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BIRD WATCHING  
IN THE AZORES

36° 55' 44" N, 25° 01' 02" W - Azores, PORTUGAL

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## BIRD WATCHING IN THE AZORES

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The Azores are known as an excellent destination for bird watching. In addition to the Azores **bullfinch** (*Pyrrhula murina*), one of the rarest birds in Europe and endemic to a small area of the island of São Miguel, and the **monteiro's storm petrel** (*Oceanodroma monteiroi*), an even rarer seabird endemic to the Azores that was discovered by the ornithologist Luís Monteiro, the highlights are the **atlantic canary** (*Serinus canaria*), an exclusive species of Macaronesia, and several subspecies such as the **chaffinch** (*Fringilla coelebs moreletti*), the São Miguel **goldcrest** (*Regulus regulus azoricus*), the Azores **wood pigeon** (*Columba palumbus azorica*), and the common **buzzard** (*Buteo buteo rothschildi*). The Azores also host the world's most important populations of the **cory's shearwater** (*Calonectris diomedea borealis*) and the **roseate tern** (*Sterna dougallii*). Altogether the archipelago showcases about 30 breeding species, but given its central position in the Atlantic Ocean, it stands out in terms of the observation of migratory birds from the American and Eurasian continents. The total number of species that have already been spotted in the archipelago is close to 400, including some extremely rare and some novelties for the Western Palearctic.

Azores Islands 

 Corvo

 Flores

Graciosa 

São Jorge

Faial 

 Pico

 Terceira

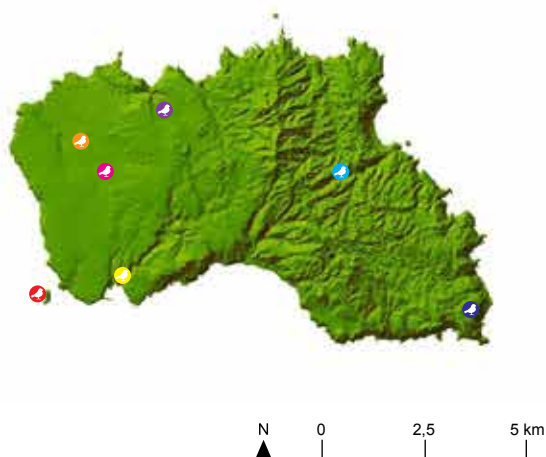
 São Miguel


 Santa Maria



## BIRD WATCHING SPOTS

### Island of Santa Maria



-  Ilhéu da Vila e costa adjacente 36°56'34.57"N, 25°10'18.18"W
-  Ribeira de São Francisco 36°56'47.53"N, 25°08'42.66"W
-  Ponta do Castelo 36°55'45.76"N, 25°00'57.29"W
-  Lagoa do Ginjal 36°58'39.73"N, 25°09'38.06"W
-  Areão 36°59'05.39"N, 25°09'57.55"W
-  Lagoa dos Milagres 36°59'57.41"N, 25°07'57.84"W
-  Pedreira do Arrebetão 36°58'53.27"N, 25°3'36.56"W

## BIRD WATCHING SPOTS

### Island of Santa Maria



The island of Santa Maria was probably the first to be discovered by the Portuguese navigator Gonçalo Velho in 1431, since it is the one that lies closer to the European continent. Perhaps for the same reason, this island has been the first stop for many birds coming from Europe. Its geographical location along with its Mediterranean landscape, dry and unique in the region, has attracted birds of prey and passerines that are familiar with this type of habitat. Santa Maria has, along with the island of

Terceira, one important colony of the kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*). In 2010 and 2011, there were confirmed nestings of the American species the killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*). The Vila Islet is also noteworthy, given that it hosts an important colony of several seabirds, such as the band-rumped storm petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*), the bulwer's petrel (*Bulweria bulwerii*) and the roseate tern (*Sterna dougalli*). In the central part of the island, we can find one of the three Azorean subspecies of the goldcrest (*Regulus regulus sanctaemariae*), which exists only on this island.

The Vila Islet is probably the best place in Europe to spot the sooty tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*) (which has notified there a few times), the killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) and numerous holarctic rarities.

BIRD WATCHING SPOTS

Island of São Miguel 



-  Mosteiros 37°53'55.25"N, 25°49'16.42"W
-  Lagoa das Sete Cidades 37°51'18.75"N, 25°47'10.67"W
-  Ponta Delgada e Rosto do Cão 37°44'23.29"N, 25°39'55.35"W
-  Caloura/Ponta da Galera 37°42'28.50"N, 25°30'31.60"W
-  Lagoa do Fogo 37°45'38.23"N, 25°28'49.15"W
-  Lagoa e Achada das Furnas 37°45'58.31"N, 25°19'57.01"W
-  Tronqueira 37°48'31.29"N, 25°10'26.82"W

BIRD WATCHING SPOTS

Island of São Miguel 

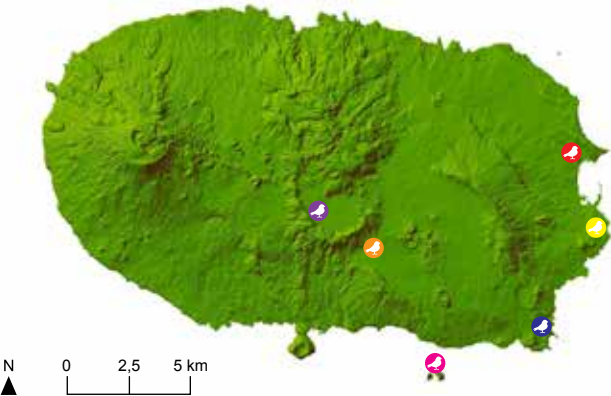


The largest and most populous island of the archipelago, São Miguel is world renown for its large lakes located inside volcanic craters. These lakes provide ideal conditions for water birds and waders from the four cardinal points, seeking rest and food after the long trips they have made. Only in the Azores can we find a variety of ducks from two continents within a single image. Many of these birds remain in the lakes from the autumn until late spring. The west area of the island, in the Sete Cidades Lakes (Lagoa das Sete Cidades), and

the coastal area of Mosteiros are excellent for finding occasional species. In the protected area of the Tronqueira Mountain Range / Guilherme Stream (Serra da Tronqueira / Ribeira do Guilherme), we can find one of the two endemic birds of the archipelago, the azores bullfinch (*Pyrrhula murina*), which suffered great pressure in the past but has been recovering in the wake of several conservation projects. The only place in the world where the azores bullfinch (*Pyrrhula murina*) can be seen. All around the coast of São Miguel, especially on the waterfront of Ponta Delgada, several species of holarctic seagulls are spotted every year.

