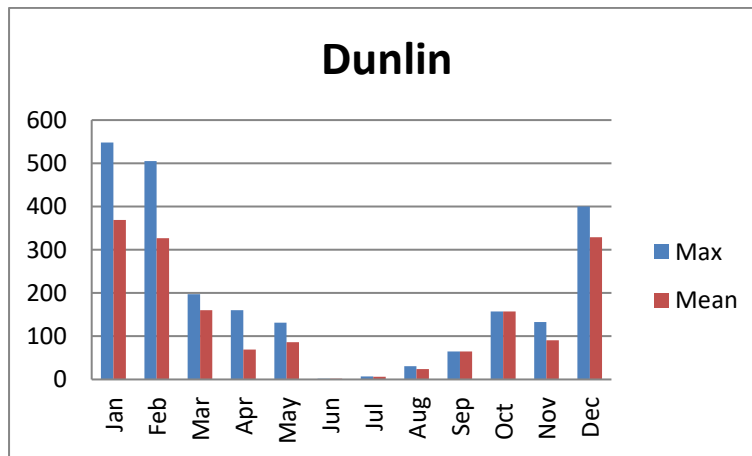
**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*: Seen between March and May (maximum of 11 birds in April) and between August and the end of the year (maximum of four birds in November).

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*: one at the Western Marsh on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December.

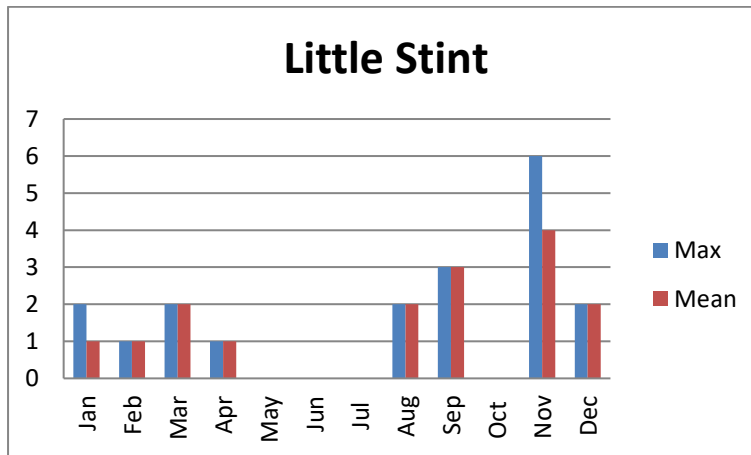
**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*: Present all year with maximums of 136 in January and 218 in October.



**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*: Present all year, with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximum of 545 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January and 400 on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December).



**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*: Seen between January and April, in August and September, and between November and the end of the year with a maximum of six birds in November at the Western Marsh.



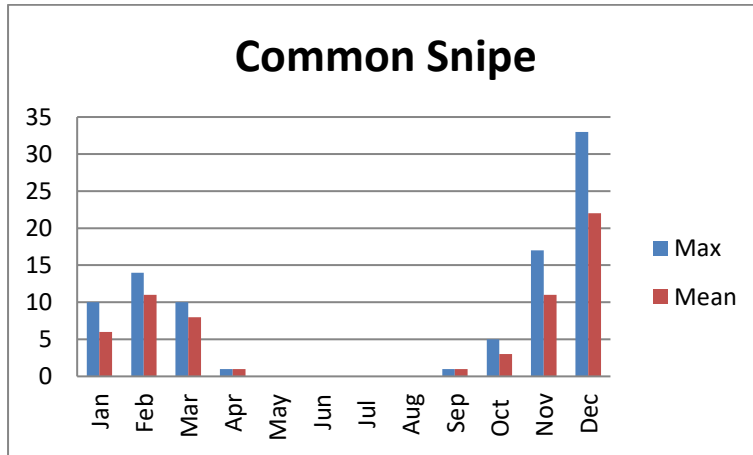
**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*: one at the Western Marsh between the 1<sup>st</sup> of November and the end of the year (this bird was still present in January 2023). First record of the species for Ria de Alvor.



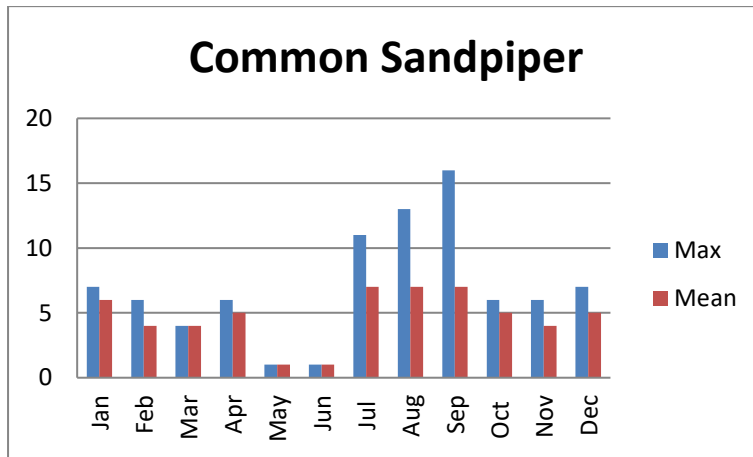
Photo 2 - Long-billed Dowitcher – Western Marsh © G.Réthoré

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*: Present from January to the end of April and then from September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 33 in December.





