DUTCH BIRDING

VOLUME 33 • NO 1 • 2011

Dutch Birding

Internationaal tijdschrift over Palearctische vogels

Redactie
Dutch Birding
Duinlustparkweg 98A
2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid
Nederland
editors@dutchbirding.nl

Fotoredactie
Dutch Birding
p/a René Pop
Postbus 31
1790 AA Den Burg-Texel
Nederland
rene.pop@dutchbirding.nl

Abonnementenadministratie
p/a Gerald Oreel
Deurganck 15
1902 AN Castricum
Nederland
circulation@dutchbirding.nl

www.dutchbirding.nl
webredactie@dutchbirding.nl

Bestuur
Dutch Birding Association
Postbus 75611
1070 AP Amsterdam
Nederland
dba@dutchbirding.nl

Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna
CDNA
Duinlustparkweg 98A
2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid
Nederland
cdna@dutchbirding.nl

Commissie Systematiek Nederlandse Avifauna
CSNA, p/a George Sangster
csna@dutchbirding.nl

Inspreeklijn
010-4281212

Internet
www.dutchbirding.nl

Dutch Birding

Abonnementen De abonnementsprijs voor 2011 bedraagt: EUR 39.50 (Nederland en België), EUR 40.00 (rest van Europa) en EUR 43.00 (landen buiten Europa). Abonnees in Nederland ontvangen ook het dvd-jaaroverzicht.
U kunt zich abonneren door het overmaken van de abonnementsprijs op girorekening 01 50 697 (Nederland), girorekening 000 1592468 19 (België) of bankrekening 54 93 30 348 van ABN•AMRO (Castricum), ovv 'abonnement Dutch Birding'. Alle rekeningen zijn ten name van de Dutch Birding Association. Het abonnement gaat in na ontvangst van de betaling.

Dutch Birding is een tweemaandelijks tijdschrift. Het publiceert originele artikelen en mededelingen over morfologie, systematiek, voorkomen en verspreiding van vogels in de Benelux, Europa en elders in het Palearctische gebied. Het publiceert tevens bijdragen over vogels in het Aziatisch-Pacifische gebied en andere gebieden.

De volgorde van vogels in Dutch Birding volgt in eerste instantie een klassieke 'Wetmore-indeling'. Binnen dit raamwerk worden voor taxonomie en naamgeving de volgende overzichten aangehouden: *Dutch Birding-vogelnamen* door A B van den Berg (2008, Amsterdam; online update 2011) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke, Nederlandse en Engelse namen van West-Palearctische vogels); *Vogels van de wereld – complete checklist* door M Walters (1997, Baarn) (Nederlandse namen van overige vogels van de wereld); *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world* (derde editie) door E C Dickinson (redactie) (2003, Londen) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke namen van overige vogels van de wereld); en *Birds of the world: recommended English names* door F Gill & M Wright (2006, Londen; online update 2010) (Engelse namen van overige vogels in de wereld).

Voor (de voorbereiding van) bijzondere publicaties op het gebied van determinatie en/of taxonomie kan het Dutch Birding-fonds aan auteurs een financiële bijdrage leveren (zie Dutch Birding 24: 125, 2001, en www.dutchbirding.nl onder 'The Journal').

www.dutchbirding.nl

Dutch Birding Association

Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA)

Commissie Systematiek Nederlandse Avifauna (CSNA)

 ISSN 0167-2878.

Drukkerij robstolk®, Mauritskade 55, 1092 AD Amsterdam, Nederland

Dutch Birding

Chief editor Arnoud van den Berg (+31-235378024, arnoud.van.den.berg@dutchbirding.nl)

Deputy chief editor Enno Ebels (+31-302961335, enno.ebels@dutchbirding.nl)

Executive editor André van Loon (+31-206997585, andre.van.loon@dutchbirding.nl)

Photographic editor René Pop (+31-222316801, rene.pop@dutchbirding.nl)

Editorial board Peter Adriaens, Sander Bot, Ferdy Hieselaar, Gert Ottens, Roy Slaterus, Roland van der Vliet and Rik Winters

Editorial advisory board Peter Barthel, Mark Constantine, Dick Forsman, Ricard Gutiérrez, Anthony McGeehan, Killian Mullarney, Klaus Malling Olsen, Magnus Robb, Hadoram Shirihai and Lars Svensson

Editorial assistants Max Berlijn, Harvey van Diek, Nils van Duivendijk, Steve Geelhoed, Marcel Haas, Jan van der Laan, Hans van der Meulen, Kees Roselaar, Jan Hein van Steenis, Pieter van Veelen and Peter de Vries

Production and lay-out André van Loon and René Pop

Advertising Leon Boon, c/o Dutch Birding, Postbus 75611, 1070 AP Amsterdam
advertising@dutchbirding.nl

Subscriptions The subscription rate for 2011 is: EUR 39.50 (Netherlands and Belgium), EUR 40.00 (Europe) and EUR 43.00 (countries outside Europe). Subscribers in the Netherlands also receive the DVD year review.
Subscribers in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway and Sweden are kindly requested to pay the subscription fee to our local bank accounts in these countries. Details can be found on the internet (www.dutchbirding.nl).
British subscribers are requested to pay exclusively by Sterling cheque. Cheques should be sent to Dutch Birding, c/o Gerald Oreel, Deurganck 15, 1902 AN Castricum, Netherlands. Subscribers in other countries can make their payment by credit card (Access, Eurocard, MasterCard or Visa). Please send an e-mail indicating your credit card type, account number, the expiry date and full address details to circulation@dutchbirding.nl. The subscription starts upon receipt of payment and already published issues will be sent.

Dutch Birding is a bimonthly journal. It publishes original papers and notes on morphology, systematics, occurrence and distribution of birds in the Benelux, Europe and elsewhere in the Palearctic region. It also publishes contributions on birds in the Asian-Pacific region and other regions.

The sequence of birds in Dutch Birding basically follows a classic 'Wetmore sequence'. Within this framework, the following lists are used for taxonomy and nomenclature: *Dutch Birding bird names* by A B van den Berg (2008, Amsterdam; online update 2011) (taxonomy and scientific, Dutch and English names of Western Palearctic birds); *Vogels van de wereld – complete checklist* by M Walters (1997, Baarn) (Dutch names of remaining birds of the world); *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world* (third edition) by E C Dickinson (editor) (2003, London) (taxonomy and scientific names of remaining birds of the world); and *Birds of the world: recommended English names* by F Gill & M Wright (2006, London; online update 2010) (English names of remaining birds of the world).

For (preparation of) special publications regarding identification and/or taxonomy, the Dutch Birding fund can offer financial support to authors (see Dutch Birding 24: 125, 2001, and www.dutchbirding.nl under 'The Journal').

www.dutchbirding.nl

Web editors Garry Bakker, Gijsbert van der Bent, Kasper Hendriks and Ben Wielstra. **Photographic editors** Menno van Duijn and Chris van Rijswijk. **Webmasters** Albert van den Ende and Peter Weiland.

Dutch Birding Association

Board Arjan van Egmond (president, +31-714010656; +31-621585788), Wietze Janse, Thierry Jansen (treasurer) and Han Zevenhuizen (secretary); the editors of Dutch Birding also have one seat in the board. **Board assistants** Leon Boon, Thomas van der Es, Remco Hofland, Arnold Meijer, Gerald Oreel, Marc Plomp, Henk van Rijswijk, Pieter van Veelen, Jeroen van Vianen, Ruben Vlot, Kees de Vries and Steven Wytema.

Dutch rarities committee (CDNA)

Members Rob van Bemmelen, Dick Groenendijk (president), Frank Neijts, Arjan Ovaa, Willem van Rijswijk, Roy Slaterus, Laurens Steijn and Arend Wassink. **Assistant** Max Berlijn (archivist). The CDNA is a committee of the Dutch Birding Association and the Netherlands Ornithologists' Union.

Dutch committee for avian systematics (CSNA)

Members Arnoud van den Berg, André van Loon, Kees Roselaar and George Sangster (secretary). The CSNA is a committee of the Dutch Birding Association and the Netherlands Ornithologists' Union.

 ISSN 0167-2878.

Printed by drukkerij robstolk®, Mauritskade 55, 1092 AD Amsterdam, Netherlands

Dutch Birding

International journal on Palearctic birds

Editors
Dutch Birding
Duinlustparkweg 98A
2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid
Netherlands
editors@dutchbirding.nl

Photographic editor
Dutch Birding
c/o René Pop
Postbus 31
1790 AA Den Burg-Texel
Netherlands
rene.pop@dutchbirding.nl

Subscription administration
c/o Gerald Oreel
Deurganck 15
1902 AN Castricum
Netherlands
circulation@dutchbirding.nl

www.dutchbirding.nl
webredactie@dutchbirding.nl

Board
Dutch Birding Association
Postbus 75611
1070 AP Amsterdam
Netherlands
dba@dutchbirding.nl

Dutch rarities committee
CDNA
Duinlustparkweg 98A
2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid
Netherlands
cdna@dutchbirding.nl

Dutch committee for avian systematics
CSNA, c/o George Sangster
csna@dutchbirding.nl

Internet
www.dutchbirding.nl

Dutch Birding JAARGANG 33 NUMMER 1 2011 *VOLUME 33 NUMBER 1 2011*

Variation and difference in song between Western Bonelli's Warbler and Eastern Bonelli's Warbler

Dick Groenendijk & Teus J C Luijendijk

In the Western Palearctic, 19 species of leaf warbler *Phylloscopus* have been recorded (cf van den Berg 2008). Several of these occur in so-called 'species pairs'. These allopatric sister taxa have often been treated as one species in the past but several have recently been elevated to species status. This is also the case with Western Bonelli's Warbler *P bonelli* and Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *P orientalis* (hereafter called *bonelli* and *orientalis*, respectively). These have recently been split, mainly on the basis of genetic differentiation and obvious differences in their calls (Helbig et al 1995, Sangster et al 1999). Both are typical leaf warblers of the Mediterranean area, between the 19°C and 31°C July isotherms. In the west, *bonelli* is a common inhabitant of large parts of western Europe and north-western Africa, including the Alps, Apennines, France, Iberian peninsula, Morocco, northern Algeria and north-western Tunisia. In the east, breeding numbers of *orientalis* are lower and scattered populations occur in south-eastern Europe from Croatia or Serbia and Romania southward with highest density in southern Bulgaria and northern Greece, whereas it also breeds locally in western and southern Turkey east to Iran/Iraq and south in Syria and Lebanon (Hagemeijer & Blair 1997, Kirwan et al 2008). Not only the breeding ranges of both species are separate but the wintering ranges do not seem to overlap either. While *orientalis* migrates southwards or southeastwards to north-eastern Africa, *bonelli* heads south or south-west to the southern Sahel zone from Senegal and southern Mauritania east to lake Chad basin (Cramp 1992).

The morphological differences between both species are very subtle (see, for instance, van Duivendijk 2002, Occhiato 2007) and the best feature for most observers is the difference in contact call (hereafter call), which was already mentioned by Reiser (1905). In *bonelli*, the call is described as rather similar to Willow Warbler *P trochilus* but louder and sharper, more like a whistle, with a distinctive inflection and sharp rise at the start of the second syllable and a descending pitch at the end, sounding like *hoo-eet* or *doo-eeo* with the accent on the second syllable. In *orientalis*, the call is clearly different and described as a metallic, monosyllabic *chip* or *tjip*, not unlike a distant 'type D' flight call of Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* (Helb et al 1982, Baker 1997). This difference has always been a discriminating criterion between both taxa and was, for instance, used in identifying the first two records of *orientalis* in the Netherlands in May and June 1983 (Hazevoet & van der Schot 1986). This difference in call is described and sometimes nicely illustrated by sonagrams in papers and field guides. However, one has to keep in mind that it has been reported that both species may use a disyllabic call when agitated (Svensson et al 1999) and that young *bonelli* may give a shorter and thus more monosyllabic call, reminiscent of the normal call of *orientalis* (Beaman & Madge 1998). Arnoud van den Berg (in litt) recorded monosyllabic calls of migrants in Morocco but sonagrams confirm that these differ from *orientalis* contact calls. No recordings of these atypical calls have been published nor did we ever hear these calls ourselves.

Concerning a possible difference between the advertising song of males in spring of both species, much more confusion exists. The advertising song can be described as a simple repetition of one note, sounding like a dry, short and mechanical high-pitched trill, sometimes compared with the song of Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*. Many observers believe that the advertising song of males in spring of both species is so similar that it is of no use for field identification. However, in an experiment in June 2009, in the Dadia forest in north-eastern Greece, it was shown that territorial *orientalis* males did not respond at all to playback of advertising song recordings of *bonelli* (Arjan Brenkman pers comm), suggesting that there are audible differences in the advertising song between the two species. Also, Helb et al (1982), Cramp (1992) and Bergmann et al (2008) describe and illustrate differences in song by sonagrams, which appear to be rather consistent. These differ-

1 Western Bonelli's Warbler / Bergfluiter *Phylloscopus bonelli*, Toscana, Italy, 31 May 2007
(Daniele Occhiato)

2 Eastern Bonelli's Warbler / Balkanbergfluiter *Phylloscopus orientalis*, Eilat, Israel, 26 March 2007
(Daniele Occhiato)

ences are not mentioned in the regular field guides (Jonsson 1992, Svensson et al 1999, 2009). Moreover, the extent of variation in song of both *bonelli* and *orientalis* has never been illustrated extensively. Although in Cramp (1992) the difference between both species is described and illustrated, it is commented on with the words 'more material is required to assess the value of this as means of distinguishing between the songs of both species'. The aim of this paper, therefore, is to describe and illustrate the differences in advertising song of males in spring (hereafter shortly named song) between *bonelli* and *orientalis*, to give insight in the extent of intraspecific variation in both and to assess the value of these differences for field identification purposes.

A pitfall when identifying singing 'bonelli's warblers' may be the shortened song of Wood Warbler *P sibilatrix* (consisting of the trill series only and lacking the familiar introductory *tss-tss-tss-tss* notes), which is sometimes recorded in this species, particularly from spring migrants, and has caused confusion in the past. Analysis and discussion of this song type is, however, beyond the scope of this paper.

Methods

To study the differences and the extent of variation in song between *bonelli* and *orientalis*, 36 recordings of different individuals were used, 11 of *bonelli* and 25 of *orientalis*. Unpublished material originated from the database of The Sound Approach (n=29) and from one recording from the first author. The latter recording was of a *bonelli* from the Netherlands (identified by call). The recordings by The Sound Approach were from the Netherlands (identified by call) and Spain (*bonelli*) and from Greece and Turkey (*orientalis*). In addition, six supplementary recordings came from publications of Sample (2003) and Bergmann et al (2008). The criteria to use a recording in our analysis were that for each recording date and locality were known, or that the recording was specifically identified as either (nominate) *bonelli* or *orientalis* in the two publications used. All recordings referred to birds singing in late spring and summer (between 27 April and 3 August) and are assumed to relate to birds in their second calendar-year or older. The risk of inclusion of the so-called plastic song of first-year birds in autumn that may not be fully developed is, therefore, eliminated. Note, however, that some migrating second calender-year birds still showing some aspects of plasticity in their song, may have been included in the analyses.

Each song phrase consists of a repetition of one note, which is called an element. One complete song phrase is called a trill and each trill is, therefore, composed of several elements. The following parameters were analysed: ***1*** number of elements per trill; ***2*** length of each trill; ***3*** shape of the different elements in a trill visible in a sonagram; ***4*** average frequency; and ***5*** number of calls between song phrases. In long recordings, the average of the first 15 complete trills per individual bird were used for measurements of parameter 1-4. In shorter recordings, all complete trills were used in the analysis. The shortest recordings in this analysis consisted of two complete trills.

Results

Number of elements per trill

In *bonelli*, the number of elements per trill ranged from 6 to 13 (86 trills analysed), with an average of 9.3 ± 1.5 elements per trill. In *orientalis*, the number of elements per trill ranged from 5 to 30, with an average of 15.3 ± 3.9 elements per trill (177 trills analysed). This differs significantly from the average of *bonelli* (student's t-test; $p<0.01$). Figure 1 shows the frequency distribution of the number of elements per trill. In *bonelli*, nearly 80% of the trills consisted of 8-11 elements. In *orientalis*, the amount of variation is much higher and there is considerable overlap with *bonelli*. Note, however, that trills with less than 11 elements were rare in *orientalis* and that trills with more than 13 elements were not found for *bonelli*.

Hardly anything has been published on the number of elements per trill. Cramp (1992) mentioned 7-13 elements per trill, without, however, referring to a taxon. The same number is mentioned by Bergmann et al (2008) for *bonelli*. In addition, Bremond (1976) mentioned 9-10 elements per trill for *bonelli* from France. These values are in agreement with our study.

The results of our study indicate that the number of elements per trill can be useful for identification. Although there is overlap, trills with few elements are a strong indicator for *bonelli*, while trills consisting of many (>13) elements almost exclusively point to *orientalis*.

Trill length

In *bonelli*, the length of a trill ranged from 0.53 to 1.24 s with an average of 0.81 ± 0.18 s (86 trills analysed). In *orientalis*, the length of a trill ranged from 0.71 to 1.70 s with an average of 1.08 ± 0.21 s (177 trills analysed). This differs significantly from the average of *bonelli* (student's t-test; $p<0.01$).

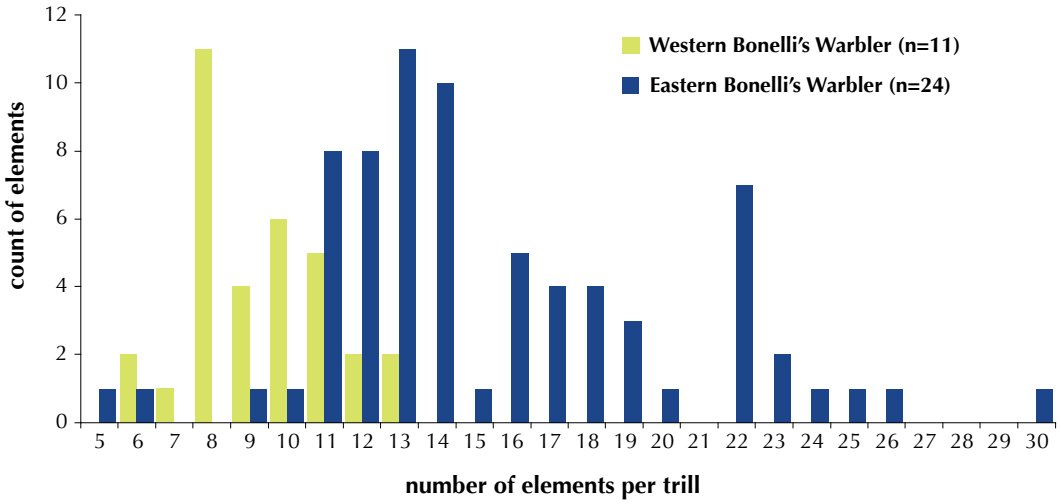


FIGURE 1 Frequency distribution of the number of elements per trill in Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* (green bars, n=11) and Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *P orientalis* (blue bars, n=24); three trills per recorded individual used / Frequentieverdeling van aantal elementen per triller bij Bergfluiter *Phylloscopus bonelli* (groene staven, n=11) en Balkanbergfluiter *P orientalis* (blauwe staven, n=24); drie trillers per opgenomen exemplaar gebruikt.

Although the trill length of both taxa showed some overlap, we found that the song of *bonelli* is on average nearly 0.3 s shorter than that of *orientalis*. In contrast, in Bergmann et al (2008), the opposite is stated without a reference to published material. Both Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer (1991) and Cramp (1992) mention a trill length of up to about 1 s, which is, however, not useful for comparison as in both publications it is not clarified which taxon is concerned. Bremond (1976) mentioned a trill length of on average 0.7 s for *bonelli* from France, which is more or less in agreement with our findings.

We conclude that, based on the significant difference shown between *bonelli* and *orientalis*, the actual length of the trill can be useful for identification but only as a supportive character, as there still is a considerable overlap. One must be aware that external factors like agitation of the recorded individual, time of day or season, population density or other factors, may influence the length of the trills and, consequently, the number of elements in a trill as described above (Constantine & The Sound Approach 2006). In a study like this, it is virtually impossible to correct for these influences, as the recordings used can not be standardised for the factors mentioned.

Shape of elements

Close study of the shape of the trill elements seemed to yield a consistent character to separate the two taxa, although both have a repertoire of different trills. These elements seem to be specific per taxon. One has to realise, however, that more types of trill notes may exist than analysed here.

bonelli

Bremond (1976) describes the element shape for *bonelli* as follows: 'The inter-individual differences are carried essentially by the first sub-unit, which is always of a descending frequency. It is somewhat variable and is occasionally totally omitted. The second sub-unit varies little from one individual to another. It is always ascending. There is no exception to this rule'. Indeed, in *bonelli* the shape of the trill elements on sonagrams is most often an upright 'V', consisting of a descending (backslash-shaped '\') part, and an ascending (forward slash-shaped '/') second part (see figure 2: bon3, bon4 & bon5). Sometimes, the first part of the 'V' is obscure or absent, resulting in just a forward slash shape (see figure 2: bon1 & bon2). The forward slash shape is however always present. Sometimes, the backslash in the 'V' is separated from (but overlapping in time at a different frequency with) a longer forward slash (see figure 2: bon3). In all types, the next backslash was never found to overlap in time with the previous forward slash, thus making the elements well separated from each other. Also, the backslash part of the V (if present) was found to be always of a lower maximum frequency than the forward slash (in

contrast with the *orientalis* trill types, compare figure 2-3). Sometimes, *bonelli* was found to sing two or even three types of trills in alternation (and up to five have been reported (Magnus Robb pers comm)), but in most recordings only one trill type was present. This seems to differ from *orientalis*, which usually sings two types of trills in alternation. However, this character is not sufficiently consistent to separate the two taxa and can also be dependent on the context in which a singing individual is recorded.

orientalis
The shape of the trill elements was found to vary more in *orientalis* than in *bonelli*. As a consequence, several types were discerned. Commonly encountered shapes are represented in figure 3. They are coded here as ori1, ori2, etc, in an arbitrary order. All *orientalis* sonagrams showed trill elements that start with a backslash shape. Often, this is followed by another backslash. The two backslashes often are connected by a forward slash shape, thus forming an inverted 'V' shape or a mirrored 'N' shape (ori2, ori4 & ori5). Other sonagrams just show two backslashes per element (ori3), or only one backslash (ori1). Usually, per trill only one type of shape is rendered but occasionally a trill starts with one type, and switches to another halfway (eg, in ori4). On the other hand, birds were mostly found to sing two trill types that are given in alternation, so that the song often seems to be changing slightly between trills.

In conclusion, it appears that elements ending with a forward slash are strongly indicative of *bonelli*, while elements ending with backslash-shaped notes invariably indicate *orientalis*. In *bonelli*, this final part of the element reaches the highest frequency, while in *orientalis* the highest frequency is reached in the first part of each element.

Average frequency

bonelli
In *bonelli*, the maximum and minimum frequency values of the trill elements differ more within each trill type. This character therefore seemed to be of little use for identification. However, the maximum frequency usually is above 7000 Hz, which was only rarely found in *orientalis* sonagrams (only in type ori3). Some *bonelli* recordings (cf Sample 2003) showed two song types that were delivered in alternation, with slightly differing frequencies, thus being reminiscent of an *orientalis* singing both ori1 and ori2.

orientalis
As described in the previous paragraph, at least five trill element types were encountered in *orientalis*. Type ori1 and ori2 have somewhat different frequency ranges, which makes them easily distinguishable, as long as the bird sings both types of trills in alternation (as was regularly found in the studied recordings). Type ori2 covers a frequency range of 3200-6200 Hz, while type ori1 is a little lower, 3000-5100 Hz. This difference may sound small when expressed in absolute numbers but it is well audible to the human ear when a bird is encountered that sings both types in alternation. Other birds, though, will sound equally pitched throughout the song, as they sing only one trill type. Birds that mix both types in a single trill may trouble the picture somewhat, as they (for instance) may start a trill like ori2 but change to another type halfway (ori4). All trills, irrespective of the type, are almost perfectly constant in pitch or, at the most, only very slightly descending with a maximum decline in frequency of about 100 Hz.

We conclude that the maximum frequency can be used as a supportive character to distinguish *orientalis* and *bonelli*, with the latter taxon reaching somewhat higher frequencies. There is, however, a broad range of overlap in the song frequencies of both taxa.

Calls during song
In the 11 recordings used of singing *bonelli*, 10 were without calls (91%). In contrast, of the 25 recordings from *orientalis*, this number was only six (24%). It therefore appears that *orientalis* regularly sings with intermittent calling, which makes it rather easily identifiable as such. In general, contact calls uttered intermittently during territorial song of warblers may be a sign of immaturity of the bird or can be related to other external factors (Constantine & The Sound Approach 2006). However, in this study a much larger proportion of recordings than expected for a normal age distribution showed contact calls interspersed with song in the case of *orientalis*, in comparison with *bonelli*. Still, a singer of either of the two species cannot be identified with certainty as *bonelli* just on the basis of the absence of calls during the song. The absence of calls during singing is therefore at most a weak supportive character for *bonelli*.

