Cape Verde Islands
Santiago, Boavista, Sal, São Nicolau, Raso and Branco
11th February to 26th February 2017

Raso Lark (Alauda razae) * – endemic to the little island Raso (photo: ME).

Notes on birds by

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Introduction

This former Portuguese colony are located some more than 600 km north-west of Senegal and includes ten main islands and many more relatively smaller islands. There are four endemic species (Cape Verde Swift, Raso Lark, Cape Verde Warbler and Cape Verde Sparrow) and 11 endemic subspecies (Garcia-del-Rey 2016). Some are now verge of extinction. Most important are a fine range of breeding seabirds.

This report deals with a journey through six of these islands of Cape Verde – Santiago, Boa Vista, Sal, São Nicolau, Raso and Branco – in two weeks in February 2017 by a group of four Danish birdwatchers. We have all visited different part of the region before – Madeira, Tenerife, Fuerteventura and The Gambia etc, but it is was our first visit to Cape Verde Islands.

This trip was fairly easy and relatively cheap. Not only were all of the endemics seen well, but also several species previously recorded few times were noted. Best of all was of course a new species for the Cape Verde Islands when we found Allen’s Gallinule at Barragem de Poilão seen well and properly and documented with photos and video. Of the endemic and endemic subspecies we saw Cape Verde Barn Owl on one occasion, a very minimum 10 Bourne’s Heron, Boyd’s Shearwater and Cape Verde Storm-Petrel on breeding ground, two Cape Verde Buzzard’s, 25+ Raso Larks, plenty of Alexander’s and Neglected Kestrels, many Cape Verde Swifts, 15 Cape Verde Warblers etc.

There were two species we didn’t see – the Cape Verde Kite is now considered extinct and the Cape Verde Peregrine has not been reported since 2004 as far as we know. We looked for these two species especially on all six visited islands.

Of interest to WP-lister’s were sightings of an adult female Magnificent Frigatebird, Intermediate Egrets, Red-Billed Tropicbirds, Cape Verde Shearwater, Cape Verde Storm-Petrel, White-Faced Storm-Petrel, Cape Verde Petrel, Helmeted Guineafowl and Grey-Headed Kingfisher among others.

The birding was excellent and includes 64 counted species.

We booked our flight tickets via momondo (www.momondo.dk) and booked accommodation via www.tripadvisor.com. It was an independent travel with no guides.

All the locations, tracks and trails in Cape Verde Islands in this report are very well described in different report’s (www.cloudbirders.com) to which we reference.

One mammal only was noted when we saw a huge Humpback Whale from Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau very close to the shore.

We can absolutely recommend a trip to Cape Verde Island with its friendly population there are always helpful and to pick up the endemics, subspecies and WP-species.

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Itinerary

12/2: Departure Lisboa 9.30 with TAP with arrival at Praia, Santiago 12.50. After check-in at Hotel Cesaria we took a taxi to Praia Cliffs where we spend the rest of the day.
13/2: Full day birding at São Jorge dos Orgãos Botanical Garden, Barragem do Poilão and Pedra Badajos until 20.00.

Barragem do Poilão, Santiago (photo: EVR)

14/2: Full day birding to the northern part of Santiago including Tarrafal. In the afternoon return to Praia Cliffs.
15/2: Full day birding at Barragem do Poilão, Pedra Badajos and Praia Cliffs.

Pedra Badajos lagoon and the northern logoon with Pedra Badajo town behind, Santiago (Photos: EVR).
16/2: Full day birding at Praia Harbor, Faveta, Barragem do Poilão and Praia Cliffs.
17/2: Departure Praia 9.00 with TACV and arrival Sal Rei, Boa Vista 11.10. Then fast check-in at Hotel Dunas, and then birding at Curral Velho until sunset.
18/2: Full day birding at Sal Rei Harbor, Rabil Lagoon and Curral Velho until sunset.

Rabil Lagoon south of Sal Rei, Boa Vista, (photos: EVR).

19/2: Full day birding at Sal Rei Harbor and the northern part of Boa Vista for sea-watching.
20/2: Birding some hour’s at Sal Rei Harbor before departure Sal Rei 11.30 with TACV with arrival Sal airport 13.00. Departure Sal 15.50 with arrival São Nicolau 16.30. Hired a taxi for Tarrafal where we arrived at 17.30.
21/2: Raso and Branco boat trip. Departure 8.00 at Tarrafal Harbor and after one hour and 45 minutes we arrived at Raso. We stayed at Raso approximately 2 hours for the Raso Lark and then departure for Branco at 12.00 with arrival at Branco 13.00.