**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*: Present all year with a maximum of 16 birds in September.



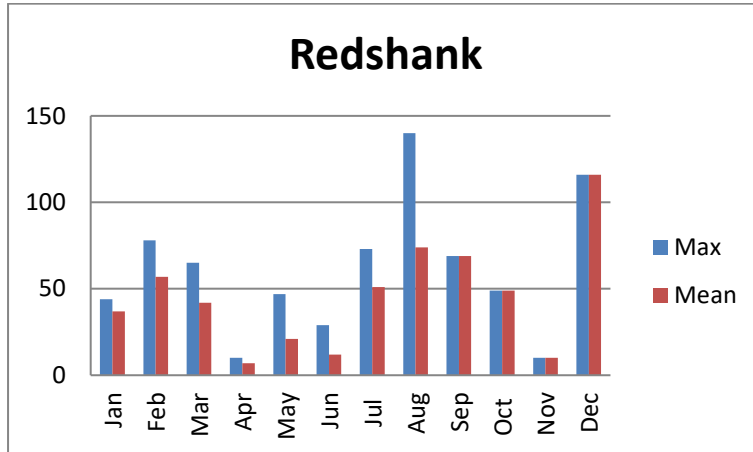
**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*: Between one and four birds present all year except in May.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*: The bird present at the end of 2021 remained until the 5<sup>th</sup> of May (last sighting). There was no sighting of this bird in February.



Photo 3 - Lesser Yellowlegs – Western Marsh © G.Réthoré

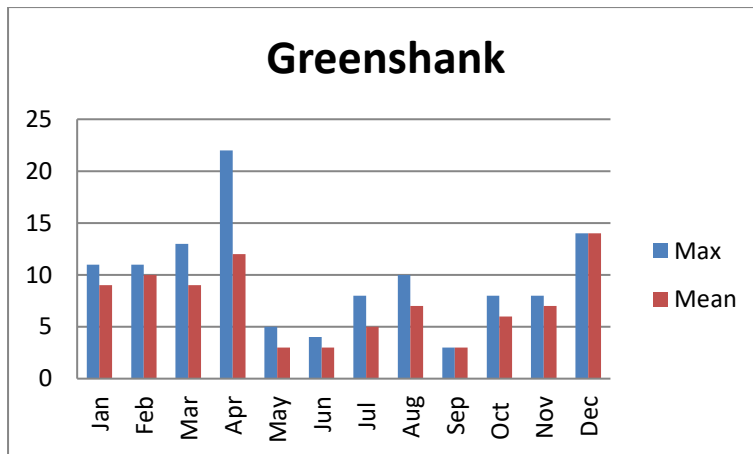
**Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*: Present all year with maximums of 78 on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February at Abicada and 140 on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August at the Western Marsh.



**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*: Seen between February and April (one bird at the Western Marsh) and between July and September (up to two birds at the Western Marsh).

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*: three sightings: one on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April at the Western Marsh, one on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, at Abicada and one on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December at the Western Marsh.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*: Present all year with a maximum of 22 birds on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April.



**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*: two on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April at the Western Marsh and one on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May at Abicada.

**Black-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*: one at Alvor beach on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December.

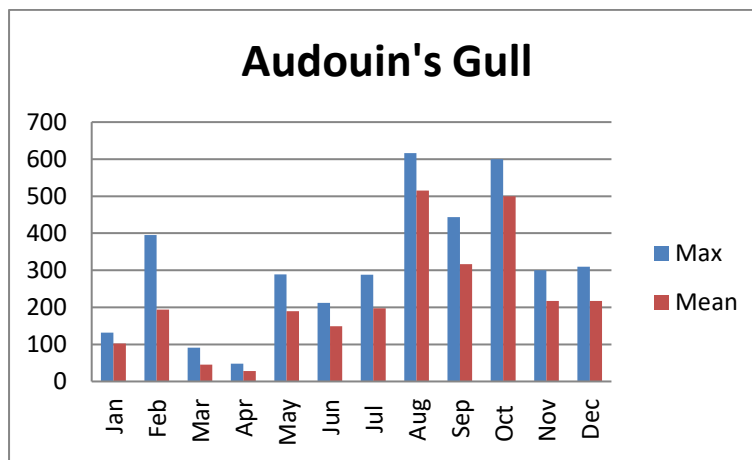


**Slender-billed Gull** *Chroicocephalus genei*: three sightings: one on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April at the Western Marsh, 14 on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May and three on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November, both at the estuary.