Conclusions
We found strong indications that *bonelli* and *orientalis* can be separated on song alone. The identification can be clinched, in order of importance,

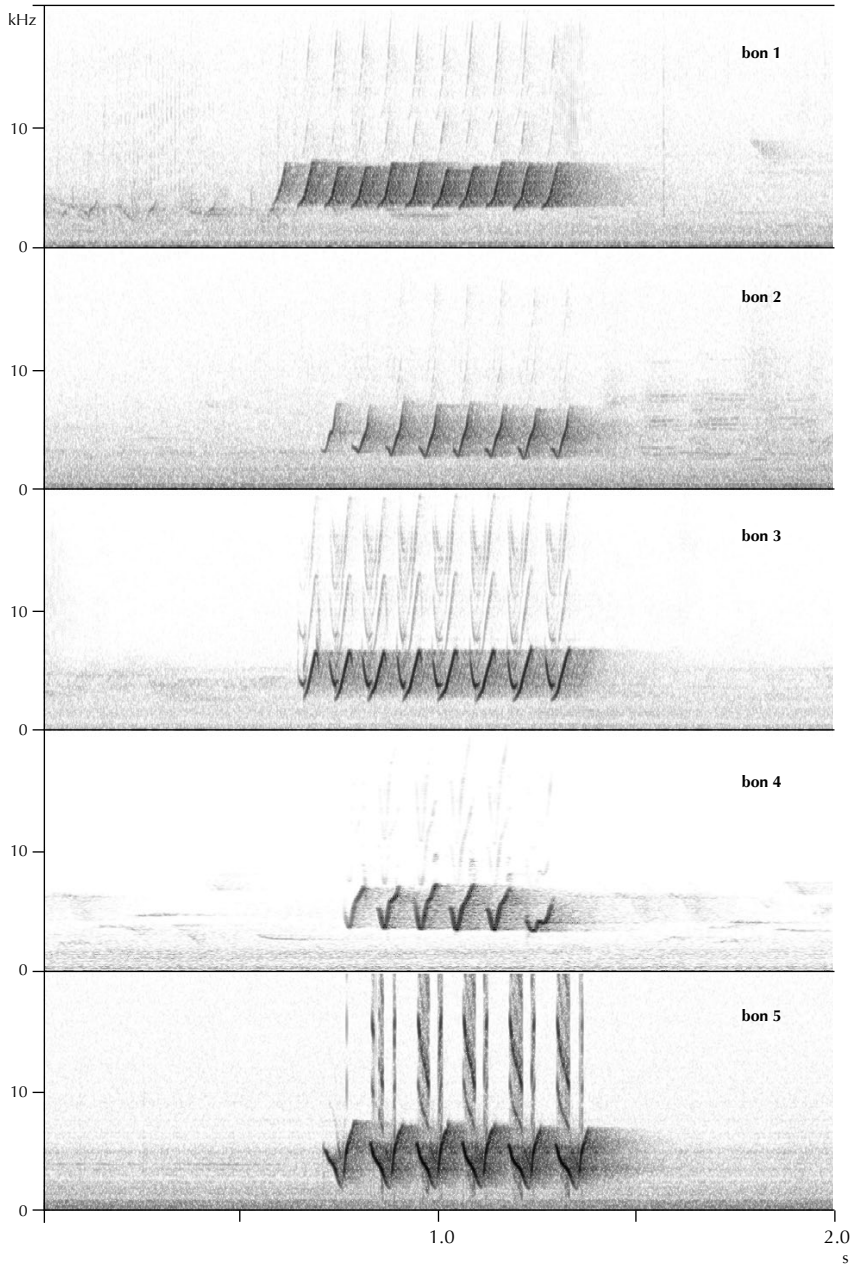


FIGURE 2 Five examples of song trills of Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* illustrating amount of variation / Vijf voorbeelden van trillers van Bergfluiter *Phylloscopus bonelli* ter illustratie van variatie. Bon1, bon2 & bon4 (recording of same individual / opname van zelfde individu): Tornavacas, Sierra de Gredos, Extremadura, Spain, 11 June 2002 *(Arnoud B van den Berg/The Sound Approach)*; bon3: Hoyos de Espinosa, Plataformes de Gredos, Castilla y Léon, Spain, 11 June 2002 *(Arnoud B van den Berg/The Sound Approach)*; bon5: Valencia, Spain, 15 April 2001 (*Geoff Sample*, as published in Sample (2003)).

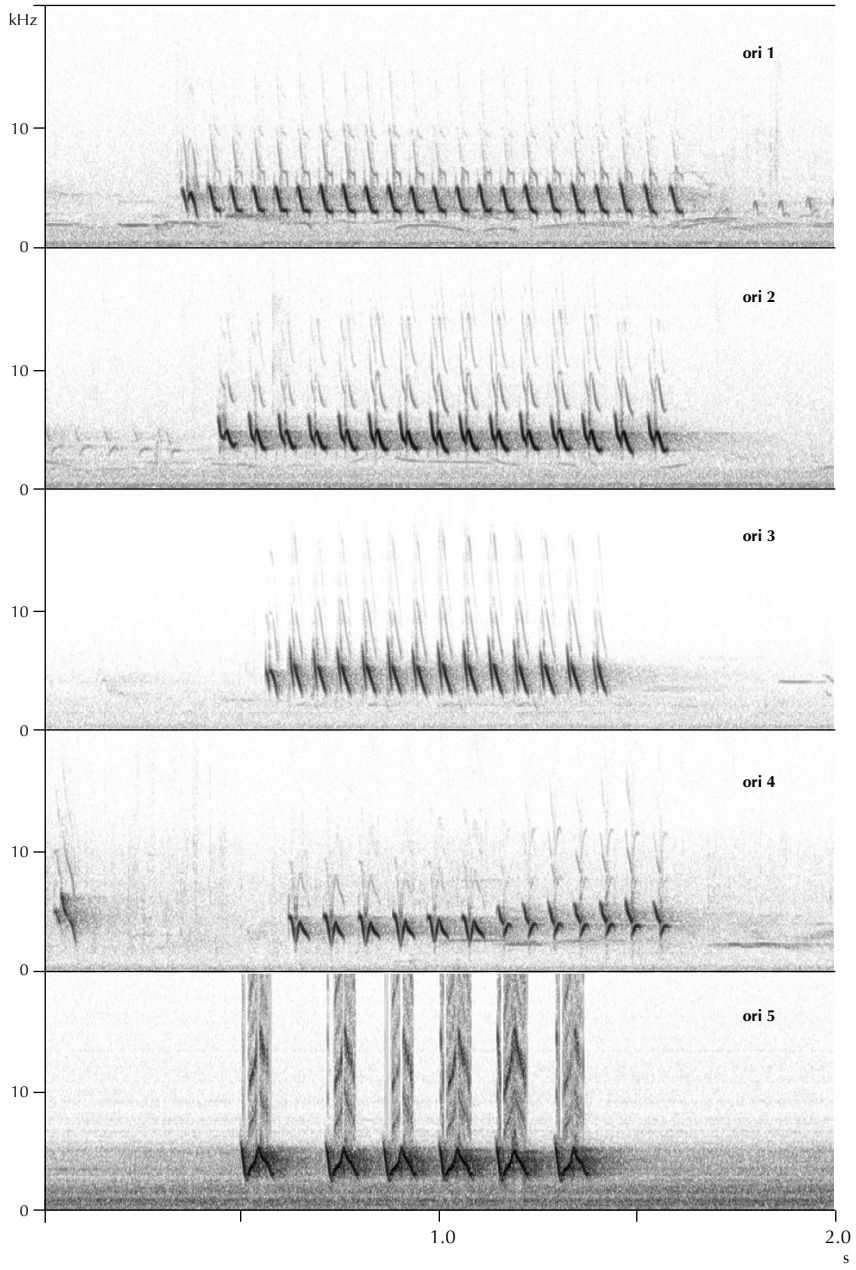


FIGURE 3 Five examples of song trills of Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis* illustrating amount of variation / Vijf voorbeelden van trillers van Balkanbergfluiter *Phylloscopus orientalis* ter illustratie van variatie. Ori1 & ori2 (recording of same individual / opname van zelfde individu): Akseki, Turkey, 12 May 2001 *(Magnus Robb/The Sound Approach)*; ori3: Avas valley, Evros, East Macedonia, Greece, 27 April 2002 *(Magnus Robb/The Sound Approach)*; ori4: lake Megali Prespa, West Macedonia, Greece, 8 May 2002 *(Magnus Robb/The Sound Approach)*; ori5: Kennemerduinen, Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 15 May 1983 (*Cornelis J Hazevoet*, as published in Sample (2003)).

TABLE 1 Discriminating parameters in song of Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* and Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *P orientalis* in decreasing order of importance / Onderscheidende kenmerken in zang van Bergfluiter *Phylloscopus bonelli* en Balkanbergfluiter *P orientalis* in afnemend belang

	bonelli	*orientalis*
shape of trill elements	upright V	inverted V (Λ) or mirrored N (И)
last part of each trill element	forward slash (/)	backslash (\)
maximum frequency	7200 Hz	6300 Hz
average number of notes per trill	9 ± 2	15 ± 4
length of trill	0.53-1.24 s	0.71-1.70 s

with the most important criterion mentioned first, by: ***1*** shape of the trill elements; ***2*** maximum frequency; ***3*** number of notes per trill; and ***4*** trill length. The use of these parameters is explained in table 1. If a singing bird obviously scores on all four parameters, identification appears to be certain. Lowest and highest frequencies of the trill elements, and singing of high- and lower-frequency trills in alternation can be used to support the identification.

For observers in the field, it means that a singing *orientalis* sounds a bit lower, with longer trills. In addition, a singing *orientalis* also sounds a bit drier and more percussive. This song difference is an important identification tool for out-of-range birds as they may sing persistently without making calls. Note, however, that for a reliable identification it is necessary to obtain a sonagram of at least several of the song trills.

Acknowledgements

This study would not have been possible without the support and comments of Mark Constantine, Arnoud van den Berg and Magnus Robb (The Sound Approach) and the use of their recordings, for which we are very grateful. Rob van Bemmelen is kindly acknowledged for his help in obtaining some of the references. We also thank Geoff Sample for the permission to use his recording of *bonelli* to prepare the sonagram in figure 2.

Samenvatting

VARIATIE EN VERSCHIL IN ZANG TUSSEN BERGFLUITER EN BALKANBERGFLUITER Bergfluiter *Phylloscopus bonelli* ('*bonelli*') en Balkanbergfluiter *P orientalis* ('*orientalis*') lijken in morfologie zeer sterk op elkaar en in de praktijk worden beide soorten meestal gedetermineerd op basis van hun karakteristieke contactroep ('de roep'). Het blijkt echter dat de territoriumzang ('de zang') van beide soorten eveneens verschilt. Daarmee zijn zingende vogels in het voorjaar goed te determineren, zelfs als een exemplaar niet roept. In dit artikel wordt op basis van uitgebreide studie van opnames en sonagrammen van beide soorten beschreven in welke facetten hun zang verschilt. Belangrijk is om een opname van de zingende vogel te maken want alleen daarmee is een sluitende determinatie mogelijk.

In het veld klinkt de zang van *orientalis* wat lager met langere strofes die gemiddeld wat droger en meer ratelend klinken dan die van *bonelli*. Het belangrijkste verschil is de vorm van de elementen in een zangstrofe zoals zichtbaar op een sonagram. Bij *bonelli* hebben de elementen een V-vorm, terwijl dat bij *orientalis* een omgekeerde V (Λ) of een gespiegelde N (И) is. Het laatste deel van een element in de zangstrofe is bij *bonelli* een zogenaamde 'forward slash' (/), terwijl dat bij de *orientalis* een 'backslash' (\) is (zie figuur 2-3). De maximumfrequentie in de zangstrofes van *bonelli* ligt op 7200 Hz, terwijl deze bij *orientalis* wat lager ligt, op 6300 Hz. De zangstrofes bij *bonelli* bestaan gemiddeld uit negen elementen, terwijl dit er bij de *orientalis* gemiddeld 15 zijn. Ook duurt de zangstrofe bij *orientalis* gemiddeld langer dan bij *bonelli*. Deze kenmerken zijn samengevat in tabel 1. Als een zingende vogel al deze kenmerken heeft dan is een zekere determinatie mogelijk.

References

Baker, K 1997. Warblers of Europe, Asia and North Africa. London.

Beaman, M & Madge, S 1998. The handbook of bird identification for Europe and the Western Palearctic. London.

van den Berg, A B 2008. Dutch Birding-vogelnamen: lijst van West-Palearctische vogelsoorten 2008 – Dutch Birding bird names: list of Western Palearctic bird species 2008. Amsterdam.

Bergmann, H-H, Helb, H-W & Baumann, S 2008. Die Stimmen der Vögel Europas. Wiebelsheim.

Bremond, J-C 1976. Specific recognition in the song of Bonelli's Warbler (*Phylloscopus bonelli*). Behaviour 58: 99-116.

Constantine, M & The Sound Approach 2006. The sound approach to birding: a guide to understanding bird sound. Poole.

Cramp, S (editor) 1992. The birds of the Western Palearctic 6. Oxford.

van Duivendijk, N 2002. Dutch Birding kenmerkengids voor vogels van Europa, Noord-Afrika en het Midden-Oosten. Amsterdam.

Glutz von Blotzheim, U N & Bauer, K M (editors) 1991. Handbuch der Vögel Mitteleuropas 12. Wiesbaden.

Hagemeijer, E J M & Blair, M J (editors) 1997. The EBCC atlas of European breeding birds: their distribution

and abundance. London.
Hazevoet, C J & van der Schot, W E M 1986. Oostelijke Bergfluiters in Nederland in voorjaar van 1983. Dutch Birding 8: 48-52.
Helb, H-W, Bergmann, H-H & Martens, J 1982. Acoustic differences between populations of western and eastern Bonelli's Warblers (*Phylloscopus bonelli*, Sylviidae). Experientia 38: 356-357.
Helbig, A J, Seibold, I, Martens, J & Wink, M 1995. Genetic differentiation and phylogenetic relationships of Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* and Green Warbler *P nitidus*. J Avian Biol 26: 139-153.
Kirwan, G M, Boyla, K A, Castell, P, Demirci, B, Ozen, M, Welch, H & Marlow, T 2008. The birds of Turkey. London.
Jonsson, L 1992. Birds of Europe with North Africa and the Middle East. London.
Occhiato, D 2007. Western and Eastern Bonelli's Warblers in the field. Birding World 20: 303-308.
Reiser, O 1905. Materialien zu einer Ornis Balcanica 3. Wien.
Sample, G 2003. Collins field guide to warbler songs and calls of Britain and Europe. London.
Sangster, G, Hazevoet, C J, van den Berg, A B, Roselaar, C S & Sluys, R, 1999. Dutch avifaunal list: species concepts, taxonomic instability, and taxonomic changes in 1977-98. Ardea 87: 139-165.
Svensson, L, Grant, P J, Mullarney, K & Zetterström, D 1999, 2009. Collins bird guide. First, second edition. London.

Dick Groenendijk, Elzenstraat 14, 4043 PB Opheusden, Netherlands (dickgroenendijk@filternet.nl)
Teus J C Luijendijk, Laan der zeven linden 50, 2645 GS Delfgauw, Netherlands (teus.jc@tiscali.nl)

Taimyr Gulls: evidence for Pacific winter range, with notes on morphology and breeding

Klaas van Dijk, Sergei Kharitonov, Holmer Vonk & Bart Ebbinge

The Taimyr peninsula in the northern part of central Siberia, Russia, hosts a significant breeding population of gulls *Larus* that belong to the assemblage of large white-headed gulls. It is as yet unclear where these gulls spend the winter. Along with this, there is a lack of agreement about their taxonomic status. Genetic analysis has shown that they represent a distinct population, ie, with a measurable degree of genetic differentiation and without obvious introgression (Liebers 2000, Liebers et al 2001, Liebers & Helbig 2002, Liebers et al 2004). In this paper, we simply refer to this breeding population as Taimyr Gulls *L taimyrensis* (cf Filchagov et al 1992).

The lack of long-distance ring recoveries is one of the reasons for uncertainties and confusion about the wintering areas of Taimyr Gulls. Grant (1982) states that the wintering range is not known but quotes Vaurie (1965) who suggested the Caspian Sea as wintering area. Cramp & Simmons (1983) indicate that Taimyr Gulls spend the winter along the shores of the eastern Mediterranean, in the Caspian Sea area, along the Arabian Sea to western India, and partly also along coasts in eastern Africa. Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer (1982) mention that Taimyr Gulls may winter in roughly the same area but clearly state that firm data like recoveries are lacking. Both sources assume that Taimyr Gulls migrate in a south-westerly direction towards the Indian Ocean. Possible confusion in these regions with, eg, Heuglin's Gull *L heuglini* and Caspian Gull *L cachinnans* is one of the reasons for an unclear picture.

In contrast, several more recent sources state that Taimyr Gulls migrate in a south-easterly direction towards the Pacific Ocean and that they spend the winter in coastal areas between Kamchatka, Russia, and Hainan, China. Il'icev & Zubakin (1990) mention that Taimyr Gulls breeding east of western Taimyr migrate in a south-easterly direction towards the Pacific. Kennerley et al (1995) indicate that almost all large white-headed gulls wintering in Hong Kong, China, are Taimyr Gulls and they mention two long-distance ring re-

3 Taimyr Gull / Taimyrmeeuw *Larus taimyrensis*, adult in breeding colony, Bird Islands, Mys Vostochny, Taimyr, Russia, 8 July 1991 *(Jan van de Kam)*

4 Taimyr Gulls / Taimyrmeeuwen *Larus taimyrensis,* breeding pair, Bird Islands, Mys Vostochny, Taimyr, Russia, 8 July 1991 *(Jan van de Kam)*

FIGURE 1 Map of Taimyr peninsula, central Siberia, Russia

coveries, both of birds which had migrated in a south-easterly direction towards the Pacific. Del Hoyo et al (1996) indicate that Taimyr Gulls spend the winter in the same area as shown by Cramp & Simmons (1983) but they state that birds breeding on eastern Taimyr winter along the north-western Pacific as well.

In conclusion, not much is known about the precise wintering areas. We obtained new long-distance ring recoveries and the results are presented in this paper. We also present data on distribution and breeding biology and we give a description of the general appearance of adults, illustrated with photographs taken on Taimyr. It should be noted that Olsen & Larsson (2004) do not provide photographs of Taimyr Gull.

Study area and methods

The Taimyr peninsula is the northernmost region of mainland Eurasia (figure 1). It covers more than 400 000 km^2 and lies between 69°N and 77°N, and it stretches for 1000 km from the Yenisey bay (80°E) eastwards to 114°E. Almost the whole of Taimyr is situated in the tundra zone. Many international ornithological expeditions to Taimyr have been undertaken since 1989. Taimyr Gulls were

5 View over House Island, one of the Bird Islands, with large colony of 394 (2004), 412 (2005) and 340 (2006) breeding pairs of Taimyr Gull *Larus taimyrensis*, Mys Vostochny, Taimyr, Russia, 9 August 2006 *(Bram Feij)*




6 Taimyr Gull / Taimyrmeeuw *Larus taimyrensis*, adult trapped on nest, Bird Islands, Mys Vostochny, Taimyr, Russia, 22 July 2008 *(Jim de Fouw)* **7** Taimyr Gull / Taimyrmeeuw *Larus taimyrensis*, adult trapped on nest, Bird Islands, Mys Vostochny, Taimyr, Russia, 22 July 2008 *(Jim de Fouw)*. Note primary moult (p1-2 shed). **8** Taimyr Gull / Taimyrmeeuw *Larus taimyrensis*, adult in breeding colony, Mys Vostochny, Taimyr, Russia, 9 August 2006 *(Bram Feij)* **9** Taimyr Gull / Taimyrmeeuw *Larus taimyrensis*, adult in breeding colony, Mys Vostochny, Taimyr, Russia, 9 August 2006 *(Bram Feij)*

studied and ringed during many of these expeditions but often only as a side-project. Sergei Kharitonov has visited Medusa bay (73°21'N, 80°32'E) in western Taimyr, 17 km south of Dikson, several times since 1997, mainly to carry out research on geese, waders and gulls (eg, Kharitonov 2009). Bart Ebbinge has visited Mys Vostochny (in the mouth of the Pyasina river, 74°08'N, 86°43'E) in north-western Taimyr, 205 km east-northeast of Dikson, for a long-term research project on Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* in several years between 1990 and 2008 (eg, Ebbinge & Mazurov 2005-07). Klaas van Dijk (1993) and Holmer Vonk (1994) spent a breeding season at Mys Vostochny for research on waders as members of a delegation of the Foundation Working Group International Waterbird and Wetland Research (WIWO, see Vonk (2003) and van Dijk (2011)). Blood samples used in the genetic studies by Dorit Liebers refer to individuals from colonies at Mys Vostochny. The database of the Bird Ringing Centre of Russia was checked for relevant information. In addition, we used Filchagov et al (1992) and Rogacheva (1992) as general sources and checked all available reports and papers from recent expeditions. Unpublished data are incorporated as well. The description of the general appearance of adults is based on field observations and photographs of birds in the field as well as in the hand.

10 Taimyr Gull / Taimyrmeeuw *Larus taimyrensis* in breeding colony, Mys Vostochny, Taimyr, Russia, 22 June 2005 *(Vasily Grabovsky)* **11** Taimyr Gull / Taimyrmeeuw *Larus taimyrensis*, adult in breeding colony, Mys Vostochny, Taimyr, Russia, 17 July 2008 *(Laurent Demongin)* **12** Taimyr Gull / Taimyrmeeuw *Larus taimyrensis*, adult trapped on nest, Oleni islands, Medusa bay, Taimyr, Russia, 25 June 2001 *(Leon Peters)*. Record 7 in appendix 1. **13** Taimyr Gull / Taimyrmeeuw *Larus taimyrensis,* egg and chick, Bird Islands, Mys Vostochny, Taimyr, Russia, 10 July 2005 *(Raymond Klaassen)*

Results

Description of adults

Adults generally resemble Herring Gull *L argentatus* in size and shape. The upperparts coloration is darker than in Herring Gulls breeding in the Netherlands, being more similar to Yellow-legged Gulls *L michahellis* breeding in the Mediterranean. The legs are short to medium in length and rather firm. Most individuals exhibit dull yellows legs but variation is extensive, legs being pink or greyish in some individuals. The iris is pale yellow or ochre, with a variable amount of dark speckling. The orbital ring and gape are usually orange-red. The bill is relatively short, firm and rather blunt with a weak gonydeal angle and with an extensive red gonys spot restricted to the lower mandible. The wing pattern usually shows an isolated mirror in a largely black p10, relatively small apical spots to the outer primaries and dark markings extending to p4. There are some indications (Willems et al 2002; Pierre Yésou in litt) that adults at Medusa bay exhibit, on average, a darker mantle than birds at Mys Vostochny. In late June 2001, breeding adults at Medusa bay had started primary moult (p1-2 shed). Details on morphometric characters of 24 ringed individuals (23 adults, 1 subadult) are presented in appendix 1. See Musch & Tinbergen (1996) for video images taken at Mys Vostochny in 1994-95 and see plate 21 (page 149)

in Kennerley et al (1995) for a colour photograph of adults in a breeding colony in the estuary of the Nizhnyaya Taimyra river taken in 1990.

Adults show variation in several field characters but assortative mating with regard to leg colour or any other characteristic was not observed during a detailed study at Mys Vostochny (Grabovsky 1991), and neither in various other colonies visited all over Taimyr (Filchagov et al 1992, Yésou 2002). In more recent years, there were also no indications for assortative mating in the colonies at Medusa bay and at Mys Vostochny (including 2008; Roeland Bom & Jim de Fouw pers comm). This means that we have no indications that two species breed on Taimyr (contra, eg, del Hoyo et al 1996).

Distribution and numbers on Taimyr

Taimyr Gulls breed all over Taimyr in colonies on islands along the coast, in inland areas along rivers and near lakes with islands and rocky outcrops, and in low densities on the tundra near small ponds. Filchagov et al (1992) estimated that 10 000-12 000 pairs breed on Taimyr with concentrations on islands in the estuary of the Nizhnyaya Taimyra river (c 1200 pairs) and on islands near Mys Vostochny. The islands near Mys Vostochny harbour the largest known colony with up to 2518 breeding pairs, counted in 2004. At least 180 pairs were counted in colonies along the eastern shore of the Yenisey bay around Medusa bay in 1999 (Willems et al 2002). A small island at Middendorf bay in northern Taimyr held a breeding colony of 100+ pairs in 1994 (Åke Lindström in litt). Highest numbers reported from eastern Taimyr are c 40 pairs around Pronchishcheva lake (75°16'N, 112°28'E) in 1991 (Spiekman & Groen 1993, Schekkerman & van Roomen 1995). Prokosch & Hötker (1995) mentioned that many birds were present nearly everywhere along the coast eastwards from Shturmanov (76°00'N, 96°30'E) in the second half of July 1989, but numbers were not indicated.

Phenology on Taimyr

Arrival at the breeding sites always preceded arrival of the expeditions, which never arrived before 1 June. Breeding colonies are occupied yearly, but the gulls can only breed successfully in colonies on islands which are out of reach of Arctic Foxes *Alopex lagopus*. Lemming *Lemmus sibiricus/Dicrostonyx torquatus* is the main food item of the gulls and the number of breeding pairs is higher in lemming peak years. In 2006, a year with very few lemmings, 1503 occupied nests were counted on 15 islands at Mys Vostochny, 76% of the number of nests found on the same islands in 2005, a lemming peak year. In 1990, an intermediate lemming year, the first egg was found on 10 June and it was deduced from hatching that the first egg had been laid on 8 June (Grabovsky 1991, Filchagov et al 1992). Between 5 and 12 July 2006, the mean clutch size at Mys Vostochny was 2.34, based on 1861 nests with at least one egg. In that year, the first egg hatching was registered on 11 July (326 checked nests) and six nests with hatching eggs were found on the next day (186 checked nests). In 2001, a year with very few lemmings, breeding phenology was intensively studied at Medusa bay. On 11 June, one completed nest and six initiated nests were found, and hatching started on 11 July. This all means that chicks born on Taimyr will be able to fly from around 10 August if we assume a fledging period of at least one month (Cramp & Simmons 1983).

