WildWings

WEST AFRICAN PELAGIC

and Cape Verde

2018

REPORT BY
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Cape Verde Shearwater Nr Raso Island, Cape Verde

30th April

The Plancius had arrived early at Praia and a group of 11 Wildwings clients along with three Dutch birdwatchers had already disembarked by 0900 and we soon loaded up the minibus and set off for a half day's birding trip on Santiago. Incredibly, there had been no rain on the island since December 2015, and the landscape looked particularly arid away from the patches of irrigated cultivation as we headed into the interior. Our first (and main) destination was the old reservoir towards the centre of the island. However, several birding stops were made en-route giving eye-level views of the endemic Cape Verde Swift as we climbed towards the mountains, and commoner species such as the Grey-headed Kingfisher and Brown-necked Raven. Several Alexander's Kestrels were seen (an endemic island race), but the Cape Verde Buzzard (currently regarded as an endemic race of Common Buzzard) was much harder to find. We did however, manage to see a very distant individual around some spectacular, jagged mountain peaks as we neared the reservoir, but even through a telescope it was hard to get much detail on the bird. We reached the reservoir and parked near the dam and walked down. The reservoir was virtually dry as a result of the current drought, but there were still several small pools of water and some areas of wet mud. Luckily, despite the conditions, we had excellent views of five Bourne's Heron (a potential split from Purple Heron). Other birds feeding around the pools were 14 Little Egrets, 10 Black-winged Stilts and a Common Sandpiper. Another of the 'target' species the endemic Iago Sparrow showed well below the dam as they fed on the ground. We walked to the far end of the dam where a Cape Verde Cane Warbler showed very well in scrub to the delight of the photographers. The nearby Botanic Gardens used to be the easiest place to catch up with this particular endemic, but recently the dam area of the reservoir has proved a reliable site for the species. A showy male Spectacled Warbler along with several Blackcaps were also recorded around the dam. With all the 'target' species seen well, there was not a great deal of enthusiasm for a visit to the Botanic Gardens, so we slowly headed back to Praia and the airport to search for Cream-coloured Courser in the adjacent arid areas of semi-desert and scrub. After some 'off-road' driving and several walks in apparently suitable areas we still had not found any coursers, although we had seen some very obliging Black-crowned Sparrow-Larks and more Iago Sparrows. We had given up and had just started driving back towards the port when two coursers were spotted flying towards the minibus from the direction of the airport, and were seen to land in arid scrub behind the now stationary minibus. A mad disembarkation and search followed, and the two very mobile birds were eventually re-located some distance from where they were thought to have landed, and over the next few minutes allowed the photographers to get some shots before they headed off back towards the airport again. A few minutes later, as we were driving past the airport, the same (?) two coursers were again seen flying over the road and back towards the arid scrub.

At the port the passengers on the half day birdwatching tour returned to their cabins, having already travelled up with the ship from South America whilst a further nine Wildwings clients (and many other birders, mostly from the Netherlands) joined the Plancius for the first time, having arrived at Praia a couple of days ago. The original plan was to have sailed around 1600, but due to a delay in getting the ship refuelled, it was closer to 1800 when we got underway. Various briefings followed, so it wasn't until towards 1900 that we could get on deck and at least record the odd Cape Verde Shearwater before we lost the light. We cruised along the southern side of the island, heading west. The weather forecast for later tonight and tomorrow was not good, with 20 knot northerly winds increasing to 30 knots by tomorrow morning. A rough night was in store for the latest intake of 'landlubbers'.