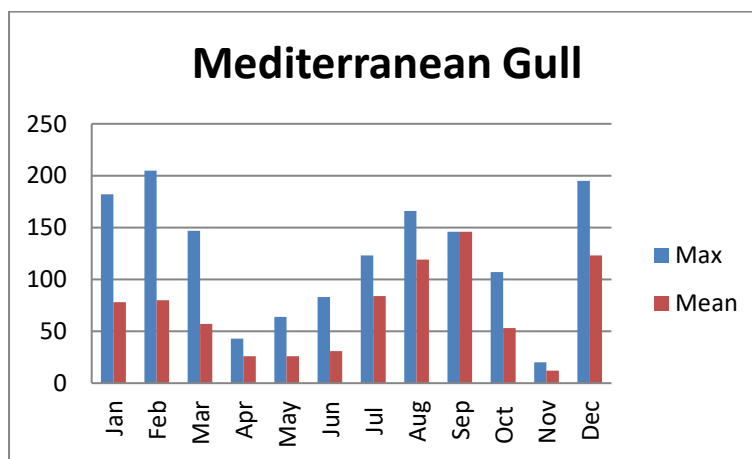
**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*: Present all year.

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*: one at Alvor beach on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December.

**Audouin's Gull** *Ichthyaetus audouinii*: Present all year with a maximum of 616 birds on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, a new record and a much higher number than the last record. In May, birds were seen mating in the upper Western Marsh. 31 ringed birds were controlled during the year (25 from Portugal and six from Spain). One of these birds was ringed in Ceuta and was their first Audouin's Gull controlled in the Algarve.



**Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*: Present all year with a maximum of 205 on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February. 11 ringed birds were controlled during the year (six from France, two from the Netherlands, one from England, one from Belgium and one from Germany).



**Common Gull** *Larus canus*: three birds present during the year. One at Montes de Alvor reservoir during the second half of February, one at the fish farms between the 19<sup>th</sup> of February and 7<sup>th</sup> of March, and one at the Western Marsh on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February.

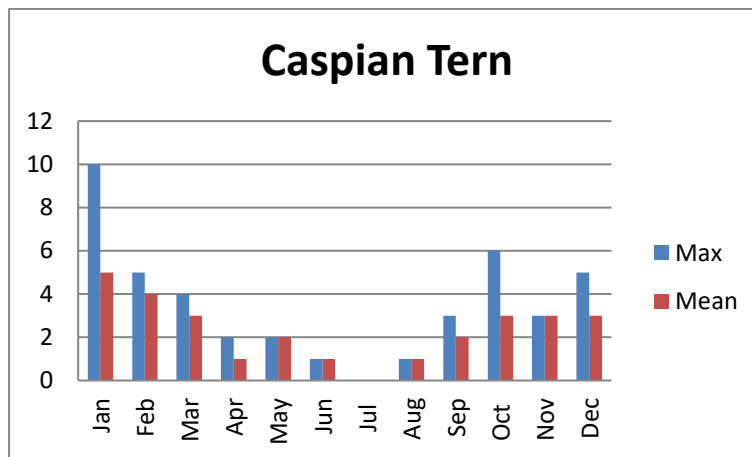
**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*: Seen in March and between October and the end of the year. Always one bird only.

**Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*: Present all year. 16 ringed birds were found during the year (13 from Portugal and three from Spain).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*: Present all year. One bird ringed in the Netherlands was controlled during the autumn.

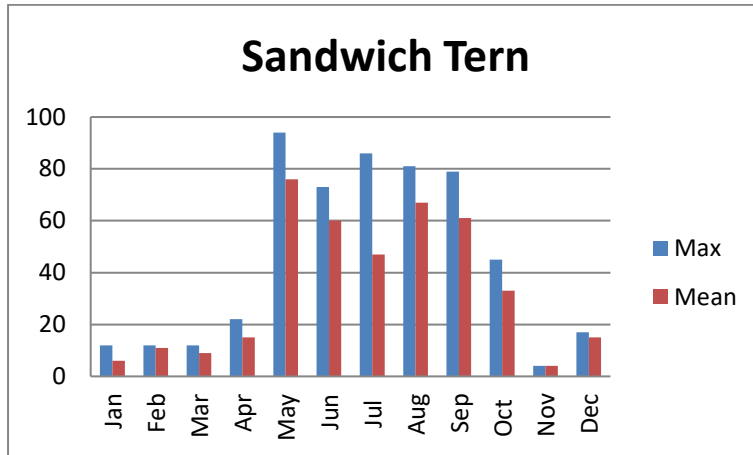
**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*: three sightings, all in spring: one on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April at Alvor dunes, one on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June at the estuary and two on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June at the upper Western Marsh.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*: Present all year, except in July, with a maximum of 10 birds on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January.