# BIRD WATCHING SPOTS

## Island of Terceira



-  Paul e Costa da Praia da Vitória 38°44'08.90"N, 27°03'39.96"W
-  Pedreira do Cabo da Praia 38°42'12.28"N, 27°02'49.10"W
-  Ponta das Contendas, Baía da Mina 38°39'01.89"N, 27°04'32.13"W
-  Ilhéus das Cabras 38°37'58.77"N, 27°08'40.22"W
-  Lagoa do Ginjal 38°41'59.00"N, 27°09'40.89"W
-  Reservatório do Cabrito 38°42'27.13"N, 27°10'39.92"W

# BIRD WATCHING SPOTS

## Island of Terceira



The old Cabo da Praia quarry, from where the raw material to build the port of Praia da Vitória was extracted, has become one of the best locations to watch a wide variety of species of waders from both continents. Along with Paul da Praia, where the most diverse water birds get together, and the wet pastureland at the foot of the Cume Mountain Range (Serra do Cume), it turns Terceira Island into a paradise to find occasional species. The Bay and Port of Praia da Vitória may contain large quantities and many varieties of seagulls, such as the

black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*) and the ring-billed gull (*Larus delawarensis*), especially in late winter and early spring. There is also an important colony of the common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and of the roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*), species that can be easily spotted from land with the help of a telescope. The immense wealth of its wetlands makes this island a great place for bird watching, not only during the autumn and winter but also during the remaining months. The Cabo da Praia quarry is certainly the best place in Europe to spot Nearctic waders, and the harbour of Praia da Vitória is a unique place for watching several rare species of seagulls.

# BIRD WATCHING SPOTS

## Island of Graciosa



-  Ilhéu da Praia 39°03'25.25"N, 27°57'19.93"W
-  Ponta da Restinga e Ilhéu de Baixo 39°00'50.69"N, 27°57'09.52"W
-  Ponta das Santa Cruz 39°05'11.44"N, 28°00'4.94"W
-  Porto Afonso 39°03'58.16"N, 28°04'01.70"W
-  Baía da Folga 39°01'04.29"N, 28°00'02.42"W

# BIRD WATCHING SPOTS

## Island of Graciosa



The second smallest island of the archipelago would not be greatly important for bird watching if it were not for the existence of the rarest endemic bird of the Azores, the monteiro's storm petrel (*Oceanodroma monteiroi*). This seabird nests on the Baixo and Praia Islets. The protection status of these islets, which are important nesting sites for many seabirds, such as the roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*), prevents people from visiting them. However, there is a local company that organises boat tours to places in the sea where the monteiro's storm petrel feeds.

During the tour, it is possible to spot other species of seabirds such as the cory's shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea borealis*) and other rarer ones.

The only place in the world where the extremely rare monteiro's storm petrel (*Oceanodroma monteiroi*) can be spotted.

# BIRD WATCHING SPOTS

## Island of São Jorge



-  Ponta dos Rosais 38°45'12.39"N, 28°18'40.78"W
-  Fajã dos Cubres 38°38'17.03"N, 27°57'39.64"W
-  Fajã de Santo Cristo 38°37'35.64"N, 27°56'03.26"W
-  Planalto Central 38°39'19.28"N, 28°05'19.26"W
-  Ilhéu e costa do Topo 38°32'55.01"N, 27°45'19.91"W

# BIRD WATCHING SPOTS

## Island of São Jorge







Fajã dos Cubres is certainly one of the best places for bird watching in the Azores. This coastal lagoon of brackish water has a long history in the spotting of occasional species, including many herons such as the green heron (*Butorides virescens*), the american bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) and several ducks such as the blue-winged teal (*Anas discors*) and the american widgeon (*Anas americana*). Located in the westernmost tip of the island, the Topo Islet is an important nesting site for terns. These can be observed from Topo with the help of a telescope. Its characteristic landscape, with numerous hiking trails through endemic forests, allows us to easily spot a goldcrest subspecies, the western azores goldcrest (*Regulus regulus inermis*), which is quite common on this island.

BIRD WATCHING SPOTS

Island of Pico 



-  Costa da Madalena e ilhéus 38°32'05,47"N, 28°31'41,95"W
-  Lagoas do Pico 38°28'39,95"N, 28°16'05,86"W
-  Lajes do Pico 38°23'33,91"N, 28°15'04,09"W
-  Ponta da Ilha 38°24'45,64"N, 28°01'50,45"W

BIRD WATCHING SPOTS

Island of Pico 

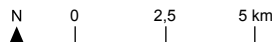



The island of Pico stands out for its great diversity of habitats. Lajes do Pico is one of the best places to spot waders and herons, since it features a coastal saltwater wetland which is dry during low tide. This habitat, similar to continental estuaries, can act as a source of food for species such as the common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) and the little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), which remain there for long periods. Both in Madalena and Lajes do Pico, we can find companies that provide services geared towards the observation of seabirds. The lakes

and ponds of the interior plateau are excellent spots to find ducks, herons and even snipes, including the wilson's snipe (*Gallinago delicata*).

## BIRD WATCHING SPOTS

### Island of Faial



-  Horta 38°31'42.63"N, 28°37'35.43"W
-  Caldeira 38°35'15.85"N, 28°42'48.43"W
-  Lagoa de Pedro Miguel 38°35'25.57"N, 28°38'30.86"W
-  Praia do Norte 38°36'34.17"N, 28°45'29.85"W

## BIRD WATCHING SPOTS

### Island of Faial

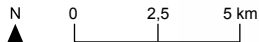
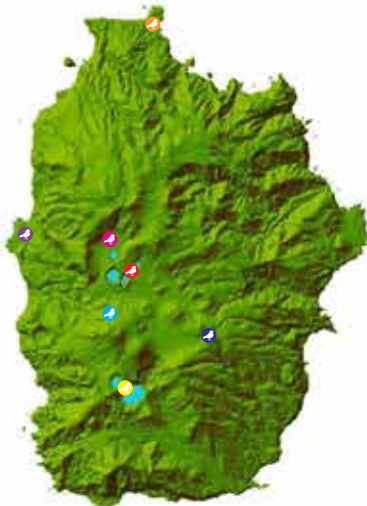


Faial is the closest island to some important fishing banks, such as the Azores Bank, the Princess Alice Bank and the Condor Bank. We still know very little about the potential of the Azores as a destination for watching occasional seabirds, but species such as the black-browed albatross (*Thalassarche melanophrys*) and the black-capped petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*) have already been spotted south of Faial. On land, we have the Pedro Miguel Pond (Lagoa Pedro Miguel), an excellent place to watch ducks

and herons, and the Caldera Lake (Caldeira) that is classified as a protected area. To visit this lake, one must request a permit from the Regional Secretariat for the Environment or be accompanied by a guide of the natural park of the island. The Capelinhos Volcano, the westernmost tip of the island, is a reference in terms of 'sea watching'.