Birthe and Tina on Raso Island with Branco behind, (photo: EVR).
22/2: Pick up 8.30 – 9.30 very difficult with waves at the beach, and then boat trip with high waves and a lot of wind return to Tarrafal with arrival 11.30. The sea was high and rough. We became absolutely wet, wet, wet, drenched, cold, ice cold and all need at very hot bath when we came back to Tarrafal. We were not prepared for the amount of spray, but we survived😊.

Our “camp” on Branco – outside the seabird colony (Photos: EVR).

23/2: Morning and before dinner sea-watch from Ponta do Barril and visit to Ribeira da Prata. We made an afternoon visit to Cachaco Church to search for the Barn Owl.

24/2: Sea-watch from Ponta do Barril and relaxing afternoon.

Sea-watch from Ponta do Barril, São Nicolau – and the area behind (photos: BR).

25/2: Morning sea-watch from Ponta do Barril and then departure São Nicolau with TACV 14.25 to Praia.

26/2: Departure 02.00 Praia with TAP for Lisboa and arriving Copenhagen 14.10.

Logistics and accommodation

Santiago:
Hotel Cesaria, 33 rua Che Guevara Fazenda, Praia: [http://www.hotelcesaria.com/web/#home](http://www.hotelcesaria.com/web/#home). We can highly recommend this hotel. Nice place to stay including good food. It is a fairly new accommodation, clean and very helpful staff. Credit card is accepted.

Boa Vista:
Hotel Dunas, Amirical, Sal Rei: [https://www.booking.com/hotel/cv/dunas.da](https://www.booking.com/hotel/cv/dunas.da). This hotel are located very close to the little harbor and is also a nice place to stay including polite people and staff. Remark – there is only breakfast at this hotel but you can find many small restaurants in the neighborhood where you can have
lunch and dinner. Accept credit cards.

Sal:
A few hours between planes – transit only. We went for a walk outside the airport.

São Nicolau:
Residential Tocely, Tarrafal: http://www.caboverde-info.com/esp/Ilhas/Sao-Nicolau/Tarrafal/Residencial-Tocely. It seems to be a little worn accommodation but with a very fine location for trips to Raso and Branco. It was also a nice place to stay. The owner and manager can arrange trips by boat to Raso and Branco but it is expensive. Credit Cards are not accepted so you have to bring cash. You can have all meals at this hotel but you can also find a fine restaurant on the opposite site of the street.

Raso:
No residents and no accommodation. We visited this island few hours only looking for Raso Lark.

Branco:
No residents and no accommodation. We took with us sleeping backs and survived the night in sand dunes. You have to bring everything with you and especially water is important.

Getting around
We rented car’s at all major islands and we had no problems at all with that. First we have made a reservation for a 4x4 by the internet from Denmark, but when we came to Cape Verde, they had a little car only. Then in Praia we rented a little Fiat for five days at Santiago, a 4x4 at Boa Vista and 4x4 in Tarrafal. Taxi was only used the first day when we arrived – we payed 30 EUR for two hours at Praia Cliffs.

Visiting Raso and Branco Islands is not easy. You have to “cross the Atlantic Ocean” for 25 km in a little boat. We left Tarrafal harbor at 08.00 for our trip to Raso Island. The boat was little but powerful with two engines and got us to the island in 1 hour and 45 minutes. We stayed on the island for approximately two hours before we left for Branco. The crossing to Branco took 45 minutes. Here we stayed on the island overnight and you need to bring everything with you, sleeping backs, water, food, for more than one day. Next day you will be picked up if the boat can get in to the shore. We had great problems with that, so upon leaving Branco we transferred to a small fishing boat first and then to the other boat because the great waves. You get wet. We had ad bumpy ride back to Tarrafal with great waves all the time. The trip was expensive – € 600 for 4 persons – the price for two trips, one day out, next day home again. But if you want to see Raso Lark there are no other options.