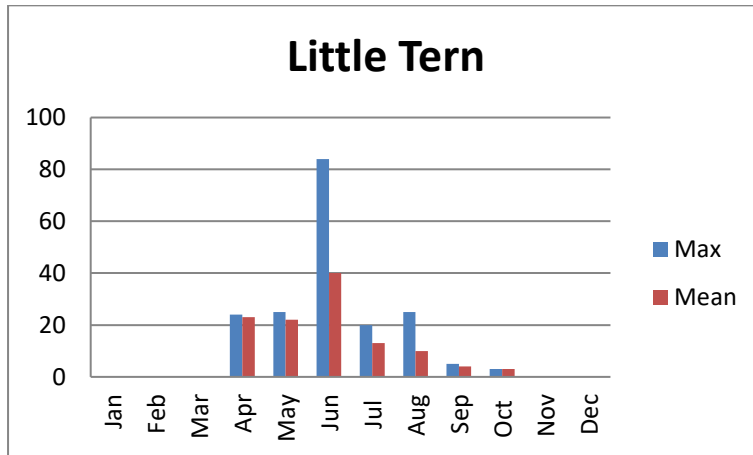


**West African Crested/Royal Tern** *Thalasseus albidorsalis/maximus*: one on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June at the estuary. The identification was not confirmed due to the distance and difficulty to identify the species since these were split.

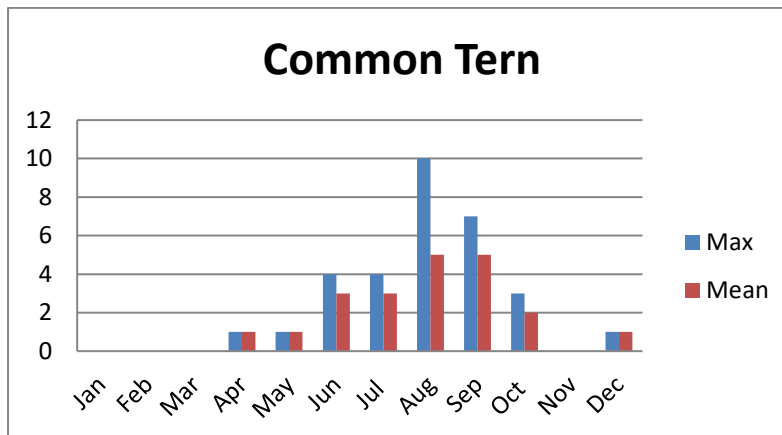
**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*: Present all year, with a maximum of 94 birds on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May. Three ringed birds were controlled during the year (one from Denmark, one from Germany and one from the Netherlands).



**Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*:** Present between mid-April (22 birds seen on the 19<sup>th</sup>) and mid-October (three birds on the 8<sup>th</sup>), with a maximum of 84 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June.



**Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*:** Seen between the end of April and the end of October with a maximum of 10 birds on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August. One bird was at Alvor harbour on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December.



**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*: one at Alvor harbour on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October.

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*: two at the estuary on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May and one at Montes de Alvor reservoir on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*: one on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of December at the estuary.

**Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris borealis*: two seen from Alvor beach on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May.

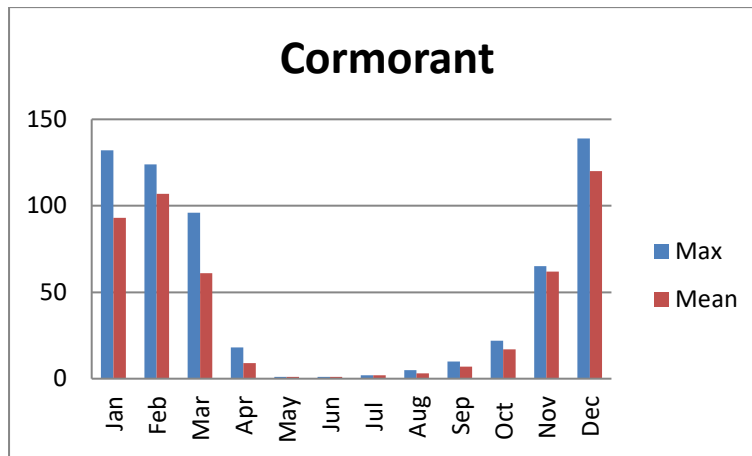
**Balearic Shearwater** *Puffinus mauretanicus*: two on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May at Alvor beach.

**Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*: two sightings during the autumn: one on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September and four on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, both from the Western Marsh.

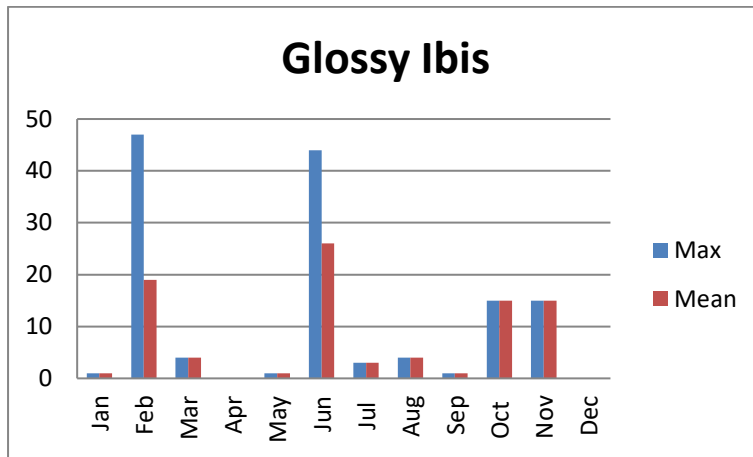
**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*: present all year. Four birds ringed in Portugal were controlled at the Western Marsh.