## BIRD WATCHING SPOTS

### Island of Flores



- Lagoa Negra, Comprida e Seca 39°26'36"N, 31°13'18"W
- Lagoa Rasa e Funda 39°24'30"N, 31°13'19.48"W
- Lagoa da Lomba 39°25'32.12"N, 31°11'19"W
- Caldeira Branca 39°26'55.97"N, 31°13'32.72"W
- Ponta Delgada 39°31'11.12"N, 31°12'28.99"W
- Fajã Grande 39°27'28.22"N, 31°15'39.04"W
- Poço da Alagoinha 39°26'13.88"N, 31°14'19.43"W

## BIRD WATCHING SPOTS

### Island of Flores



Flores is the closest island to the American continent and it is certainly the island with the greatest potential to spot passerines and other occasional Nearctic species. Flores features a high forest density and the abundant habitats do not make things easy for birdwatchers. But the possibility of finding a dream bird in an unexpected moment is certainly higher here. The Albernaz Lighthouse in the extreme northwest corner of the island has attracted extremely rare American birds. Places such as Fajã Grande, Ponta da Fajã




and Fajãzinha have proven to be excellent spots to find passerines such as the bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) and the rose-breasted grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). The interior plateau with its unspoiled lakes has been the scene of fantastic sightings such as the wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) and the snowy owl (*Bubo scandiacus*). Those who want to visit the overcrowded twitcher heaven of Corvo can make the crossing from Flores daily by sea.

Nearest European location to North America, it makes us dream about an endless number of Nearctic rarities. Here one may spot ducks, waders and especially passerines.

## BIRD WATCHING SPOTS

### Island of Corvo



-  Caldeirão 39°42'43.44"N, 31°6'35.43"W
-  Matos da zona Leste do Corvo 39°41'57.38"N, 31°05'16.76"W
-  Costa Sul do Corvo 39°40'14.60"N, 31°07'06.74"W

## BIRD WATCHING SPOTS

### Island of Corvo



During the last decade, Corvo has been internationally highlighted as a haven for twitchers. Its small size and low forest density make it easy to find American passerines in small isolated woods, such as in the Canto Stream, the Fojo and the Cancela Stream. Waders and ducks concentrate in the beautiful Caldeirão Lake (Caldeirão). Flores and Corvo both have an impressive list of extremely rare species, some of which have never been spotted elsewhere in the Western Palearctic. The problem is overcrowding because there is only one accommodation

unit in the island's single town, and the few rooms available are booked well in advance. The neighbouring island of Flores may serve as a base to visit Corvo by boat and return on the same day. The holy-grail of European twitchers, because in addition to the expected rare water birds, the chances of spotting American passerines are quite high during autumn. But quite lower than the chances of meeting another birdwatcher...

## HABITATS

### Important Habitats for Birds in the Azores Archipelago



© Carlos Pereira

In general, in the Azores, the different habitats do not seem to condition the occurrence of birds in the same manner as in continents. Although the number of birds is usually higher at lower altitudes, nearly all the species of passerine birds of the Azores can be spotted in any habitat: forests, pastures, gardens, residential areas, lakes, etc.

It is not always easy to define 'one' habitat when we want to describe the environment

where a species occurs. In fact, the different habitats often exist side by side or are mixed, with three or four different habitats appearing before us in a single image.

The human occupation of the archipelago over five hundred years has caused profound changes in the Azorean landscape, in the habitats and distribution of birds leading to total or local extinction of species, to the virtual disappearance of some species of seabirds, and the decrease in numbers of others, and also with the appearance of new ones (some introduced by humans).

## HABITATS

### Marine Areas

These include the entire Azorean coastline with beaches, rocky areas, cliffs, islets, as well as all the surrounding sea area. They are very important for all seabirds breeding in the region, with the archipelago hosting the largest colonies/populations of some of these species.



© Gerbrand Michielssen

### Forest Areas

There are exotic forests (japanese cedar, eucalyptus, maritime pine, etc.), laurel/natural forests and mixed forests. The maintenance of natural forests is essential to the conservation of the azores bullfinch in São Miguel and very important for the survival of the eurasian woodcock as a breeding species. Forest areas are also very important for the goldcrest, the azores chaffinch and the azores wood pigeon.



© Joaquim Teodósio (SPEA)

## HABITATS



### Waterbodies

Streams, lakes and ponds – they are crucial for the survival of the resident population of the moorhen and also for the possible nesting of mallard and other species of ducks that spend the winter in the Azores. Some large lakes, especially in Flores and São Miguel, are an important resting, feeding and stopping place for several species of ducks that migrate or just pass by, as well as for the eurasian coot and the grey heron. Small lakes and places with a high density of ponds also play an important role as temporary resting and feeding places and are common in the medium and high altitude landscapes of several islands.



### Pastures

They are perhaps the most iconic landscape of the region. They may be 'intensive pastures' or 'semi-natural pastures' at altitude. Occupying a larger surface, 'intensive pastures' generally lie at lower altitudes and are very important for the Azores quail and the island canary. 'Semi-natural pastures' are a very important habitat in the archipelago: their low cultivation level allows their coexistence with some natural habitats such as bogs (one of the major plant communities of the Azores), while being the only breeding site for the common snipe in the Azores archipelago.

## HABITATS



### Artificial / Degraded Habitats

This actually includes a diverse number of habitats. Some airports are noteworthy, since they are sought by birds given that they are quiet and offer good conditions for some species to feed and rest. The entire port area of Praia da Vitória as well as the Cabo da Praia quarry are important breeding sites for the kentish plover and for the occurrence of several species of waders, ducks, herons and seagulls. Other spots include water treatment plants, landfills, water reservoirs, etc.