We have no firm data on the timing of departure from Taimyr. On 12 August 1993, 350 (two subadults, all others adults) were counted around the rubbish dump at Dikson. In 2000, southwards migration at Medusa bay was observed from 28 July onwards. Peters (2006) noted a sudden and strong southward movement at Medusa bay on 29 July 2001, which may have involved failed breeders. Obvious southward migration of 10s of gulls per hour was observed again from 3 August onwards.

Ringing activities on Taimyr

Between 1977 and 2008, c 750 Taimyr Gulls (c 680 chicks, c 75 adults and a subadult) were ringed with the majority at Mys Vostochny (c 465 chicks, c 42 adults and a subadult). Almost all adults were trapped on the nest. The adults were colour-ringed in 1995 (15 with red colour-rings with four digits), in 2005 (two) and in 2008 (c 12). At Medusa bay, 32 adults were trapped on the nest in 2001-02 and marked with orange wing-tags. In 1977, c 20 chicks were ringed in the lower streams of the Bikada river, east of Lake Taimyr. Another 51 chicks were ringed in the estuary of the Nizhnyaya Taimyra river in 1990 (Prokosch & Hötker 1995). Finally, 143 chicks were ringed at Middendorf bay in 1994 (Grönlund & Melander 1995). As far as we know, no other significant ringing activities have taken place on Taimyr. Birds ringed in 1977 and after 2000 have been provided with metal rings issued by the Bird Ringing Centre of Russia (MOSKWA). Metal rings from foreign ringing schemes were used in 1990 (HELGOLAND GERMANIA), 1991 (GDANSK POLAND),

14 Taimyr Gull / Taimyrmeeuw *Larus taimyrensis*, adult in breeding colony, Mys Vostochny, Taimyr, Russia, 13 July 2007 *(Gerard Müskens)*

15 Taimyr Gulls / Taimyrmeeuwen *Larus taimyrensis*, adults in breeding colony, Mys Vostochny, Taimyr, Russia, 17 July 2008 *(Laurent Demongin)*

TABLE 1 Details of long-distance ring recoveries of Taimyr Gulls *Larus taimyrensis* ringed as chick (1-5) or as breeding adult (6) on Taimyr peninsula, Russia. Distances and directions based on constant geographical courses (loxodromes).

Ring number	Ringing date Recovery date	Ringing place Finding place and finding circumstances
1 MOSKWA D 435871	30 July 1977	Bikada river mouth, eastern Taimyr, Krasnoyarsk territory, Russia (74°50'N, 105°30'E)
	5 November 1977	Ribnovsk, Okha district, Sakhalin province, Russia (53°15'N, 141°48'E); found dead, hit by wires, reported as gull, ring sent back; 2864 km south-east (145°)
2 RADOLFZELL JC 35419	5 August 1994	Bird Islands, Mys Vostochny, north-western Taimyr, Krasnoyarsk territory, Russia (74°06'N, 86°25'E)
	September 1996	Zavyalova island, Magadan province, Russia (59°02'N, 150°34'E); dead, found beached, no species indicated, ring sent back; 3067 km east-south-east (121°)
3 RADOLFZELL JC 35470	10 August 1994	Bird Islands, Mys Vostochny, north-western Taimyr, Krasnoyarsk territory, Russia (74°06'N, 86°25'E)
	28 September 1994	Adnikan river mouth, near Chegdomyn, Khabarovsk territory, Russia (51°06'N, 133°00'E); found dead, reported as gull, ring sent back; 3331 km south-east (139°)
4 STOCKHOLM 90A 16664	16 August 1994	Middendorf bay, northern Taimyr, Krasnoyarsk territory, Russia (75°58'N, 94°09'E)
	19 October 1994	Tit Ary along Lena river, Yakutia republic, Russia (61°15'N, 127°45'E); dead, shot, reported as 'Herring Gull', ring not sent back; 2049 km south-east (141°)
5 STOCKHOLM 9146452	16 August 1994	Middendorf bay, northern Taimyr, Krasnoyarsk territory, Russia (75°58'N, 94°09'E)
	16 September 1995	Grafsky Bereg village, near Lena river, Yakutia republic, Russia (62°48'N, 129°41'E); dead, shot, reported as goose, ring not sent back; 1964 km south-east (137°)
6 MOSKWA DS 00xxxx orange wing-tag	25-28 June 2001	Oleni islands, Medusa bay, western Taimyr, Krasnoyarsk territory, Russia (73°22'N, 80°26'E)
	December 2001-February 2002	near Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Sakhalin province, Russia (46°52'N, 142°45'E); sight record of bird with orange wing-tag, reported as 'Herring Gull'; 4228 km south-east (132°)

1993-94 (RADOLFZELL GERMANIA), 1994 (STOCKHOLM SWEDEN, Middendorf bay) and 1995 (COPENHAGEN DENMARK). Note that almost 40% of the gulls were ringed in 1994, a lemming peak year, with 143 chicks ringed on 16 August at Middendorf bay and 150 chicks ringed between 5 and 10 August at Mys Vostochny. Almost all of these chicks had nearly fledged.

Adults breeding at Medusa bay show a strong site fidelity to their breeding colonies and two marked adults were recorded many times in Dikson. There are no records of birds moving from colonies at Mys Vostochny to colonies at Medusa bay, or vice versa. A colour-ringed bird known as 'Red K015', trapped as breeding adult on the nest in 1995, was still recorded as a breeding bird at Mys Vostochny in 2006.

Long-distance ring recoveries

Up to the end of 2010, the ringing activities have yielded six long-distance recoveries (table 1, figure 2; one sighting of a wing-tagged bird and five reports of birds found dead). Note that the recovery circumstances, including the date of recovery, of some might be less precise than shown in the table. Three birds (record 3-5) were reported from inland areas during autumn migration. Two of them (4-5) were recovered along the middle part of the Lena river near Yakutsk, a region where gulls do not winter. The recovery site of record 3, along a tributary of the Amur river and 400 km from the coast, is also unsuitable for wintering gulls. This individual was recovered 49 days after ringing and had flown 3331 km. Three birds were recovered from the surroundings of the Sea of Okhotsk. One (record 2) came from an island

south of Magadan in September and was reported as a beached corpse (species not indicated), with an inaccurate finding date. Two (record 1 and 6) were reported from Sakhalin. The first (1) was reported as having flown into wires on 5 November, 98 days after ringing, near Ribnovsk, close to the sea shore. The second (6) refers to a wing-tagged gull seen in southern Sakhalin, based on information sent by a hunter to the Bird Ringing Centre of Russia that a 'Herring Gull' with wing-tags was seen in the winter of 2001/02. More details are not available. We are not aware of other large white-headed gulls marked with orange or red wing tags in this part of Asia at that time. Japanese researchers, however, had just started a project on Black-tailed Gull *L crassirostris* breeding on islands in northern Japan close to Sakhalin, and they used red (Teuri island) and pale blue (Rishiri island) wing-tags with numbers in 2001, so confusion may have been possible. There are also two observations of Taimyr Gulls wearing a metal ring which could not be read (completely), an adult photographed in Pohang, South Korea, on 15 November 2001 (Michiaki Ujihara in litt), and a second calendar-year bird with a MOSKWA ring photographed at Choshi, Japan, in February 2007 (Andreas Buchheim in litt; one of 106 chicks ringed at Mys Vostochny in 2006).

The number of recoveries is low but they show a strongly coherent pattern, indicating that Taimyr Gulls spend the winter along the Pacific coast of Asia.

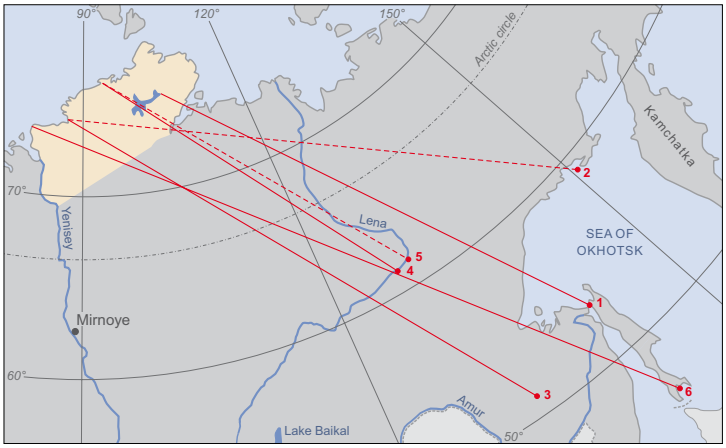


FIGURE 2 Recovery sites of Taimyr Gulls *Larus taimyrensis* ringed on Taimyr peninsula, Russia. Numbers refer to table 1; direct recoveries with solid line, indirect recoveries with broken line.

Discussion

Migration route

The Bay of Bengal is situated due south of Taimyr but neither Cramp & Simmons (1983), del Hoyo et al (1996) nor Olsen & Larsson (2004) indicate that large white-headed gulls winter in substantial numbers in this area. This is supported by recent observations (Andreas Buchheim in litt, but see Li et al 2009). It is likely that the Himalayan mountains and the huge deserts north of it are a blockade for a direct north-south flyway for Taimyr Gulls. Moreover, all recoveries point at a south-easterly migration towards the wintering area. Three recoveries reveal that Taimyr Gulls occur inland during migration and all show that birds migrate to the wintering area by crossing the mainland of Asia. In particular record 4, a direct recovery of a first-winter bird in October, is a clear demonstration of this migration pattern. A similar route is also very likely for record 3, a direct recovery of a first-winter bird from an inland area in September, and for record 1, a direct recovery of a first-winter bird in early November. Rogacheva (1992) presents data on visible migration of 'Herring Gulls' near Mirnoye (62°18'N, 89°01'E), along the Yenisey river, 1300 km south-southeast of Dikson. During spring migration, 1000-2000 gulls were recorded yearly between 9-11 May and 3-5 June, with a peak in the last decade of May. Intensive autumn migration was seen on 27-28 September (1978) and on 12-15 October (1979). Gulls migrating along Mirnoye will pass the region of Lake Baikal and thus spend the winter in areas along the Pacific, as this route is the shortest and easiest way for migrating gulls towards a favourable wintering area. The most likely explanation is that the migrants at Mirnoye are Taimyr Gulls. Furthermore, Taimyr Gulls seen migrating southwards along Medusa bay in late-July and August could well concern individuals using the same migration route.

To sum up, the available information indicates that Taimyr Gulls fly overland in a south-easterly direction towards the wintering area. It is very well possible that many individuals migrate along large rivers like the Yenisey and the Lena towards the Pacific.

Wintering areas

Several members of the assemblage of large white-headed gulls spend the winter along coasts of the north-western Pacific between the Bering Street in the north and Hainan in the south (Olsen & Larsson 2004, Li et al 2009), and our recoveries support sources like Il'icev & Zubakin (1990), Kennerley et al (1995), del Hoyo et al (1996), Lee et al (2000) and Shimba (2007) that Taimyr Gulls also winter in this region. The recoveries (figure 2) indicate that the Sea of Okhotsk might be an important wintering area but it is unclear whether this is indeed the case. Slaty-backed Gull *L schistisagus* is a common resident in this harsh region and Glaucous Gull *L hyperboreus* is a common winter visitor to the Sea of Okhotsk (Il'icev & Zubakin, 1990, del Hoyo et al 1996, Olsen & Larsson 2004). Furthermore, a large area of the Sea of Okhotsk is part of the winter range of the population of Vega Gull *L (vegae) vegae* breeding east of the Lena river (Olsen & Larsson 2004, see also Il'icev & Zubakin 1990). However, identification problems combined with a lack of ornithologists visiting large areas of the Sea of Okhotsk during winter (Kondratyev et al 2000, Li et al 2009) make it impossible to conclude if indeed significant numbers of Taimyr Gulls spend the winter here.

We consulted Nial Moores and Michiaki Ujihara and both independently concluded (in litt) that what they call *taimyrensis* looks very similar to Taimyr Gulls photographed on Taimyr, based on similarity in structure, mantle colour and coloration of bare parts (see also Moores (2003) and Ujihara & Ujihara (2008)). Nial Moores noted that *taimyrensis* shows distinct differences in comparison with Vega Gull and Mongolian Gull *L (vegae) mongolicus* with regard to moult patterns and head streaking and in behaviour (cf Yésou 2001), and that first-winter birds and immatures can be easily distinguished as well. He considers *taimyrensis* a typical autumn and spring migrant in coastal waters around Korea, arriving in late September or early October, with a peak in October and in early November, and peaking again in March-April. Nial Moores stated that *taimyrensis* is a rather pelagic gull, feeding in large unmixed flocks around fishing boats in Korean waters of the Yellow Sea in March-April. Nial Moores indicated that the majority does not spend the winter in Korea but in areas further south and he roughly estimated that the total number spending the non-breeding season along the north-western coasts of the Pacific runs in the lower 10 000s. This estimate does not differ widely from the population size indicated by Filchagov et al (1992). Furthermore, Kennerley et al (1995) stated that Taimyr Gull is by far the most numerous large white-headed gull wintering in Hong Kong, usually present between late October and late March.

During mid-winter, large white-headed gulls are relatively common in coastal areas in southern Korea and along the coast of China between the Yellow Sea and Hainan, including Taiwan (eg, Li et al 2009). Both Vega Gull and Mongolian Gull are regarded as rather common but there are no long-distance recoveries of Vega Gull, due to a lack of ringing in the breeding areas. In contrast, the Bird Ringing Centre of Russia has many recoveries of Mongolian Gulls, ringed by Sergey Pyzhyanov and co-workers at Lake Baikal (figure 3). Many recoveries are from coastal areas around the Yellow Sea, five birds were recovered from the direct surroundings of the Sea of Okhotsk, and some others were from sites in a direction towards the Sea of Okhotsk. These recoveries and recent observations in southern Korea of three wing-tagged Mongolian Gulls from breeding colonies in north-eastern Mongolia (Vogelwarte 45: 73, 2007) confirm that Mongolian Gull is a common visitor to coastal areas in China and Korea during the non-breeding season (contra Collinson et al (2008), but in support of Moores (2003) and Moores et al (2009)). Recent sightings of six other wing-tagged Mongolian Gulls (Andreas Buchheim in litt) underscore these findings. No ringed Mongolian Gulls have been recovered from Hong Kong and surroundings, with the nearest recovery 350 km north-east of Hong Kong. The lack of recoveries from coastal areas around the South China Sea fits with findings of Kennerley et al (1995) that Mongolian Gull is a scarce visitor to Hong Kong, outnumbered by Taimyr Gull by more than 20:1.

Taimyr Gulls in Japan

Recent sources disagree about the current status of Taimyr Gull in Japan. Fujimaki et al (2000) and Lee et al (2000) state that Taimyr Gull does not occur in Japan but Olsen & Larsson (2004), on the other hand, suggest that they probably mainly winter in Japan. Ujihara & Ujihara (2008) present several photographs, all taken in Japan. Hoogendoorn et al (1996) have made detailed studies of large white-headed gulls wintering in southern Japan. They showed that c 5-10% must be attributed to Taimyr Gull and they stated that Taimyr Gull occurs less regularly in more northern regions during winter. Gibbins (2003) studied large white-headed gulls wintering at Choshi near Tokyo, and concluded that c 5% fell outside the range of Vega Gull and Mongolian Gull and very

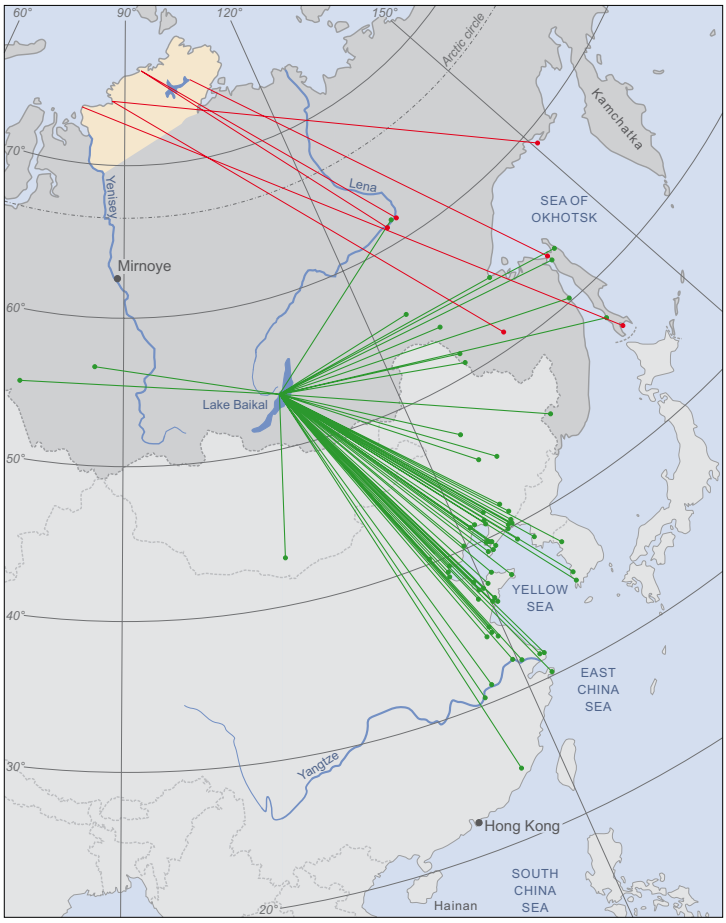


FIGURE 3 Ringing and recovery sites of Taimyr Gulls *Larus taimyrensis* (red lines, see figure 2 for details) and recovery sites of Mongolian Gulls *L (vega) mongolicus* ringed at Lake Baikal, Siberia, Russia (green lines; source: Bird Ringing Centre of Russia)

likely had to be attributed to Taimyr Gull. Besides that, Hoogendoorn et al (1996) suggested that Mongolian Gull is probably scarcer in Japan than Taimyr Gull, which is supported by the recoveries in figure 3, as to date no gull ringed at Lake Baikal has been recovered in Japan. None of the wing-tagged Mongolian Gulls has been observed in Japan either (Andreas Buchheim in litt).

Conclusions and further research

Our ring recoveries indicate that Taimyr Gulls spend the winter in coastal areas in the north-western Pacific and that they cross the mainland of Asia in a south-easterly direction when migrating from the breeding grounds towards the wintering areas. The number of recoveries is low but this is, eg, also the case for almost all species of waders breeding on Taimyr (Tomkovich et al 2000). We have some indications, but no ring recoveries, that Taimyr Gulls might predominantly winter in a quite mild environment, most likely in coastal areas of the East China Sea and the South China Sea. More observations of birds marked on Taimyr and more insight in the winter ecology are needed to establish its core winter range and to get a better picture of the migration route.

Furthermore, observations of marked birds are necessary to clarify if Taimyr Gulls also spend the winter in coastal areas around the Arabian Sea, or elsewhere along a south-westerly flyway. Recent sources indicate that gulls resembling Taimyr Gulls spend the winter in low numbers in southern Iran (Scott 2007) and Bahrain (Yésou & Hirschfeld 1997). The same may be true for the small number of unidentified large white-headed gulls seen at Okha, western India, described and depicted in Buchheim (2006).

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to all those who were involved in the organisation and logistics or helped obtaining data in the field. The Dutch government gave prolonged financial support to many expeditions to Taimyr. The manuscript greatly benefited from the help of, in particular, Roeland Bom, Andreas Buchheim, Fred Cottaar, Jim de Fouw, Ted Hoogendoorn, Peter de Knijff, Åke Lindström, Nial Moores, Rudy Offereins, Leon Peters, Norman van Swelm, Michiaka Ujihara, Ruud Vlek, Rik Winters and Pierre Yésou. Joop-Niek IJnsen kindly prepared the maps. All photographers are acknowledged for the permission to use their photographs.

Samenvatting

TAIMYRMEEUWEN: BEWIJZEN VOOR PACIFISCH OVERWINTERINGSGEBIED EN GEGEVENS OVER MORFOLOGIE EN BROEDEN Taimyrmeeuwen *Larus taimyrensis* zijn grote witkoppige meeuwen die broeden op het Taimyrschiereiland in het uiterste noorden van Centraal-Siberië, Rusland (figuur 1). Het is niet goed bekend waar ze overwinteren. Oorzaken zijn een gebrek aan terugmeldingen en onzekerheid over herkenning buiten de broedgebieden. Daarom wordt een korte beschrijving gegeven van het uiterlijk, geïllustreerd met foto's uit het broedgebied, en wordt kort ingegaan op het voorkomen op Taimyr.

Tussen 1977 en 2008 werden c 750 Taimyrmeeuwen op Taimyr geringd en er zijn tot en met 2010 zes terugmeldingen bekend van elders (tabel 1). De terugmeldingen duiden op een zuidoostelijke trekroute en op de noordwestelijke Pacifische kust als overwinteringsgebied (figuur 2). De resultaten zijn niet in overeenstemming met suggesties in oude handboeken dat Taimyrmeeuwen naar het zuidwesten vliegen en rond het Arabische schiereiland, langs de Kaspische Zee of in Oost-Afrika overwinteren. Verwarring met Heuglins Meeuw *L heuglini* en met Pontische Meeuw *L cachinnans* ligt hieraan ten grondslag. Het aantal terugmeldingen is laag en daarom is niet uitgesloten dat sommige Taimyrmeeuwen elders overwinteren. Foto's uit de broedgebieden zijn bestudeerd door ornithologen in Oost-Azië. Dat leidde tot de conclusie dat meeuwen die zij *taimyrensis* noemen sterk lijken op de broedvogels van Taimyr en dat het om dezelfde populatie moet gaan. In de discussie wordt ingegaan op een meer precieze omgrenzing van het wintergebied. Er is nauwelijks iets bekend over de winterecologie van Taimyrmeeuwen en veel ogenschijnlijk geschikte gebieden in Oost-Azië worden niet of nauwelijks bezocht door ornithologen. Een vergelijking wordt gemaakt met trekpatronen en wintergebieden van Mongoolse Meeuw *L (vegae) mongolicus* (figuur 3) en er blijken aanwijzingen te zijn dat Taimyrmeeuwen vermoedelijk verder zuidelijk overwinteren, wellicht vooral langs de kusten van de Oost-Chinese Zee en Zuid-Chinese Zee. Waarnemingen van gemerkte vogels zijn nodig om dit vermoeden te bevestigen. Hetzelfde geldt voor het al dan niet vaststellen van het overwinteren van een deel van de populatie langs de kusten van het Arabische schiereiland.

References

Buchheim, A 2006. Adult large white-headed gulls at Okha. Birding Asia 5: 40-53.

Collinson, M, Parkin, D, Knox, A, Sangster, G & Svensson, L 2008. Species boundaries in the Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gull complex. Br Birds 101: 340-363.

Cramp, S & Simmons, K (editors) 1983. The birds of the Western Palearctic 3. Oxford.

van Dijk, K 2011. Breeding ecology of waders and other birds at Mys Vostochny in 1993. WIWO-report 88. Nijmegen.

Ebbinge, B & Mazurov, Y 2005-07. Pristine wilderness of the Taimyr peninsula. Report 2004-06. Moscow.

Filchagov, A, Yésou, P & Grabovsky, V 1992. Le Goéland du Taïmyr: répartition et biologie estivales. L'Oiseau et RFO 62: 128-148.

Fujimaki, Y, Kawaji, N, Morioka, H, Urano, E & Yanagisawa, N 2000. Check-list of Japanese birds. Sixth edition. Tokyo.

Gibbins, C 2003. Identification of adult Vega Gull: field observations from Japan, February 2003. Website: www.surfbirds.com. [Accessed 23 November 2008.]

Glutz von Blotzheim, U & Bauer, K (editors) 1982. Handbuch der Vögel Mitteleuropas 8/I. Wiesbaden.

Grabovsky, V 1991. [On the breeding of Herring Gulls in the Pyasina river mouth]. Mat 10th Ornithol Conf Minsk 2 (1): 164-165. [In Russian.]

Grant, P J 1982. Gulls: a guide to identification. Calton.

Grönlund, E & Melander, O 1995. Swedish-Russian tundra ecology expedition 1994. Report. Stockholm.

Hoogendoorn, W, Moores, N & Morioka, T 1996. [The occurrence and field identification of adult Herring Gulls with yellow legs in Japan.] Birder 10: 64-73; 99. [In Japanese.]

del Hoyo, J, Elliott, A & Sargatal, J (editors) 1996. Handbook of the birds of the world 3. Barcelona.

Il'icev, V & Zubakin, V 1990. Handbuch der Vögel der Sowjetunion 6/1. Wittenberg.

Kennerley, P, Hoogendoorn, W & Chalmers, M 1995. Identification and systematics of large white-headed gulls in Hong Kong. Hong Kong Bird Rep 1994: 127-156.

Kharitonov, S 2009. Breeding site fidelity and foraging pattern in Taimyr Gull in the Medusa bay vicinities. Mat Scien Conf Problems of animal study and protection in the north Syktyvkar: 221-222.

Kondratyev, A, Litvinenko, N & Kaiser, G 2000. Seabirds of the Russian Far East. Report. Ottawa.

Lee, W, Koo, T & Park, J 2000. A field guide to the birds of Korea. Seoul.

Li, D, Bloem, A, Delany, S, Martakis, G & Quintero, J 2009. Status of waterbirds in Asia in 1987-2007. Wetlands International report. Kuala Lumpur.

Liebers, D 2000. Phylogeographische Differenzierung und Verwandtschaftsbeziehungen von Großmöwen. PhD-thesis. Greifswald.

Liebers, D, Helbig, A & de Knijff, P 2001. Genetic differentiation and phylogeography of gulls in the *Larus cachinnans-fuscus* group. Mol Ecol 10: 2447-2462.