Boyd's Shearwater Nr Raso Island, Cape Verde

1st May

(Off Raso and Branco Islands in the morning, at sea and heading north in the afternoon)

Sleep was at a premium for many as the overnight swells grew, and the ship pitched and rolled. We were heading to Raso and Branco Islands, with a plan to launch the zodiacs and cruise close inshore at Raso to try and see the endemic Raso Lark. As landing is forbidden, this would be our only chance, but the sea conditions were far from ideal, and some of the gusts of wind were in excess of the forecast 30 knots. The brave souls on deck before breakfast recorded a couple of Red-billed Tropicbirds, a Boyd's Shearwater, several Cape Verde Shearwaters and Bulwer's Petrels. The captain managed to find some shelter in the lee of Raso and drop anchor whilst the hardy tucked into a full breakfast. Morten (the ship's expedition leader) announced that although the conditions were 'marginal', the zodiac trips would go ahead in two batches. It is a testimony to the skill of both the boat handlers and the crew members on the loading steps that everybody who wished to go all got in and out of the bucking zodiacs safely, although not without getting pretty wet. The majority of the Wildwings group were in the first batch of zodiacs, and we 'enjoyed' around 75 minutes off Raso. Once away from the ship and closer inshore the sea conditions were much improved and it was possible to use binoculars and cameras. Although elusive at times, Raso Larks were seen by everybody, including a small flock of around 25 individuals seen twice, mainly in flight. One or two other individuals fed below an old scientific research camp close to the tideline. There were plenty of Iago Sparrows to confuse matters at times, and further along the island a couple of Ospreys and the endemic local race of Kestrel (Neglected Kestrel) were seen by a few folk, along with breeding Brown Boobys and Red-billed Tropicbirds on the cliffs. After the second batch of zodiacs had completed their time off Raso, we set sail again shortly before midday, heading north and into rough seas once again, heading towards the Canaries. The numbers of seabirds increased and it was an exciting (if at times frustrating) afternoon, with the conditions making it hard to pick up and stay on the smaller species in the swell. Two Fea's Petrels were seen by some folk, along with four White-faced Storm Petrels, but all were rather fleeting. Other species included excellent numbers of Cape Verde Shearwaters with an estimated 2,500 birds recorded, including big flocks on the sea, 30 Bulwer's Petrels, 30 Boyd's Shearwater, 20 Cape Verde (Band-rumped) Storm Petrels, a handful of Leach's Storm-petrels and two Arctic Terns. A pod of at least 25 Atlantic Spotted Dolphins performed well around the ship in the early evening, albeit rather briefly.

Atlantic Spotted Dolphin, north of Cape Verde

White-faced Storm-petrel Nr Cape Verde

2nd May

(At sea all day heading north towards the Canaries)

The wind was blowing from the NE at 23 knots and although the air temperature was 210 C, it felt decidedly chilly on the more exposed parts of the ship. The sea conditions were still a little bumpy. We were sailing through deep water all day, with a depth of between 4,300 m and 4,700 m. Not unexpectedly then, there were fewer seabirds recorded today. A Fea's Petrel was seen by Roy and Lorraine behind the ship during the morning, but had gone by the time we moved from our aft scanning stations. The day totals for other species were 10 Bulwer's Petrels, just a couple of Cape Verde Shearwaters, a single Cory's, 25 Leach's and 20 Cape Verde (Band-rumped) Stormies, an obliging Red-billed Tropicbird that did a few protracted 'passes' around the ship, a single Ruddy Turnstone and 3 Arctic Terns. Other wildlife included a pod of 15 Striped Dolphin early in the day and three Short-finned Pilot Whales in the distance and a Loggerhead Turtle.

Red-billed Tropicbird, North of Cape Verde

3rd May

(At sea all day heading north towards the Canaries)