Visited localities

Santiago:
Barragem de Poilão (15.074471, -23.555791).
Barragem de Faveta (15.099888, -23.624035).
São Jorge dos Orgãos Botanic Gardens (15.048902, -23.603564).
Lagunas at Pedra Badejo (15.127906, -23.520912) and (15.131502, -23.526442).
Praia Cliffs (14.910655, -23.486645) (Tropicbirds) and (14.913273, -23.480383) (Cream-coloured Courser).
Praia harbor (14.900493, -23.509573).
Tarrafal water treatment (15.265778, -23.756381).
Boa Vista:
Curral Velho (15.968991, -22.795272).
Riu Touareg waste water pool (15.977706, -22.811055).
Sal Rei harbour (16.174647, -22.918158) and (16.179484, -22.923193).

Illheu dos Passeros: We already last summer contacted Pedrin, Eco Turism (Pedro López) but we never received any kind of information from him about program, dates and costs for the trip to the Island. So it was not a success. If you want to try him: curral_velho@hotmail.com.
São Nicolau:
Punta de Barril(16.605263, -24.418585).
Church of Cachaco(16.623271, -24.331585).

Raso Island and Branco Island:
Trips by boat can be arranged by Antonio Silva, Penssão Tonecas, Tarrafal, São Nicolau, email: tonecas1959@hotmail.com, telephone 993 1398, or 236 1040.

Miscellaneous
Visas: Can be bought at the airport for 25 EUR – we got it in Nelson Mandela Airport, Praia.
Maps: Cabo Verde 1:80.000 from Freytag & Berndt which we used every day.
Books: We used primary Garcia-del-Rey’s Birds of the Cape Verde Islands (2016) and Tony Clark’s Birds of the Atlantic Islands (2006).
Trip Reports: There were a lot of reports on www.cloudbirders.com, we read the most and printed a couple and took them with us. Here you can find information about the locations.
Timing of the trip: If were going again we would go a month or two later because it then would be possible to see far more seabirds especially Boyd’s Shearwaters and more Storm-Petrels breeding.
Departure tax: does not have been to be paid when leaving the Cape Verde Islands.
Cost of the trip: The total for each of us was approximately 1.890 EUR.
ATM: We easily found ATM’s at Praia, Sal Rei and Tarrafal. We used both Master Card and Visa.

Systematic
Systematics follows Eduardo Garcia-del-Rey: Birds of the Cape Verde Islands, 2016.

Endemics
The uniqueness of the avifauna of Cape Verde is reflected to the diversity of the forms confined to the islands. A number of taxa have evolved into distinct islands species and especially subspecies. The endemics are specified with an * in this report, subspecies with two ** and new species to Cape Verde Islands ***.

Birds
COMMON QUAIL (Coturnix coturnix)
21/2 2 were flushed Raso Island.

HELMETED GUINEAFOWL (Numida meleagris)
14/2 16 Praia, Santiago, 15/2 3 Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 16/2 3 Faveta, Santiago, 17/2 25+ between Sal Rei and Curral Velho, Boa Vista and 23/2 12 Tarrafal and Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau.

COMMON TEAL (Anas crecca)
15/2 and 16/2 2 m+f together Barragem de Poilão, Santiago.
Formerly a vagrant – but regular in the last seven winters, between 2009-2016 (Garcia-del-Rey 2016).

CAPE VERDE PETREL (Pterodroma feae)
21/2 12+ at sea between Tarrafal and Raso – none between Raso and Branco, 22/2 8 at sea between Raso and Tarrafal, 23/2 9 Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau, 24/2 14 Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau and 25/2 5 Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau.
Helmeted Guineafowl – (photo: ME).

CAPE VERDE SHEARWATER (Calonectris edwardsii)
22/2 5 at sea between Raso and Tarrafal, São Nicolau, 23/2 4 Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau, 24/2 12+ Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau and 25/2 6 Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau.
We had hoped for more seabirds especially this species. We used a lot of time for sea watching at both Santiago and Boa Vista – many hours - but the sea was empty for shearwater’s and petrel’s. It was a little disappointing. Maybe February is too early.
The species arrives early March because it is a summer visitor at Cape Verde (Garcia-del-Rey 2016).

