

Cabo Verde – Boavista & short trip to Santiago April 1st – 8th, 2016

My 2nd visit to Cabo Verde after a week in March 2014 at Boavista. We were based in Iberostar Hotel close to Rabil for a week and I shortly visited the Island of Santiago from 4th – 5th of April. There I was accompanied by Herbert Boedendorfer <http://geo-vision.blogspot.co.com> and Freddy Cardoso (email alecsoncardoso@gmail.com / Tel +2389138349)

The first days on Boavista were devoted to family holiday, with short visits to a flooded field just outside the Hotels. The dams between Rabil and Joao Galego were dry. A whale watching trip with Sea Turtle catamaran in quite rough sea on April 3rd brought apart seasick tourists 4 o 5 Humpback Whales and a pot of Rough-toothed Dolphins. While watching them (a Lifer for me) the guy from boat saw a single White-faced Petrel.

I visited Santiago from 4th-5th of April, taking a small inter-island flight by Caboverde Airline and stayed at Bernards' place quite close to the Pedra Badejo Lagoon for the night.

After returning to Boavista, I visited the surroundings of Hotel Riu Touareg on the last day of our stay.

Helmeted Guineafowl (*Numida meleagris*): small group drinking at a small pool just in front of Iberostar Hotel, 30+ birds at Pedra Badejo lagoon.

Capeverde Shearwater (*Calonectris edwardsii*): 1 briefly seen during whale – watching trip far out.

Masked Booby (*Sula leucogaster*): seen daily in small numbers at sea between Iberostar Hotel and Sal Rei Harbour, common along sea at Riu Touareg (I did not visit the seabird colony at Curral Velho island were the species is breeding and where I saw Magnificent Frigatebird two years ago).

Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*): 2 birds seen in flight at the cliffs outside Boavista harbour and a small group flying over the cliffs west of Praia airport (seen from the plane while landing).

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*): one bird in flight near Boavista harbour on April 4th, at least 2 birds at Barragem de Poilao and 2 birds at Pedra Badejo Lagoons.

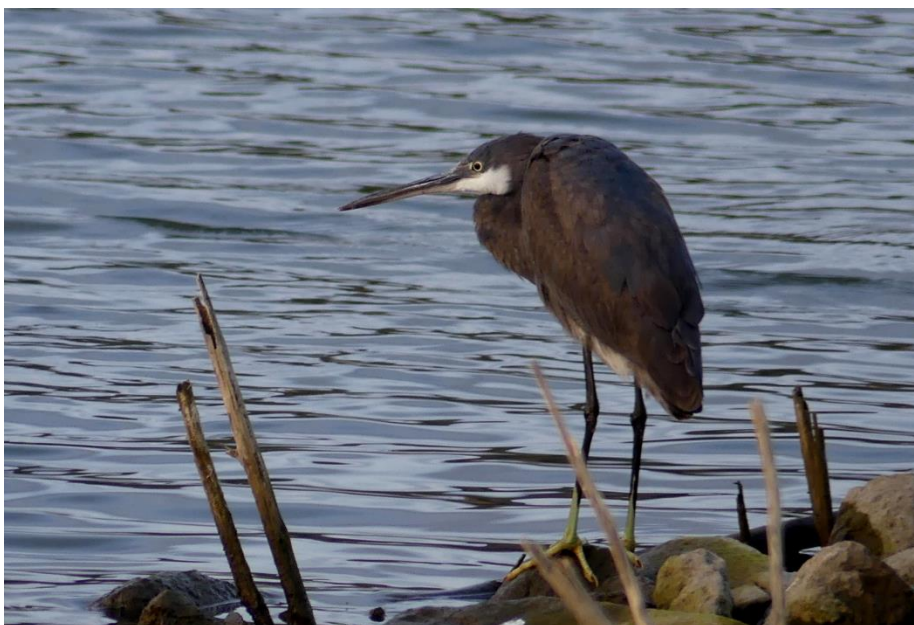
Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea ssp bournei*): present in small numbers at Barragem de Poilao and seen in flight in the countryside.

Intermediate Egret (*Egretta intermedia*): 1 bird giving close views on April 3rd and 4th at Barragem de Poilao.



Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*): 5 to 6 birds at Barragem de Poilao and 1-2 birds at Pedra Badeja Lagoons

Western Reef Heron (*Egretta gularis ssp gularis*): at least 2 dark morph birds at Barragem de Poilao



Black Heron (*Egretta ardesiaca*): 1 long staying bird at Barragem de Poilao; happily the bird returned there after some weeks of absence in the beginning of the year.



Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*): common and widespread on Santiago, around Boavista airport and Riu Touareg

Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*): 1 adult bird on Boavista (where it is considered as a vagrant) north of Riu Touareg on April 7th



Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*): 2 at Barragem de Poilao

Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*): nice group of staying birds including some colour-ringed birds: white ring right leg ANLT (Banded on 29.05.2015 at the stage of 'Chick', îlot de Besson - [Réserve départementale des Impériaux] / Grande Camargue - Bouches-du-Rhône -FRANCE (N43°29'13", E04°27'48") source: Tour du Valat);

- light-green red yellow right leg and dark-green and metal on left leg ;
- green red light-green right leg and dark-green metal yellow on left leg.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*): 1 or 2 seen daily at sea between Iberostar Hotel and Sal Rei Harbour

Cape Verde Buzzard (*Buteo buteo bannermani*): Santiago: 1 seen soaring from Mirador de Tancon (to the east) over Serra Malagueta on April 4th

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*): 1 distant bird at Rabil, too far for any spp ID.

Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*): 1 flying over Rabil

Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus ssp alexandri*): common and widespread, one juvenile in a roadside nest between Pedra Badejo and Poilao.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*): some birds at Barragem de Poilao, immatures and adults indicating that Moorhen is breeding there

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*): common at Barragem de Poilao and more than 20 north of Riu Touareg

Cream-coloured Cursor (*Cursorius cursor*): 1 family party west of Riu Touareg on April 7th



Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*): 1 at Sal Rei Harbour on April 3rd

Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*): seen at Barragem de Poilao, Pedra Badejo lagoon and around Riu Touareg at Boavista

Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*): seen at Barragem de Poilao, Pedra Badejo lagoon and around Riu Touareg at Boavista

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*): min 4 at Pedra Badejo Lagoon on April 4th, up to 6 birds at flooded plain north of Riu Touareg on April 7th.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*): up to 10 birds at Rabil beach during all stay, seen at Pedra Badejo lagoons and around Riu Touareg.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*): 3 birds at Pedra Badejo Lagoons on April 4th and up to 8 at small lagoon east of Riu Touareg on April 7th

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*): 3 at lagoon east of Riu Touareg April 7th

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*): 8-10 birds lagoon east of Riu Touareg on April 7th

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*): 1 probable at Pedra Badejo Lagoon on April 4th, pending acceptance (identification based on quasi absent primary projection and stronger bill than Little Stint)



Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*): 1 ad. feeding at flooded plain north of Riu Touareg on April 7th, a vagrant on Caboverde.



Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*): at least 2 birds at Barragem de Poilao and maybe one north of Riu Touareg on April 7th, pending acceptance



Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*): 1 at Barragem de Poilao and 3 at Pedra Badejo Lagoons on April 4th; up to 5 birds at flooded plain north of Riu Touareg on April 7th (right picture)

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*): 1 at Pedra Badejo Lagoon April 4th.

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*): not found after 1 was present at Barragem de Poilao some days before

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*): around 10 birds at Barragem de Poilao. One of them was collared in Yeathan Estuary

	<p>Ringed 18-aug-2008, Tarty, Ythan Estuary 21-mar-2009 Barragem de Poilao 5-may-2011 Ythan Estuary 10-mar-2012 Barragem de Poilao 3-may-2012 Ythan Estuary 4-mar-2013 Barragem de Poilao not reported than until April 4th 2016</p> <p>source Greenshankproject</p>
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Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*): 1 at Barragem de Poilao and 3 birds north of Riu Touareg on April 7th.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*): 1 at the flooded fields outside Iberostar Hotel at Boavista on April 2nd.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*): 2 at Pedra Badejo lagoon on April 4th and 1 male in breeding plumage and 3 females north of Riu Touareg on April 7th.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*): 1 flying over Sal Rei harbour on April 3rd

Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): common and widespread

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba ssp detorta*): at least 1 flying around Poilao village and 1 roadside perching on the road to Pedra Badejo

Cape Verde Swift (*Apus alexandri*): 3-4 at Barragem de Poilao, not seen at Boavista (2 years ago I found some 2 km north of Riu Touareg)

Grey-headed Kingfisher (*Halcyon leucocephala*): common at Barragem de Poilao and in the countryside Santiago



Brown-necked Raven (*Corvus ruficollis*): seen daily at Boavista, large groups over Rabil rubbish and Tarafel mountains at Santiago

House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*): at least 2 birds around Iberostar Hotel from April 3rd to 5th

Bar-tailed Lark – (*Ammomanes cinctura*): fairly common in the arid semi-deserts between Rabil and Joao Galego village.

Black-crowned Sparrow-lark (*Eremopterix nigriceps*): fairly common in the arid semi-deserts between Rabil and Joao Galego, some birds at small lagoon west of Riu Touareg



Hoopoe-Lark (*Alaemon alaudipes*): some including family in the arid semi-deserts between Rabil and Joao Galego

Cape Verde Warbler (*Acrocephalus brevipennis*): 3 or 4 at Barragem de Poilao, 2 at Pedra Badejo Lagoon and at least one at Botanical Garden



Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*): commonly heard singing at Santiago, but only once in Hotel Iberostar Garden

Spectacled Warbler (*Sylvia conspicillata*): common in dry scrub at Santiago

Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*): common and widespread

Iago Sparrow (*Passer iagoensis*): common and widespread on all sites.



Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*): groups of up to 50 birds at Barragem de Poilao





Green: flooded plain north of Riu Touareg
Orange: lagoon east of Riu Touareg

Magnificent Frigatebird, female breeding, Curral Velho, April 16th 2014