At 0500 this morning we crossed the Tropic of Cancer, which meant that officially we had moved from the tropics into the northern hemisphere. It was a sunny morning with a 15 knot head wind and calmer sea conditions at 0745. The better spotting conditions meant that our first whale blow of the trip was recorded before the call to breakfast. Although rather distant the photos taken showed it to be a female Bryde's Whale probably with a youngster. Further blows were seen during the morning, but all were too far for a definite identification. On the bird-front it was an undeniably quiet morning, with small numbers of Bulwer's Petrels, a handful of Leach's and a couple of Arctic Terns. Predictably during lunch, a close pod of Short-finned Pilot Whales and Bottle-nosed Dolphins were sighted, and the dining room emptied in double-quick time as folk returned to cabins to gather photographic equipment. The captain agreed to turn the ship and carefully positioned the vessel a sensible distance from the group, which we watched for around 30 minutes. The dolphins were less cooperative and only occasionally showed in the distance. The first Sabine's Gull of the voyage also appeared at this time, perhaps briefly attracted by the disturbance caused by the blowing and diving cetaceans. Alas it soon flew away. The sea conditions continued to improve as the afternoon passed, with the headwind now between 10 to 15 knots. We passed close to an underwater seamount during the afternoon and were in slightly less deep water by 1800 (2,400 m), but the birding was still on the slow side, with a few more Bulwer's and Leach's, three Cory's Shearwaters and our second Sabine's Gull of the day – another distant adult bird. Cetaceans, however, continued to entertain most of us, with several pods of Atlantic Spotted Dolphins and an obliging pod of 12 Risso's Dolphins. Again, the captain agreed to turn the ship and we had some excellent, prolonged views of these normally rather shy species over the next 15 to 20 minutes. Several Loggerhead Turtles, Portuguese Man-of-war 'jellyfish' and a couple of flying fish completed the day's wildlife interest.

Risso's Dolphin, north of Cape Verde

4th May

(At sea heading towards the Canaries in the morning, transiting through from late morning, and then heading NNW for the Desertas)

A lovely sunny start to the day with light seas and a northerly wind blowing up to 15 knots. We could see El Hierro, the most south-westerly of the Canary Islands, some 45 miles distant by 0740. It was an enjoyable couple of hours up to breakfast with plenty of Cory's Shearwaters, a couple of Bulwer's Petrels and a flock of 17 Pomarine Skuas that flew steadily east to west behind the ship. Cetaceans were in evidence as well with a couple of distant blowing Bryde's Whales, five Short-finned Pilot Whales and a single unidentified Dolphin. However, after breakfast, the wind had increased slightly and there were more 'white caps' on the sea and fewer birds. A Great Skua in wing moult caused some excitement, with the possibility of a South Polar being discussed, but photos appeared to indicate a likely first summer Great. The original route for this part of the voyage would have taken us west of the Canary Islands, but the captain managed to get permission from the Spanish authorities to transit through the islands following the deep water channel between the islands of El Hierro, La Gomera, Tenerife and La Palma, thus maximising the potential for bird and cetacean sightings. As we passed El Hierro in the late morning we encountered large flocks of Cory's Shearwaters resting on the sea comprising hundreds of birds, along with several Yellow-legged Gulls. However, things quietened down a bit in the first part of the afternoon, with fewer shearwaters, and just the odd Bulwer's Petrel and Yellow-legged Gull. A relatively close blowing Rorqual Whale was seen once, most likely Bryde's again, but the views was too brief for a definitive identification, and a pod of 15 Striped Dolphins were seen distantly. Bob Flood had kindly volunteered to give a talk on the identification of the North Atlantic Pterodroma petrels, and many folk decided to leave the outside decks and attend while there were relatively few birds. It was still a bit windy in the late afternoon, but the light was good and sightings of cetaceans at least were increasing with the undoubted highlight being three of the rarely seen Gervais' Beaked Whales close to the ship, allowing good photos to be taken, confirming the identification. Other cetaceans recorded late in the day were three distant blowing Sperm Whales, with one animal briefly 'spy-hopping', four Short-finned Pilot Whales, several pods of Atlantic Spotted Dolphins, eight Bottle-nosed Dolphins and another pod of Striped Dolphins. A possible Barolo's Shearwater was photographed, with a couple of Manx Shearwaters in a flock of Cory's, and a single Leach's stormie flew past. May 4th is remembered as Liberation Day in the Netherlands and several of the Wildwings group joined the Dutch contingent to observe a two minute silence just before dinner.