Liebers, D & Helbig, A 2002. Phylogeography and colonization history of Lesser Black-backed Gulls as revealed by mtDNA sequences. J Evol Biol 15: 1021-1033.

Liebers, D, de Knijff, P & Helbig, A 2004. The Herring Gull complex is not a ring species. Proc R Soc Lond B 271: 893-901.

Moores, N 2003. A consideration of the Herring Gull assemblage in South Korea. Website: www.birdskorea.org. [Accessed 31 January 2008.]

Moores, N, Park J & Kim, A 2009. The Birds Korea checklist 2009. Busan.

Musch, J & Tinbergen, T 1996. Onze Rotgans in Siberië. Video. Wageningen.

Olsen, K M & Larsson, H 2004. Gulls of Europe, Asia and North America. Second edition. London.

Peters, L 2006. Bird migration at Medusa bay in June-August 2001. Student report. Groningen.

Prokosch, P & Hötker, H 1995. Faunistik und Naturschutz auf Taimyr. Corax 16: 1-264.

Rogacheva, H 1992. The birds of central Siberia. Husum.

Schekkerman, H & van Roomen, M 1995. Breeding waders at Pronchishcheva Lake in 1991. WIWO-report 55. Zeist.

Scott, D 2007. A note on large white-headed gulls in Iran. Podoces 2: 143-145.
Shimba, T 2007. A photographic guide to the birds of Japan and north-east Asia. London.
Spiekman, H & Groen, N 1993. Breeding performance of arctic waders in relation to lemming densities in 1992. WIWO-report 33. Zeist.
Tomkovich, P, Lappo, E & Syroechokovski, E 2000. Ringing and migratory links of Taimyr waders. Heritage of the Russian Arctic: 458-475.
Ujihara, O & Ujihara, M 2008. Japanese Gull Site. Website: www23.tok2.com/home/jgull/gullidentifi_.htm. [Accessed 20 November 2008.]
Vaurie, C 1965. The birds of the Palearctic fauna. A systematic reference. Non-Passeriformes. London.
Vonk, H 2003. Breeding birds at Mys Vostochny in 1994. WIWO-report 52. Zeist.
Willems, F, van Turnhout, C, van Kleef, H & Felix, R 2002. Breeding birds of Medusa bay in 1998 and 1999. WIWO-report 77. Zeist.
Yésou, P 2001. Phenotypic variation and systematics of Mongolian Gull. Dutch Birding 23: 65-82.
Yésou, P 2002. Systematics of *Larus argentatus-cachinnans-fuscus* complex revisited. Dutch Birding 24: 271-298.
Yésou, P & Hirschfeld, E 1997. Which large gulls from the *Larus fuscus-cachinnans-argentatus* complex occur in Bahrein? Sandgrouse 19: 111-121.

Klaas van Dijk, WIWO, Vermeerstraat 48, 9718 SN Groningen, Netherlands (klaas.vdijk@hetnet.nl)
Sergei Kharitonov, Bird Ringing Centre of Russia, Moscow 117312, Russia (serpkh@gmail.com)
Holmer Vonk, WIWO, Begoniastraat 1, 6982 CT Doesburg, Netherlands (holmerv@xs4all.nl)
Bart Ebbinge, Alterra, Postbus 47, 6700 AA Wageningen, Netherlands (bart.ebbinge@wur.nl)

APPENDIX 1 Morphometric characters of 24 Taimyr Gulls *Larus taimyrensis* (23 adults, 1 subadult) trapped on Taimyr peninsula, Russia, in 1990-2005. Wing measured as maximum chord, bill from tip to start of feathering, tarsus by bending toes back to c 90° and from this bend to notch on back of intertarsal joint. Weight in grams, other measurements in mm. Coloration of iris is estimate of % dark on pale yellow basis. V = Mys Vostochny, M = Medusa bay, 5-22 trapped by SK on nest on Oleni islands (measurements taken by Oscar Langevoord and Leon Peters); 1-3 from Prokosch & Hötker (1995); 4 accidently caught in trap for foxes; 2 aged as third calendar-year (all others as after third calendar-year). Ringing schemes: DFH = HELGOLAND GERMANIA, DFR = RADOLFZELL GERMANIA, RUM = RUSSIA MOSKWA.

Site		Ringing scheme	Ring number	Date	Wing	Bill	Total head	Tarsus	Weight	Iris	Leg colour
V	1	DFH	3091601	29 June 1990	454	–	126	–	935	–	–
V	2	DFH	3091602	29 June 1990	468	57.8	138	–	1380	–	–
V	3	DFH	3091603	29 June 1990	430	50.5	122	–	–	–	–
V	4	DFR	JC 28951	8 June 1993	443	49.3	–	68.4	880	–	yellow
M	5	RUM	DS 006501	25 June 2001	465	59.4	134	69.6	1010	–	–
M	6	RUM	DS 006502	25 June 2001	452	53.5	124	69.3	970	–	–
M	7	RUM	DS 006503	25 June 2001	465	55.3	133	74.8	1240	–	–
M	8	RUM	DS 006504	25 June 2001	485	56.0	135	70.9	1110	–	yellowish
M	9	RUM	DS 006505	25 June 2001	425	51.1	118	66.7	870	–	yellow
M	10	RUM	DS 006506	25 June 2001	450	54.2	124	64.2	880	–	yellow
M	11	RUM	DS 006507	25 June 2001	425	51.6	127	68.5	1000	–	pinkish
M	12	RUM	DS 006508	25 June 2001	440	55.6	132	63.5	1050	–	orangy
M	13	RUM	DS 006509	26 June 2001	440	54.0	123	66.6	1000	–	yellow
M	14	RUM	DS 006510	26 June 2001	460	60.6	138	67.6	1120	95%	yellow-flesh
M	15	RUM	DS 006511	26 June 2001	455	55.0	121	67.0	930	10%	yellow
M	16	RUM	DS 006512	26 June 2001	435	48.0	121	72.0	1060	40%	yellow
M	17	RUM	DS 006513	26 June 2001	420	49.3	118	64.9	920	<5%	yellow-orange
M	18	RUM	DS 006514	26 June 2001	445	52.3	123	64.7	990	10%	yellow
M	19	RUM	DS 006515	26 June 2001	435	51.8	123	63.8	940	<5%	yellow; webs pink
M	20	RUM	DS 006516	26 June 2001	440	51.5	124	70.3	1060	70%	yellow; webs orange
M	21	RUM	DS 006517	26 June 2001	440	51.3	123	66.2	1020	<2%	yellow
M	22	RUM	DS 006518	28 June 2001	445	51.0	118	62.0	1130	80%	yellow
V	23	RUM	ES 010594	6 July 2005	440	53.5	–	–	1050	–	–
V	24	RUM	ES 010592	7 July 2005	472	52.7	–	–	1200	–	–
		Mean (both sexes combined)			447	53.3	126	67.4	1030		
		SD			16.2	3.2	6.4	3.3	124		
		N			24	23	21	19	23		

Birding in Brazil: Alta Floresta region

Alexander C Lees

Kôh... kôh... kôh... kôh... the melancholic cries of a Cryptic Forest-falcon *Micrastur mintoni* pierce the twilight of a Southern Amazon dawn. The first shards of light erupt from behind distant serras and the falcon – a new species to science only recently described (Whittaker 2002) – is joined in chorus by a medley of rare, exotic and little-known species, including Black-girdled Barbet *Capito dayi*, Brazilian Tinamou *Crypturellus strigulosus*, Tooth-billed Wren *Odontorchilus cinereus*, Brown-banded Puffbird *Notharchus ordii*, Variegated Antpitta *Grallaria varia* and Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak *Parkerthraustes humeralis*. Standing atop the 50 m rainforest tower at the Cristalino Jungle Lodge, the view over the rainforest stretching in every direction is second to none. As the sun begins to burn off the morning mist, the rising temperatures act as a catalyst to bird activity – a mischievous group of Curl-crested Aracaris *Pteroglossus beauharnaesii* land right next to the tower to gorge on *Cecropia* fruit; a handsome male Spangled Cotinga *Cotinga cayana* stands sentinel atop an emergent *Jacaranda* tree, a troop of White-whiskered Spider Monkeys *Ateles belzebuth marginatus* sunbathe, whilst a pair of Double-toothed Kites *Harpagus bidentatus* wait for the lazy simians to start foraging and flush their breakfast. A canopy flock appears from nowhere and suddenly the trees surrounding the tower are awash with an eclectic mix of foliage-gleaners, woodpeckers, antwrens, tanagers, woodcreepers and flycatchers before they vanish out of sight in a blur of sight and sound... Welcome to Alta Floresta – and to birding in Brazil!

Birding in Brazil

Brazil, the world's fifth largest country, is huge (c 8.5 million km^2), covering almost 50% of the land surface of South America. Brazil is one of the richest birding countries in the world, with a list of

16 View from canopy tower at Cristalino Jungle Lodge, Rio Cristalino, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, 28 May 2005 *(Alexander C Lees)*

17 Harpy Eagle / Harpij *Harpia harpyja*, Rio Santa Helena, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, 11 July 2006 *(Alexander C Lees)*
18 Long-billed Woodcreeper / Langsnavelmuisspecht *Nasica longirostris*, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, November 2006 *(Hadoram Shirihai)*. Contributed from forthcoming *Photographic handbook to birds of the world* (Jornvall & Shirihai, A&C Black).
19 Fragmented landscape, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, 25 July 2006 *(Alexander C Lees)*. Typical landscape setting along 'Arc of Deforestation', with numerous forest isolates and limited degree of connectivity afforded by riparian forest corridors.

1700-1800 bird species (depending on taxonomic treatment), comprising almost 20% of all bird species on earth. They cover c 72 families and include 180-200 endemics (again depending on taxonomic treatment).

Brazil's human population is concentrated in the major cities along the Atlantic coast. The megacities Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo dominate the south-eastern coast. Further north, towns like Salvador retain the colonial atmosphere of the early Portuguese settlers. However, the interior, or almost half of Brazil's territory, remains sparsely settled cloaked in the tropical rainforests of the Amazon basin.

A full introduction to birding in such a diverse country would not fit in one issue of Dutch Birding and is far beyond the scope of this paper. Instead, it focuses on one of the best but also most threatened areas for Amazonian forest birding, the Alta Floresta region in northern Mato Grosso.

Good starting points for general information on birding in Brazil on the internet are, eg, www.fatbirder.com/links_geo/america_south/brazil.html, www.camacdonald.com/birding/sabrazil.htm and www.rick-simpson.com/jeremy-minns-site-notes. As the definite field guide for Brazil has still not been published, travellers are advised to bring several, such as (partly depending on the region you intend to visit) Restall et al (2006), Rodriguez Mata et al (2006), van Perlo (2009), Ridgely & Tudor (2009) and Schulenberg et al (2009). Many sound recordings of Brazilian birds can be found in Boesman (2006), with recordings of c 1000 species, and Marantz & Zimmer (2006), with additional recordings available on, eg, www.xeno-canto.org.

Amazonian forests

The forests of the Amazon basin contain c 41% of the world's remaining tropical rainforest: c 6.2 million km^2 (c 82% of their original extent), accruing 15% of global photosynthesis and perhaps a quarter of global terrestrial biodiversity (Phillips et al 1998, Soares Filho et al 2006, Field et al 2008). Recent estimates indicate that at a minimum the Amazon basin contains 427 mammal, 1294 bird, 378 reptile, 427 amphibian, c 3000 fish and c 40 000 plant species (Rylands et al 2002). The Amazon is currently experiencing the world's highest absolute rate of forest destruction – nearly two million hectares per year. However, the region has relatively few restricted range or threatened species and some authors have suggested that the Amazonian biota is relatively homogenous and that existing protected areas will suffice to protect the region's biodiversity (eg, Fjeldså & Rahbek 1998). This assumption is, however, extremely tenuous as it does not take into account massive undersampling of the Amazonian avifauna (Vale 2007). Recent attempts to address this imbalance have uncovered many smaller regions of endemism; eg, in the Madeira basin (Cohn-Haft et al 2007). Moreover an over-reliance on the Biological Species Concept in current avian classifications has almost certainly overlooked many 100s of new phylogenetic species in Amazonia (eg, Isler et al 1998).

The tropical forests of Mato Grosso and southern Pará are among the most threatened in the basin, lying within the infamous 'Arc of Deforestation'. The future of the Amazonian avifauna depends on the amount and degree of preservation of remaining primary forest habitats and how rainforest birds are able to respond to these changes. Very low densities of most forest bird species in tropical forest fragments render them prone to high rates of local extinction. The population density, distribution, and species richness of forest birds are affected by habitat fragmentation. Forest clearance is concentrated in the southern and eastern margins, driven primarily by expansion of cattle and soya bean production, although rates have slowed in recent years following a crash in the prices of soya beans, a strengthened Brazilian currency, and some active Brazilian government intervention (Nepstad et al 2006).

Alta Floresta region

Brazil is the frontier of ornithology in South America and it is the region south of the Amazon and east of the Madeira river that requires the most urgent study. I was fortunate enough to spend over two years in northern Mato Grosso around the town of Alta Floresta between 2003 and 2006. Alta Floresta was founded in 1976 by a private colonization project with the objective of colonizing the upper Tapajós river basin by resettling smallholders from southern Brazilian states. The Alta Floresta region is something of a melting pot of avian diversity. The region lies along the interdigitated cline between the Amazon rainforest and the cerrado and therefore lies at the edge of the range of species from both biomes, thus boosting local species richness. Almost 600 species have been recorded within 50 km of the town (Lees et al in prep) with a further 27 occurring in the transitional forest of Serra dos Caiabis, 70 km to the south (Lees et al 2008).

Impact of forest fragmentation

The Alta Floresta region south of the Teles Pires






20 Lettered Aracari / Letterarassari *Pteroglossus inscriptus*, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, November 2006 *(Hadoram Shirihai)* **21** Red-necked Aracari / Roodhalsarassari *Pteroglossus bitorquatus*, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, November 2006 *(Hadoram Shirihai)* **22** Rufous-bellied Euphonia / Roodbuikorganist *Euphonia rufiventris*, male, Rio Cristalino, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, 22 July 2006 *(Alexander C Lees)* **23** Dusky-tailed Flatbill / Chapmans Breedbektiran *Ramphotrigon fuscicauda*, Rio Cristalino, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, 15 August 2006 *(Alexander C Lees)* **24** Amazonian Tyrannulet / Bruinkopinezia *Inezia subflava*, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, November 2006 *(Hadoram Shirihai)* **25** Dwarf Tyrant-manakin / Dwergtiranmanakin *Tyranneutes stolzmanni*, Rio Cristalino, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, December 2006 *(Arthur Grosset)*. Plate 20-21 and 24 contributed from forthcoming *Photographic handbook to birds of the world* (Jornvall & Shirihai, A&C Black).

26 White-bellied Parrots / Witbuikcaiques *Pionites leucogaster*, Rio Cristalino, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, 24 September 2005 *(Alexander C Lees)*. Mixed-subspecies pair with individual of eastern green-thighed nominate *P l leucogaster* (left) and individual of central yellow-thighed *P l xanthurus* (right). **27** Common Potoo / Grijze Reuzennachtzwaluw *Nyctibius griseus*, Carlinda, 40 km east of Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, 12 July 2005 *(Alexander C Lees)* **28** Zigzag Heron / Zigzagreiger *Zebrilus undulatus*, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, November 2006 *(Hadoram Shirihai)*. Contributed from forthcoming *Photographic handbook to birds of the world* (Jornvall & Shirihai, A&C Black).

29 Striolated Puffbird / Gestreepte Baardkoekoek *Nystalus striolatus*, Rio Cristalino, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, 18 July 2006 *(Alexander C Lees)*

30 Barred Antshrike / Gebandeerde Mierklauwier *Thamnophilus doliatus*, immature male, 30 km south-west of Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, 6 September 2006 *(Alexander C Lees)*

31 Pavonine Quetzal / Pauwquetzal *Pharomachrus pavoninus*, Rio Teles Pires, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, 19 August 2006 *(Alexander C Lees)* **32** Cryptic Forest Falcon / Mintons Bosvalk *Micrastur mintoni*, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, November 2006 *(Hadoram Shirihai)* **33** Black-girdled Barbet / Gordelbaardvogel *Capito dayi*, male, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, November 2006 *(Hadoram Shirihai)* **34** Blackish Nightjar / Roetnachtzwaluw *Caprimulgus nigrescens*, Serra dos Caiabis, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, 8 September 2006 *(Alexander C Lees)*. Plate 32-33 contributed from forthcoming *Photographic handbook to birds of the world* (Jornvall & Shirihai, A&C Black).

river is characterized by the presence of 1000s of biologically impoverished small forest patches, along with large areas of undisturbed forest to the north. Forest patch size is the principal determinant of bird species richness but forest patch quality – the degree of anthropogenic disturbance – is also very important for the most forest-dependent species (Lees & Peres 2006, 2008b). Although these small patches may not be able to retain a full complement of species, they may still function as refuges for many plant and animal species. This permits future breathing space for conservationists to plan strategies for preventing species loss. Fragments may also act as sources for recolonization of proximate areas undergoing vegetative succession, particularly if agricultural land-uses become unprofitable in the future and facilitate restoration of natural metapopulation dynamics (Martínez-Garza & Howe 2003). It is still imperative that the protection of the remaining large tracts of tropical wilderness areas be of priority conservation concern (Peres 2005) but it is also true that something is better than nothing and conservation of remaining forest fragment remnants should still be viewed as important at least on a local scale (Turner & Corlett 1996, DeFries et al 2004).

Species respond to forest fragmentation asymmetrically, resulting in both 'losers' – species with ecological requirements that are not met by heavily fragmented landscapes and consequently are likely to become locally extinct, and 'winners' – species that tend to proliferate in degraded landscapes. Rare species tend to be more extinction prone than common ones, although rarity *per se* is




35 Bare-eyed Antbird / Naaktoogmiervogel *Rhegmatorhina gymnops*, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, November 2006 *(Hadoram Shirihai)*. Contributed from forthcoming *Photographic handbook to birds of the world* (Jornvall & Shirihai, A&C Black). **36** White-browed Antbird / Witbrauwmierkruiper *Myrmoborus leucophrys*, male, Rio Cristalino, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, 15 August 2006 *(Alexander C Lees)* **37** Glossy Antshrike / Rouwmierklauwier *Sakesphorus luctuosus*, male, Rio Cristalino, Mato Grosso, Brazil, December 2006 *(Arthur Grosset)* **38** Banded Antbird / Bandrugmiervogel *Dichrozona cincta*, Rio Cristalino, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, December 2006 *(Arthur Grosset)*

not an independent variable and is correlated with other traits such as habitat specificity, body mass, and geographic distribution (Terborgh 1974, Kattan 1992). Some of the species with small geographic range sizes in the Alta Floresta landscape are among the most threatened (Lees & Peres 2008b). It has been hypothesised that species with large home range sizes may also be extra-vulnerable to forest fragmentation effects (eg, Woodroffe & Ginsberg 1998), however there exists considerable variance in patch size sensitivity within and across families in guilds (Lees & Peres 2008b). Generalist species with large home range sizes may be able to exploit multiple small forest patches as long as they have good dispersal abilities, whilst some specialist species, even those with small home range sizes might be absent from the same patches (Lees & Peres 2008b).

The guild of 'professional' army-ant following birds are among the most fragmentation sensitive (Lees & Peres 2008b). Those occurring around Alta Floresta include the restricted range Bare-eyed Antbird *Rhegmatorhina gymnops*, endemic to the Tapajós-Xingu interfluvium, and also the striking Black-spotted Bare-eye *Phlegopsis nigromaculata* and White-backed Fire-eye *Pyriglena leuconota*. The sight of a massive swarm of army ants *Eciton burchelli* fanning out across the forest causing pandemonium amidst the denizens of the forest floor is always a highlight of trips to neotropical forests. It was at one such swarm during my three month stay at the lodge in 2003 that I located one of the prizes of South American ornithology – a Rufous-vented Ground-cuckoo *Neomorphus geoffroyi*.

39 Tooth-billed Wren / Amazonewinterkoning *Odontorchilus cinereus*, Tapajós National Forest, Pará, Brazil, 10 December 2010 *(Alexander C Lees)* **40** Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak / Geelschouderkardinaal *Parkerthraustes humeralis*, Tapajós National Forest, Pará, Brazil, 10 December 2010 *(Alexander C Lees)* **41** Spangled Cotinga / Halsbandcotinga *Cotinga cayana*, immature male, Rio Cristalino, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, 24 September 2005 *(Alexander C Lees)* **42** Paradise Jacamar / Paradijsglansvogel *Galbula dea*, Alta Floresta, Brazil, Mato Grosso, November 2006 *(Hadoram Shirihai)* **43** Musician Wren / Orpheuswinterkoning *Cyphorinus arada*, Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, Brazil, November 2006 *(Hadoram Shirihai)* **44** Violaceous Trogon / Violette Trogon *Trogon violaceus*, Alta Floresta, Brazil, Mato Grosso, November 2006 *(Hadoram Shirihai)*. Plate 42-44 contributed from forthcoming *Photographic handbook to birds of the world* (Jornvall & Shirihai, A&C Black).

That this species could go unrecorded by visiting birders for 12 years since one was glimpsed by the legendary Ted Parker in 1991 pays testament to the low population density and its elusive nature (Zimmer et al 1997). Stands of *Guadua* bamboo hold specialists such as Crested Foliage-Gleaner *Anabazenops dorsalis*, Chestnut-throated Spinetail *Synallaxis cherriei*, Dusky-tailed Flatbill *Ramphotrigon fuscicauda*, Manu Antbird *Cercomacra manu*, Curve-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus procurvoides*, Striated Antbird *Drymophila devillei* and Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhopias quixensis*. The last four species are all represented by distinctive forms that are likely to be treated as endemic species in the near future. The names Xingu Antbird *D (d) subochracea* and Emilia's Antwren *M (q) emiliae* are already in widespread use for the latter two. Bamboo specialists are very sensitive to forest fragmentation because of periodic large-scale bamboo die-offs which may leave these species isolated in patches with no bamboo and many are highly reticent to cross non-forest gaps to reach new bamboo patches.

Legislation

If conservation efforts in the Amazon basin are to succeed, in terms of preventing species extinctions and preserving ecosystem functions, then they need to be directed not only to the designation and protection of large forest reserves but also to conservation on land that is already privately owned (Norton 2000). Privately owned forests in Amazonia not only have the potential to buffer existing reserves but following existing Brazilian environmental legislation they can provide structural and functional connectivity between protected areas. Legislation should be tightened, however, to expand the width of these riparian forest strips to 400 m to effectively conserve forest biodiversity (Lees & Peres 2008a) and land set aside as forest is best allocated to a few large forest patches rather than several small ones (Lees & Peres 2006, 2008b).

Bird species

There is a high turnover of species between the different habitats. On the exposed rocky serras, it is possible to find sought-after species such as Fiery-tailed Awlbill *Anthracothorax recurvirostris*, Natterer's Slaty Antshrike *Thamnophilus stictocephalus*, Zimmer's Tody Tyrant *Hemitriccus minimus* and White-naped Xenopsaris *Xenopsaris albinucha*. The viewpoint over the forest from the top of the aptly known Serra trail is also productive for such difficult species as White-browed Purpletuft *Iodopleura isabellae* and striking Gould's Toucanet *Selenidera gouldii*. Scattered around the terra firme forest lower down are leks of fabulous manakins, among them Fiery-capped *Machaeropterus pyrocephalus*, Snow-capped *Lepidothrix nattereri*, Flame-crested *Heterocercus linteatus* and Band-tailed Manakin *Pipra fasciicauda*. Hunting these stunning, but often elusive rainforest denizens is a quintessential part of the Neotropical experience. Although the lowland Amazon cannot match the Andes for diversity of hummingbirds, the lack of quantity is made up for in quality with species such as Gould's Jewelfront *Heliodoxa aurescens*, Black-bellied Thorntail *Discosura langsdorffi* and Tapajós Hermit *Phaethornis aethopyga* (recently elevated to species status: Piacentini et al 2009). The mainstays of tropical forest birding – understorey flocks of woodcreepers, antbirds and flycatchers led by Saturnine Antshrikes *Thamnomanes saturninus* and Cinereous Antshrikes *T caesius*, in addition to canopy mixed species flocks comprised principally of tanagers and flycatchers, can be relied upon to excite, bewilder and frustrate the observer. Careful observation of these flocks might just produce some of the most sought-after Amazonian species such as Guianan Gnatcatcher *Polioptila guianensis* or White-bellied Dacnis *Dacnis albiventris*, although these might be best searched for nearby in more extensive white sand enclaves on the Serra dos Caiabis or Rio Azul (Lees et al 2008, Bradley Davis pers comm).

Riparian habitats contribute to the species turnover. Hoatzins *Opisthocomus hoatzin* occur upriver on the Cristalino in quiet oxbow lakes and Varzea Mourner *Schiffornis major* and the Brazilian endemic Glossy Antshrike *Sakesphorus luctuosus* are also most easily found there. Commuting up and down the river can produce some sought-after species, not least Zigzag Heron *Zebrilus undulatus*, Amazonian Umbrellabird *Cephalopterus ornatus*, Sunbitterns *Eurypyga helias* and Razor-billed Currasows *Mitu tuberosum*, whilst little streams within the forest provide territories for Amazonian Royal Flycatchers *Onychorhynchus coronatus* and Spot-winged Antbirds *Schistocichla leucostigma*. It is this diversity of habitats that contributes to the exceptional species richness of the region; unfortunately many of the new species recorded on an annual basis are open-country birds that are expanding their range right across the 'Arc of Deforestation' (Mahood 2006).