MACARONESIAN SHEARWATER (Puffinus baroli)
21/2 10+ Branco Island, 22/2 5+ Branco Island, 24/2 9+ Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau and 25/2 2 Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau.
It is very difficult so say how many birds involved at night between the 21st and 22nd February because it was completely dark with no moon at all but stars only. From about 20.30-21.00 the first shearwaters was coming in to the breeding colony and start calling. Sometimes there was silent in the colony. The show continued until next morning at 05.00 where activity stopped before first light. We saw one adult nesting between large stones. A conservative assessment gives 10+ birds but many more could have been involved. In our lights we could see birds coming in and out.
Today the species is a resident breeder (Garcia-del-Rey 2016).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL (Pelagodroma marina)
21/2 1 and 22/2 1 Branco Island. One seen, one heard only.

CAPE VERDE STORM-PETREL (Hydrobates jabejabe)
21/2 2 Branco Island.
We found also a dead probably dried adult bird from 2016 close to the colony. The species was formerly Madeira Storm-Petrel, but there is strong DNA and sound differentiation to accept is as a full species (Garcia-del-Rey 2016).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD (Phaethon aethereus)
Praia Cliffs, Santiago: We had several birds coming in to the cliffs where they were stationary in holes and
cavities for some time so they may breed here. Difficult to say how many potential breeding pairs here but no less than 10 pairs. Pairing was seen many times.

Branco: The species was not found at all on this Island.

Raso: In the colony with many Brown Booby’s we saw several breeding Red-Billed Tropicbirds – as far as we could see from the boat at least 15-20 nesting birds.

Red-Billed Tropicbird – Praia Cliffs, Santiago (photo: ME).

**BROWN BOOBY** (*Sula leucogaster*)

12/2 1 Praia Cliffs, Santiago, 13/2 1 Pedra Badejo, Santiago, 15/2 1 Pedra Badejo, Santiago, 16/2 4 Praia Harbor, Santiago, 17/2 140+ Curral Velho, Boa Vista, 18/7 50 Curral Velho and Sal Rei Harbor, Boa Vista, 19/2 5 Sal Rei Harbor, Boa Vista, 20/2 4 Sal Rei Harbor, Boa Vista, 20/2 1 Tarrafal, São Nicolau, 21/2 100+ Raso, 22/2 100+ Raso, 23/2 5 Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau, 24/2 10+ Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau and 25/2 5 Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau.

Curral Velho: We counted 140 birds on the cliff and many had pulli and juvenile young birds in different sizes and colors. Many small white pulli and at least 5-10 2nd calendar-years white and brown youngsters almost fledge. Numbers of breeding pairs are difficult to say because counted from the shore, but there is an estimate for approximately 100 pairs recently (Garcia-del-Rey 2016).

Raso: At least 100+ adult birds were present at the colony when we visit the Island and many had pulli. The colony has been estimated in 125 pairs (Garcia-del-Rey 2016).
Brown Booby (photo: ME).

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** (*Fregata magnificens*)
18/2 1 adult female Sal Rei Harbor, Boa Vista.

**CATTLE EGRET** (*Bubulcus ibis*)
Very common everywhere and at least 1200 birds were counted. The species was most common on Santiago. Not seen on Raso and Branco.

**WESTERN REEF EGRET** (*Egretta gularis*)
16/2 2 Praia Harbor and Faveta, Santiago, 18/2 1 Sal Rei Harbor, Boa Vista, 19/2 1 Sal Rei Harbor, Boa Vista, 20/2 1 Sal Rei Harbor, Boa Vista, 21/2 1 Raso, 23/2 1 Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau and 24/2 1 Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau. A conservative assessment show at least 5 different birds.

Today a total of 30 records for Cape Verde (Garcia-del-Rey 2016).

**LITTLE EGRET** (*Egretta garzetta*)
Fairly common on almost all islands and we counted at least 108 birds including 21/2 2 Raso. Not seen Branco.

**INTERMEDIATE EGRET** (*Ardea intermedia*)
13/2 1 Pedro Badejo, Santiago.

The species is a seasonal visitor with a total of 26 records up to 2015 (Garcia-del-Rey 2016).

**GREAT EGRET** (*Ardea alba*)
23/2 1 Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau.

Vagrant with a total of 13 records and this species is not seen before at São Nicolau (Garcia-del-Rey 2016).
GREY HERON  (Ardea cinerea)
A common bird on Santiago with 77 birds counted. We saw 18/7 2 Rabil Lagoon, 19/2 1 Sal Rei Harbor and 20/2 1 Sal Rei Harbor, only on Boa Vista. Not seen on Sal, São Nicolau, Raso and Branco.