Bulwer's Petrel between Cape Verde & the Canaries

Pomarine Skuas south of the Canaries

Gervais' Beaked Whale, Canary Islands

5th May

(At sea heading towards the Desertas, around Desertas Grande at midday, heading towards Madeira and Porto Sante Island late afternoon)

The day dawned relatively cool and overcast with a light wind and a relatively calm sea. The most obvious bird before breakfast was Bulwer's Petrel, with nearly 40 seen by 0800, along with a Madeiran (Band-rumped) Storm-petrel and the odd Cory's. It was 'as you were' for much of the morning as well, with lots of Bulwer's, the odd Leach's and Madeiran stormies, but four White-faced Storm-petrels were also seen, although all were brief and not seen by everybody. The Desertas were just visible by 1020, and we arrived off Deserta Grande by 1330. The original plan was to sail past the islands without stopping, but as the ship had maintained a good speed despite the weather over the past few days, it was decided to anchor and offer a 60 minute zodiac cruise along the shoreline of Deserta Grande, with a very outside chance of seeing the endangered Monk Seals that breed in caves on the island. In the end many of the keener birders decided to stay aboard Plancius and scan the surrounding seas with telescopes for Pterodroma petrels, but despite all the effort, none were seen. With all the zodiacs safely back on board, we left Deserta Grande at 1630, and headed towards the eastern end of Madeira, on a slightly revised course agreed by the captain which took the ship through an area of sea where Bob Flood had seen feeding Zino's in the past. This was a good time of day for seabirds as they gathered offshore before heading to their nesting sites under the cover of darkness, and we had high hopes of finding something of interest. We passed large flocks of Cory's with small numbers of Manx Shearwaters mixed in. Bulwer's Petrels were everywhere, both sitting on the water and feeding, and a couple of Madeiran Storm-petrels were seen. It was Steve Smith who spotted the first Pterodroma mixed in with a flock of 80 or 90 Cory's Shearwaters sitting on the sea. They all took flight at the approach of the ship and we all desperately tried to find the bird before it disappeared. Steve managed to get some photos showing the bill and head and several other useful flight shots, which allowed Bob F to later confidently identify the bird as a Zino's Petrel. It was frustrating for some folk as they either did not get on the bird at all, or only got distant flight views as it headed towards Madeira. More scanning and more flocks taking off ahead of the ship. Not content with finding one Zino's, Steve repeated it a few minutes later, calling an even less co-operative Pterodroma that flew fast ahead of the ship, ensuring that the majority of people never saw it. Again Steve's photos were enough to confirm that it was the second Zino's of the evening. We changed course again as we neared the eastern end of Madeira and headed for the islands of Porto Santo, NE of Madeira. It was starting to get dark now and the numbers of Bulwer's Petrels and Cory's Shearwaters were continuing to increase. All the flocks were carefully checked for Barolo's Shearwater, but as the light faded it was looking increasingly likely that we were going to miss this species. But a distant bird was then spotted in flight close to one of the Porto Santo Islands. The call for dinner had been made and many folk decided that conditions were getting too dark for views and headed off, but a few stalwarts decided to stay on deck, missing dinner if necessary, as this was likely to be the last chance to get to 'grips' with Barolo's. In fact, it turned out to be an excellent decision as further single birds were seen flying towards the islands. We then we started seeing small groups of shearwaters evidently disturbed from the sea ahead of the approaching ship. These too disappeared into the evening gloom towards Porto Santo Islands. A minimum of 15 Barolo's were recorded, with the odd Manx for good measure before it became too dark to see (just after 2000). We still managed to get some dinner as well. All in all it was an excellent finale to the day, and even Mr Flood was excited!