The lodge lies 40 km to the north of Alta Floresta and guests typically spend one or more nights at the Hotel Floresta Amazonica in the town itself. Adjacent to the hotel is a small (230 ha) forest frag-

ment that can also be a productive birding site, holding such sought-after species as Rufous-necked Puffbird *Malacoptila rufa*, White-browed Hawk *Leucopternis kuhli* and Crimson-bellied Parakeet *Pyrrhura perlata*. Extraordinarily, a Harpy Eagle *Harpia harpyja* nest was discovered there in 2005 and this pair have become local and national TV stars, albeit with an uncertain future (Lees 2006, Trinca et al 2008).

Ecotourism

Tourism is the world's fastest growing industry, with ecotourism considered its fastest-growing sector (Davenport et al 2002). Conservation efforts in the Alta Floresta region have been catalysed by individuals in the ecotourism market. Spearheading efforts have been Vitória da Riva Carvalho and the charity Fundação Ecológica Cristalino which was mobilised in part to protect the threat posed by deforestation to the Cristalino Jungle Lodge and neighbouring public and private reserves. Birders form the largest group of ecotourists, and tend to be well educated, wealthy and committed, making them ideal participants in community-based conservation efforts (Şekercioğlu 2002). Obviously, there can only be a finite number of such ventures in a region, and the potential for ecotourism in more remote areas with fewer charismatic species or scenery is more limited (Davenport et al 2002). However, ecotourism can act as a driver for community-based conservation efforts when conducted with an emphasis on the protection of local ecosystems and well-being of local human communities (Şekercioğlu 2002). The Cristalino Jungle Lodge (www.cristalinolodge.com.br) lies on the east bank of the Teles Pires river (north of Alta Floresta) along a pristine black water river – the Rio Cristalino and provides one of the few access points to get to grips with the birds of the vast Southern Amazonian rainforests. The lodge itself has an impressive network of trails of varying length and traversing different habitats along the Cristalino, making it one of the best destinations for rainforest birding anywhere in the world. Close to the lodge is the 50 m high observation tower overlooking the canopy. It is the heterogeneity of the forest within such a small area including terra firme (dry), igapo (seasonally flooded), serras (areas of deciduous forest atop the granite batholiths) and further variation within these habitats (such as bamboo patches and tree falls) that contributes to the great diversity.

Getting there

Alta Floresta is easily reached by coach or plane from Cuiabá which is in turn served by major international airports, transfer to the lodge is by road and then river from the town. The best time to visit is between June and October (the dry season) but the rest of the year is very underwatched and might produce a few surprises such as Neotropical migrants. Birders visiting Alta Floresta typically also visit the Pantanal and the Chapada dos Guimãraes (a region of cerrado and semi-deciduous forest), but there are many other areas that might repay the more adventurous birder. It is possible to go in search of Dotted Tanager *Tangara varia* on the Serra dos Caiabis, Bald Parrot *Gypopsitta aurantiocephala* at the Rio Azul, Caatinga Antwren *Herpsilochmus sellowi* on the Serra do Cachimbo or even the mythical Golden-crowned Manakin *Lepidothrix vilasboasi* around Novo Progresso.

Future prospects

Much of the region is ornithologically unexplored but at the current rate of deforestation we are likely to lose much of it before we know what it is we are losing. Ultimately the preservation of biodiversity on the ever-expanding Amazonian 'Arc of Deforestation' will only be achieved through a combination of enforcing and expanding existing Brazilian forestry legislation, engagement with local landowners and communities and the media, responsible ecotourism and the designation and maintenance of an effective public and private protected area network.

Acknowledgements

I thank the team of the forthcoming *Photographic handbook to birds of the world* (Jornvall & Shirihai, A&C Black) for contributing some of the photographs which they did in recognition of the importance in rainforest conservation action taking place by the organization Fundação Ecológica Cristalino and the owners of Cristalino Jungle Lodge.

References

Boesman, P 2006. Birds of Brazil: an MP3 sound collection. Winsum.

Cohn-Haft, M, Pacheco, A M F, Bechtoldt, C L, Torres, M F N M, Fernandes, A M, Sardelli, C H & Macêdo, I T 2007. Inventário ornitológico. In: Py-Daniel, L R, de Deus, C P, Loureiro, A H, Pimpão, D M & Ribeiro, O M (editors), Biodiversidade do médio Madeira: bases científicas para propostas de conservação, Manaus, pp 145-178.

Davenport, L, Brockelman, W Y, Wright, P C, Ruf, K & del Valle, F B R 2002. Ecotourism tools for parks. In: Terborgh, J, van Schaik, C, Rao, M & Davenport, l (editors), Making parks work for preserving tropical nature, Washington, pp 279-306.

DeFries, R, Hansen, A, Newton, A C & Hansen, M C

2004. Increasing isolation of protected areas in tropical forests over the past twenty years. Ecol Applications 15: 19-26.

Field, C B, Campbell, E & Lobell, D B 2008. Biomass energy: the scale of the potential resource. Trends Ecol Evol 23: 65-72.

Fjeldså, J & Rahbek, C 1998. Priorities for conservation in Bolivia, illustrated by a continent-wide analysis of bird distributions. In: Barthlott, W & Winiger, M (editors), Biodiversity - a challenge for development, research and policy, Berlin, pp 313-327.

Grantsau, R & Camargo, H F A 1989. Nova espécie brasileira de Amazonas (Aves, Psittacidae). Rev Bras Biol 49: 1017-1020.

Isler, M L, Isler, P R & Whitney, B M 1998. Use of vocalizations to establish species limits in antbirds (Passeriformes: Thamnophilidae). Auk 115: 577-590.

Kattan, G H 1992. Rarity and vulnerability: the birds of the Cordillera Central of Colombia. Conserv Biol 6: 64-70.

Lees, A C 2006. Gaviao real: of eagles and men. Alula 12: 68-71.

Lees, A C & Peres, C A 2006. Rapid avifaunal collapse along the Amazonian deforestation frontier. Biol Conserv 133: 198-211.

Lees, A C & Peres, C 2008a. Conservation value of remnant riparian forest corridors of varying quality for Amazonian birds and mammals. Conserv Biol 22: 439-449.

Lees, A C & Peres, C A 2008b. Avian Life history determinants of local extinction risk in a fragmented Neotropical forest landscape. Anim Conserv 11: 128-137.

Lees, A C, Davis, B, Oliveira, A V G & Peres, C A 2008. Avifauna of a structurally heterogenous forest landscape in the Serra dos Caiabis, Mato Grosso, Brazil: a preliminary assessment. Cotinga 29: 147-157.

Mahood, S 2006. The avifauna of the Amazonian non-forest matrix: a novel community, and a conservation opportunity? MSc thesis, University of East Anglia.

Marantz, C A & Zimmer, K J 2006. Bird voices of Alta Floresta and Southeastern Amazonian Brazil. Audio CD. Ithaca.

Martínez-Garza, C & Howe, H F 2003. Restoring tropical diversity: beating the time tax on species loss. J Appl Ecol 40: 423-429.

Nepstad, D, Schwartzman, S, Bamberger, B, Santilli, M, Ray, D, Schlesinger, P, Lefebvre, P, Alencar, A, Prinz, E, Fiske, G & Rolla, A 2006. Inhibition of Amazon deforestation and fire by parks and indigenous lands. Conserv Biol 20: 65-73.

Norton, D A 2000. Conservation biology and private land: shifting the focus. Conserv Biol 16: 1221-1223.

Peres, C A 2005. Why we need megareserves in Amazonia. Conserv Biol 19: 728-733.

van Perlo, B 2009. A field guide to the birds of Brazil. Oxford.

Phillips, O L, Malhi, Y, Higuchi, N, Laurance, W F, Nunez, P, Vasquez, R, Laurance, S, Ferreira, L, Stern, M, Brown, S & Grace, J 1998. Changes in the carbon balance of tropical forests: evidence from long-term plots. Science 282: 439-442.

Piacentini, V de Q, Aleixo, A & Silveira, L F 2009. Hybrid, subspecies, or species? The validity and taxonomic status of *Phaethornis longuemareus aethopyga* Zimmer, 1950 (Trochilidae). Auk 126: 604-612.

Restall, R, Rodner, C & Lentino, M 2006. Birds of northern South America. London.

Ridgely, R S & Tudor, G 2009. Field guide to the songbirds of South America: the passerines. Austin.

Rodriguez Mata, J R, Erize, F & Rumboll, M 2006. A field guide to the birds of South America: non-passerines. London.

Rylands, A B, Mittermeier, R A, Pilgrim, J, Gascon, C, Fonseca, G, Cardoso da Silva, J M, Mittermeier, C G, Brooks, T, Rodríguez, J V, Singh. J, Udenhout, W, Famolare, L, Waldron, N, Malone, S, Inchausty, V H, Ponce del Prado, C, Roca, R, Cavalcanti, R, Arjona, F, López, F, Hutchinson, C, van Roosmalen, M G M, Ayres, J M, Forsyth, A, Bowles, I, Kormos, C, Mekler, A & Waller, R 2002. Amazonia. In: Mittermeier, R A, Mittermeier, C G, Robles Gil, P, Pilgrim, J, da Foseca, G A B, Brooks, T, Konstant, W R (editors), Wilderness, Earth's last wild places, Monterrey, Washington, DC & Mexico City, pp 56-107.

Schulenberg, T S, Stotz, D F, Lane, D F, O'Neill, J P & Parker III , T A 2009. Birds of Peru. Princeton.

Şekercioğlu, C H 2002. Impacts of birdwatching on human and avian communities. Environm Conserv 29: 282-289.

Soares-Filho, B S, Nepstad, D C, Curran, L M, Cerqueira, G C, Garcia, R A, Ramos, C A, Voll, E, McDonald, A, Lefebvre, P & Schlesinger, P 2006. Modelling conservation in the Amazon basin. Nature 440: 520-523.

Terborgh, J 1974. Preservation of natural diversity: the problem of extinction prone species. BioScience 24: 715-22.

Trinca, C T, Ferrari, S F & Lees, A C 2008. Curiosity killed the bird: arbitrary hunting of harpy eagles (*Harpia harpyja*) on an agricultural frontier in southern Brazilian Amazonia. Cotinga 30: 12-15.

Turner, I M & Corlett, R T 1996. The conservation value of small, isolated fragments of lowland tropical rain forest. Trends Ecol & Evol 11: 330-333.

Vale, M M 2007. Avian distribution patterns and conservation in Amazonia. PhD thesis. Durham, North Carolina.

Whittaker, A 2002. A new species of forest-falcon (Falconidae: *Micrastur*) from southeastern Amazonia and the Atlantic rainforests of Brazil. Wilson Bull 114: 421-445.

Woodroffe, R & Ginsberg, J R 1998. Edge effects and the extinction of populations inside protected areas. Science 280: 2126-2128.

Zimmer, K J, Parker, T A, Isler, M L & Isler, P R 1997. Survey of a southern Amazonian avifauna: the Alta Floresta region, Mato Grosso, Brazil. Ornithol Monogr 48: 887-918.

Alexander C Lees, Department of Zoology, Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Caixa Postal 399, CEP 66040-170, Belém – Pará, Brazil (alexanderlees@btopenworld.com)

Rotskruiper bij Maastricht in november-december 2010

Arnold W J Meijer

Maandag 22 november 2010 was de laatste dag van een lang familieweekend in Vaals, Limburg. Omdat ik (Arnold Meijer) wat vogels betreft bar weinig had gezien besloot ik op de terugweg de Sint Pietersberg bij Maastricht, Limburg, aan te doen om de Oehoes *Bubo bubo* te bekijken die daar al jaren in de ENCI-groeve verblijven. Op de plek bleek het koud en winderig en ik had al snel door dat de rest van de familie het niet lang zou uithouden. Daarom versnelde ik mijn pas en kwam als eerste aan bij het noordelijke uitzichtpunt. Omdat ik één van de Oehoes ooit in de meest linker gang op een richel had zien zitten richtte ik daar om c 10:30 mijn kijker op. Direct werd mijn aandacht getrokken door een vogel die wat schokkend tegen de mergelwand omhoog kroop en ik realiseerde me gelijk 'in the back of my mind' dat ik een Rotskruiper *Tichodroma muraria* in beeld had – al zag ik er eigenlijk nog niets aan. Ik probeerde hem zo snel mogelijk in de telescoop te krijgen. Toen dat gelukt was toonde hij zich in volle glorie, zoals alleen een Rotskruiper dat kan: overwegend muisgrijs maar met bordeauxrode vleugelvelden omzoomd met witte stippen in diepzwarte vleugels, zwarte staart, witte keel en een delicate, vrij lange en iets gebogen snavel, soms even wiekend met Hop *Upupa epops*-achtige ronde vleugels.

Paniek zegevierde, althans voor enige tijd, want de combinatie van zenuwen en traag mobiel internet (en tussendoor de voicemail van Max Berlijn inspreken) zorgde ervoor dat het zeker 15 min duurde voordat de waarneming via Dutch Bird Alerts werd doorgegeven. De vogel bleef vrijwel onafgebroken in beeld, zodat ik ook mijn vrouw Anne alle kenmerken kon laten zien. Mijn moeder wilde niet tot last zijn – de telescoop hoefde niet omlaag – want ze had, zo zei ze, die van Amsterdam al mooi gezien! Het ontdekken van zo'n aansprekende soort, waarbij de determinatie acuut en zonder twijfel is, zorgde voor een mentale chaos, waarbij ik me zelfs even afvroeg of de Sint Pietersberg wel op Nederlands grondgebied ligt! Het was nu duidelijk dat het bezoekje toch langer zou gaan duren dan gepland en vrouw, dochter en moeder raadde ik dringend aan om tijdelijk toevlucht te nemen tot het restaurantje langs de weg naar beneden.

Vrijwel direct na het doorgeven verdween de vogel achter een richel om daar zeker een uur niet meer achter vandaan te komen. Toen na c 20 min de eerste vogelaars arriveerden moesten dezen dan ook enige tijd geduld opbrengen maar op een gegeven moment kwam de vogel weer tevoor-

45 Rotskruiper / Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*, Sint Pietersberg, Maastricht, Limburg, 4 december 2010 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

46 Rotskruiper / Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*, Sint Pietersberg, Maastricht, Limburg, 4 december 2010 *(Phil Koken)*

[*Dutch Birding 33: 34-37, 2011*]

schijn en gaf een mooie show weg, waarbij hij soms ondersteboven tegen een gewelf hing. Toen er om 14:00 voldoende vogelaars aanwezig waren besloot ik naar huis te gaan – een ervaring rijker maar een 'blocker' armer... De verdere middag bleef hij op de plek van de ontdekking, zodat iedereen die kans zag die middag te komen hem heeft gezien. In de dagen daarna was dat wel anders; meestal vertoonde hij zich slechts twee of drie keer op een dag. In de dagen na de ontdekking werd bekend dat hij een slaapplaats had in één van de mergelgangen die zichtbaar is vanaf het zuidelijke uitzichtpunt bij Hoeve Lichtenberg. Zodoende was de beste strategie hier 's ochtends rond 08:00 of 's middags vanaf 16:00 te posten, hoewel de afstand tot de vogel er erg groot was.

De eerste middag hebben c 100 vogelaars de Rotskruiper bezocht en in totaal hebben c 1000 vogelaars van de vogel genoten, soms langdurig maar vaak zeer vluchtig, en soms pas na meerdere pogingen. Ook de media-aandacht was overweldigend. Ik ben gebeld door De Volkskrant, Omroep Max, de NOS (Anne heeft een interview gedaan in het radioprogramma 'Met het oog op morgen') en MB en ik zijn geïnterviewd en gefilmd op locatie door de Limburgse zender L1. Ook werd het nieuws bekend gemaakt op de Duitse radio (Westdeutscher Rundfunk) voor de regio Aken (König 2011).

Op 4 december organiseerde Natuurmonumenten, de beheerder van de groeve, een excursie waarbij c 50 vogelaars de groeve mochten betreden en de vogel na enkele uren wachten en speuren mooi hebben gezien.

Gezien eerdere ervaringen met Rotskruipers in Noordwest-Europa nam bijna iedereen aan dat hij in de groeve zou overwinteren maar na 11 december is hij niet meer waargenomen, wat overigens niet wil zeggen dat hij toen niet meer aanwezig was. Het weer is in die periode erg verslechterd, het aantal zoekende vogelaars liep sterk terug en de trefkans in de enorme groeve met slechts een beperkt aantal uitzichtpunten werd navenant kleiner. Het is dan ook niet uitgesloten dat hij in de eerste maanden van 2011 opnieuw wordt gemeld. Eerdere overwinteraars in Noordwest-Europa bleven tot uiterlijk medio april (zie tabel 1).

Beschrijving

De beschrijving is gebaseerd op de eerste twee waarnemingsuren direct na de ontdekking en foto's van verschillende fotografen (zie www. dutchbirding.nl en www.waarneming.nl; Dutch Birding 32: 408, plaat 567, 2010).

GROOTTE & BOUW Ongeveer zo groot als Spreeuw *Sturnus vulgaris* maar met brede ronde vleugels. Vrij lange snavel (ongeveer zelfde lengte als kop), dun en licht omlaag gebogen. Opvallend 'langgerekte' kop.

KOP Grijs, meest donker op bovenkop. Kin en keel wit. Teugel donker.

BOVENDELEN Rug, schouder en stuit grijs. Stuit donkerder dan overige bovendelen.

ONDERDELEN Borst, buik en flank grijs, vergelijkbaar met bovendelen. Scherpe afscheiding tussen witte keel en grijze borst. Lichte tekening (halve maantjes) op onderstaartdekveren.

VLEUGEL Overwegend donkergrijs tot zwart met zeer opvallende bordeauxrode tekening op bovenvleugeldekveren, armpennen en, in mindere mate, handpennen. Twee rijen opvallende witte stippen op handpennen van p2 tot c p5 (één rij op armpennen doorlopend tot c p7). Lichte rand aan top van tertials en armpennen.

STAART Zwart met lichte rand aan top van staartpennen, waardoor smalle staartband ontstaand.

NAAKTE DELEN Oog, snavel en poot donker, waarschijnlijk zwart.

GELUID Niet gehoord.

GEDRAG Voortdurend beweeglijk foeragerend langs wand, waarbij soms stukje vliegend. Voortdurend vleugeltrekkend, waarbij rode vleugelvelden zichtbaar. Soms foeragerend in mergelgangen en soms ondersteboven hangend aan richel. In ieder geval op eerste dag paar keer iets relatief groots uit rotsspleet peuterend en opetend.

Determinatie

Hoewel details door de waarnemingsafstand niet konden worden waargenomen was de determinatie eenvoudig. Rotskruiper is één van de gemakkelijkst te herkennen Europese vogelsoorten en geen andere soort vertoont de combinatie van hierboven genoemde kenmerken. Geslachtsbepaling (in winterkleed) en leeftijdsbepaling zijn een ander verhaal. Geslachten zijn in winterkleed niet te onderscheiden; onvolwassen vogels hebben meer contrast tussen keel en borst dan adulte; de scherpe begrenzing van keel en borst bij de Maastrichtse vogel zou derhalve op een onvolwassen vogel kunnen duiden (cf Löhrl 1967, Driessens et al 1990, Harrap & Quinn 1996).

Verspreiding en voorkomen

Rotskruiper is een vogel van Euraziatische bergstreken en broedt op 1000-3000 m hoogte in een zone van de Pyreneeën oostelijk tot in de Himalaya. 's Winters worden iets lager gelegen oorden bezocht en de soort overwintert af en toe op grote gebouwen en in steengroeven en daarbij dwalen soms exemplaren af naar Noordwest-Europa, westelijk tot Brittannië. Een overzicht van gevallen in Noordwest-Europa buiten de reguliere broed- en wintergebieden is weergegeven in tabel 1.

TABEL 1 Gevallen van Rotskruiper *Tichodroma muraria* in Noordwest-Europa buiten reguliere broed- en wintergebieden / records of Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria* in western Europe outside regular breeding and wintering areas (Long 1981, Dymond et al 1989, Driessens et al 1990, Evans 1994; www.tarsiger.com; Arnoud van den Berg in litt, Philppe Dubois in litt, Joris Elst in litt, Peter de Vries in litt)

België / Belgium (alle gevallen / all records)
oktober 1890, Chaudfontaine, Liège, vrouwtje (vondst)
4 december 1943, Berchem, Antwerpen
1 maart 1954, Roche Louis-Philippe, Freyr, Waulsort, Namur
27 oktober 1985, Neufchâteau, Luxembourg
voorjaar 1986 en winters 1986/87, 1987/88, 1988/89 en 1989/90, Carrières de Montfort et la Go, Poulseur, Liège, mannetje (uiterste datums 23 december en 15 april; eerste datum 12 april 1986, laatste datum 4 januari 1990)
oktober-november 1988, Carrière de Dolomeuse, Marche-les-Dames/Namèche, Namur (vondst)
5 november 1989, Baai van Heist, Knokke-Heist, West-Vlaanderen
10-20 januari 1990, Soignies, Hainaut

Noord-Duitsland / northern Germany (selectie / selection)
4 februari tot 13 april 1950, Hamburg, Hamburg
28 december 1995 tot 17 maart 1996, Berlin-Oberschöneweide, Berlijn
11-16 juni 2004, Festung Königstein, Sachsen, vrouwtje
7-11 mei 2005, Externsteine, Horn-Bad Meinberg, Nordrhein-Westfalen, mannetje
16 december 2007 tot 13 april 2008, Diemelsee, Schirrhof, Nordrhein-Westfalen
18 tot ten minste 31 december 2010, Drachenfels, Königswinter, Nordrhein-Westfalen, mannetje
Buiten de broedgebieden wordt de soort (on)regelmatig waargenomen in de Zuid-Duitse deelstaten Baden-Württemberg, Bayern, Rheinland-Pfalz en Saarland.

Engeland / England (alle gevallen voor Brittannië / all records for Britain)
30 oktober 1792, Stratton Hall, Stratton Strawless, Norfolk (verzameld)
8 mei 1872, Sabden, Lancashire & North Merseyside (verzameld)
'eind voorjaar' c 1886, Grey Friars Chapel, Winchelsea, East Sussex
september 1901, Mells, Somerset
24 april 1920, Chilfrome, Dorchester, Dorset
begin juni 1938, Rottingdean, East Sussex
19 november 1969 tot 18 april 1970, Worth Matravers, Dorset, mannetje
begin november 1976 tot 6 april 1977 en begin november tot 9 april 1978, Chelm's Combe Quarry, Shipham Quarry en Cheddar Gorge, Somerset
6-10 april 1977, Ecclesbourne Glen, Hastings, East Sussex
16 mei 1985, St Catharine's Point, Isle of Wight

Noord-Frankrijk / northern France (selectie / selection)
jaren 1950, château de Fontainebleau, Seine-et-Marne
29 oktober 1959, château Versailles, Yvelines
21 maart 1963, Parijs
winter 1964/65, Beauvais, Oise
17 november 1996 tot 7 maart 1997, kathedraal van Chartres, Eure-et-Loir
18 januari tot 3 maart 2004, Parijs
4-7 februari 2004 en 14 februari tot 5 maart 2005, Les Andelys, Eure
20 januari tot 1 maart 2008, tussen Boulogne en Wimereux, Pas-de-Calais
15 december 2009 tot 22 maart 2010, Suresnes, Hauts-de-Seine
15 december 2009 tot 27 maart 2010 en 14-15 november 2010, Dourdan, Essonne
28 oktober 2010, château de la Madeline, Chevreuse, Yvelines
Buiten de broedgebieden wordt de soort (on)regelmatig waargenomen in departementen aan de Franse westkust, van Zuid-Bretagne tot Gironde.

Kanaaleilanden / Channel Islands (alle gevallen / all records)
19 december 1899, Alderney
4 maart 1972, Crabbé, Jersey

Luxemburg / Luxembourg (alle gevallen / all records)
28 september 1878, Pulfermühle, mannetje en vrouwtje (verzameld)
20 januari 1925, Vianden
februari 1953, Rümelingen, twee

Nederland / Netherlands (alle gevallen / all records)
13 november 1989 tot 11 april 1990, Buitenveldert, Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, en 27 november 1990 tot 5 april 1991, Buitenveldert en Amstelveen, Noord-Holland, vrouwtje
22 november tot 11 december 2010, Sint Pietersberg, Maastricht, Limburg

Vanwege zijn voorkomen in onherbergzame berggebieden en het opvallende uiterlijk is het één van de meest gewilde vogelsoorten op vogelvakanties (cf Whitehouse 1987). De generatie Nederlandse vogelaars die de vogel van Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, in 1989-91 niet gezien heeft, had hem ongetwijfeld bovenaan het verlanglijstje staan van 'aan hun Nederlandse lijst toe te voegen vogelsoorten'.

Hoewel sommige auteurs de soort als monotypisch beschouwen gaan recente handboeken uit van twee ondersoorten (bijvoorbeeld Dickinson 2003): *T m muraria* (Europa en Zuidwest-Azië oostelijk tot Noordwest-Iran) en *T m nepalensis*

(Afghanistan tot Himalaya, Tien Shan, Noord- en Centraal-China en Zuid-Mongolië). In het westen van Azië ligt een brede gordel van overgangsvormen (Harrap & Quinn 1996). Meer informatie over broedbiotoop, gedrag en kleedontwikkeling is te vinden in, onder meer, Verthein (1952), Löhrl (1970, 1975), Driessens et al (1990) en Saniga (1995, 1999).

Het eerste geval voor Nederland betrof een vrouwtje dat twee opeenvolgende winters (van 13 november 1989 tot 11 april 1990 en van 27 november 1990 tot 5 april 1991) verbleef rond de gebouwen van de Vrije Universiteit in Buitenveldert, Amsterdam, en (in voorjaar 1991) ook af en toe in het aangrenzende deel van Amstelveen, Noord-Holland (Brew 1989, van de Staaij 1989, van de Staaij & Fokker 1991).

