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Additions and corrections to the 2010 checklist of the birds of the archipelagos of Madeira and the Selvagens. II. 2012-2013

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With 5 figures

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ABSTRACT: In the present paper 12 records are added to the 2010 checklist, updated in 2011. The checklist of the birds of the archipelagos of Madeira and the Selvagens now contains 356 species and subspecies (345 confirmed records, 3 unconfirmed records and 8 dubious records).

Keywords: Checklist, birds, new records, archipelago of Madeira.

RESUMO. No presente trabalho são adicionados 12 novos registos de aves à lista publicada em 2010 e às adições e correções da mesma em 2011. A lista das aves dos arquipélagos da Madeira e Selvagens passa assim a conter 356 espécies e subespécies (345 registos confirmados, 3 não confirmados e 8 dúbios).

Palavras-chave: Checklist, aves, novos assinalamentos, arquipélago da Madeira.

INTRODUCTION

In 1995 ZINO *et al.* published a checklist of the birds of the archipelagos of Madeira and Selvagens. In 2010 a further checklist was published (ROMANO *et al.*, 2010). This added 42 new records and in 2011 an update to that checklist added 7 new records (CORREIA-FAGUNDES *et al.*, 2011).

In the present account, the authors report the results of field observations and summarize published records, adding 12 species to the previous list. From these, Mandarin duck is included in the breeding list, Gyrfalcon is considered an unconfirmed record and Mute Swan a dubious record. Blue Rock Thrush is now confirmed as a record. The total bird species and subspecies recorded from the archipelagos of Madeira and the Selvagens are now 356 (345 confirmed records, 3 unconfirmed records and 8 dubious records).

The methodology used here is the same as that used in the previous accounts (ROMANO *et al.*, 2010; CORREIA-FAGUNDES *et al.*, 2011).

New additions

Cape Verde Shearwater *Calonectris edwardsii*

A bird was trapped and measured on the 5th of April 2012 at Selvagem Grande (FAGUNDES *et al.*, 2012). According to these authors a dead bird had already been found on the same island in 2005. Frequency status: Exceptional.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

One bird seen in Porto Santo on 30th December 2010 (MUCHAXO *et al.*, 2011).

American Coot *Fulica americana* (Fig. 1)

A single bird was first observed on the 20th of January 2012 by CF and HR at Lugar de Baixo pond, Ponta do Sol, Madeira (CORREIA-FAGUNDES & ROMANO, 2012a). It was subsequently seen several times in the same location. The last sighting being 8th of February 2012. Frequency status: Only one record, since these observations were all of the same bird.

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata* (Fig. 2)

A bird was seen feeding and preening at Machico river mouth both on the 19th and on the 21st of October 2013. This specimen was photographed and videoed by two of the authors (CORREIA-FAGUNDES & ROMANO, 2013b). Frequency status: Only one record, as the authors believe it was the same bird observed twice in the same spot.



Fig. 1 – American Coot *Fulica americana* at Lugar de Baixo pond, Madeira, January 20th, 2012.



Fig. 2 – Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata* at the mouth of Ribeira de Machico, Madeira, October 19th, 2013.

South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki*

One bird was recorded by HR, CF, Robert Flood and other birdwatchers during a pelagic trip off Desertas on the 13th of June 2012, making this the first confirmed record of this species to Madeira archipelago (FLOOD *et al.*, 2013). Frequency status: Only one record.

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*

A single bird was observed by Paul Bowyer and Paul Gregory sitting on an electrical pole at Ponta da Cruz, Funchal on the 9th of August 2013 (CORREIA-FAGUNDES & ROMANO, 2013a). This species had already been recorded from Deserta Grande in 2009 (ROCHA, 2013). Although it cannot be ruled out that these birds are not escaped cage birds, the fact that they are uncommon in captivity in Madeira and have been seen twice in four years and have established breeding populations in the Canary islands (BARONE TOSCO, 2010), persuade the authors to accept this species as a confirmed record. Frequency status: Exceptional.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* (Fig. 3)

On the 4th of November 2013, Mark Eising from The Netherlands found and photographed a dead specimen floating in one of the ponds of Palheiro Gardens, in front

of Casa Velha do Palheiro Hotel, Funchal (CORREIA-FAGUNDES & ROMANO, 2013c).