Loggerhead Turtle north of Madeira

6th May

(At sea all day heading north-east)

The sea was calm and the wind relatively light at sunrise (around 0555). We had passed close to the Seine Seamount (part of the Madeiran archipelago) during the night, but were now once again in deep waters, with the seabed some 4000 m below. The morning was pretty quiet with around 35 Cory's and a couple of Manx Shearwaters, a Madeiran Stormie (photographed by Geoff), our first Gannets of the cruise and a single Great Skua. For the cetacacean lovers small pods of Striped and Short-beaked Common Dolphins were noted. After lunch the Plancius was close to the Ampere Seamount, a submarine volcano, and part of the Horseshoe archipelago. The top of the mount is only 60 m below the surface, but it is an impressive 4,700 m in height and covers a total area of 3,600 km2. The flanks on the northern and western sides have a relatively gentle slope. Consequently we recorded a bit more seabird activity in the vicinity including single Manx Shearwater, Leach's and White-faced Storm Petrels plus Great Skua, and small numbers of Cory's and Arctic Terns. Other 'critters' included a couple of probable Common Dolphins, and some reasonable views of six Loggerhead Turtles. The wind increased once again during the course of the afternoon, and was gusting to 23 knots from the N/NNW by 1500, and it was a quiet end to the day with few birds of note. Some interest was provided by a distant blowing Rorqual Whale species, a few Common Dolphins, another half –dozen turtles (all probably Loggerheads) and a couple of flying fish.

White-faced Storm-petrel Nr Cape Verde

7th May

(At sea all day heading towards Portugal, then north off the Iberian coast)

Sunrise was around 0635 with a fair amount of cloud and less wind than the previous day. There was a brief rain shower before breakfast. We were still over deep water and around two hours away from the Portuguese part of the Iberian coast at 0630. Before 0800 breakfast a Fin Whale was seen and several other large blowing whales were noted distantly, probably all Fin. Single Cory's Shearwaters and Gannets provided the seabird interest, and a distant flock of nine small waders flying north (small Calidrids or possibly Turnstone) were a change. However, the biggest pre-breakfast surprise was a couple of Turtle Doves flying around the ship and occasionally landing briefly. After breakfast the two Turtle Doves intermittently re-appeared, and were joined by a Flava Wagtail for a while (a female type), and two Reed Warblers were photographed resting on a ledge at the stern of the vessel. The rain showers became more frequent during the morning as we got closer to the Iberian coast around mid-morning. The depth of the sea was now between 1000 to 2000 m and we started to traverse north-east through busy shipping lanes, eventually taking a more northerly route some 20 to 30 miles off the coast. We enjoyed views of a couple more blowing Fin Whales, a few Common Dolphins, the odd Cory's, and Gannet, the first European Storm Petrels and a couple dark phase Arctic Skuas. The afternoon and evening provided a trickle of seabirds with further distant European stormies, two single Eurasian Curlews, a couple of Great Skuas, an increase in Yellow-legged Gulls and the first Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and two Black Terns. Two further Fin Whales were logged and a Large Yellow Underwing moth was found on one of the decks.

8th May

(At sea off the Iberian coast heading north towards the Bay of Biscay)

The wind had picked up overnight and was gusting between 20 and 30 knots once again from the N/NNW by 0630, and there was a 2 to 3 m swell running. We were now sailing over a part of the Continental Shelf and there was a consequent increase in seabird activity during the course of the morning. The commonest bird was now Gannet, with over 700 recorded, along with six distant European Storm Petrels, singles of Fulmar, Manx and Sooty Shearwaters, six Great Skuas, a single Arctic Skua and a handful of Common and Arctic Terns with singles of Black Tern and Puffin. Whimbrel were on the move with a single bird and a flock of 12 passing close to the ship during the morning, and a pair of Collared Doves sought refuge from the wind in a sheltered part of the bow for much of the morning. The sea conditions were not ideal for seeing cetaceans, but the first Long-finned Pilot Whale was briefly seen amidst a flock of Gannets and several groups of Common and half a dozen Bottle-nosed Dolphins were also recorded. We officially passed into Spanish Waters shortly before midday. The afternoon was generally quiet with few seabirds, but a pod of 50 Striped Dolphins was seen. After dinner the ship-spotters amongst us delighted in watching the QEII pass us at just over a mile range on her way back to Southampton.