**Northern Gannet** *Morus bassanus*: detected all year except in August and September.

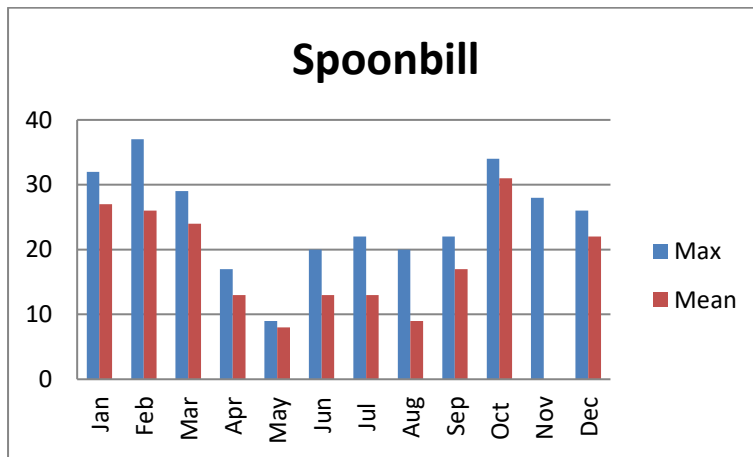
**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*: present all year, with a maximum of 132 on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January. Then, present from August until the end of the year, with a maximum of 139 on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December.



**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*: seen all year except in April and December. Maximum of 47 birds on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February at Abicada.



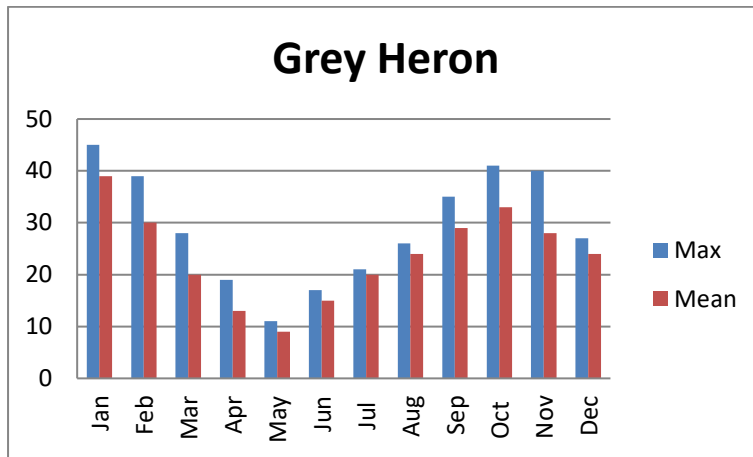
**Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*: present all year with high numbers in autumn and winter (maximums of 37 in February at Abicada and 34 in October at the Western Marsh). Nine ringed birds have been controlled over the year (five from the Netherlands, two from Spain, one from Germany, one from France). Several of these birds are regular winter visitors.



**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*: one on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June at the Western Marsh.

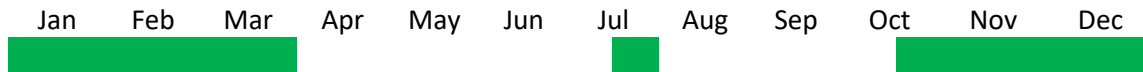
**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*: present all year. The small colony mixed with Little Egret, at Vale de Lama, was occupied again this year.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*: present all year with higher numbers in autumn and winter (maximums of 45 on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January and 41 on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, both at the Western Marsh).

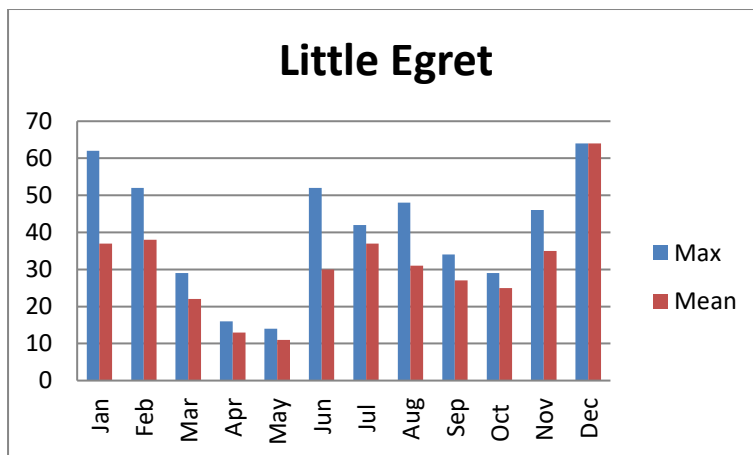


**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*: maximum of four birds recorded between mid-April and the end of August at the Western Marsh.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*: up to two birds present between January and March. One bird seen at the end of July and then one between the end of October and the end of the year.