## AZORES BIRDS

### Endemic Species



#### **Azores bullfinch** *Pyrrhula murina*

Confined to a small area of São Miguel, between the Tronqueira Mountain Range (Serra da Tronqueira) and the Furnas Valley (Vale das Furnas), this is one of the most endangered and iconic species of the European continent.



#### **Monteiro's storm petrel** *Oceanodroma monteiroi*

Similar in size to a starling, it is the smallest seabird of the archipelago. As far as we know, it only breeds in the sea of Graciosa and on the Baixo and Praia Islets.

### Endemic Subspecies



#### **Azores quail** *Coturnix coturnix conturbans*

This small galliforme subspecies is endemic to the Azores and is present on all the islands of the archipelago.



#### **Common buzzard** *Buteo buteo rothschildi*

This subspecies endemic to the Azores is the only daylight bird of prey of the region and is only not found in the Western Group.

## AZORES BIRDS



#### **Azores wood pigeon** *Columba palumbus azorica*

Subspecies endemic to the Azores, it is found throughout the archipelago, although it is rarely spotted in Corvo and Flores.



#### **Azores grey wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea patriciae*

Subspecies endemic to the Azores, it is very conspicuous and occurs in virtually all habitats, from sea level to the highest point of Mount Pico.



#### **Blackbird** *Turdus merula azorensis*

Subspecies endemic to the Azores, it is very conspicuous, occurs on all the islands and is one of the best known and popular species among the azorean people.



#### **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla atlantis/gularis*

Is this subspecies endemic to the Azores or Macaronesia? This is still unsettled. Although it is a timid species, its abundance in the archipelago makes it relatively easy to spot.

## AZORES BIRDS



**Goldcrest**  
*Regulus regulus sanctaemariae/azoricus/inermis*

There are three subspecies in the Azores: one in Santa Maria, one in São Miguel and another one on the other islands except Corvo. It is the smallest bird in Europe, and its occurrence in the archipelago is closely associated with native vegetation.



**Azores starling**  
*Sturnus vulgaris granti*

Subspecies endemic to the Azores, it occurs on all the islands, although it appears to avoid altitudes above 600 metres.



**Chaffinch**  
*Fringilla coelebs moreletti*

Occurring on all the islands, this subspecies endemic to the Azores is probably the most abundant and widely distributed bird throughout the archipelago.

## Residents



**Common moorhen**  
*Gallinula chloropus*

According to some, it is an azorean subspecies (correana), but for others it is the nominal subspecies. Not very abundant in the Azores archipelago, it only breeds in a few places in Flores, Terceira, São Miguel and Santa Maria.

## AZORES BIRDS



**Kentish plover**  
*Charadrius alexandrinus*

Currently the only known nesting sites are in Terceira and Santa Maria.



**Eurasian woodcock**  
*Scolopax rusticola*

It shows a certain preference for higher altitude forest areas, with a clear preference for patches of native forest. It breeds on almost all the islands except Santa Maria and Graciosa.



**Common snipe**  
*Gallinago gallinago*

Winterer. It is found especially at higher altitudes, where there are natural meadows and semi-natural pastures. It nests throughout the archipelago, with the exception of Graciosa and Santa Maria (where it is found during winter), since these two islands are very dry and do not feature suitable habitats.



**Rock pigeon**  
*Columba livia*

It is abundant on all the islands, nesting mainly on coastal cliffs and islets.

## AZORES BIRDS



**Long-eared owl**  
*Asio otus*

With a very discreet presence and rarely spotted, it is the only night time bird of prey of the Azores. With the exception of Corvo and Flores, where it does not appear to nest, it can be found on other islands of the archipelago.



**European robin**  
*Erithacus rubecula*

It can be spotted throughout the archipelago, with the exception of Flores and Corvo, and in virtually all types of land habitats.



**Island canary**  
*Serinus canaria*

It is present throughout the archipelago, and it is the 'bird' par excellence for the majority of the a zorean population.



**Yellow-legged gull**  
*Larus michahellis*

Abundant throughout the archipelago, it seems to have proliferated in recent years with the increase in the number of intensive pastures and landfills.

## MIGRATORY NESTING SEABIRDS



**Cory's shearwater**  
*Calonectris diomedea*

Summer migrant. This pelagic species which visits the Azores to breed can be found in the archipelago between March and mid-November.



**Barolo shearwater**  
*Puffinus baroli*

This miniature shearwater is a pelagic species that is found in the Azores archipelago between December and June, with sightings on all islands except Terceira.



**Manx shearwater**  
*Puffinus puffinus*

Summer migrant. It arrives in the Azores to reproduce, and despite there being sightings in the entire archipelago, currently it is only known to breed in Corvo and Flores.



**Bulwer's petrel**  
*Bulweria bulwerii*

Summer migrant. Although there are sightings of this species on the Praia and Baixo Islets (Graciosa), it is only known to breed on the Vila Islet off the coast of Santa Maria.



**Bulwer's petrel**  
*Oceanodroma castro*

Small pelagic migrant, very similar to the Monteiro's storm petrel. Found in the archipelago between mid August and April, it only reproduces on the Praia and Baixo Islets (Graciosa) and on the Vila Islet (Santa Maria).

## MIGRATORY NESTING SEABIRDS



### Common tern *Sterna hirundo*

Summer migrant. Present on all the islands, it arrives in the Azores at the beginning of April and leaves in November after the breeding season.



### Roseate tern *Sterna dougallii*

Summer migrant. It breeds in colonies mixed with the common tern, and despite its presence throughout the Azores archipelago, the roseate tern is much less abundant than the common tern.