Short-beaked Common Dolphins off the Iberian coast

9th May

(At sea crossing the Bay of Biscay)

Conditions were good with a light breeze and slight swell for much of the morning enabling cetaceans to take centre stage over birds for the most part. We recorded several Fin Whales, a couple of Long-finned Pilot Whales, several pods of Common Dolphins and some distant dolphins that were probably Striped. On the birding front a few Gannets and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, singles of Manx Shearwater, Great Skua, 'Commic' Tern and a couple of Puffins. By late morning the promised increase in swell was evident, with the ship pitching a bit more in the 2 to 3 m high waves. We were over very deep water (up to 4,800 m in places) by late morning. After lunch a group of Long-finned Pilot Whales provided welcome entertainment, with the captain deciding we could spare some time to get a little closer. The scattered pod was comprised of around 15 animals including a tiny youngster still with birth 'creases' on its' upperparts. Marijke guessed it had been born within the previous 24 hours, and we watched as it was 'escorted' by several adults. Another, older youngster was also seen within the pod, and was thought to be between 10 – 12 months old. After around 30 minutes we got back on course and noted a single Fulmar, two Sooty Shears and an Arctic Skua. A little later, a distant feeding group of birds and dolphins was called and once again we changed course and headed closer, spending 90 minutes enjoying the spectacle. The feeding 'frenzy' comprised of Gannets, 18 Manx Shearwaters, the odd Kittiwake and Sandwich Tern, at least 50 Arctic Terns and a minimum of 80 Short-beaked Common Dolphins. The dolphins played around the ship on occasions and the numbers of feeding birds fluctuated quite markedly during the period of observation, possibly suggesting some turnover of individuals. We got underway once again at 1620 and started to pass over a gently rising oceanic slope towards the Continental Shelf.

A progressively shallower sea was reflected by the increase in seabirds, although it was still relatively slow. The numbers of Manx Shearwaters suddenly increased with around 70 logged over the next hour or so, with a single Sooty and a few European Storm Petrels, keeping their distance as ever. More Short-beaked Common Dolphins and Striped Dolphins were noted. Another feeding flock was sighted, and again we changed direction to take a closer look and enjoyed good views of up to 60 Manx Shearwaters, Gannets, 40 Common Terns and yet more Common Dolphins. The views of the shearwaters were especially good from the bow, and the rattle of the photographic 'AK47's' was plain to hear, as cards were quickly filled. After around half an hour, we got back on course, aiming to be off the Brittany coast by late evening. The swell increased further during the evening, and the ship was pitching a little more by 2300.

Short-beaked Common Dolphins off the Iberian coast

10th May

(At sea in the Bay of Biscay off the French coast for most of the day, entering the English Channel during the evening)

The overnight 4 m swell was still evident and was apparently set to increase further during the first part of the morning. The headwind remained at a fairly steady 20 knots from the north. We were over part of the Continental Shelf still, running parallel to the French coast some 5 to 10 nautical miles offshore. It was pretty slow birding during the morning with all the usual 'suspects' in fairly low numbers; Fulmars, Manx Shearwaters, a single European Storm Petrel, Gannets, Lesser Black-backs, Kittiwakes and a flock of four distant medium-sized brown waders – most likely to have been Whimbrel or Bar-tailed Godwits. The bow was closed for safety reasons, so the photographers had to 'slum it' around other parts of the vessel. By lunchtime the swell had decreased to between 3 – 4 m and the wind had dropped to below 10 knots. The ship turned onto a more easterly course during the afternoon, meaning that the swell was now rolling the ship side to side, but at least the bow was re-opened at 15.00. Birding was more of the same, but with the addition of singles of Great Skua, Yellow-legged Gull and Guillemot and a distant feeding flock of 'Commic' Terns. The odd Common Dolphin was also seen. We entered the English Channel during the evening and calmer conditions prevailed. It was Helena's birthday today so some appropriate liquid celebration and banter was enjoyed during the evening.

