AZORES BIRD REPORT, 10-24 October 2016

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ITINERARY

10 October    London Heathrow – Terceira by TPL

11-14 October Terceira staying at Quintos dos Figos guesthouse – just 10 mins drive from Cabo da Praia quarry. Very comfortable and reasonably priced Bed and Breakfast.

14-15 October Faial staying in Horta.

15-22 October Flores, staying at Casa Atlantida, Faja Grande. A comfortable self-catering accommodation, right by the rocks.

22-24 October Terceira

24 October    Terceira – London Heathrow
KEY TO PLACE NAMES

FLORES
A  near Albaranz lighthouse
AL  Alagoinha
FC  Fajã do Conde
FG  Fajã Grande
LB  Lagoa Branca
LL  Lagoa Lomba
LP  Lagoa dos Patos
LS  Lagoa Seca
PD  Ponta Delgada
PF  Ponta da Fajã
SC  Santa Cruz

TERCEIRA
B  Biscoitos
CA  Cabrito Reservoir
CQ  Cabo da Praia quarry
H  Cabo da Praia/Praia da Vitória harbour
P  Paul da Praia da Vitoria

BIRD LIST

Nomenclature and sequence follow Garcia-del-Rey, E. (2011, *Field guide to the birds of Macaronesia, Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands, Cape Verde*)

**Brant Goose Branta bernicla**
Flores: 1 hrota (pale-bellied) on 16\textsuperscript{th} on sea among rocks FG.

![Brant Goose](image1)

**Mallard Anas platyrhynchos**
Flores: 1 drake on 16\textsuperscript{th} AL.

**American Black Duck Anas rubripes**
Flores: 1 on 16\textsuperscript{th} and 21\textsuperscript{st} LB.

**American Black Duck/Mallard Anas rubripes/platyrhynchos**
Flores: 6 on 15\textsuperscript{th} LS; 3 on 16\textsuperscript{th} and 1 on 21\textsuperscript{st} LB; 4 on 20\textsuperscript{th} LP.

**Northern Pintail Anas acuta**
Flores: 1 on 18\textsuperscript{th} and 20\textsuperscript{th} LP;
Terceira: 1 on 11\textsuperscript{th}, 13\textsuperscript{th}, 22\textsuperscript{nd} and 23\textsuperscript{rd} P.

**Northern Shoveler Anas clypeata**
Terceira: 1 on 23\textsuperscript{rd} CA.
Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*
Flores: 4 on 20\(^{th}\) LL;
Terceira: 1 on 11\(^{th}\), 12\(^{th}\), 14\(^{th}\), 22\(^{nd}\) and 23\(^{rd}\) CQ.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*
Flores: 1 on 18\(^{th}\) LP, 1 on 20\(^{th}\) LB (may be the same as LP bird);
Terceira: 1 on 22\(^{nd}\) and 23\(^{rd}\) P.

Eurasian/Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca/carolinensis*
Flores: 2 on 13\(^{th}\) P; 1 on 21\(^{st}\) LB;
Terceira: 3 on 12\(^{th}\) and 14\(^{th}\), 1 on 22\(^{nd}\) and 3 on 23\(^{rd}\) and 24\(^{th}\) CQ.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*
Terceira: 1 on 11\(^{th}\) P.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*
Terceira: 1 on 22\(^{nd}\) and 4 on 23\(^{rd}\) and 24\(^{th}\) P.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*
Terceira: 1 on 11\(^{th}\) and 22\(^{nd}\) and 3 on 23\(^{rd}\) and 24\(^{th}\) P; also 2 doubtful on 23\(^{rd}\) P.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*
Terceira: 1 on 22\(^{nd}\) and 24\(^{th}\) P.

Cory’s Shearwater *Calonectris borealis*
Recorded almost daily offshore.
Flores: maximum on 21\(^{st}\) 250 flying past in 10 minutes in strong wind, estimate 2,000+ FG;
Terceira:

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Flores: 1 on 16\(^{th}\) FG.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Flores: 1 on 16\(^{th}\) and 20\(^{th}\) FG; 1 on 17\(^{th}\) and 19\(^{th}\) PD; 1 on 19\(^{th}\) and 20\(^{th}\) SC;
Terceira: 1 on 11\(^{th}\) CQ.
Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*
Flores: 1 on 17th, 18th and 21st FG and on 18th SC.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Flores: 1 on 16th FG and 1 LB; 1 on 18th LP and 1 FC; 1 on 16th FG and 1 LB; 1 on 18th LP and 1 FC; 1 on 15th.
Terceira: 2 on 11th over guest house Cabo da Praia; 1 on 11th, 13th, 23th and 24th P; 1 on 12th CQ.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Terceira: 1 on 12th over H.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*
Faial: 1 near Horta, on 15th.
Terceira: 2 on 11th CQ; 8 on 11th and 10 on 12th and 13th; 1 near CA on 23rd.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
Flores: 1 on 21st A