CAPE VERDE PURPLE HERON  (Ardea purpurea bournei) **
13/2 10+ Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 15/2 4 Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 16/2 1 Faveta and 5 Barragem de Poilão, Santiago. The subspecies A.p. bournei found on the Cape Verde differs from nominate in paler plumage overall, less black on neck and underparts (Garcia-del-Rey 2016).
Cape Verde Purple Heron **, Barragem de Poilão, Santiago (Photo: ME).

EURASIAN SPOONBILL (Platalea leucorodia)
13/2 17, 15/2 15 and 16/2 17 Barragem de Poilão, Santiago.

GLOSSY IBIS (Plegadis falcinellus)
13/2 2 Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 15/2 2 Barragem de Poilão and 2 Pedra Badejo, Santiago and 16/2 4 Barragem de Poilão, Santiago.

OSPREY (Pandion haliaetus)
Seen almost every day on Boa Vista and São Nicolau – we counted 25+ birds. Not seen on Santiago, Sal and Raso. We found it nesting near Sal Rei Harbor, Boa Vista and probably also at Branco.’

BLACK KITE (Milvus milvus)
17/2 7, 18/2 3, 19/2 5 and 20/2 1 Sal Rei Harbor, Boa Vista.
We didn´t saw the species on the other islands. The species is a very rare resident in the Cape Verdes (Garcia-del-Rey 2016).

CAPE VERDE BUZZARD (Buteo bannermani) **
13/2 2 São Jorge dos Orgãos Botanic Garden.

ALEXANDER’S KESTREL (Falco t. ssp alexandri) **
Seen every day at Santiago and Boa Vista and we counted at least 58 different birds.
Alexander’s Kestrel ** (Photo: ME).

NECLECTED KESTREL  (*Falco t. ssp. Neglectus*)  **
20/2 2 Tarrafal, São Nicolau, 21/2 2 Branco – probably a breeding pair, 22/2 1 Branco, 23/2 5+ Tarrafal and Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau, 24/2 2 Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau and 25/2 1 Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau.

COMMON MOORHEN  (*Gallinula chloropus*)
We found this species on two locations only – Barragem de Poilão and Faveta, both Santiago. We counted at least 50+ birds and the most of them at Barragem de Poilão but also 16/2 6 Faveta. We saw adults with pulli on both locations.

ALLEN´S GALLINULE  (*Porphyrla aleni*)  *** New species to Cape Verde Islands.
On the 13/2 we found an Allen’s Gallinule at Barragem de Poilão, Santiago. The bird was discovered on the western part of the lake where it foraging on mud surfaces and very near the reed beds all the time and it was seen for a long time and properly by all participants. ME took a lot of photos and video tapes and later published it on different homepages at the Internet including groups on face-book. It was a 2nd calender year bird with red legs and a few new blue-green coverts which both was very clear on photos. The Allen’s Gallinule is never recorded at Cape Verde Island before but the species is a vagrant to Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands (Clarke 2006, Garcia-del-Rey 2016).
Allen’s Gallinule ** - for documentation, Barragem de Poilão, Santiago (Photo: ME).

BLACK-WINGED STILT (Himantopus himantopus)
Fairly common bird and we counted at least 114 birds on Santiago and Boa Vista. Not seen on São Nicolau, Sal, Raso and Branco.

CREAM-COLOURED COURSER (Cursorius cursor)
12/2 3 together Praia Cliffs, Santiago, 14/2 2 adults with 1 pullus + 1 adult Praia Cliffs, Santiago, 15/2 2 adults with 2 pulli – another pair, chicks different size, Praia Cliffs, Santiago, 18/2 13 in one flock near Curral Velho, Boa Vista and 19/2 6 together 2-3 km north of Sal Rei Harbor, Boa Vista.

Cream-Coloured Courser’s – chicks and adults, Praia Cliffs, Santiago (Photos: ME).
LITTLE RINGED PLOVER  (*Charadrius dubius*)
This species only seen at Barragem de Poilão, Santiago: 13/2 2, 15/2 6 and 16/2 6.

COMMON RINGED PLOVER  (*Charadrius hiaticula*)
13/2 3 Pedro Badejo, Santiago, 15/2 4 Pedro Badejo, Santiago and 18/2 12+ Rabil Lagoon and Curral Velho, Boa Vista.