**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*: present all year. Maximum of 64 at the Western Marsh on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December. The small colony mixed with Cattle Egret, at Vale de Lama, was occupied again this year.



**Western Reef Heron** *Egretta gularis*: one dark bird at the upper Western Marsh on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. First record for Ria de Alvor.

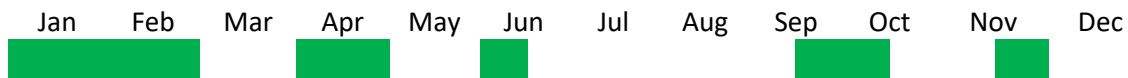
**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*: present between January and mid-April (maximum of four birds) and between the end of September and the end of the year (maximum of three birds). two birds ringed in Germany were controlled during the year.

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*: seen all year.

**Short-toed Snake Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*: first sighting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March at Abicada, then seen until mid-November.



**Booted Eagle** *Hieraetus pennatus*: seen in January, February, April, June, September, October and November (maximum of three birds in October and November).

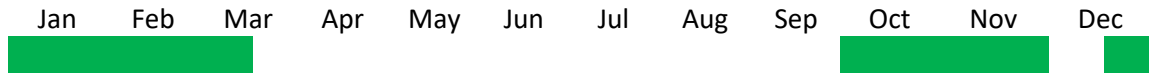


**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*: three sightings: one on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January at Abicada, one on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September at Quinta da Rocha and one on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October at Abicada.

**Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*: present all year.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*: seen in October (three sightings). Female seen on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*: present between January and March then from October until the end of the year.



**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*: present all year.

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*: two on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November at Alvor dunes.

**Eurasian Eagle-Owl** *Bubo bubo*: one heard on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, 14<sup>th</sup> of May, 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of September, all at Cruzinha. One heard at Quinta da Rocha on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November.

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*: present all year.

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*: present all year except in April and June.



**European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*: present from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April until the beginning of October.

**Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*: seen between October and the end of the year.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dryobates minor*: seen all year except in September.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*: seen all year, except in March and April.

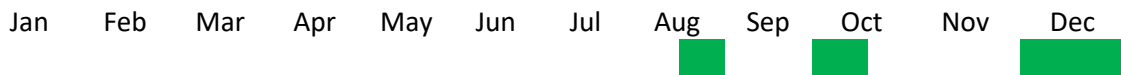
**Iberian Green Woodpecker** *Picus sharpei*: present all year.

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*: present all year.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*: present all year.

**Fischer's Lovebird** *Agapornis fischeri*: one at Quinta da Rocha on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April.

**Iberian Grey Shrike** *Lanius meridionalis*: recorded in August, October and December.



**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*: present from the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April until the beginning of September.

**Eurasian Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*: first detected on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April, then present until the beginning of September.



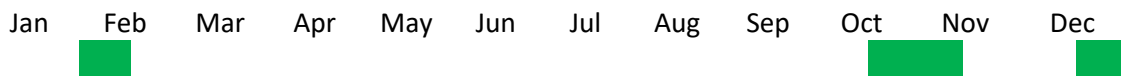
**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*: one on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December.

**Iberian Magpie** *Cyanopica cooki*: present all year.

**Eurasian Magpie** *Pica pica*: seen all year except in March. Maximum of five birds on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June at Alvor dunes.



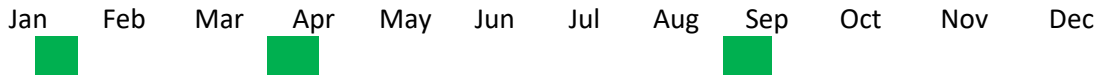
**Western Jackdaw** *Coloeus monedula*: seen in February, and between October and the end of the year. Maximum of four birds on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October.





**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*: one by the fish farms on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April, one heard at Quinta da Rocha on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of May and one heard at Cruzinha on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August.

**Northern Raven** *Corvus corax*: seen in January, April and September.



**Eurasian Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*: present all year.

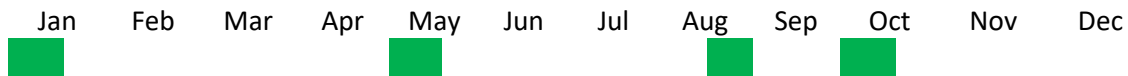
**Great Tit** *Parus major*: present all year.

**Eurasian Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*: present in January and February, and then from the end of October until the end of the year.

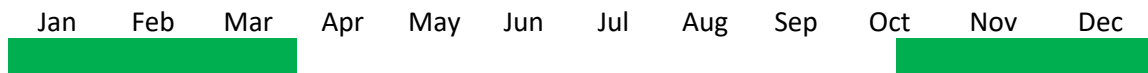
**Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*: present all year.

