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AUTUMN OCCURRENCE OF PALAEARCTIC MIGRANTS ON SELVAGEM GRANDE ISLAND (MADEIRA)

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I was fortunate enough to be able to join a group from C.E.M.P.A. (Portuguese «Centro de Estudos de Migrações e Protecção de Aves») who were present on Selvagem Grande from the 21st September to the 13th. October 1978. This expedition was organised by António Araújo and Dr. António M. Teixeira and their prime objectives were to continue the work done every Autumn since 1968 and ring about 2000 young Cory's shearwaters.

However, since every year a number of migrant birds, blown off course on their flight from Europe to Africa, are observed on Selvagem Grande, we took with us a few mist nets, hoping to catch and ring a number of these birds. In this respect we were very fortunate indeed for we experienced exceptionally strong easterly winds, from the 22nd to the 27th September and these brought a large number of such birds to the island, several of which were species which had not been recorded there before. The majority arrived in an exhausted condition, allowing close approaches and many were easily netted. Some died on the island, presumably because they were unable to find suitable food. This situation lasted only while the easterly winds prevailed for with a change of wind they soon disappeared.

Below is a list of all the migrant birds observed during our expedition. Numbers in brackets indicate how many individuals of each species we were able to ring, with «C.E.M.P.A. — LISBOA» rings.

LIST

Ardeidae

Ardea cinerea

Accipitridae

Buteo sp. — *Circus* sp. — *Circus aeruginosus*

Charadriidae

Eudromias morinellus — *Arenaria interpres*

Scolopacidae

Calidris alba

Laridae

Sterna sp.

Columbidae

Streptopelia turtur

Strigidae

Asio flammeus

Apodidae

Apus apus

Picidae

Jynx troquilla (2)

Hirundinidae

Riparia riparia — *Hirundo rustica* — *Delichon urbica*

Motacillidae

Anthus trivialis (1) — *Motacilla flava* — *Motacilla cinerea* (1)
— *Motacilla alba*

Laniidae

Lanius collurio (1)

Oriolidae

Oriolus oriolus (1)

Sturnidae

Sturnus vulgaris

Muscicapidae

Locustella naevia (4) — *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (2)
Acrocephalus scirpaceus (22) — *Hippolais polyglotta* (12) —
Sylvia borin (16) — *Sylvia atricapilla* — *Sylvia communis* (16)

— *Sylvia curruca* — *Phylloscopus trochilus* (38) — *Phylloscopus collybita* (2) — *Phylloscopus bonelli* (2) — *Ficedula hypoleuca* (47) — *Muscicapa striata* (5) — *Oenanthe oenanthe* — *Saxicola rubetra* (1) — *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* — *Luscinia megarhynchos* (2)

Whereas ringing parties in former years had already met with many of the listed species, never had such a large variety of species and in such great numbers been seen at the same time, nor had any attempt been made to catch and ring these birds.

Of the resident land birds we estimated that there were about 30 *Anthus berthelotii* present and we also counted a total of five *Falco tinnunculus*, including one young bird and another that we found dead.

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