Dankzegging
Gerald Driessens, Philippe Dubois, Joris Elst en Peter de Vries waren behulpzaam bij het verzamelen van gegevens.

Summary
Wallcreeper near Maastricht in November-December 2010 On 22 November 2010, a Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria* was discovered at a quarry south of Maastricht, the Netherlands. The bird was observed daily until 11 December by a steady stream of birders (c 1000 in total). After this date, it has not been reported but since the quarry where it was found is very large and difficult to search because of limited viewing points and because the number of visiting birders strongly decreased, it is possible that the bird has remained and/or reappeared in 2011. It could be observed (albeit at large distance) early in the morning and late in the afternoon flying out of or into its roosting cave, or during the day in different parts of the quarry. Ageing and sexing is difficult in winter but the strong contrast betweeg white throat and grey belly may indicate a first-winter.

This is the second record for the Netherlands; the first was a female wintering on large university buildings at Amsterdam-Buitenveldert, Noord-Holland, in the winter of 1989/90 and again at the same site (and in nearby Amstelveen, Noord-Holland) in winter the winter of 1990/91. An overview of extralimital records in northwestern Europe is given in table 1, including all records in Belgium, the Channel Islands, England (representing all British records), Luxembourg and the Netherlands and a selection of records in northern France and northern Germany.

Verwijzingen

Brew, M 1989. Twitching the Amsterdam Wallcreeper. Birding World 2: 433-434.
Dickinson, E C (redactie) 2003. The Howard and Moore complete checklist to the birds of the world. Londen.
Driessens, G, Smets, G & Sorbi, S 1990. Rotskruipers in België en hun leeftijds- en geslachtsbepaling. Belg Birding Mag 1: 6-10.
Dymond, J N, Fraser, P A & Gantlett, S J M 1989. Rare birds in Britain and Ireland. Calton.
Evans, L G R E 1994. Rare birds in Britain 1800-1990. Little Chalfont.
Harrap, S & Quinn, D 1996. Tits, creepers & nuthatches. Londen.
König, C 2011. Zweiter Nachweis für die Niederlande: der Mauerläufer von Maastricht. Der Falke 58 (1): 32-33.
Löhrl, H 1967. Das Brutkleid des weiblichen Mauerläufers (*Tichodroma muraria*). J Ornithol 108: 221-223.
Löhrl, H 1970. Studies of less familiar birds 158: Wallcreeper. Br Birds 63: 163-168.
Löhrl, H 1975. Brutverhalten und Jugendentwicklung beim Mauerläufer (*Tichodroma muraria*). J Ornithol 116: 229-262.
Long, R 1981. Review of birds in the Channel Islands, 1951-80. Br Birds 74: 327-344.
Saniga, M 1995. Variability in coloration of Wallcreeper. Dutch Birding 17: 141-145.
Saniga, M 1999. Aspects of breeding habitat and behaviour in Wallcreeper. Dutch Birding 21: 154-160.
van de Staaij, J 1989. Rotskruiper op de VU in Amsterdam. DB Nieuwsbr 1: 177-178.
van de Staaij, J W M & Fokker, W 1991. Rotskruiper in Amsterdam in winters van 1989/90 en 1990/91. Dutch Birding 13: 135-139.
Verthein, J 1952. Wissenswertes über den im Frühjahr 1950 in Hamburg beobachteten Mauerläufer (*Tichodroma muraria*). Ornithol Mitt 4: 64.
Whitehouse, S 1987. Wallcreepers and where to look for them. Twitching 1: 352-355.

Arnold W J Meijer, Jacob Catsstraat 8, 2221 JA Katwijk aan Zee, Nederland (info@bluerobin.nl)

Blauwe vorm Ross' Gans op Schiermonnikoog in mei 2009

Tijdens de 'Top-of-Holland Vogeldag' op zaterdag 9 mei 2009 kwamen Bart-Jan Prak en ik (Martijn Bot) na een, door gebrek aan zangvogels, teleurstellende dag terecht in de Banckspolder op Schiermonnikoog, Friesland. Er zat weinig anders op dan ons te richten op ganzen, die in ieder geval nog wel in groten getale op het eiland aanwezig waren. Een wandeling door de Banckspolder leverde vier Roodhalsganzen *Branta ruficollis* (waaronder een groepje van drie), vijf Witbuikrotganzen *B hrota* en een Zwarte Rotgans *B nigricans* op. Toen we weer vlakbij het dorp waren viel ons oog op een 'blauwe gans' tussen de Grauwe Ganzen *Anser anser* en Rotganzen *B bernicla* die verdacht veel weg had van een blauwe vorm Ross' Gans *A rossii*. Nadat we de vogel langzaam hadden benaderd werd onze gedachte bevestigd en konden we tevens vaststellen dat het een adulte vogel betrof die ongeringd en alert was. Ik maakte een aantal foto's om de waarneming te documenteren. Toen hij opvloog bleken de vleugels ongehavend. We vonden hem even later terug op de Westerplas; nadat hij ook hier was weggevlogen hebben we hem niet meer gezien. Enkele andere vogelaars hebben hem die dag ook waargenomen. De dagen voor en na 9 mei zijn er vogelaars op het eiland geweest die uitgebreid naar ganzen hebben gekeken maar zij hebben de vogel niet opgemerkt; het lijkt er dus op dat hij slechts één dag aanwezig is geweest.

De beschrijving is gebaseerd op foto's van MB.

GROOTTE & BOUW Kleine gans (iets groter dan Rotgans) met relatief korte hals en korte driehoekige snavel zonder donkere, brede snijrand ('grinning patch'). Tertials verlengd en puntig.
VERENKLEED Kop wit. Hals en bovendelen donker grijsbruin met op hals wat lichte vlekking. Dekveren contrasterend wit (in zit witte baan vormend). Tertials overwegend tweekleurig met donker centrum en brede witte rand. Onderdelen en staart wit. Flank grijsbruin 'gewolkt'. Vleugelpunt zwart.
NAAKTE DELEN Oog donker. Snavel roze met blauwgrijze basis en lichtroze nagel. Poot roze.

Determinatie

De determinatie was vrij eenvoudig. De korte driehoekige snavel met blauwgrijze basis en het kleine formaat met gedrongen bouw passen alleen op Ross' Gans. Het verenkleed past verder op een blauwe vorm. Formaat en snavelvorm sluiten blauwe vorm Sneeuwgans *A caerulescens* uit. Er was in bouw of verenkleed geen aanleiding om aan te nemen dat de vogel het product van hybridisatie was (cf McLandress & McLandress 1979, Madge & Burn 1988, Berlijn 1999). Meldingen van blauwe vorm Ross' Ganzen in Nederland en andere landen blijken in de praktijk meestal betrekking te hebben op hybriden, bijvoorbeeld Brandgans *B leucopsis* x Ross' Gans, (blauwe) Sneeuwgans x Ross' Gans, of Keizergans *A canagicus* x Sneeuwgans of Ross' Gans (zie database van www.waarneming.nl).

Verspreiding en voorkomen

Bij de vogel van Schiermonnikoog zag de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA)

47 Ross' Gans / Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*, adult, blauwe vorm, Banckspolder, Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, 9 mei 2009 *(Martijn Bot)*

48 Ross' Gans / Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*, adult, blauwe vorm, met Rotgans / Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*, Banckspolder, Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, 9 mei 2009 *(Martijn Bot)*

geen aanleiding om te twijfelen aan de zuiverheid en ook wat locatie en gedrag betreft stond niets de aanvaarding in de weg, ondanks de extreme zeldzaamheid van de blauwe vorm bij deze soort (zie onder). Het betreft de eerste als wilde vogel aanvaarde blauwe vorm Ross' Gans voor Nederland en de WP; voor Nederland betrof het de zesde Ross' Gans in totaal (cf Berlijn 2004, Ovaa et al 2010).

Eerdere waarnemingen van 'blauwe' exemplaren zijn niet ingediend of niet door de CDNA aanvaard. Op 1 april 1994 zagen Enno Ebels en Jelle Scharringa een ongeringde gans met kenmerken van blauwe vorm Ross' Gans bij Zoutkamperril in de Lauwersmeer, Groningen, maar door het ontbreken van fotografische documentatie is deze waarneming niet aanvaard (cf Berlijn 1999).

Van 13 januari 2008 tot ten minste 5 februari 2010 verbleven maximaal twee blauwe vorm Ross' Ganzen in de Brabantse Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant (datums en foto's op www.waarneming.nl). Deze werden hier in deze drie winters gemeld van november tot en met begin mei; in de zomermaanden zijn geen waarnemingen ingevoerd. Na 4 maart 2008 werd steeds één exemplaar gemeld, met uitzondering van 16 december 2009 toen ze weer beide werden gezien. Door het regelmatige gezelschap van 'boerenganzen' en het tamme gedrag wordt aangenomen dat het hier om twee (waarschijnlijk lokaal) ontsnapte exemplaren ging. De waarneming is (met als enige datum 24 februari 2008) ingediend bij de CDNA en afgewezen omdat 'hybriden met Sneeuwgans niet met voldoende zekerheid konden worden uitgesloten en omdat een wilde herkomst twijfelachtig werd geacht vanwege de tamheid en het afwijkende gedrag, bijvoorbeeld geen aansluiting zoekend met groepen wilde ganzen' (Ovaa et al 2009). Vergelijking van foto's geeft aan dat de vogel van Schiermonnikoog een andere was dan de twee vogels van de Brabantse Biesbosch, bijvoorbeeld door de grotere hoeveelheid wit op de kop en de lichtere nagel.

Ross' Ganzen broeden in Noord-Canada en overwinteren in het zuiden van de Verenigde Staten. De populatie heeft de laatste decennia een explosieve groei in aantal en verspreiding doorgemaakt. Begin jaren 1950 waren er nog c 3000 wilde vogels maar door het drastisch terugdringen van de jacht en uitgebreide beschermingsmaatregelen schatte men de wereldpopulatie begin 21e eeuw op ruim 1.1 miljoen exemplaren (van den Berg 2004, BirdLife International 2011). Exemplaren van de blauwe vorm zijn (in tegenstelling tot bij Sneeuwgans) zeer zeldzaam. Onderzoek in de broedkolonies leerde dat grofweg een op de 10 000 exemplaren een blauwe vorm betreft; dat komt neer op 0.01% (cf Berlijn 1999). Als dat percentage correct is zou er dus sprake zijn van een 'wereldpopulatie' van niet veel meer dan 100 exemplaren. Omdat de populatie de laatste jaren waarschijnlijk verder is gegroeid, kan dit aantal nu hoger zijn. Voor meer informatie over blauwe vorm Ross' Gans en mogelijke verklaringen voor het 'ontstaan' van deze kleurvorm, zie bijvoorbeeld Cooke & Ryder (1971), McLandress & McLandress (1979), Weckstein et al (2002), Mundy et al (2004) en Mundy (2005). De meest waarschijnlijke verklaring is dat het gen dat de blauwe vorm (melanisme) veroorzaakt is ingebracht in de populatie Ross' Ganzen door hybridisatie met 'blauwe' individuen van oostelijke populaties van Kleine Sneeuwgans *A c caerulescens* toen de populaties in de 20e eeuw door expansie met elkaar in contact kwamen (Peter de Knijff in litt).

Ook in gevangenschap is de blauwe vorm zeer zeldzaam. Er is in ieder geval in Duitsland een kweker die enkele (geringde en geleewiekte) vogels bezit (cf www.harteman.nl/omnibus/anseriformes/ganzen/ross.html) en de bovengenoemde waarneming van twee vrijwel zeker ontsnapte exemplaren in de Brabantse Biesbosch suggereert dat ook in Nederland exemplaren gehouden worden; meer collecties zijn mij echter niet bekend.

Ik dank Dick Groenendijk (CDNA) en Willem van Rijswijk (CDNA) voor hun bijdragen aan dit artikel. Peter de Knijff bracht voor de CDNA de vermoedelijke genetische oorsprong van blauwe vorm Ross' Gans in beeld.

Summary

Blue morph Ross's Goose on Schiermonnikoog in May 2009 On 9 May 2009, an unringed adult blue morph Ross' Goose *Anser rossii* was observed with Greylag Geese *A anser* and Dark-bellied Brent Geese *Branta bernicla* on Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, the Netherlands. The bird was photographed and seen by a handful of birders. It was accepted by the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA) as the sixth Ross's Goose for the Netherlands and the first blue morph. Blue morph individuals are extremely rare in this species, with a 'world population' of probably just over 100 birds (based on estimations that 'blue' birds represent 0.01% of the world population of more than 1.1 million birds in the early 21st century). With the continuing growth of the population, this number may now be higher. The CDNA concluded that the bird showed no visible hybrid influence and that there were no other obstacles to accept it as a presumed wild individual.

Verwijzingen

van den Berg, A B 2004. Population growth and vagrancy

potential of Ross's Goose. Dutch Birding 26: 107-111.
Berlijn, M 1999. Varia: Blue Ross's Goose. Dutch Birding 21: 161-164.
Berlijn, M 2004. Ross' Ganzen in Nederland in 1988-2003. Dutch Birding 26: 100-106.
BirdLife International 2011. Species factsheet: *Chen rossii*. Website: www.birdlife.org. [Geraadpleegd 17 januari 2011.]
Cooke, F & Ryder, J P 1971. The genetics of polymorphism in the Ross' goose (*Anser rossii*). Evolution 25:483-490.
Madge, S & Burn, H 1988. Wildfowl: an identification guide to the ducks, geese and swans of the world. Londen.
McLandress, M R & McLandress, I 1979. Blue-phase Ross's Geese and other blue-phase geese in western North America. Auk 96: 544-550.
Mundy, N I, Badcock, N S, Hart, T, Scribner, K, Janssen, K & Nadeau, N J 2004. Conserved genetic basis of a quantitative plumage trait involved in mate choice. Science 303: 1870-1873.
Mundy, N I 2005. A window on the genetics of evolution: MC1R and plumage colouration in birds. Proc R Soc B 272: 1633-1640.
Ovaa, A, Groenendijk, D, Berlijn, M & CDNA 2009, 2010. Rare birds in the Netherlands in 2008; in 2009. Dutch Birding 31: 331-352; 32: 363-383.
Weckstein, J D, Afton, A D, Zink, R M & Alisauskas, R T 2002. Hybridization and population subdivision within and between Ross's Geese and Lesser Snow Geese: a molecular perspective. Condor 42: 432-436.

Martijn Bot, Leverkruid 12, 9801 LR Zuidhorn, Nederland (m.bot@noorderpoort.nl)

Reed Cormorant collected in Catalunya, Spain, in c 1855

Recently, de Juana (2006) published a compilation of all records accepted by the Spanish rarities committee, in which a selection of photographs were published. One concerned the skin of the only Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* for Spain, a juvenile shot in c 1855 along the coast of Catalunya (probably somewhere between the provinces of Barcelona and Tarragona). The year '1855' is mentioned on the label and is presumed to be the year of collection. The skin is deposited in the University of Barcelona collection (CRBA-594) and the record was submitted to the committee in 2001 by Xavier Ferrer, who supplied some images and biometry of the skin. It was accepted as Pygmy and published as such in the corresponding rarities report (de Juana & Comité de Rarezas de la SEO 2002). However, the photograph published in de Juana (2006) showed some characters not consistent with typical juvenile Pygmy. Re-examination of the skin and comparison with voucher specimens from the Natural History Museum in London, England, the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin, Germany, and the National Museum of Natural History in Madrid, Spain, led to the conclusion that the specimen is actually a Reed Cormorant *P africanus* (also known as Long-tailed Cormorant).

Identification

The re-identification as Reed Cormorant of the Spanish specimen is based on the following characters: ***1*** The presence of silvery scapulars and wing-coverts, with a broad dark terminal band and narrow cinnamon tip (figure 1ab). This pattern is diagnostic for Reed (eg, del Hoyo et al 1992). In juvenile Pygmy Cormorant, the scapulars are plain with a narrow dark edge, not showing this conspicuous pattern (figure 1c); ***2*** the presence of wide lores with a pattern of small and isolated dark feathers providing a very characteristic lore pattern in Reed (figure 2ab), which is absent in Pygmy (figure 2c); and ***3*** a longer and stronger bill, compared with juvenile Pygmy (figure 2). Biometrical values are similar for Reed and Pygmy: body length 50-60 cm in Reed and 45-55 cm in Pygmy, and wingspan 80-90 cm in both Reed and Pygmy (del Hoyo et al 1992). Note, however, that the tail is missing in the Spanish specimen. Although in museum specimens the neck of Reed seems to be longer than in Pygmy (cf figure 1), this character is hard to judge in the Spanish specimen because it is mounted. The similar size, both species being the smallest cormorants in the Western Palearctic, was probably one of the reasons for the misidentification, as well as the fact that Pygmy breeds much closer to Spain than Reed.

To confirm the identification, a sequence analysis of a mitochondrial gene was attempted on a sample taken from the skin. However, probably due to the degraded state of the skin due to its age (c 150 years old), this proved to be impossible. Instead, an isotopic analysis of feather samples was performed to investigate the probable geographical origin of the specimen. Values obtained for the stable isotopes analyzed were $\delta^{15}N$= 16.7‰, $\delta^{13}C$= -22.9‰, $\delta^{2}H$= -41.79‰, $\delta^{18}O$= 11.62‰. These values are consistent with parts of sub-Saharan Africa, northern Africa (Egypt, Libya, Algeria), or the southern Iberian Peninsula (Bowen

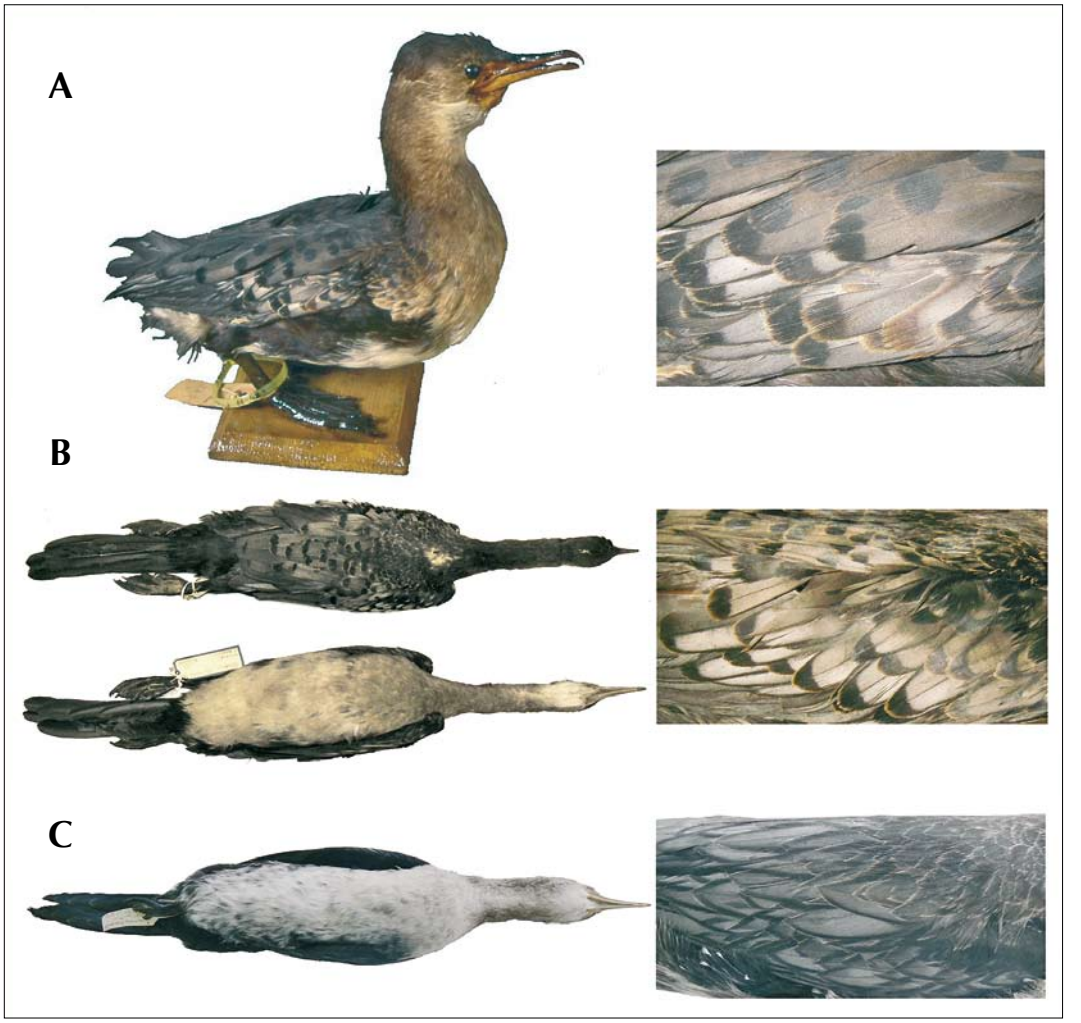
et al 2005, Clark et al 2006, Hobson et al 2009; Gabriel Bowen pers comm). This suggests a possible sub-Saharan origin, considering the absence of the species in North Africa and Iberia.

Distribution and vagrancy

Reed Cormorant is a common resident and partial migrant in large parts of sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar, and makes irregular movements in response to changes in local water conditions. The breeding season varies geographically but most breeding peaks are associated with periods of rainfall or flooding.

The breeding range reaches Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania, as the north-western limit, just within the boundaries of the WP as defined by Cramp & Simmons (1977). Birds breed here mainly from late May to early July, and numbers have decreased strongly, from 2460 pairs in 1984-85 to 365 in 1994 and 310 in 1995 (Snow & Perrins 1998). It is

FIGURE 1 **A** Reed Cormorant / Afrikaanse Dwergaalscholver *Phalacrocorax africanus*, juvenile, collected in Catalunya, Spain, in c 1855 (CRBA-594) *(Xavier Ferrer)*. Note details of wing-coverts (right wing). **B** Reed Cormorant, collected at Mahenge, Tanzania (ZMB 2000/15450), dorsal and ventral view *(Hwa Ja Götz/Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin)*. Note details of wing-coverts (right wing) and similarity with A. **C** Pygmy Cormorant / Dwergaalscholver *P pygmeus*, juvenile, collected in Mesopotamia (NHM, no specimen number), ventral view *(Natural History Museum, Tring)*. Note details of wing-coverts (right wing). Photographs not to scale.



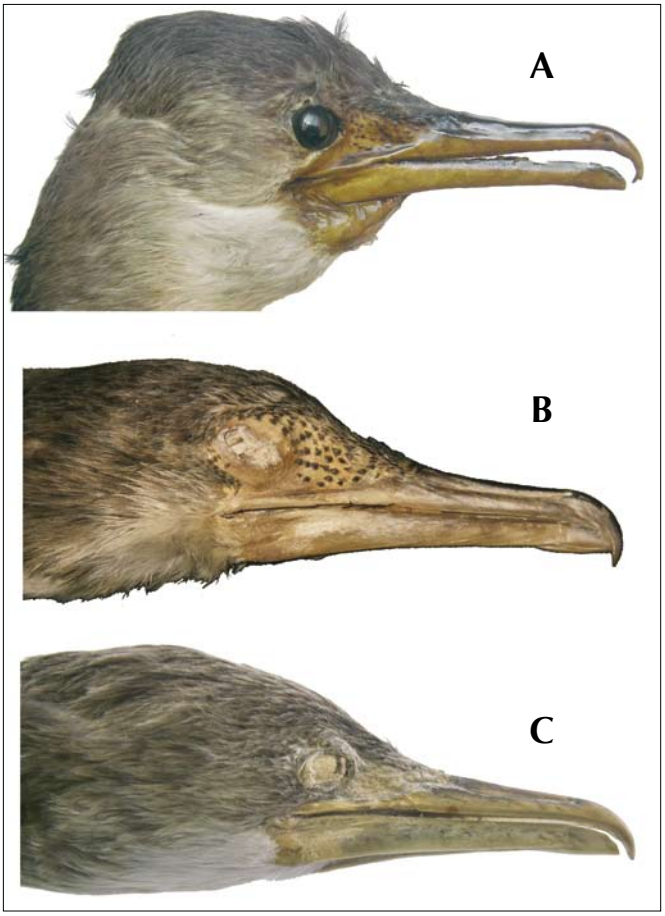


FIGURE 2 **A** Reed Cormorant / Afrikaanse Dwergaalscholver *Phalacrocorax africanus*, juvenile, collected in Catalunya, Spain, in c 1855 *(Xavier Ferrer)* **B** Reed Cormorant, collected at Mahenge, Tanzania (ZMB 2000/15450) *(Hwa Ja Götz/Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin)* **C** Pygmy Cormorant / Dwergaalscholver *P pygmeus*, juvenile, collected in Mesopotamia (NHM, no specimen number) *(Natural History Museum, Tring)*. Note differences between Reed and Pygmy in bill shape and pattern of loral area. Photographs not to scale.

an accidental visitor to Cap Blanc peninsula, Mauritania, c 150 km north of Banc d'Arguin. Further north, a few records are known: four were recorded at Puerto Rico (or Porto Rico) near Dakhla, Middle Draa, Western Sahara, Morocco, on 14 April 1955 (c 400 km north of Banc d'Arguin), 20 at Lagtoa (or Legtoaa), Oued Ad-Deheb, Western Sahara, on 16 April 1955 (c 350 km north of Banc d'Arguin) and, much further north, one at Oued Massa, Souss, Morocco, on 5 April 1982 (c 1250 km north-east of Banc d'Arguin; c 1400 km when following the coast line) (Cramp & Simmons 1977, Thévenot et al 2003). The distance from Banc d'Arguin to Barcelona in a straight line is c 3000 km.