**Greater Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*: several sightings between mid-April and mid-July.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*: seen in January, May, August and October.



**Eurasian Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*: present from January until the end of March and then from the end of October until the end of the year.



**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*: present all year.

**Common House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*: present from the 18<sup>th</sup> of January until the end of the year. No sightings in November.



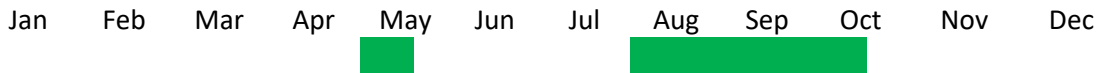
**Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*: present from the 9<sup>th</sup> of January until the end of the year. No sightings in November.



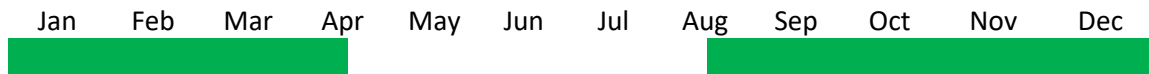
**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*: recorded between January and the end of May, mostly at Abicada.

**Western Bonelli's Warbler** *Phylloscopus bonelli*: only one record: one bird on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*: one on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May and then, present from mid-August to mid-October.



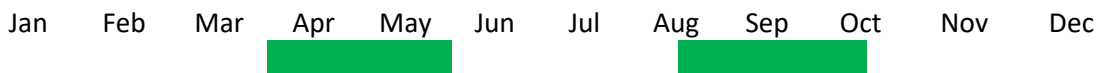
**Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*: present from January until the beginning of April, and then from the end of August until the end of the year.



**Iberian Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus ibericus*: two sightings in October.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*: one on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March at Abicada and one on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October.

**Common Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*: present in April and May and between mid-August and mid-October, mostly at Abicada.



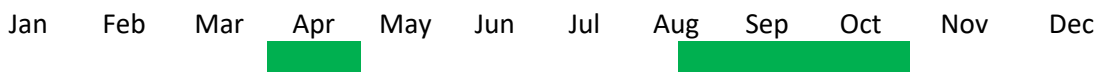
**Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta*: present between the end of July and the beginning of September.

**Savi's Warbler** *Locustella luscinioides*: one bird singing at Abicada in the second half of May.

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*: present all year.

**Eurasian Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*: present between January and May and between September and the end of the year.

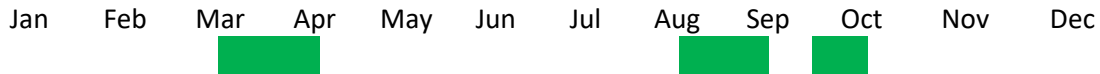
**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*: recorded in April and from mid-August to the end of October.



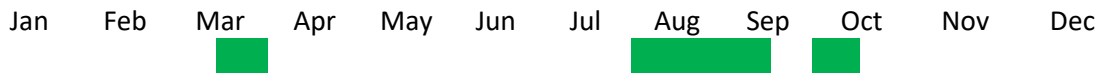
**Western Orphean Warbler** *Curruca hortensis*: two caught and ringed at Cruzinha: one on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May and one on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August.

**Sardinian Warbler** *Curruca melanocephala*: present all year.

**Western Subalpine Warbler** *Curruca iberiae*: one on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, one on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April, recorded at the end of August and the beginning of September and one bird on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October.



**Common Whitethroat** *Curruca communis*: one bird on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March, recorded between August and mid-September, and one bird on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October.



**Dartford Warbler** *Curruca undata*: one on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November at Alvor dunes.

**Common Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*: present at the end of February and beginning of March, and one bird recorded in October.

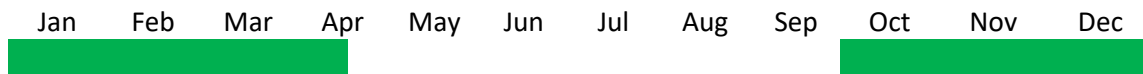
**Eurasian Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*: present all year.

**Short-toed Treecreeper** *Certhia brachydactyla*: recorded between January and March, and between June and September.

**Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*: present in January and between October, and the end of the year, with a maximum of 20 birds in November.

**Spotless Starling** *Sturnus unicolor*: present all year.

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

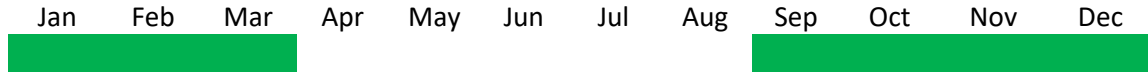


**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*: present in January and February with a maximum of three birds.

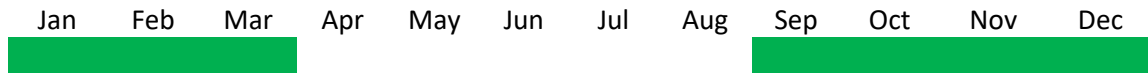
**Common Blackbird** *Turdus merula*: present all year.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*: present between the end of August and mid-November.