11th May

(At sea in the English Channel)

The French coast was just visible on the starboard side at sunrise (0622), but the Isle of Wight on the port side was not visible. The wind was up to 25 knots from the south-east, and it was only 100 C at 0630. Welcome back to Blighty! Seabirds during the morning comprised Fulmar, Gannet, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Guillemot and Razorbill in generally small numbers. The afternoon was a repeat performance, but with increased numbers of Gannets, a couple of Great Skuas, 10 Kittiwakes, a single Grey Seal and a total of seven Harbour Porpoises. By 1700 the wind and swell had lessened and we could 'enjoy' views of Dungeness nuclear power station distantly on the port side and Calais on the starboard side. Accounts were settled, recaps made and much (mostly free) alcohol was consumed during the last evening.

12th May

We were very close to the Dutch coast at 0600, and soon sailing up the Westerschelde 'canal' towards the port of Vlissingen. Initially it resembled a wide rural river, but gradually became narrower and more built up and industrialised as we approached the city. We eventually took a side channel and docked around 0800. A few interesting birds were seen along the way including a Red-throated Diver, several Spoonbills, Egyptian Geese and both Sandwich and Arctic Terns. Disembarkation commenced from 09.30 and the voyage was well and truly over.

Cape Verde Islands - Canary Islands - Desertas Islands – Madeira – Porto Sante – Bay of Biscay – English Channel - Holland
April 30th-May 12th 2018, aboard *M.V. Plancius*

WILDLIFE LIST

BIRDS
Red-throated Diver
Fulmar
Fea's Petrel
Zino's Petrel
Bulwer's Petrel
Cory's Shearwater
Cape Verde Shearwater
Sooty Shearwater
Manx Shearwater
Boyd's Shearwater
Barolo's Shearwater
White-faced Storm-petrel
European Storm-petrel
Leach's Storm-petrel
Madeiran Storm-petrel
Cape Verde Storm-petrel
Red-billed Tropicbird
Brown Booby
Northern Gannet
Cattle Egret
Little Egret
Cape Verde Purple Heron
Grey Heron
Eurasian Spoonbill
Egyptian Goose
Osprey
Cape Verde Buzzard
Common Kestrel (Alexander's & Neglected)
Helmeted Guineafowl
Black-winged Stilt
Cream-coloured Courser
Ringed Plover
Kentish Plover
Sanderling
Whimbrel
Curlew
Common Sandpiper
Ruddy Turnstone
Pomarine Skua
Arctic Skua
Great Skua
Sabine's Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Yellow-legged Gull
Herring Gull
Kittiwake
Sandwich Tern
Common Tern
Arctic Tern
Black tern
Guillemot
Razorbill
Puffin
Feral Rock Dove
Collared Dove
Turtle Dove
Cape Verde Swift
Grey-headed Kingfisher
Black-c Sparrow-lark
Raso Lark
Barn Swallow
(Western) Flava Wagtail
Cape Verde Cane Warbler
Reed Warbler
Spectacled Warbler
Blackcap
Brown-necked Raven
Spanish Sparrow
Iago Sparrow

MARINE MAMMALS
Sperm Whale
Fin Whale
Bryde's Whale
Gervais' Beaked Whale
Short-beaked Common Dolphin
Bottlenose Dolphin
Atlantic Spotted Dolphin
Striped Dolphin
Risso's Dolphin
Harbour Porpoise
Short-finned Pilot Whale
Long-finned Pilot Whale

Grey Seal

OTHER WILDLIFE
Loggerhead Turtle
Basking Shark
Atlantic White Marlin
Ocean Sunfish
Tuna sp.
Flying Fish sp.
Portuguese Man-of-war

NB: *A full day trip on Cape Verde on April 29th added CV Barn Owl, Western Reef Egret, Quail, Greenshank, Hoopoe Lark, Bar-tailed Desert Lark and Waxbill to this list.*

Searching for 'Critters'

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