KENTISH PLOVER  (*Charadrius alexandrines*)
Fairly common on Santiago and Boa Vista and we counted at least 76 birds. Not seen on Sal, São Nicolau, Raso and Branco.

GREY PLOVER  (*Pluvialis squatarola*)
13/2 1 Pedro Badejo, Santiago, 15/2 1 Pedro Badejo, Santiago – probably the same bird - and 18/2 1 Rabil Lagoon, Boa Vista.

RUDDY TURNSTONE  (*Arenaria interpres*)
Fairly common on almost all visited islands and we counted 61 birds. Not seen on Branco.

RED KNOT  (*Calidris canutus*)
21/2 1 Raso Island together with Ruddy Turnstones.

SANDERLING  (*Calidris alba*)
13/2 9 Pedro Badejo, Santiago, 15/2 1 Pedro Badejo, Santiago, 18/2 22+ Rabil Lagoon and Curral Velho, Boa Vista, 18/2 3 Sal Rei Harbor, Boa Vista and 20/2 2 Sal Rei Harbor, Boa Vista.

LITTLE STINT  (*Calidris minuta*)
18/2 1 Curral Velho, Boa Vista.

TEMMINCK’S STINT  (*Calidris temminckii*)
13/2 1 Pedro Badejo, Santiago and 18/2 8+ Curral Velho, Boa Vista.
There are 7 records only of this species from Macaronesia until 2016 (Garcia-del-Rey 2016).

CURLEW SANDPIPER  (*Calidris ferruginea*)
18/2 25+ Curral Velho, Boa Vista.

DUNLIN  (*Calidris alpine*)
14/2 1 Tarrafal Sewage Works, Santiago, 17/2 8 Curral Velho, Boa Vista and 18/2 5 Curral Velho, Boa Vista.

RUFF  (*Philomachus pugnax*)
14/2 1 Tarrafal Sewage Works, Santiago and 18/2 4 Curral Velho, Boa Vista.

COMMON SNipe  (*Gallinago gallinago*)
13/2 3 Barragem de Poilão and Pedro Badejo, Santiago, 15/2 2 Pedro Badejo, Santiago, 16/2 2 Pedro Badejo, Santiago and 17/2 1 Curral Velho, Boa Vista.

WHIMBREL  (*Numenius phaeopus*)
12/2 1 Praia Cliffs, Santiago, 13/2 1 Pedro Badejo, Santiago, 16/2 1 Praia Harbor, Santiago, 18/2 3 Rabil Lagoon and Curral Velho, Boa Vista, 21/2 4 Raso Island, 22/2 2 Tarrafal, São Nicolau, 23/2 3 Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau, 24/2 1 Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau and 25/2 1 Ponto do Barril, São Nicolau.
**COMMON REDSHANK** (*Tringa tetanus*)
17/2 1 Curral Velho, Boa Vista and 18/2 4 Curral Velho, Boa Vista.

**COMMON GREENSHANK** (*Tringa nebularia*)
Fairly common on Santiago and Boa Vista and we counted at least 60+ birds.

**GREEN SANDPIPER** (*Tringa ochropus*)
13/2 1 Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 14/2 1 Tarrafal Sewage Works, Santiago, 15/2 1 Pedro Badejo, Santiago and 16/2 2 Barragem de Poilão.

**WOOD SANDPIPER** (*Tringa glareola*)
13/2 2 Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 14/2 5+ Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 15/2 3 Pedro Badejo, Santiago, 16/2 5 Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 17/2 1 Curral Velho, Boa Vista and 18/2 5+ Curral Velho, Boa Vista.

**COMMON SANDPIPER** (*Actitis hypoleucos*)
13/2 5 Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 15/2 4 Pedra Badejo, Santiago, 16/2 2 Barragem de Poilão, Santiago and 18/2 2 Curral Velho, Boa Vista.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL** (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)
18/2 2 both 2nd calendar year Curral Velho, Boa Vista.

**ROCK DOVE** (*Columba livia*)
This species seen almost every day and 97 where counted.

**EURASIAN COLLARD DOVE** (*Streptopelia decaocto*)
Fairly common on Santiago and Boa Vista with a total on 75+ birds involved. We didn’t find this species on Sal, São Nicolau, Raso and Branco.
This species is a recent colonizer on the archipelago and it was first recorded in April 2006 (García-del-Rey 2016).