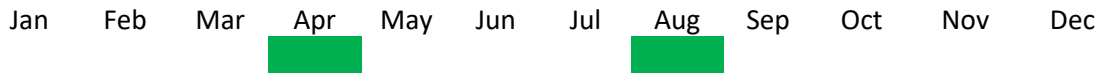
**European Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*: present from January until the end of March, then from the end of September until the end of the year. One bird carrying a Hungarian ring was caught at Cruzinha in October and November.



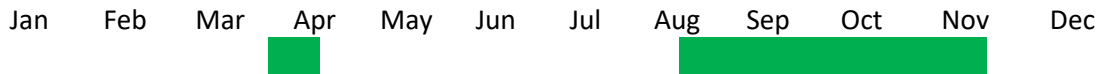
**Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*: present from January until the end of March. Then, from the beginning of September until the end of the year.



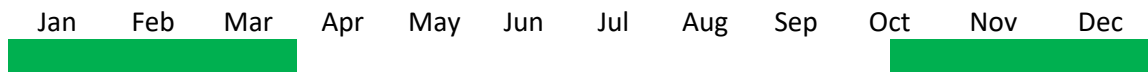
**Common Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*: recorded in April and August.



**European Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*: one on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April and present from the end of August to mid-November.



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



**Common Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*: one on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, one on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May, two on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September and one on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*: recorded in September.

**European Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*: present all year.

**Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*: seen in April. Then, present from the end of August until the beginning of November.

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

**Western Black-eared Wheatear** *Oenanthe hispanica*: one male at Alvor dunes on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April.

**Rock Sparrow** *Petronia petronia*: one heard at Abicada on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October.

**Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniolensis*: present between January and mid-March, and from the end of September until the end of the year, with a maximum of 50 birds on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*: present all year.

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*: present all year.

**Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*: present from the 27<sup>th</sup> of February until mid-November. Birds belonging to the *flava* subspecies were seen in April and May. One *thunbergi* bird was recorded on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May and a *flavissima* bird was seen on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*: seen in April, July and August, and between October and the end of the year.

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

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*: present all year. one bird of the Moroccan subspecies, *subpersonata*, was seen at the upper Western Marsh on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June.

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

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

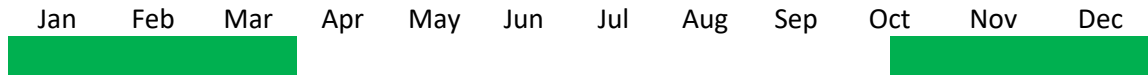
**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*: one heard on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April at Quinta da Rocha and one on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May at the Western Marsh.

**Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*: one on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April at the Western Marsh. 1<sup>st</sup> record for Ria de Alvor.

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

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

**Common Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*: present from January until the end of March, and then from mid-October until the end of the year.



**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*: one heard on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January at Quinta da Rocha.

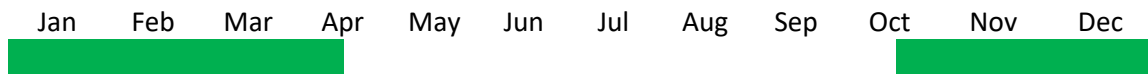
**European Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*: present all year.

**Common Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*: present all year.

**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*: present all year.

**European Serin** *Serinus serinus*: present all year.

**Eurasian Siskin** *Spinus spinus*: present between January and the beginning of April, and between the end of October and the end of the year.



**Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra*: present all year.

**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*: one on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October at Vale de Lama.

2022 was another good year for bird sightings at the Ria de Alvor. This was possibly thanks to all the birders who were in the area and registered their observations. A very big thank you to: Willem Scheres<sup>‡</sup>, Margarida Baptista, Filipa Bragança, John Birch, Daša Stalc, Tom Wiegatz, Débora Campos, Heather Coats, Aleksandra Cisek, Fiep Taverne, Marcial Felgueiras, Isabel Soares, Nelson Fonseca, John and Sue Webb, Elizabeth Skatenborg, Dominiek Reinartz, Frances Pollitzer, Lars Gonçalves, Susana Almeida, Nigel Genn, Simon Wates, Helen Quarfot, Alina Schmitz, Kevin Schlueter, Kevin Box, Pamela Deamon, Alexandre Guerreiro, Pedro Moreira, Jo Conway, Sergio Correia, Francisco Maia, Carlos Pacheco, Richard Dann, Jasper Gerhardt, Chris Seaton, Ilya Maclean, Martin de Smit, Nuno dos Santos, Chris Tynan, Artur Jorge Alves and Maxwell Hipworth.

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<sup>‡</sup> A word of acknowledgement to Willem who for so many years and a faithful and prolific contributor to our systematic list of observations. He left us on last December 4<sup>th</sup> not without a last visit and usual contributions just a couple of weeks before. See you soon Willem!