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
Flores: 1 on 17th PD

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Flores: 1 on 16th and 20th AL and 3 on 18th LP; 3 on 18th LP; 1 on 15th.
Terceira: maximum P 6 on 11th.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*
Terceira: maximum P 16 on 23rd.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
Terceira: maximum CQ 10+ on 12th.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*
Flores: 1 on 19th SC;
Terceira: 1+ on 11th, 5 on 12th, 2 on 13th 3 on 14th, 3 on 22nd and 23rd and 2 on 24th CQ.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
**Terceira**: maximum CQ 25 on 12th.

**Grey Plover Pluvialis squatarola**
**Terceira**: maximum CQ 5 on 11\(^{th}\) and 23\(^{rd}\).

**Ruddy Turnstone Arenaria interpres**
**Flores**: maximum FG 5 on 20\(^{th}\); maximum SC 5 on 20\(^{th}\) and 21\(^{st}\) and 2 on 21\(^{st}\) PD;
**Faial**: 8 on 14\(^{th}\) at Horta;
**Terceira**: maximum CQ 40 on 11\(^{th}\) and 12\(^{th}\).

**Sanderling Calidris alba**
**Flores**: maximum FG 4 on 19\(^{th}\), 1 on 19\(^{th}\) SC;
**Terceira**: maximum at CQ 120 on 12\(^{th}\).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper Calidris pusilla**
**Terceira**: 2 on 11\(^{th}\), 3 on 12\(^{th}\) and 1 on 13\(^{th}\) and 23\(^{rd}\) CQ.

**Little Stint Calidris minuta**
**Terceira**: 3 on 22\(^{nd}\) and 2 on 23\(^{rd}\) and 24\(^{th}\) CQ.

**Least Sandpiper Calidris minutilla**
**Flores**: 1 juv 15\(^{th}\)-18\(^{th}\) and 20\(^{th}\) FG.

**White-rumped Sandpiper Calidris fuscicollis**
**Terceira**: maximum CQ 4 on 12\(^{th}\).
Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*  
*Flores*: 1 on 16\(^{th}\) LB;  
*Terceira*: 3 on 11 and 12\(^{th}\), 2 on 13\(^{th}\) and 14\(^{th}\) CQ.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*  
*Terceira*: maximum CQ 3 on 23\(^{rd}\).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*  
*Terceira*: 1 on 11\(^{th}\) CQ.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*  
*Flores*: 1 on 21\(^{st}\) A;  
*Terceira*: maximum CQ 2 on 12\(^{th}\).

Common/Wilson’s Snipe *Gallinago gallinago/delicata*  
*Terceira*: 1 on 23\(^{rd}\) CQ.

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*  
*Flores*: 1 on 18\(^{th}\) roadside verge SC to FG.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*  
*Terceira*: 1 on 11\(^{th}\), 14\(^{th}\), 22\(^{nd}\) and 23\(^{rd}\) CQ.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*  
*Terceira*: 1 on 24\(^{th}\) CQ.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*  
*Flores*: 1 on 15\(^{th}\), 2 on 19\(^{th}\) and 20\(^{th}\) and 1 on 21\(^{st}\) and 22\(^{nd}\) FG; 1 on 17\(^{th}\) PD and 1 on 18\(^{th}\) and 19\(^{th}\) SC;  
*Terceira*: 5 on 12\(^{th}\), 1 on 14\(^{th}\) CQ; 1 on 12\(^{th}\) B.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*  
*Terceira*: 1 on 11\(^{th}\)-14th and 22\(^{nd}\)-24\(^{th}\) CQ.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*  
*Terceira*: 2 on 11\(^{th}\), 3 on 12\(^{th}\), 1 on 13\(^{th}\) and 2 on 14\(^{th}\) CQ.

![Spotted Sandpiper](image)

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*  
*Flores*: 1 juv on 19\(^{th}\) SC.
Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
*Terceira:* 1 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 23<sup>rd</sup> CQ; maximum on CA 5 on 12<sup>th</sup>.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*
*Terceira:* 1 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 23<sup>rd</sup> CQ; maximum on CA 5 on 12<sup>th</sup>.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*
*Terceira:* 1 British race *graellsii* on 11<sup>th</sup> on Lagoa Junca (which was dry) with Yellow-legged Gulls.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*
*Flores:* Maximum at FG 20 on 21<sup>st</sup>; 1 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> LP; 1 on 17<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 19<sup>th</sup> PD; maximum SC 3 on 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>;
*Faial:* 15 on 14<sup>th</sup>;
*Terceira:* maximum at H 35 on 11<sup>th</sup>, 30 on 12<sup>th</sup> B; 20 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 1 on 23<sup>rd</sup> CQ and 6 at Angra on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*
*Terceira:* 3 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> H.