In the WP, Reed Cormorant is also on the list of Egypt, where it was once reported to be a widespread breeding bird (Faiyum oasis, Nile delta and possibly Nile valley) but where it was not recorded after 1903. Note that the historic occurrence is not well documented and that there are a lot of uncertainties about its former status (István Moldován in litt). Between 1988 and 1993, there have been at least three reports at Abu Simbel and lake Nasser: 21 March 1988 (eight), 23-24 October 1992 and 28 April 1993 (the origin of 'up to 25' reported by Snow & Perrins 1998 is unclear). These reports were during periods of floods and the water level in lake Nasser was exceptionally high. There have been no reports after 1993 (Mindy Baha El Din in litt). The reports from 1988-93 await confirmation by the newly established Egyptian rarities committee (István Moldován in litt).

Support for genuine vagrancy of the Spanish bird is presented by the pattern shown by other species originating from sub-Saharan Africa which have been recorded in the Canary Islands or Iberian Peninsula as (presumed) genuine vagrants, such as Dwarf Bittern *Ixobrychus sturmii*, Rüppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppellii*, White-backed Vulture *G africanus*, African Crake *Crex egregia* and Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni*, to mention some of the Category A species on the Spanish list (Clavell et al 2005). An additional consideration with regard to its vagrant origin is the composition of the Barcelona specimen collection, which comprises only species shot in Catalunya in the 19th century, with skins being obtained in local meat markets. So, an exotic origin seems unlikely.

If accepted by the Spanish rarities committee as Reed Cormorant and placed into Category A, this specimen constitutes the first record for Europe.

Acknowledgements
We thank Robert Dowsett, Dick Forsman, Killian Mullarney, Peter Ryan, Ian Sinclair and Lars Svensson for comments on the identity of the skin and the characters shown, as well as the discussion regarding the differences between Pygmy Cormorant and Reed Cormorant. We are grateful to the museum curators of the Natural History Museum in Tring (Hein van Grouw) and the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin (Pascal Eckhoff and Hwa Ja Götz) for their help. NHM images are copyrighted to the Natural History Museum. We are also indebted to Pablo Almaraz, Gabriel Bowen and Jonathan Karr for their help with the interpretation of isotopic values. Mindy Baha El Din and István Moldován provided information about the status of Reed Cormorant in Egypt.

References

BirdLife International 2010. Species factsheet: *Phalacrocorax africanus*. Website: www.birdlife.org. [Accessed 10 September 2010.]

Bowen, G J, Wassenaar, L I & Hobson, K A 2005. Global application of stable hydrogen and oxygen isotopes to wildlife forensics. Oecologia 143: 337-348.

Clark, R G, Hobson, K A & Wassenaar, L I 2006. Geographic variation in the isotopic (δD, $\delta^{13}C$, $\delta^{15}N$, $\delta^{34}S$) composition of feathers and claws from lesser scaup and northern pintail: implications for studies of migratory connectivity. Can J Zool 84: 1395-1401.

Clavell, J, Copete, J L, Gutiérrez, R, de Juana, E & Lorenzo, J A 2005. Lista de las aves de España. Madrid.

Cramp, S & Simmons, K E L (editors) 1977. The birds of the Western Palearctic 1. Oxford.

de Juana, E & Comité de Rarezas de la SEO 2002. Observaciones de aves rares en España, año 2000. Ardeola 49: 141-171.

de Juana, E 2006. Aves raras de España. Un catálogo de las especies de presentación ocasional. Barcelona.

del Hoyo, J, Elliott, A & Sargatal, J (editors) 1992. Handbook of the birds of the world 1. Barcelona.

Hobson, K A, Wunder, M B, Van Wilgenburg, S L, Clark, R G & Wassenaar, L I 2009. A method for investigating population declines of migratory birds using stable isotopes: origins of harvested Lesser Scaup in North America. PloS One 4 (11): e7915. [www.plosone.org]

Snow, D W & Perrins, C M (editors) 1998. The birds of the Western Palearctic. Concise edition. Oxford.

Thévenot, M, Vernon, R & Bergier, P 2003. The birds of Morocco. An annotated checklist. BOU Checklist 20. Tring.

José Luis Copete, Martínez de la Rosa 27 Pral 3a, 08012 Barcelona, Spain (jlcopete@telefonica.net)
Xavier Ferrer, Dept Biologia Animal, Facultat de Biologia, Universitat de Barcelona, Av Diagonal 645, 08028 Barcelona, Spain (xferrer@ub.edu)
David Bigas, Parc Natural del Delta de l'Ebre, Av Catalunya 46, 43580 Deltebre, Spain (dbigas2@yahoo.es)
Carola Sanpera, Dept Biologia Animal, Facultat de Biologia, Universitat de Barcelona, Av Diagonal 645, 08028 Barcelona, Spain (csanpera@ub.edu)
David R Vieites, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales-CSIC, C/José Gutiérrez Abascal 2, 28006 Madrid, Spain (vieites@mncn.csic.es)

Black Guillemot at N'Gor, Senegal, in October 2008

From 5 to 12 October 2008, we spent one week on Péninsule du Cap-Vert (Cape Verde Peninsula) at N'Gor, north of Dakar, Senegal, to study and count seabird migration. The high potential of this site for seawatching was discovered in 1990 by French ornithologists (Baillon & Dubois 1991). Later, and particularly since 1995, English, French and Swedish teams have confirmed the importance of the peninsula for observing seabird migration (see Holmström 2008). There are two excellent localities for seawatching at N'Gor and, during the week, we stayed alternately at both, ie, on the isle of N'Gor and at the terrace of Calao Club. Most of the time, birds flew close to the shore and the number of shearwaters *Puffinus/Calonectris*, small skuas *Stercorarius* and terns Sternidae make the Péninsule du Cap-Vert probably the best mainland seawatching site for Africa and one of the best in the world, both in numbers and species diversity. During 61:30 h of seawatching, we counted, among others, 1421 Pomarine Skuas *S pomarinus*, 1200 Arctic Jaegers *S parasiticus* and 262 Long-tailed Jaegers *S longicaudus*. We also saw 447 Cape Verde Shearwaters *C edwardsii* and 4245 Sooty Shearwaters *P griseus* (Dubois et al 2009). However, the highlights of our stay were the sightings of a Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (if accepted, the seventh for Senegal), a Laughing Gull *L atricilla* (the second) and a Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* (the first).

We observed the Black Guillemot during two days, on 11 and 12 October, and had a total of 10 observations of the bird flying and resting at sea in front of the Calao Club. We noted a small size, the body shape of an auk, and narrow wings,

which appeared to be situated to the rear of the body. The main impression was a white bird with only few pale grey scaled markings on the back and wings (this was particularly evident when the bird was seen on the water). The flight was straight, with fast wing beats. It flew rather high above the sea level when moving through the area, and low above the water during short shifting. It always zigzagged before landing, with sharp and fast motions. Because of the observation conditions and distance, no photographs or a more detailed description could be obtained. All the observers, however, are familiar with the species, both in Europe and eastern North America, and absolutely confident about the bird's identification, ruling out possibilities such as for instance Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*, small grebes Podicipedidae, or other alcids Alcidae like murrelet species or even Pigeon Murrelet *C columba*. Because of its white appearance, we guess the bird may have belonged to *C g mandtii*, which is the palest subspecies from arctic Canada and Svalbard (Spitsbergen).

It is tempting to associate the observation of the Black Guillemot with our sightings of other species seen at N'Gor during this week: Sabine's Gull *L sabini* (2610), Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*, Long-tailed Jaegers and the two Nearctic gulls. These birds mostly originate from a Nearctic range and probably meet somewhere off Péninsule du Cap-Vert with those coming from arctic Europe and Siberia, Russia, which may explain the high seabird numbers (eg, Vandewalle 1988).

Black Guillemot breeds on both sides of the North Atlantic and regularly winters as far south as the North Sea. The most southerly records so far were in Spain and Madeira (Snow & Perrins 1998). Therefore, if accepted, it concerns not only the species' first record for Senegal but also for Africa. There are four other alcid species recorded for Africa (Common Murre *Uria aalge*, Razorbill *Alca torda*, Little Auk *Alle alle* and Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica*) but only Common Murre and Razorbill reached as far south as Mauritania with only a handful of records each, and none has been recorded further south (Urban et al 1986, Borrow & Demey 2001, Isenmann et al 2010).

We like to thank Niklas Holmström for his invaluable help before and after our trip to Senegal.

References

Baillon, F & Dubois, P J 1991. Seawatching from Cape Verde, Senegal. Birding World 4: 440-442.

Borrow, N & Demey, R 2001. Birds of western Africa. London.

Dubois, P J, Holmström N & Verneau A 2009. La peninsule du Cap-Vert à Dakar, Sénégal, est-elle la 'Mecque' du seawatching? Ornithos 16: 220-232.

Holmström, N 2008. Seawatching in Senegal. Website: http://senegal.seawatching.net.

Isenmann, P, Benmergui, M, Browne, P, Ba, A D, Diagana, C H, Diawara, Y & ould Sidaty, Z E A 2010. Oiseaux de Mauritanie / Birds of Mauritania. Paris.

Snow, D W & Perrins, C M (editors) 1998. The birds of the Western Palearctic. Concise edition. Oxford.

Urban, E K, Fry, C H & Keith, S 1986. The birds of Africa 2. London.

Vandewalle, F J 1988. Origins and migration routes of some Palearctic terns wintering in Africa south of Zambesi and Cunene Rivers. Gerfaut 78: 131-150.

Pierre Crouzier, 134 chemin des Flèches, 01000 St Denis les Bourg, France (pierre_crouzierfr@yahoo.fr)
Philippe J Dubois, 104 rue Saint-Jean, 95300 Pontoise, France (pjdubois@orange.fr)
Jean-Yves Frémont, 34 rue de la Source, 44760 Les Moutiers-en-Retz, France (jean-yves.fremont0353@orange.fr)
Alain Verneau, 7 Chaudelande, 50300 Théville, France (alainverneau@gmail.com)

Two Dickcissels and Dark-eyed Junco on Flores, Azores, in November 2009

In November 2009, my wife Ans and I (Nico de Vries) visited the Azores for the fourth year in a row. We stayed on Flores, one of the most westerly islands which – like nearby Corvo – is well-known for the Nearctic vagrants that can be encountered. In recent years, Corvo has attracted a few 10s of birders every autumn, strongly increasing the chances of finding vagrants (cf, eg, Alfrey et al 2010). Flores is much larger and more vegetated than Corvo but there are hardly any birders. In autumn 2009, despite being practically the only birders, we were very successful on Flores, finding two species new for the Azores in just two days time.

Dark-eyed Junco, 5 November 2009

On 5 November at c 08:00, I visited Faja Grande, where a White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* and a Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* had recently been seen. It is also a good spot for Nearctic landbirds. I found a large flock consisting of House Sparrows *Passer domesticus*, Azores Chaffinches *Fringilla coelebs moreletti* and Atlantic Canaries *Serinus canaria* feeding on seeds. When a




49 Dickcissel / Dickcissel *Spiza americana*, Ponta Delgado, Flores, Azores, 6 November 2009 *(Nico de Vries)*. The first bird. **50-52** Dickcissel / Dickcissel *Spiza americana*, Ponta Delgado, Flores, Azores, 6 November 2009 *(Nico de Vries)*. The second bird.

domestic cat disturbed the flock, most birds flew up and many perched on stone walls. I scanned the walls with my 10x40 binoculars and, at a distance of less than 10 m, noticed a small dark bird with a white belly, a relatively long tail, conspicuous white outer tail-feathers and a small pale bill. I had never seen such a bird before and therefore assumed it was a Nearctic songbird. The cat was still around and my camera still in the bag, giving me some worries... As feared, the birds were disturbed, not only by the cat but also by two tractors. The unknown bird flew off to quieter fields further away. Despite searching for it the rest of the morning, I could not relocate it. I made a few notes and a field sketch in my notebook and then quickly returned to our temporary home at Guada, where I consulted my field guide (National Geographic Society 2002). I quickly found the illustration of a male Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*, which perfectly matched what I had seen that morning. To my surprise, it was not on the Azores checklist (www.birdingazores.com/lists/2009azoresbirdlist.xls), which meant that I had found a first for the archipelago. Therefore, I informed Staffan Rodebrand of Birding Azores. The following days, I regularly searched the area again but without success. Due to farming activities, the flock of songbirds was much smaller and most birds had probably departed to other areas. The description is based on the field notes.

Description

SIZE & SHAPE Comparable with Azores Chaffinch. Tail relatively long. Bill relatively small.

PLUMAGE Head, breast and upperparts dark to blackish grey. Belly white. Outer tail-feathers with white outer web and dark inner.

BARE PARTS Bill conspicuously pale, yellowish. Leg pale.

The combination of characters only fits an adult male Dark-eyed Junco of the nominate *hyemalis* group ('Slate-coloured Junco'; Cramp & Perrins 1994, Sibley 2000, National Geographic Society 2002). 'Slate-coloured Junco' is a rare but regular vagrant to Europe with records in Britain (33), Denmark, Gibraltar (one), Iceland (one), Ireland, the Netherlands (one; February 1962), Norway (one) and Poland (one) (Lewington et al 1991, Cramp & Perrins 1994, Hudson & the Rarities Committee 2009).

This record has been accepted by the Portuguese rarities committee (SPEA; João Jara in litt).

Dickcissels, 6 November 2009

On 6 November, the weather was fine and we made a tour by car around the island. Just outside Ponta Delgado a small football pitch is situated next to a few grassy fields with edges of Azorean reed of more than 2 m high. This site offers a nice view over Corvo and, with temperatures reaching 21°C, it was the right place for a picnic and some birding. Around 15:30, I heard an unfamiliar sound and, when trying to locate the source, I found two sparrow-like songbirds. The first thing I noticed was the triangular bill shape. My excitement rose because I knew that these were probably also Nearctic vagrants. I quickly took a few photographs. One of the birds flew to the ground and disappeared from view. I alerted Ans and she could also observe the remaining bird. I managed to take one more digiscope photograph and then the show was over: both birds had disappeared into the bushes and then flew off together. Although we searched for much of the afternoon, they were not seen again. Back 'home', we consulted our field guide and quickly found out that the birds had been Dickcissels *Spiza americana*. Again, this species was not on the Azores birdlist and, moreover, the next day we heard that it was an extreme rarity in the Western Palearctic (WP), with only one previous record. The following day, I returned to the site with Olof Jönsson and two Swiss birders but we 'only' found a Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus* (maybe of Neactic origin...?). Also, on following days, we could not relocate the Dickcissels. The description is based on the photographs (cf Dutch Birding 31: 382, plate 520, 2009). Both birds appeared identical in size, shape and plumage.

Description

SIZE & SHAPE Sparrow-like with triangular bill. Tail relatively short. Primary projection short.

PLUMAGE Head greyish. Area around eye and lore pale yellowish, with very short supercilium behind eye. Submoustachial area yellow. Throat pale. Breast yellowish. Belly and undertail-coverts pale yellowish to off-white. Upperparts brownish with dark streaking. Lesser and median coverts contrastingly chestnut-brown. Tertials dark greyish with thin pale brown edges and tip. Uppertail darkish.

BARE PARTS Eye dark. Bill grey. Leg brownish.

SOUND Buzzing *bzzzzzrt*.

The combination of size and shape, greyish head with pale markings around the eye, brown upperparts and yellowish underparts, chestnut-brown (lesser and median) wing-coverts and triangular bill only fits Dickcissel (Cramp & Perrins 1994, Sibley 2000, National Geographic Society 2002). The described call also fits this species well. The chestnut-brown coverts indicate that the bird photographed was not a first-year female; all other plumages show this distinctive feature. This species breeds on the plains of eastern and central USA and winters primarily from Mexico to northern South America. The only previous record in the WP was an adult male in Norway, at Måløy, Sogn og Fjordane, on 29 July 1981 (Michaelsen 1985, Lewington et al 1991, Cramp & Perrins 1994).

This record (both individuals) has been accepted by the Portuguese rarities committee (SPEA; João Jara in litt).

References

Alfrey, P, Buckell, S, Legrand, V, Monticelli, D & Birding Azores 2010. Birding on Corvo, Azores, and Nearctic vagrants in 2005-09. Dutch Birding 32: 299-315.

Cramp, & Perrins, C M (editors) 1994. The birds of the Western Palearctic 9. Oxford.

Hudson, N & Rarities Committee 2009. Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 2008. Br Birds 102: 528-601.

Lewington, I, Alström, P & Colston, P 1991. A field guide to the rare birds of Britain and Europe. London.

Michaelsen, J 1985. Sjeldne fugler i Norge i 1981. Rapport fra Norsk sjeldenhetskomite for fugl (NSKF), NZF og NOF. Vår Fuglefauna 8: 49-52.

National Geographic Society 2002. Field guide to the birds of North America. Fourth edition. Washington DC.

Sibley, D 2000. The North American bird guide. New York.

Nico de Vries, Bovendiepsterweg 1, 9551 VW Sellingen, Netherlands (dehop@wanadoo.nl)

Redactiemededelingen

Naamgeving van taxa in Dutch Birding

Voor taxonomie, naamgeving en volgorde van in Nederland waargenomen taxa houdt Dutch Birding zich aan de beslissingen van de Commissie Systematiek Nederlandse Avifauna (CSNA) (Sangster et al 1999, 2003, 2009). Dit is een gevolg van afspraken tussen Dutch Birding Association (DBA), Nederlandse Ornithologische Unie (NOU) en Sovon Vogelonderzoek Nederland die werden gemaakt in het kader van de publicatie van *Avifauna van Nederland* (van den Berg & Bosman 1999, 2001, Bijlsma et al 2001). Voor taxonomie van niet in Nederland vastgestelde taxa wordt de derde editie van 'Howard and Moore' (Dickinson 2003) gevolgd behoudens aanvullingen en wijzigingen gepresenteerd in redactiemededelingen in de eerste nummers van Dutch Birding-jaargangen. In de in 2008 door DBA gepubliceerde lijst van vogelnamen (van den Berg 2008) zijn alle redactiemededelingen van Dutch Birding jaargang 19-30 (1997-2008) verwerkt en in de digitale versie tevens die van 2009 en 2010 (Redactie Dutch Birding 2009, 2010) en 2011 (www.dutchbirding.nl/page.php?page_id=228).

In tabel 1 staan nieuwe wijzigingen in de naamgeving van West-Palearctische taxa vermeld die per 1 januari 2011 in Dutch Birding worden doorgevoerd. De door Sangster et al (2010a) gepresenteerde taxonomische volgorde van zangvogels (passerines) wordt reeds vanaf 1 januari 2010 door Dutch Birding toegepast (Redactie Dutch Birding 2010).

Aan de lijst van vogelsoorten binnen het door van den Berg (2008) gedefinieerde WP-gebied (Europa met inbegrip van Macaronesië plus alle landen die grenzen aan de Dode, Middellandse of Zwarte Zee) kan een aantal worden toegevoegd: Perzische Kleine Pijlstormvogel / Persian Shearwater *Puffinus persicus* (Israël; januari-februari 1985 en december 1989), Treurtortel / Mourning Collared Dove *Streptopelia decipiens*, Waaliaduif / Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia*, Zwartkopbuidelmees / Black-headed Penduline Tit *Remiz macronyx* (onder meer Europees Rusland), Kortvleugelkarekiet / African Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus baeticatus* (Hering et al 2010) en Lincolns Gors / Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolnii* (cf van den Berg & Haas 2010). Zie Redactie Dutch Birding (2009, 2010) voor andere recentelijk toegevoegde soorten.

Voor Engelse vogelnamen volgt Dutch Birding sinds 1 januari 2008 de aanbevelingen van het Internationaal Ornithologisch Congres (IOC) (Gill & Wright 2006, Gill & Donsker 2010), met enkele uitzonderingen (Olson & Banks 2007, Redactie Dutch Birding 2009, 2010). Aanvullingen en wijzigingen worden door het IOC op internet gepubliceerd en deze veranderingen in Engelse namen worden overgenomen door Dutch Birding, zoals sinds 1 januari 2011 onder meer Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar* (in plaats van Chukar), Common Buttonquail *Turnix sylvatica* (in plaats van Kurrichane Buttonquail), Yellow-eyed Pigeon *Columba eversmanni* (in plaats van Yellow-eyed Dove), Ménétriés's Warbler *Sylvia mystacea* (in plaats van Ménétries's Warbler; cf Raposo & Kirwan 2008, Redman et al 2009) en Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* (in plaats van Winter Wren vanwege split van twee Nearctische taxa, Winter Wren *T hiemalis* en Pacific Wren *T pacificus*; Drovetski et al (2004), Toews & Irwin (2008), Chesser et al (2010)).

Gewijzigde Nederlandse namen zijn onder meer Mauritaanse Reiger *Ardea monicae* (in plaats van Mauritanische Reiger; contra Redactie 2010) en Ménétriés' Zwartkop (in plaats van Ménétries' Zwartkop; cf Raposo & Kirwan 2008, Redman et al 2009).

Wij danken naast Kees Roselaar en George Sangster tevens Eric Jan Alblas, Mike Blair, Barak Granit, Gert Ottens en Marijn Prins voor hun assistentie.

Summary

Taxa names in Dutch Birding From 1 January 2011, Dutch Birding will use new names or new taxonomic treatments for several taxa (see table 1). For English vernacular names, updates by the International Ornithological Congress are followed. New species documented for a WP region defined as Europe with Macaronesia and all countries bordering the Black, Dead or Mediterranean Sea are, eg, Black-headed Penduline Tit *Remiz macronyx* (European Russia), African Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus baeticatus* (Libya) and Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolnii* (Azores).

Verwijzingen

van den Berg, A B 2008. Dutch Birding-vogelnamen: lijst van West-Palearctische vogelsoorten 2008 – Dutch Birding bird names: list of Western Palearctic bird species 2008. Amsterdam.

van den Berg, A B & Bosman, C A W 1999, 2001. Zeldzame vogels van Nederland – Rare birds of the

TABEL 1 Vanaf 1 januari 2011 door Dutch Birding gebruikte nieuwe wetenschappelijke namen van West-Palearctische (WP) taxa / New scientific names for Western Palearctic (WP) taxa used in Dutch Birding from 1 January 2011

Schots Sneeuwhoen / Red Grouse *Lagopus scotica* (was *Lagopus lagopus scotica*) (Guttiérez et al 2000, cf Lucchini et al 2001, cf Quintela et al 2010)

Siciliaanse Steenpatrijs / Sicilian Partridge *Alectoris whitakeri* (was *Alectoris graeca whitakeri*) (Randi et al 2003, Lucchini & Randi 1998, Randi 2006, Corso 2010)

Barbarijse Frankolijn / Double-spurred Francolin *Pternistis bicalcaratus* (was *Francolinus bicalcaratus*) (Crowe et al 1992, 2006, Bloomer & Crowe 1998)

Amerikaanse Grote Stern / Cabot's Tern *Sterna acuflavida* (was *Sterna sandvicensis acuflavida*) (Efe et al 2009, Johnsen et al 2010).

For a paper on the identification of Cabot's Tern, see Garner et al (2007).

Noordelijke Klapekster / Northern Shrike *Lanius borealis sibiricus* (was *Lanius excubitor sibiricus*) (Olsson et al 2009, Poelstra 2010)
Iberische Klapekster / Iberian Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis* (was Iberische Klapekster / Southern Grey Shrike) (Gonzales et al 2008, Klassert et al 2008, Olsson 2009, Redactie 2009, Poelstra 2010)
Woestijnklapekster / Desert Grey Shrike *Lanius elegans* (was Zuidelijke Klapekster / Southern Grey Shrike) (Gonzales et al 2008, Klassert et al 2008, Olsson 2009, Redactie 2009, Poelstra 2010)
Aziatische Klapekster / Asian Grey Shrike *Lanius lahtora* (was *Lanius excubitor lahtora*) (Olsson et al 2009, Poelstra 2010)
Steppeklapekster / Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius lahtora pallidirostris* (was *Lanius pallidirostris*) (Olsson et al 2009, Poelstra 2010)

Olsson et al (2009) en Poelstra (2010) stelden voor om het klapekstercomplex (voorheen drie soorten: Klapekster *Lanius excubitor*, Iberische Klapekster *L meridionalis* en Steppeklapekster *L pallidirostris*) in zes soorten te verdelen: Noordelijke Klapekster *L borealis* (van Altaigebergte en Siberië, Rusland, tot en met Noord-Amerika; incl *bianchii, borealis*, *funereus*, *mollis* en *sibiricus*), Iberische Klapekster *L meridionalis* (monotypisch), Socotraklapekster *L uncinatus* (monotypisch), Woestijnklapekster *L elegans* (van Canarische Eilanden oost over Noord-Afrika en zuidelijke Sahara; incl *algeriensis*, *elegans*, *koenigi* en *leucopygos*), Klapekster *L excubitor* (centraal and noordelijke Europa tot zuid-westelijk Siberië; incl *excubitor*, *homeyeri* en *przewalskii* (was *leucopterus* in Poelstra 2010) en Aziatische Klapekster *L lahtora* (Israël en Arabisch schiereiland oost tot in Kazachstan, Mongolië en Bangladesh; incl *aucheri*, *buryi*, *lahtora* en *pallidirostris*).

Olsson et al (2009) and Poelstra (2010) suggested a six-way split for the great grey shrike complex (formerly three species, Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*, Southern Grey Shrike *L meridionalis* and Steppe Grey Shrike *L pallidirostris*) into Northern Shrike *L borealis* (from Altai mountains and Siberia, Russia, to North America; incl *bianchii, borealis*, *funereus*, *mollis* en *sibiricus*), Iberian Grey Shrike (formerly Southern Grey Shrike) *L meridionalis* (monotypic), Socotra Grey Shrike *L uncinatus* (monotypic), Desert Grey Shrike *L elegans* (from Canary Islands east across northern Africa and southern Sahara; incl *algeriensis*, *elegans*, *koenigi* en *leucopygos*), Great Grey Shrike *L excubitor* (central and northern Europe to south-western Siberia; incl *excubitor*, *homeyeri* en *przewalskii* (was *leucopterus* in Poelstra 2010)) and Asian Grey Shrike *L lahtora* (Levant and Arabia east to Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Bangladesh; incl *aucheri*, *buryi*, *lahtora* en *pallidirostris*).