## RARITIES



## CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE AZORES

- ☐ Fulvous Whistling Duck | *Dendrocygna bicolor*
- ☐ Mute Swan | *Cygnus olor*
- ☐ Bean Goose | *Anser fabalis*
- ☐ Pink-footed Goose | *Anser brachyrhynchus*
- ☐ Greater White-fronted Goose | *Anser albifrons*
- ☐ Greylag Goose | *Anser anser*
- ☐ Snow Goose | *Anser caerulescens*
- ☐ Canada Goose | *Branta canadensis*
- ☐ Barnacle Goose | *Branta leucopsis*
- ☐ Brant Goose | *Branta bernicla hrota*
- ☐ Ruddy Shelduck | *Tadorna ferruginea*
- ☐ Common Shelduck | *Tadorna tadorna*
- ☐ Wood Duck | *Aix sponsa*
- ☐ Eurasian Wigeon | *Anas penelope*
- ☐ American Wigeon | *Anas americana*
- ☐ Gadwall | *Anas strepera*
- ☐ Eurasian Common Teal | *Anas crecca*
- ☐ Green-winged Teal | *Anas carolinensis*
- ☐ Mallard | *Anas platyrhynchos*
- ☐ American Black Duck | *Anas rubripes*
- ☐ Northern Pintail | *Anas acuta*
- ☐ Garganey | *Anas querquedula*
- ☐ Blue-winged Teal | *Anas discors*
- ☐ Northern Shoveler | *Anas clypeata*
- ☐ Common Pochard | *Aythya ferina*
- ☐ Ring-necked Duck | *Aythya collaris*
- ☐ Ferruginous Duck | *Aythya nyroca*
- ☐ Tufted Duck | *Aythya fuligula*
- ☐ Greater Scaup | *Aythya marila*
- ☐ Lesser Scaup | *Aythya affinis*
- ☐ Common Eider | *Somateria mollissima*
- ☐ King Eider | *Somateria spectabilis*
- ☐ Long-tailed Duck | *Clangula hyemalis*
- ☐ Common Scoter | *Melanitta nigra*
- ☐ Surf Scoter | *Melanitta perspicillata*
- ☐ Bufflehead | *Bucephala albeola*
- ☐ Common Goldeneye | *Bucephala clangula*
- ☐ Hooded Merganser | *Mergus cucullatus*
- ☐ Red-breasted Merganser | *Mergus serrator*
- ☐ Common Merganser | *Mergus merganser*

## CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE AZORES

- ☐ Ruddy Duck | *Oxyura jamaicensis*
- ☐ Red-legged Partridge | *Alectoris rufa*
- ☐ (Common Quail) | *Coturnix coturnix coturnix*
- ☐ Common Quail | *Coturnix coturnix coturbans*
- ☐ Red-throated Loon | *Gavia stellata*
- ☐ Black-throated Loon | *Gavia arctica*
- ☐ Great Northern Loon | *Gavia immer*
- ☐ Pied-billed Grebe | *Podilymbus podiceps*
- ☐ Little Grebe | *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
- ☐ Great Crested Grebe | *Podiceps cristatus*
- ☐ Horned Grebe | *Podiceps auritus*
- ☐ Black-necked Grebe | *Podiceps nigricollis*
- ☐ Black-browed Albatross | *Thalassarche melanophris*
- ☐ Northern Fulmar | *Fulmarus glacialis*
- ☐ Herald Petrel | *Pterodroma arminjoniana*
- ☐ Fea's Petrel | *Pterodroma feae*
- ☐ Bermuda Petrel | *Pterodroma cahow*
- ☐ Black-capped Petrel | *Pterodroma hasitata*
- ☐ Bulwer's Petrel | *Bulweria bulwerii*
- ☐ Cory's Shearwater | *Calonectris diomedea borealis*
- ☐ Great Shearwater | *Puffinus gravis*
- ☐ Sooty Shearwater | *Puffinus griseus*
- ☐ Manx Shearwater | *Puffinus puffinus*
- ☐ Balearic Shearwater | *Puffinus mauretanicus*
- ☐ Macaronesian Shearwater | *Puffinus baroli*
- ☐ Wilson's Storm-Petrel | *Oceanites oceanicus*
- ☐ White-faced Storm-Petrel | *Pelagodroma marina*
- ☐ Leach's Storm-Petrel | *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*
- ☐ Band-rumped Storm-Petrel | *Oceanodroma castro*
- ☐ Red-billed Tropicbird | *Phaethon aethereus*
- ☐ White-tailed Tropicbird | *Phaethon lepturus*
- ☐ Masked Booby | *Sula dactylatra*
- ☐ Brown Booby | *Sula leucogaster*
- ☐ Northern Gannet | *Morus bassanus*
- ☐ Great Cormorant | *Phalacrocorax carbo*
- ☐ Double-crested Cormorant | *Phalacrocorax auritus*
- ☐ Magnificent Frigatebird | *Fregata magnificens*
- ☐ Eurasian Bittern | *Botaurus stellaris*
- ☐ American Bittern | *Botaurus lentiginosus*

## CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE AZORES

- ☐ Least Bittern | *Ixobrychus exilis*
- ☐ Little Bittern | *Ixobrychus minutus*
- ☐ Black-crowned Night Heron | *Nycticorax nycticorax*
- ☐ Yellow-crowned Night Heron | *Nycticorax violaceus*
- ☐ Green Heron | *Butorides virescens*
- ☐ Squacco Heron | *Ardeola ralloides*
- ☐ Cattle Egret | *Bubulcus ibis*
- ☐ Little Blue Heron | *Egretta caerulea*
- ☐ Tricoloured Heron | *Egretta tricolor*
- ☐ Snowy Egret | *Egretta thula*
- ☐ Western Reef Heron | *Egretta gularis*
- ☐ Little Egret | *Egretta garzetta*
- ☐ European Great Egret | *Egretta alba alba*
- ☐ (American Great Egret) | *Egretta alba egretta*
- ☐ Grey Heron | *Ardea cinerea*
- ☐ Great Blue Heron | *Ardea herodias*
- ☐ Purple Heron | *Ardea purpurea*
- ☐ Black Stork | *Ciconia nigra*
- ☐ White Stork | *Ciconia ciconia*
- ☐ Glossy Ibis | *Plegadis falcinellus*
- ☐ Northern Bald Ibis | *Geronticus eremita*
- ☐ Eurasian Spoonbill | *Platalea leucorodia*
- ☐ Greater Flamingo | *Phoenicopterus roseus*
- ☐ Swallow-tailed Kite | *Elanoides forficatus*
- ☐ Black Kite | *Milvus migrans*
- ☐ Red Kite | *Milvus milvus*
- ☐ Egyptian Vulture | *Neophron percnopterus*
- ☐ Western Marsh Harrier | *Circus aeruginosus*
- ☐ Northern Harrier | *Circus cyaneus*
- ☐ (Marsh Hawk) | *Circus cyaneus hudsonicus*
- ☐ Montagu's Harrier | *Circus pygargus*
- ☐ Common Buzzard | *Buteo buteo rothschildi*
- ☐ Rough-legged Buzzard | *Buteo lagopus*
- ☐ Osprey | *Pandion haliaetus*
- ☐ Lesser Kestrel | *Falco naumanni*
- ☐ Common Kestrel | *Falco tinnunculus*
- ☐ American Kestrel | *Falco sparverius*
- ☐ Red-footed Falcon | *Falco vespertinus*
- ☐ Amur Falcon | *Falco amurensis*
- ☐ Merlin | *Falco columbarius*

## CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE AZORES

- ☐ Thick-billed Murre | *Uria lomvia*
- ☐ Eurasian Hobby | *Falco subbuteo*
- ☐ Peregrine Falcon | *Falco peregrinus*
- ☐ Water Rail | *Rallus aquaticus*
- ☐ Spotted Crake | *Porzana porzana*
- ☐ Sora | *Porzana carolina*
- ☐ Little Crake | *Porzana parva*
- ☐ Baillon's Crake | *Porzana pusilla*
- ☐ Corn Crake | *Crex crex*
- ☐ Common Moorhen | *Gallinula chloropus*
- ☐ Allen's Gallinule | *Porphyrio alleni*
- ☐ Purple Gallinule | *Porphyrio martinica*
- ☐ Eurasian Coot | *Fulica atra*
- ☐ American Coot | *Fulica americana*
- ☐ Common Crane | *Grus grus*
- ☐ Sandhill Crane | *Grus canadensis*
- ☐ Eurasian Oystercatcher | *Haematopus ostralegus*
- ☐ Black-winged Stilt | *Himantopus himantopus*
- ☐ Pied Avocet | *Recurvirostra avosetta*
- ☐ Eurasian Stone-Curlew | *Burhinus oedipnemus*
- ☐ Little Ringed Plover | *Charadrius dubius*
- ☐ Common Ringed Plover | *Charadrius hiaticula*
- ☐ Semipalmated Plover | *Charadrius semipalmatus*
- ☐ Killdeer | *Charadrius vociferus*
- ☐ Kentish Plover | *Charadrius alexandrinus*
- ☐ Eurasian Dotterel | *Charadrius morinellus*
- ☐ Pacific Golden Plover | *Pluvialis fulva*
- ☐ American Golden Plover | *Pluvialis dominica*
- ☐ European Golden Plover | *Pluvialis apricaria*
- ☐ Grey Plover | *Pluvialis squatarola*
- ☐ Northern Lapwing | *Vanellus vanellus*
- ☐ Red Knot | *Calidris canutus*
- ☐ Sanderling | *Calidris alba*
- ☐ Semipalmated Sandpiper | *Calidris pusilla*
- ☐ Western Sandpiper | *Calidris mauri*
- ☐ Little Stint | *Calidris minuta*
- ☐ Temminck's Stint | *Calidris temminckii*
- ☐ Least Sandpiper | *Calidris minutilla*
- ☐ White-rumped Sandpiper | *Calidris fuscicollis*
- ☐ Baird's Sandpiper | *Calidris bairdii*

## CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE AZORES

- ☐ Pectoral Sandpiper | *Calidris melanotos*
- ☐ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | *Calidris acuminata*
- ☐ Curlew Sandpiper | *Calidris ferruginea*
- ☐ Purple Sandpiper | *Calidris maritima*
- ☐ Dunlin | *Calidris alpina*
- ☐ Stilt Sandpiper | *Calidris himantopus*
- ☐ Buff-breasted Sandpiper | *Tryngites subruficollis*
- ☐ Ruff | *Philomachus pugnax*
- ☐ Jack Snipe | *Lymnocyrtus minimus*
- ☐ Common Snipe | *Gallinago gallinago*
- ☐ Wilson's Snipe | *Gallinago delicata*
- ☐ Short-billed Dowitcher | *Limnodromus griseus*
- ☐ Long-billed Dowitcher | *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
- ☐ Eurasian Woodcock | *Scolopax rusticola*
- ☐ Black-tailed Godwit | *Limosa limosa*
- ☐ Hudsonian Godwit | *Limosa haemastica*
- ☐ Bar-tailed Godwit | *Limosa lapponica*
- ☐ Whimbrel | *Numenius phaeopus phaeopus*
- ☐ (Hudsonian Whimbrel) | *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*
- ☐ Slender-billed Curlew | *Numenius tenuirostris*
- ☐ Eurasian Curlew | *Numenius arquata*
- ☐ Upland Sandpiper | *Bartramia longicauda*
- ☐ Spotted Redshank | *Tringa erythropus*
- ☐ Common Redshank | *Tringa totanus*
- ☐ Marsh Sandpiper | *Tringa stagnatilis*
- ☐ Common Greenshank | *Tringa nebularia*
- ☐ Greater Yellowlegs | *Tringa melanoleuca*
- ☐ Lesser Yellowlegs | *Tringa flavipes*
- ☐ Solitary Sandpiper | *Tringa solitaria*
- ☐ Green Sandpiper | *Tringa ochropus*
- ☐ Wood Sandpiper | *Tringa glareola*
- ☐ Common Sandpiper | *Actitis hypoleucos*
- ☐ Spotted Sandpiper | *Actitis macularia*
- ☐ Willet | *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*
- ☐ Ruddy Turnstone | *Arenaria interpres*
- ☐ Wilson's Phalarope | *Phalaropus tricolor*
- ☐ Red-necked Phalarope | *Phalaropus lobatus*
- ☐ Red Phalarope | *Phalaropus fulicarius*
- ☐ Pomarine Skua | *Stercorarius pomarinus*
- ☐ Parasitic Jaeger | *Stercorarius parasiticus*

## CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE AZORES

- ☐ Long-tailed Jaeger | *Stercorarius longicaudus*
- ☐ Great Skua | *Stercorarius skua*
- ☐ South Polar Skua | *Stercorarius maccormicki*
- ☐ Mediterranean Gull | *Larus melanocephalus*
- ☐ Laughing Gull | *Larus atricilla*
- ☐ Franklin's Gull | *Larus pipixcan*
- ☐ Bonaparte's Gull | *Larus philadelphia*
- ☐ Black-headed Gull | *Larus ridibundus*
- ☐ Audouin's Gull | *Larus audouinii*
- ☐ Ring-billed Gull | *Larus delawarensis*
- ☐ Mew Gull | *Larus canus*
- ☐ (American Mew Gull) | *Larus brachyrhynchus*
- ☐ Lesser Black-backed Gull | *Larus fuscus*
- ☐ European Herring Gull | *Larus argentatus*
- ☐ American Herring Gull | *Larus smithsonianus*
- ☐ Yellow-legged Gull | *Larus michahellis*
- ☐ Iceland Gull | *Larus glaucoideus*
- ☐ Glaucous Gull | *Larus hyperboreus*
- ☐ Great Black-backed Gull | *Larus marinus*
- ☐ Black-legged Kittiwake | *Rissa tridactyla*
- ☐ Sabine's Gull | *Xema sabini*
- ☐ Little Gull | *Hydrocoloeus minutus*
- ☐ Gull-billed Tern | *Gelochelidon nilotica*
- ☐ Caspian Tern | *Hydroprogne caspia*
- ☐ Royal Tern | *Sterna maxima*
- ☐ Sandwich Tern | *Sterna sandvicensis*
- ☐ Roseate Tern | *Sterna dougallii*
- ☐ Common Tern | *Sterna hirundo*
- ☐ Arctic Tern | *Sterna paradisaea*
- ☐ Forster's Tern | *Sterna forsteri*
- ☐ Bridled Tern | *Onychoprion anaethetus*
- ☐ Sooty Tern | *Onychoprion fuscatus*
- ☐ Little Tern | *Sternula albifrons*
- ☐ Whiskered Tern | *Chlidonias hybrida*
- ☐ Black Tern | *Chlidonias niger*
- ☐ (American Black Tern) | *Chlidonias niger surinamensis*
- ☐ White-winged Tern | *Chlidonias leucopterus*
- ☐ Brown Noddy | *Anous stolidus*
- ☐ Thick-billed Murre | *Uria lomvia*
- ☐ Razorbill | *Alca torda*

## CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE AZORES

- ☐ Little Auk | *Alle alle*
- ☐ Atlantic Puffin | *Fratercula arctica*
- ☐ Common Pigeon | *Columba livia*
- ☐ Common Wood Pigeon | *Columba palumbus azorica*
- ☐ Eurasian Collared Dove | *Streptopelia decaocto*
- ☐ European Turtle Dove | *Streptopelia turtur*
- ☐ American Mourning Dove | *Zenaida macroura*
- ☐ Common Cuckoo | *Cuculus canorus*
- ☐ Black-billed Cuckoo | *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*
- ☐ Yellow-billed Cuckoo | *Coccyzus americanus*
- ☐ Barn Owl | *Tyto alba*
- ☐ Snowy Owl | *Bubo scandiacus*
- ☐ Long-eared Owl | *Asio otus*
- ☐ Short-eared Owl | *Asio flammeus*
- ☐ European Nightjar | *Caprimulgus europaeus*
- ☐ Common Nighthawk | *Chordeiles minor*
- ☐ Chimney Swift | *Chaetura pelagica*
- ☐ Common Swift | *Apus apus*
- ☐ Pallid Swift | *Apus pallidus*
- ☐ Alpine Swift | *Apus melba*
- ☐ Little Swift | *Apus affinis*
- ☐ Common Kingfisher | *Alcedo atthis*
- ☐ Belted Kingfisher | *Ceryle alcyon*
- ☐ European Bee-eater | *Merops apiaster*
- ☐ European Roller | *Coracias garrulus*
- ☐ Eurasian Hoopoe | *Upupa epops*
- ☐ Northern Flicker | *Colaptes auratus*
- ☐ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | *Sphyrapicus varius*
- ☐ Greater Short-toed Lark | *Calandrella brachydactyla*
- ☐ Crested Lark | *Galerida cristata*
- ☐ Eurasian Skylark | *Alauda arvensis*
- ☐ Sand Martin | *Riparia riparia*
- ☐ Tree Swallow | *Tachycineta bicolor*
- ☐ Purple Martin | *Progne subis*
- ☐ Barn Swallow | *Hirundo rustica rustica*
- ☐ (American Barn Swallow) | *Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*
- ☐ Red-rumped Swallow | *Cecropis daurica*
- ☐ American Cliff Swallow | *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*
- ☐ Common House Martin | *Delichon urbicum*
- ☐ Tawny Pipit | *Anthus campestris*

## CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE AZORES

- ☐ Tree Pipit | *Anthus trivialis*
- ☐ Meadow Pipit | *Anthus pratensis*
- ☐ Red-throated Pipit | *Anthus cervinus*
- ☐ Buff-bellied Pipit | *Anthus rubescens*
- ☐ Yellow Wagtail | *Motacilla flava*
- ☐ Citrine Wagtail | *Motacilla citreola*
- ☐ Grey Wagtail | *Motacilla cinerea patriciae*
- ☐ White Wagtail | *Motacilla alba alba*
- ☐ Cedar Waxwing | *Bombycilla cedrorum*
- ☐ Bohemian Waxwing | *Bombycilla garrulus*
- ☐ Winter Wren | *Troglodytes troglodytes*
- ☐ Grey Catbird | *Dumetella carolinensis*
- ☐ European Robin | *Erithacus rubecula*
- ☐ Black Redstart | *Phoenicurus ochruros*
- ☐ Common Redstart | *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
- ☐ Whinchat | *Saxicola rubetra*
- ☐ Common Stonechat | *Saxicola torquatus*
- ☐ Isabelline Wheatear | *Oenanthe isabellina*
- ☐ Northern Wheatear | *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa*
- ☐ Black-eared Wheatear | *Oenanthe hispanica*
- ☐ Wood Thrush | *Hylocichla mustelina*
- ☐ Hermit Thrush | *Catharus guttatus*
- ☐ Grey-cheeked Thrush | *Catharus minimus*
- ☐ Swainson's Thrush | *Catharus ustulatus*
- ☐ Ring Ouzel | *Turdus torquatus*
- ☐ Common Blackbird | *Turdus merula azorensis*
- ☐ Naumann's Thrush | *Turdus naumanni*
- ☐ Fieldfare | *Turdus pilaris*
- ☐ Song Thrush | *Turdus philomelos*
- ☐ Redwing | *Turdus iliacus*
- ☐ Mistle Thrush | *Turdus viscivorus*
- ☐ Common Grasshopper Warbler | *Locustella naevia*
- ☐ Sedge Warbler | *Locustella schoenobaenus*
- ☐ Paddyfield Warbler | *Acrocephalus agricola*
- ☐ Melodious Warbler | *Hippolais polyglotta*
- ☐ Common Whitethroat | *Sylvia communis*
- ☐ Garden Warbler | *Sylvia borin*
- ☐ Eurasian Blackcap | *Sylvia atricapilla gularis*
- ☐ Yellow-browed Warbler | *Phylloscopus inornatus*
- ☐ Common Chiffchaff | *Phylloscopus collybita*

## CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE AZORES

- ☐ Willow Warbler | *Phylloscopus trochilus*
- ☐ Goldcrest | *Regulus regulus inermis*
- ☐ (Goldcrest) | *Regulus regulus azoricus*
- ☐ (Goldcrest) | *Regulus regulus sanctaemariae*
- ☐ Spotted Flycatcher | *Muscicapa striata*
- ☐ Red-breasted Flycatcher | *Ficedula parva*
- ☐ European Pied Flycatcher | *Ficedula hypoleuca*
- ☐ Eurasian Golden Oriole | *Oriolus oriolus*
- ☐ Red-backed Shrike | *Lanius collurio*
- ☐ Woodchat Shrike | *Lanius senator*
- ☐ Western Jackdaw | *Corvus monedula*
- ☐ Rook | *Corvus frugilegus*
- ☐ Carrion Crow | *Corvus corone corone*
- ☐ Common Starling | *Sturnus vulgaris granti*
- ☐ House Sparrow | *Passer domesticus*
- ☐ Rock Sparrow | *Petronia petronia*
- ☐ Common Waxbill | *Estrilda astrild*
- ☐ White-eyed Vireo | *Vireo griseus*
- ☐ Yellow-throated Vireo | *Vireo flavifrons*
- ☐ Philadelphia Vireo | *Vireo philadelphicus*
- ☐ Red-eyed Vireo | *Vireo olivaceus*
- ☐ Common Chaffinch | *Fringilla coelebs moreletti*
- ☐ Brambling | *Fringilla montifringilla*
- ☐ European Serin | *Serinus serinus*
- ☐ Atlantic Canary | *Serinus canaria*
- ☐ European Greenfinch | *Carduelis chloris aurantiiventris*
- ☐ European Goldfinch | *Carduelis carduelis parva*
- ☐ European Siskin | *Carduelis spinus*
- ☐ Common Linnet | *Carduelis cannabina*
- ☐ Common Redpoll | *Carduelis flammea*
- ☐ Arctic Redpoll | *Carduelis hornemanni*
- ☐ Red Crossbill | *Loxia curvirostra*
- ☐ Azores Bullfinch | *Pyrrhula pyrrhula murina*
- ☐ Black-and-white Warbler | *Mniotilta varia*
- ☐ Blue-winged Warbler | *Vermivora pinus*
- ☐ Tennessee Warbler | *Vermivora peregrina*
- ☐ Northern Parula | *Parula americana*
- ☐ American Yellow Warbler | *Dendroica petechia*
- ☐ Chestnut-sided Warbler | *Dendroica pensylvanica*
- ☐ Black-throated Blue Warbler | *Dendroica caerulescens*

## CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE AZORES

- ☐ Black-throated Green Warbler | *Dendroica virens*
- ☐ Magnolia Warbler | *Dendroica magnolia*
- ☐ Yellow-rumped Warbler | *Dendroica coronata*
- ☐ Blackpoll Warbler | *Dendroica striata*
- ☐ American Redstart | *Setophaga ruticilla*
- ☐ Ovenbird | *Seiurus aurocapilla*
- ☐ Northern Waterthrush | *Seiurus noveboracensis*
- ☐ Common Yellowthroat | *Geothlypis trichas*
- ☐ Hooded Warbler | *Wilsonia citrina*
- ☐ Canada Warbler | *Wilsonia canadensis*
- ☐ Summer Tanager | *Piranga rubra*
- ☐ Scarlet Tanager | *Piranga olivacea*
- ☐ Savannah Sparrow | *Passerculus sandwichensis*
- ☐ Lincoln's Sparrow | *Melospiza lincolnii*
- ☐ White-crowned Sparrow | *Zonotrichia leucophrys*
- ☐ Dark-eyed Junco | *Junco hyemalis*
- ☐ Lapland longspur | *Calcarius lapponicus*
- ☐ Snow Bunting | *Plectrophenax nivalis*
- ☐ Dickcissel | *Spiza americana*
- ☐ Rose-breasted Grosbeak | *Pheucticus ludovicianus*
- ☐ Blue Grosbeak | *Guiraca caerulea*
- ☐ Indigo Bunting | *Passerina cyanea*
- ☐ Bobolink | *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*
- ☐ Northern Oriole | *Icterus galbula*

### Category D-E species:

- ☐ Mandarin Duck | *Aix galericulata*
- ☐ Northern Bobwhite | *Colinus virginianus*
- ☐ Grey Partridge | *Perdix perdix*
- ☐ Common Pheasant | *Phasianus colchicus*
- ☐ Helmeted Guineafowl | *Numida meleagris*
- ☐ Rose-ringed Parakeet | *Psittacula krameri*
- ☐ Blue Jay | *Cyanocitta cristata*
- ☐ Black-rumped Waxbill | *Estrilda troglodytes*
- ☐ Yellow-fronted Canary | *Serinus mozambicus*

Compiled by Staffan Rodebrand

Include all known observations and published rarity reports up to 31/12 2011.

For details and references, see detailed rarity lists on Birding Azores website: [www.birdingazores.com](http://www.birdingazores.com)

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## NOTES

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## HELPFUL LINKS

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### Further information



#### online

- [www.birdingazores.com](http://www.birdingazores.com)
- [avesdosazores.wordpress.com](http://avesdosazores.wordpress.com)
- [azoresbs.weebly.com](http://azoresbs.weebly.com)
- Rarities of the Azores: [www.birdingazores.com/?page=rarebirdref&id=2http://](http://www.birdingazores.com/?page=rarebirdref&id=2http://)
- [www.spea.pt](http://www.spea.pt)
- [centropriolo.spea.pt](http://centropriolo.spea.pt)

#### guidebooks

- Rodrigues, Pedro; Michielsen, Gerbrand, Observação de Aves nos Açores, Artes e Letras (2010)
- Pereira, Carlos, Aves dos Açores, SPEA (2010)

#### bird watching companies

- [www.visitazores.com/en/experience-the-azores/other/birdwatching/structures](http://www.visitazores.com/en/experience-the-azores/other/birdwatching/structures)

#### tourism Information

- [www.visitazores.com](http://www.visitazores.com)

#### how to get to the Azores:

- [www.visitazores.com/en/the-azores/how-to-get-there](http://www.visitazores.com/en/the-azores/how-to-get-there)

## FACTSHEET AND CONTACTS

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