**Cabot’s Tern** *Thalasseus acuflavida*
*Terceira:* 1 on 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> H.

This bird remained separate from the 3 Sandwich Terns (which sat on a structure out in the harbour) – on 11<sup>th</sup> it sat on the edge of the harbour wall, peering over the edge and dropping to the surface after prey, but not plunge-diving. The short, deep-based bill; the white forehead to mid-crown and solid black rear crown; and the narrow white fringe to a developing primary all indicate Cabot’s Tern. The white tail and tertials indicate that the bird is an adult. On the subsequent two dates the bird was located at long range on an inaccessible part of the outer harbour wall – identified mainly by its behaviour, which was similar to that of the bird on the first date.
Common Pigeon *Columba livia*
Seen on Flores and Terceira.

**Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus***
Flores: 8 on 18<sup>th</sup> 12 on 20<sup>th</sup> & 2 on 21<sup>st</sup> PF;
Terceira: maximum 30 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto***
Terceira: 20 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Cabo da Praia; maximum 25 on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Long-eared Owl *Asio otus***
Terceira: 2 on 11<sup>th</sup> roosting in large broadleaved tree near P.
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
Recorded almost daily.
**Flores:** maximum 20 on 19\textsuperscript{th} and 21\textsuperscript{st};
**Faial:** 3 on 14\textsuperscript{th} and 15\textsuperscript{th};
**Terceira:** maximum 25 on 11\textsuperscript{th}.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*
**Faial:** 1 on 15\textsuperscript{th} heard near Horta and 1 at airport.
**Terceira:** 5 on 11\textsuperscript{th} and 8 on 13\textsuperscript{th}.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*
Recorded daily.
**Flores:** maximum on 60 on 18\textsuperscript{th};
**Faial:** 10 on 14\textsuperscript{th} and 15\textsuperscript{th};
**Terceira:** maximum on 50 on 12\textsuperscript{th}.

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*
Recorded daily.
**Flores:** maximum 40 on 16\textsuperscript{th}, 19\textsuperscript{th} and 21\textsuperscript{st};
**Faial:** 4 Horta on 15\textsuperscript{th};
**Terceira:** maximum on 10 on 11\textsuperscript{th} and 13\textsuperscript{th}.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*
**Flores:** 8 on 16\textsuperscript{th} and 4 on 20\textsuperscript{th}; 2 on 18\textsuperscript{th} LP, 1 on 18\textsuperscript{th} FC and 3 on 21\textsuperscript{st} PF;
**Terceira:** 5 on 13\textsuperscript{th}.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*
Recorded daily.
**Flores:** maximum 60 on 19\textsuperscript{th} and 21\textsuperscript{st};
**Faial:** 3 on 14\textsuperscript{th} and 5 on 15\textsuperscript{th} Horta;
**Terceira:** maximum 100+ on 11\textsuperscript{th}.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Recorded almost daily.
**Flores:** maximum PD 200 on 17\textsuperscript{th} and 19\textsuperscript{th}, and on rest of island, maximum 40 on 16\textsuperscript{th}, 18\textsuperscript{th} and 20\textsuperscript{th};
**Faial:** 10 on 15\textsuperscript{th} Horta;
**Terceira:** maximum 50 on 23\textsuperscript{rd}.
Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

Terceira: 1 on 11th P; 10 + nest on 11th and 3 on 13th P.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Recorded almost daily.
Flores: PD maximum 50 on 19th; rest of island maximum 60 on 20th;
Faial: 2 on 15th Horta;
Terceira: maximum 50 on 13th.

Atlantic Canary *Serinus canaria*

Recorded daily.
Flores: PD maximum 200 on 17th; rest of island maximum 60 on 21st;
Faial: maximum 30 on 14th;
Terceira: maximum 50 on 23rd.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Flores: 1 Caldeira, on 20th;
Terceira: 2 on 11th CQ.
Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

**Terceira:** 1 on 23rd at CQ and 2 Ponta da Má Merenda.

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*

**Flores:** 1 possible briefly on 17th PD seen by Tim.
Also photos of three endemic plants:

*Ipomoea imperati* Horta, Faial

*Leontodon rigens* Flores
Scabiosa nitens Flores