The observer's opinion is that it drowned after hitting the strings over the water surface of the pond, used to deter birds catching the ornamental fish. Unfortunately, the specimen was discarded before the authors could collect it. Frequency status: Only one record.



Fig. 3 – Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* at Palheiro Gardens, Funchal, Madeira, November 4th, 2013. Photo by Mark Eising.

Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens*

On the 14th of March 2012, HR observed and photographed one bird at Ponta do Pargo, this being the first record of this species from Madeira (CORREIA-FAGUNDES & ROMANO, 2012b). Frequency status: Only one record.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* (Fig. 4)

A single bird was observed and photographed by Reg Tookey on the 17th of March 2012 at Ribeira Brava beach (CORREIA-FAGUNDES & ROMANO, 2012b). This was the first record of this species from Madeira. Frequency status: Only one record.



Fig. 4 – Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* on an iron structure at Ribeira Brava beach, Madeira, March 17th, 2012. Photo by Reg Tookey.

Record confirmation

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* (Fig. 5)

A female was observed and photographed by Petr Podzemny from the Czech Republic on the 10th of March 2012 at Ponta do Pargo (CORREIA-FAGUNDES & ROMANO,

2012b). The previous record from 1838 (POESCH, 1961) was considered as possible vagrant by BANNERMAN & BANNERMAN (1961) and subsequently as dubious record by ZINO *et al.* (1995) and ROMANO *et al.*, (2010). It is now confirmed, 174 years after! Frequency status: Exceptional.



Fig. 5 – Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* at Ponta do Pargo, Madeira, March 10th, 2012. Photo by Petr Podzemny.

New addition to the breeding species list

Mandarin duck *Aix galericulata*

A female with five or six well-developed chicks was observed at Tanque reservoir in Porto Santo (TRUJILLO, 2012). Although the authors have been following the progress of the species in Porto Santo since it was first seen by HR & CF on the 7th of October 2009 on the local golf course (CORREIA-FAGUNDES & ROMANO, 2009), it was decided not to include this species on the previous checklist, as these were almost certainly escaped birds from Quinta das Palmeiras and would probably not survive in wild conditions.

Unconfirmed record

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus*

On the 30th of August 2013 a second cycle juvenile was observed for about 1 minute flying E-W by Andy Paterson at Machico harbour.

On the 26th of October 2008 a Gyr Falcon with jesses was observed near Funchal harbour by Tom McCanna and two of the authors (CORREIA-FAGUNDES & ROMANO, 2008), but it was not considered in the previous checklist due to being an escaped bird.

Although the authors consider the observer an experienced birdwatcher, since this record is not documented with specimens, photographs, videos and/or call records allowing the confirmation of the identification by others, it is considered an unconfirmed record.

Dubious record

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

A single bird was seen by all the authors at Quinta

do Lorde marina, Ponta de S. Lourenço, Madeira, on the evening of January 9th, 2011. At that time the authors considered it as an escaped bird, therefore it was not considered on the 2011 update of the checklist. This species was also considered uncertain by MUCHAXO *et al.* (2011), based on a record from "off Porto Santo", on the 10th of May 2010. In view of the above it is placed as dubious record in the checklist of the birds of Madeira and the Selvagens.

REMARKS

It is worth mentioning that the vast majority of cage birds in Madeira are not ringed, therefore escaped birds are sometimes difficult to separate from true vagrants, in particular when the species in question are capable of reaching the archipelago by natural means. An effort should be made by the authorities in charge to convince the owners of captivity birds to have them ringed.

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