



Short Note | Nota Breve

Reassessment of records of Baird's sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* in the Cape Verde Islands

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The 6th and 8th Cape Verde Bird Reports (Hazevoet 2010, 2014) include records of the alleged first and second records of Baird's sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* for the archipelago. If the accompanying photographs are of the actual birds observed, then it would appear that both were misidentified.

The first record, an adult at the Santa Maria saltpans, Sal, 20-22 October 2007 (Hazevoet 2010) is supported by a photograph that shows a little stint *C. minuta*. We can understand why it was considered a Baird's sandpiper as the primaries appear to extend far beyond the tertials and whilst the tail cannot be observed, one could expect that extension too. The bird shows thin, dark, central upperpart streaks and a strong supercilium that occur in little stint, but less so in Baird's. The breast pattern is also characteristic of little stint, and not Baird's, in that it is lightly washed grey rather than having a brownish ground colour with darker streaks in a strongly marked breast (cf. O'Brien *et al.* 2006).

The second record is of a juvenile at the São Vicente sewage works, 1-3 November 2012 (Hazevoet 2014), supported by a photograph that shows a white-rumped sandpiper *C. fuscicollis*. The bird in the image shows an upperpart pattern that fits with a juvenile *C. fuscicollis* just moulting into winter plumage. The supercilium is typical of that species as are the faint dark streaks along the flanks. The bird also shows a further character that supports this re-identification: the feathering on the upper and lower mandible is more or less equal in *C. fuscicollis*, whereas in *C. bairdii* the feathering on the lower mandible extends well beyond the feathering on the upper mandible (Simpson 2014).

As these two records were taken to represent the only records of Baird's sandpiper in the Cape Verde Islands, it must be concluded that there are no records of that taxon in the archipelago so far.

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