**NAMAQUA DOVE** (*Oena capensis*)
13/2 3 flushed but seen well and properly Pedro Badejo.
The little flock was also seen the day before by other birdwatchers.
The species is a vagrant with a total of 3 records. The species is only recorded one time before at Santiago on the 20/3 2016 and at the same location (García-del-Rey 2016).

**COMMON BARN OWL** (*Tyto alba detorta*) **
13/2 1 was observed hunting after sunset at 19.15 in the eastern part of Barragem de Poilão, Santiago. There is a little gravel road which are leading to a little village in east end of the settlement. Place your car near the main road and wait to sometime after sunset. We failed to find it behind the church of Cachaco, São Nicolau.

**CAPE VERDE SWIFT** (*Apus alexandri*) *
12/2 4 Praia Cliffs, Santiago, 13/2 2 Pedro Badejo, Santiago, 14/2 2 Tarrafal, Santiago, 15/2 2 Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 16/2 4 Praia Cliffs, Santiago, 20/2 2 Tarrafal, São Nicolau, 23/2 3 Ponta do Barril, São Nicolau, 25/2 2 Ponta do Barril, São Nicolau and 25/2 50+ at the airport, São Nicolau.

**GREY-HEADED KINGFISHER** (*halcyon leucocephala*)
Fairly common on Santiago with a total of at least 91+ birds counted. The species was not seen on Boa Vista, Sal, Raso and Branco.
Grey-Headed Kingfisher, Santiago (Photo: ME).

**RASO LARK** (*Alauda razae)*
21/2 25+ Raso Island. We stayed approximately two hours on the island and we counted 25 birds. Some of these where ringed birds.

**GREATER HOOPOE LARK** (*Alaemon alaudipes*)
17/2 8 the desert behind Curral Velho, Boa Vista, 18/2 3 Curral Velho, Boa Vista and 20/2 3 behind the airport Sal.

**BLACK-CROWNED SPARROW LARK** (*Eremopterix nigriceps*)
Fairly common species and seen almost every day and we counted at least 67 birds. This species was only seen on Santiago and Boa Vista.

**BAR-TAILED LARK** (*Ammomanes cincture*)
Fairly common on especially Boa Vista and we counted a total of 100+ birds. The species was seen on Santiago, Boa Vista, Sal and São Nicolau.

**BLACKCAP** (*Sylvia atricapilla*)
Fairly common and we counted at least 66+ birds. The species was most common on Santiago with 20+ seen São Jorge dos Orgãos Botanic Gardens.

**SPECTACLED WARBLER** (*Curruca conspicillata*)
Only seen on Santiago, Boa Vista and Sal. The species was fairly common with 55 counted birds. Barragem de Poilão was the best location for this species.
Black-Crowned Sparrow Lark, Santiago (Photo: ME).

Spectacled Warbler, Santiago (Photo: ME).

CAPE VERDE WARBLER (Acrocephalus brevipennis) *
13/2 5 São Jorge dos Orgãos Botanic Gardens and 2 Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, 15/2 2 Barragem de Poilão and 1 Pedro Badejo, Santiago, 16/2 2 Faveta and 3 Barragem de Poilão, Santiago.
This species was only found on Santiago. We stopped many places and locations on São Nicolau looking for this species but with no success.

*BROWN-NECKED RAVEN* (*Corvus ruficollis*)

Seen almost every day on Santiago, Boa Vista and Sal and counted at least 33 different birds.
CAPE VERDE SPARROW (*Passer iagoensis*)
Very common on every visited island except Branco. We counted at least 1107+ birds. Most common on São Nicolau with a maximum 24/2 500+ between Tarrafal and Ponto do Barril.

SPANISH SPARROW (*Passer hispaniolensis*)
Fairly common bird on Santiago and Boa Vista with at least 385+ counted birds. Most common on Boa Vista and the species was not found on Sal, São Nicolau, Raso and Branco.

COMMON WAXBILL (*Estrilda astrild*)
Fairly common on especially Santiago with 340+ birds – only few seen on Boa Vista.
Literature

Garcia-del-Rey, E. 2016: Birds of the Cape Verde Islands, Barcelona.

And other photos - not identified species:

and a very beautifull tropicbird 😊

Red-Billed Tropicbird, Santiago (Photo: ME).