Zwartstaart / Blackstart *Oenanthe melanura* (was *Cercomela melanura*) (Outlaw et al 2009, Sangster et al 2010b)

Ovenvogel / Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla*
Louisianawaterlijster / Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla* (was *Seiurus)*
Noordse Waterlijster / Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis* (was *Seiurus*)
Geelvleugelzanger / Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*
Blauwvleugelzanger / Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora cyanoptera* (was *Vermivora pinus*)
Bonte Zanger / Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*
Tennesseezanger / Tennessee Warbler *Oreothlypis peregrina* (was *Vermivora*)
Gewone Maskerzanger/ Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*
Monnikszanger / Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina* (was *Wilsonia*)
Amerikaanse Roodstaart / American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*
Tijgerzanger / Cape May Warbler *Setophaga tigrina* (was *Dendroica*)
Azuurzanger / Cerulean Warbler *Setophaga cerulea* (was *Dendroica*)
Brilparulazanger / Northern Parula *Setophaga americana* (was *Parula*)
Magnoliazanger / Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia* (was *Dendroica*)
Kastanjezanger / Bay-breasted Warbler *Setophaga castanea* (was *Dendroica*)
Sparrenzanger/ Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca* (was *Dendroica*)
Gele Zanger / American Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia* (was *Dendroica*)
Roestflankzanger / Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica* (was *Dendroica*)
Zwartkopzanger / Blackpoll Warbler *Setophaga striata* (was *Dendroica*)
Blauwe Zwartkeelzanger / Black-throated Blue Warbler *Setophaga caerulescens* (was *Dendroica*)

TABEL 1 (vervolg)

Palmzanger / Palm Warbler *Setophaga palmarum* (was *Dendroica*) **Mirtezanger / Myrtle Warbler** *Setophaga coronata* (was *Dendroica*) **Gele Zwartkeelzanger / Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens* (was *Dendroica*) **Canadese Zanger / Canada Warbler** *Cardellina canadensis* (was *Wilsonia*)	**Wilsons Zanger / Wilson's Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla* (was *Wilsonia*) De volgorde van Amerikaanse zangers Parulini en een aantal wetenschappelijke namen zijn gewijzigd (Sangster 2008, Olson & Reveal 2009, Lovette et al 2010). The order of American warblers Parulini and some scientific names have changed (Sangster 2008, Olson & Reveal 2009, Lovette et al 2010).

Netherlands. Avifauna van Nederland 1. Eerste, tweede druk. Haarlem.

van den Berg, A B & Haas, M 2010. WP reports: October–mid-November. Dutch Birding 32: 404-422.

Bijlsma, R G, Hustings, F & Camphuysen, C J 2001. Algemene en schaarse vogels van Nederland – Common and scarce birds of the Netherlands. Avifauna van Nederland 2. Haarlem.

Bloomer, P & Crowe, TM 1998. Francolin phylogenetics: molecular, morphobehavioral, and combined evidence. Mol Phylogen Evol 9: 236-254.

Chesser, R T, Banks, R C, Barker, F K, Cicero C, Dun, J L, Kratter, A W, Lovette, I J, Rasmussen, P C, Remsen, J V, Rising, J D, Stotz, D F & Winker, K 2010. Fifty-first supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union: Check-list of North American Birds. Auk 127: 726–744.

Corso, A 2010. Sicilian Rock Partridge: identification and taxonomy. Dutch Birding 32: 79-96.

Crowe, T M, Bowie, R C K, Bloomer, P, Mandiwana, T G, Hedderson, T A J, Randi, E, Pereira, S L & Wakeling, J 2006. Phylogenetics, biogeography and classification of, and character evolution in, gamebirds (Aves: Galliformes): effects of character exclusion, data partitioning and missing data. Cladistics 22: 495-53.

Crowe, T M, Harley, E H, Jakutowicz, M B, Komen, J & Crowe, A A 1992. Phylogenetic, taxonomic and biogeographical implications of genetic, morphological, and behavioral variation in Francolins (Phasianidae: *Francolinus*). Auk 109: 24-42.

Dickinson, E C (redactie) 2003. The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world. Derde druk. Londen.

Drovetski, S V, Zink, R M, Rohwer, S, Fadeev, I V, Nesterov, E V, Karagodin, I, Koblik, E A & Red'kin, Y A 2004. Complex biogeographic history of a Holarctic passerine. Proc Royal Soc London, Ser B 271: 545-551.

Efe, M A, Tavares, E S, Baker, A J & Bonatto, S L 2009. Multigene phylogeny and DNA barcoding indicate that the Sandwich tern complex (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*, Laridae, Sternini) comprises two species. Mol Phylogen Evol 52: 263-267.

Garner, M, Lewington, I & Crook, J 2007. Identification of American Sandwich Tern. Dutch Birding 29: 273-287.

Gill, F & Donsker, D (redactie) 2010. IOC world bird names (version 2.6). Website: www.worldbirdnames.org.

Gill, F & Wright, M 2006. Birds of the world: recommended English names. Londen.

Gonzales, J, Wink, M, Garcia-del-Rey, E & Castro, G D 2008. Evidence from DNA nucleotide sequences and ISSR profiles indicates paraphyly in subspecies of the Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*). J Ornithol 149: 495-506.

Gutiérrez, R J, Barrowclough, G F & Groth, J G 2000. A classification of the grouse (Aves: Tetraoninae) based on mitochondrial DNA sequences. Wildlife Biol 6: 205-211.

Hering, J, Fuchs, E & Winkler, H 2010. Neues zum Vorkommen und zur Brutbiologie von Zimtrohrsänger *Acrocephalus baeticatus* und Teichrohrsänger *A. scirpaceus* in Libyen. Limicola 24: 117-139.

Johnsen, A, Rindal, E, Ericson, P G P, Zuccon, D, Kerr, K C R, Stoeckle, M Y & Lifjeld, J T 2010. DNA barcoding of Scandinavian birds reveals divergent lineages in trans-Atlantic species. J Ornithol 151: 565-578.

Klassert, T E, Hernández, M Á, Campos, F, Infante, O, Almeida, T, Suárez, N M, Petano, J & Hernández, M 2008. Mitochondrial DNA points to *Lanius meridionalis* as a polyphyletic species. Mol Phylogen Evol 47: 1227-1231.

Lovette, I J, Pérez-Emán, J L, Sullivan, J P, Banks, R C, Fiorentino, I, Córdoba-Córdoba, S, Echeverry-Galvis, M, Barker, F K, Burns, K J, & Klicka, J, Lanyon, S M & Bermingham, E 2010. A comprehensive multilocus phylogeny for the wood-warblers and a revised classification of the Parulidae (Aves). Mol Phylogen Evol 57: 753-770.

Lucchini, V, Höglund, J, Klaus, S, Swenson, J & Randi, E 2001. Historical biogeography and a mitochondrial DNA phylogeny of grouse and ptarmigan. Mol Phylogen Evol 20: 149-162.

Lucchini, V & Randi, E 1998. Mitochondrial DNA sequence variation and phylogeographical structure of rock partridge (*Alectoris graeca*) populations. Heredity 81: 528-536.

Olson, S L & Banks, R C 2007. Lectotypification of *Larus Smithsonianus* Coues, 1862 (Aves: Laridae). Proc Biol Soc Wash 120: 382-386.

Olson, S L & Reveal, J L 2009. Nomenclatural history and a new name for the Blue-winged Warbler (Aves: Parulidae). Wilson J Ornithol 121: 618-620.

Olsson, U, Alström, P, Svensson, L, Aliabadian, M & Sundberg, P 2009. The *Lanius excubitor* (Aves, Passeriformes) conundrum – taxonomic dilemma when molecular and non-molecular data tell different

stories. Mol Phylogen Evol 52: 347-357.
Outlaw, R K, Voelker, G & Bowie, R C K 2009. Shall we chat? Evolutionary relationships in the genus *Cercomela* (Muscicapidae) and its relation to *Oenanthe* reveals extensive polyphyly among chats distributed in Africa, India and the Palearctic. Mol Phylogen Evol 55: 284-292.
Poelstra, J 2010. Trends in systematics. Speciation in shades of grey: the great grey shrike complex. Dutch Birding 32: 258-264.
Quintela, M, Berlin, S, Wang, B & Höglund, J 2010. Genetic diversity and differentiation among *Lagopus lagopus* populations in Scandinavia and Scotland: evolutionary significant units confirmed by SNP markers. Mol Ecol 19: 2380-2393.
Randi, E 2006. Evolutionary and conservation genetics of the rock partridge *Alectoris graeca*. Acta Zool Sinica 52: 370-374.
Randi, E, Tabarroni, C, Rimondi, S, Lucchini, V, Sfouragis, A 2003. Phylogeography of the Rock Partridge (*Alectoris graeca*). Mol Ecol 12: 2201-2214.
Raposo, M A & Kirwan, G M 2008. The Brazilian species complex *Scytalopus speluncae*: how many times can a holotype be overlooked? Rev Brasil Ornitol 16: 78-81.
Redactie 2009, 2010. Naamgeving van taxa in Dutch Birding. Dutch Birding 31: 35-37; 32: 48-52.
Redman, N, Stevenson, T & Fanshawe, J 2009. Birds of the Horn of Africa. Londen.
Sangster, G 2008. A new genus for the waterthrushes (Parulidae). Bull Br Ornithol Cl 128: 212-215.
Sangster, G, Hazevoet, C J, van den Berg, A B, Roselaar, C S & Sluys, R 1999. Dutch avifaunal list: species concepts, taxonomic instability, and taxonomic changes in 1977-1998. Ardea 87: 139-165.
Sangster, G, van den Berg, A B, van Loon, A J & Roselaar, C S 2003, 2009. Dutch avifaunal list: taxonomic changes in 1999-2003; in 2004-2008. Ardea 91: 281-287; 97: 373-381.
Sangster, G, Collinson, J M, Knox, A G, Parkin, D T & Svensson, L 2010a. Taxonomic recommendations for British birds: sixth report. Ibis 152: 180-186.
Sangster, G, Alström, P, Forsmark, E & Olsson, U 2010b. Multi-locus phylogenetic analysis of Old World chats and flycatchers reveals extensive paraphyly at family, subfamily and genus level (Aves: Muscicapidae). Mol Phylogen Evol 57: 380-392.
Toews, D P L & Irwin, D E 2008. Cryptic speciation in a Holarctic passerine revealed by genetic and bioacoustic analyses. Mol Ecol 17: 2691-2705.

Redactie Dutch Birding, Duinlustparkweg 98A, 2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid, Nederland (editors@dutchbirding.nl)

Vernieuwing binnen redactie De bezetting van de redactie van Dutch Birding is al jaren tamelijk stabiel. Er is geen 'zittingstermijn' vastgelegd, wat als voordeel heeft dat er jaar in jaar uit met een vertrouwd en goed op elkaar ingewerkt team kan worden gewerkt. Om het risico te vermijden dat stabiliteit overgaat in stagnatie of een verkokerd blikveld heeft de redactie in 2009 een brede wervingsactie gedaan voor nieuwe redactieleden en redactiemedewerkers. De bedoeling was hiermee de continuïteit van het redactiewerk voor de toekomst te waarborgen, zittende redactieleden de kans te geven om, indien gewenst, een stapje terug te doen en een frisse blik op inhoud en beoogde doelgroepen te handhaven. Nieuwe redactiemedewerkers kunnen afgebakende taken vervullen en, wanneer de ervaringen over en weer positief zijn, over enkele jaren wellicht doorschuiven naar de redactie. Nieuwe redactieleden zullen het volledige takenpakket van een redactielid vervullen: ze krijgen alle roulerende stukken te zien en helpen mee met het werven, voorbereiden en schrijven van artikelen. Vanaf 1 januari 2011 zijn Sander Bot en Gert Ottens als nieuwe redactieleden actief; de afgelopen maanden zijn beiden al geleidelijk ingewerkt. Harvey van Diek (fotowerving), Jan Hein van Steenis (vertalingen), Pieter van Veelen (artikelen) en Peter de Vries (artikelen) zijn nieuwe redactiemedewerkers en reeds in het najaar van 2010 met hun werkzaamheden gestart. Vincent van der Spek maakt van de gelegenheid gebruik om over te stappen van redactielid naar redactiemedewerker, zodat hij zich meer kan richten op Recente meldingen en (vogel) zaken buiten Dutch Birding. Voor een volledig overzicht van de redactie en de redactiemedewerkers, zie het colofon. REDACTIE

Corrigenda

In het CDNA-jaarverslag over 2009 werd het verkeerde jaar vermeld in de datum in het bijschrift bij plaat 519 (Dutch Birding 32: 372, 2010). De foto werd gemaakt op 11 juni 2008 (niet 2009); cf de tekst over dit geval op de tegenoverliggende pagina. REDACTIE

In the CDNA rarities report on 2009, the wrong year was mentioned in the date in the caption of plate 519 (Dutch Birding 32: 372, 2010). The photograph was taken on 11 June 2008 (not 2009); cf the text of this record on the opposite page. EDITORS

WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic mainly from **December 2010 to late January 2011**. The reports are largely unchecked and their publication here does not imply future acceptance by a rarities committee. Observers are requested to submit their records to each country's rarities committee. Corrections are welcome and will be published.

SWANS TO DUCKS A **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor* at Deventer, Overijssel, the Netherlands, on 28 December was first ringed as an adult male (born in 2002 or earlier) near Riga, Latvia, on 29 May 2005 and colour-ringed in Denmark on 7 March 2010, after which it was again seen in Latvia until 13 April, now constituting the species' first ringing recovery since 1979 from Latvia in the Netherlands (where the species is not known for moving over large distances). Since 2005, a pair of **Whooper Swans** *C cygnus* bred every year near Wapse, Drenthe, the Netherlands (cf Dutch Birding 28: 15-18, 2006), but, surprisingly, two new parent birds were involved in 2010. In France, four **Taiga Bean Geese** *Anser fabalis* were found in Pas-de-Calais in late December. In the Netherlands, possibly the highest number since the 1980s were encountered, amounting to more than 100, mostly in the north-east and in Noord-Brabant. In Spain, an influx of **Pink-footed Goose** *A brachyrhynchus* in December involved 14 individuals. This winter, the best ever influx in decades of **Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis* for Italy took place with 20-25 individuals, including a record flock of 12 photographed at Torrile, Parma; it was also a record winter for **Red-breasted Goose** *B ruficollis* with more than five. In the USA, a limping **Barnacle Goose** in a flock of Canada Geese *B canadensis* first seen at Orchard Beach, New York, on 26-27 November and then in Connecticut from 3 December into January had been ringed as a first-year on Islay, Scotland, on 13 November 2002 after which it was frequently seen until March 2005 (a parent and a sibling ringed on the same day are still regularly seen on Islay). In mid-December, in the Priyutnensky region of Kalmykya, north-west of the Caspian Sea in southern Russia, 300 to 1000 **Red-breasted Geese** and also a high number of **Lesser White-fronted Geese** *A erythropus*, **Little Bustards** *Tetrax tetrax* and other species died due to freak weather conditions: snow with rain in -10°C, resulting in a 15 cm ice layer making the birds unable to move; it is the first instance of such mass mortality in the region and it is likely that more birds perished in areas not visited by people. One of the largest influxes ever of **Pale-bellied Brent Goose** *B hrota* for the Netherlands occurred in December-January with several large flocks of more than 150 mostly in the Wadden Sea region and the south-west (the largest influx

53 Red-footed Booby / Roodpootgent *Sula sula*, l'Estartit, Girona, Spain, 8 December 2010 *(David Monticelli)*

was in the winter of 1995/96 with up to 1000). One of the first birds this winter concerned a family of three at Ter Heijde, Zuid-Holland, on 1 December of which the female had been colour-ringed as a juvenile on Holy Island, Northumberland, England, on 16 February 1991 and seen in the same corner of Zuid-Holland in, eg, 1996 and 2009. If accepted, a **Cotton Pygmy Goose** *Nettapus coromandelianus* at Revadim reservoir on 17 December will be the first for Israel; the previous WP record was in Jordan in April 1997. In the Netherlands, at the lakes separating Flevoland and Gelderland, a total of at least 200 breeding pairs of **Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina* and one successful breeding of **Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca* were found in 2010 (Sovon-nieuws 23 (4): 3, 5, 2010). Two **White-headed Ducks** *Oxyura leucocephala* were present in Loire-Atlantique, France, in late December. An adult male **Steller's Eider** *Polysticta stelleri* at Sorthat Odde, Bornholm, from 19 December was the first since 2006 for Denmark. In Norway, 150 were counted in Vadsø, Finnmark. In Denmark, the adult male **American Scoter** *Melanitta americana* at Blåvands Huk, Vestjylland, was again present between 10 November and 12 December (it was first seen in 2003). If accepted, a subadult male in a flock of up to 10 000 Black Scoters *M nigra* at Røsnæs Fyr, Sjælland, on 4 January would be the fifth for Denmark. For its seventh winter, the adult male **Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola* remained at Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland. From 17 December through January, a female/first-year occurred at Paul da Praia, Terceira, Azores. A **Goosander** *Mergus merganser* at Albufeira lagoon on 4 December was the fourth for Portugal; an influx of up to 24 occurred in Spain in December. In Norway, the male **American Black Duck** *Anas rubripes* stayed on Husøy, Tønsberg, Vestfold, into January. Another long-stayer was still present in Mayo, Ireland, in December.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS **Pacific Loons** *Gavia pacifica* returned to Mount's Bay, Penzance, Cornwall, England, from 2 December through January (first seen here in February 2007) and Grande Havre Bay, Guernsey, Channel Islands, on 8 January (first seen here on 4 January 2010). Standardised seabird surveys in the German Baltic Sea in 2002-08 revealed that **Yellow-billed Loons** *G adamsii* occur regularly on migration in March-May; it is suggested that small numbers stopover or winter offshore in the southern Baltic and that some wintering in the North Sea perform a loop migration through the Baltic in spring (Vogelwelt 131: 179-184, 2010). In Ireland, a juvenile was present off Cork from 24 December. Three **Swinhoe's Storm Petrels** *Oceanodroma monorhis* were seen down to 150 m from the coast off Arrecife, Lanzarote, Canary Islands, at c 16:00 on 18 December. On 20 December, a first-year **Red-billed Tropicbird** *Phaethon aethereus* turned up at Playa del Pozo Negro, Fuerteventura, Canary Islands. An immature **Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula* first photographed 20 sea miles off Estartit, Girona, Spain, on 3 December was then seen in and around Estartit harbour on 4-9 December to return again, in very poor condition, on 15 December when it was taken into care; it appeared to have swallowed three fishing hooks and died on 23 December despite surgery. It is regarded as the same bird as the one at Estepona, Málaga, on 10 August (Birding World 23: 524-529, 2010, cf Dutch Birding 32: 334, 337, plate 461, 2010). In north-western France, **Northern Gannets** *Morus bassanus* bred for the first time in Normandy on the flat Terre islet at Saint-Marcouf, Manche, in 2010. Five nests were established, three in old Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* nests, but none was successful (Alauda 78: 321-328, 2010). In the Azores, **Double-crested Cormorants** *P auritus* were present on Graciosa on 25-29 November (up to two) and on Corvo on 7 December. As in 2008 and 2009, **Atlantic Great Cormorants** *P carbo carbo* (at least five pairs) bred at Roggenplaat, Neeltje Jans, Zeeland, the Netherlands; remarkably, this taxon also bred successfully inland in Niedersachsen, Germany, in 2010 (Sovon-nieuws 23 (4): 3, 2010).

HERONS TO GREBES In England, the first-winter **Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* at the Lost Gardens of Heligan, Cornwall, from 6 October stayed until 1 December. The third **Black Heron** *Egretta ardesiaca* for Cape Verde Islands was photographed at Ribeira da Vinha, São Vicente, in February 2010; previous ones date from February-March 1985 and 6 March 2007. The only other WP record concerns one at Eilat, Israel, on 19-20 October 1982; a report of two at Aswan, Egypt, in August 1980 (Dutch Birding 3: 80, 1981) was not accepted. In the Netherlands, a record 154 pairs of **Western Great Egret** *Casmerodius albus* were counted at Oostvaardersplassen, Flevoland, in 2010 (a previous high was 143 pairs in 2006). In the Azores, the **Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* at Paul da Praia remained through January. A juvenile **Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra* photographed at Soerensche Hei, Gelderland, the Netherlands, on 19 August had been ringed at Spreewald, south-east of Berlin, Germany, on 22 June 2010; interestingly, its sibling was seen at Dresden, Germany, on 11 August (www.ooievaar.eu). A **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* found dead at Hoofdweg, Haarlemmermeer, Noord-Holland, on 28 December 2009 wore a ring from Spain (MADRID ICONA 7110525); there has been only one previous ringing recovery for the Netherlands, from Hungary in 1926 (Op het Vinkentouw 120: 180, 2010). Photographs of the first two **Lesser Flamingos** *Phoenicopterus minor* for Tunisia at Thyna on 29 January 2010 were published in Alauda 78: 330, 2010; the species has also been recorded in Algeria (at least once) and Morocco (at least 12 records). In Spain, the adult **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* at Riocaldo, Begonte, Lugo, from July 2007, was still present in January. The two on São Miguel and (one) Terceira, Azores, remained into January as well. The first-winter at Hollingworth, Greater Manchester, England, from 7 November was last seen on 21 November. In Ireland, one was present in Cork from 11 December through January.

RAPTORS For the second consecutive year, a pair of **Black Kites** *Milvus migrans* raised young at Maastricht, Limburg; the only other successful breeding of this spe-

54 Northern Harrier / Amerikaanse Blauwe Kiekendief *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*, Thornham, Norfolk, England, 28 November 2010 *(Vincent Legrand)* **55** Lanner Falcon / Lannervalk *Falco biarmicus*, Gageron, Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, France, 16 January 2011 *(Marc Thibault)* **56** Forster's Tern / Forsters Stern *Sterna forsteri*, first-year, Peniche, Portugal, 22 January 2011 *(David Monticelli)* **57** Lesser Scaup / Kleine Topper *Aythya affinis*, adult male eclipse, Huningue, Haut-Rhin, France, October 2010 *(Tobias Epple)*

cies for the Netherlands was in Gelderland in 1996. In England, a genuine juvenile **White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* turned up in West Sussex on 11 December and flew to Hampshire the next day. The juvenile female **Northern Harrier** *Circus cyaneus hudsonius* at Tacumshin, Wexford, Ireland, remained through December as did a juvenile male between Holme and Blakeney, Norfolk, England; a third one was photographed at Kilcoole, Wicklow, Ireland, on 13 November (Birding World 23: 509-523, 2010). In the Netherlands, 50 breeding pairs of **Montagu's Harrier** *C pygargus* were counted in 2010 of which 45 in eastern Groningen. In southern Spain, an **Atlas Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus cirtensis* at Los Barrios, Cádiz, on 9 January is considered to be the same individual seen during the past two years. The sixth **Rough-legged Buzzard** *B lagopus* for Spain was photographed off Tarragona on 18 December. In the Netherlands (c 100) and France (at least 50 in December alone), the number of winterers was much higher than in previous years. In Alicante, Spain, five **Greater Spotted Eagles** *Aquila clanga* were wintering including the GPS-tagged 'Tõnn' hatched in western Estonia which became well-known as a winterer at El Hondo, first from 11 December 2008 to 13 April 2009, and as an unseen visitor of Germany and the Netherlands (cf Dutch Birding 31: 53, 191, 373, 2009, Ornithos 16: 326-331, 2009). A **Bonelli's Eagle** *A fasciata* photographed at Dulliken, Solothurn, on 2 December was the second for Switzerland. The first **Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* for Australia was photographed on Cocos Keeling Islands on 5 December. A first-winter **Lanner Falcon** *F biarmicus* was present north of Gageron, Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, France, on at least 14-16 January. A **Saker Falcon** *F cherrug* was reported in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, on 22 December.

58 Striped Crake / Afrikaanse Porseleinhoen *Aenigmatolimnas marginalis*, female, Sierra Norte, Sevilla, Spain, 12 December 2010 *(Alberto Plata)* **59** Bruce's Green Pigeon / Waaliaduif *Treron waalia*, Luxor, Egypt, 3 January 2011 *(Steven R van der Veen)* **60** Pied-billed Grebe / Dikbekfuut *Podilymbus podiceps*, first-year, Greater Manchester, England, November 2010 *(Richard Stonier)*

61 Ashy Drongo / Grijze Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*, Jahra farms, Kuwait, 1 January 2011
(David Monticelli)

62 Mourning Collared Dove / Treurtortel *Streptopelia decipiens*, Abu Simbel, Egypt, 29 December 2010
(Kris De Rouck)

RAILS TO BUSTARDS The first **Striped Crake** *Aenigmatolimnas marginalis* for Spain was a female picked up at downtown Las Navas de la Concepción, Sierra Norte, Sevilla, on 12 December and released the next day. An **African Crake** *Crex egregia* landed on a boat off Santa Cruz, Tenerife, Canary Islands, on 5 January but died after it was taken into care. In the Azores, a moribund second-year **Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinica* was picked up in a schoolyard at Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, on 13 January and died the same day. In Ireland, the **American Coot** *Fulica americana* at Termoncarragh Lough, Mayo, from 15 November remained through January. In the Netherlands, an unmarked **Great Bustard** *Otis tarda* photographed at Groesbeek, Gelderland, on 24 December was refound the next day 120 km further west near Woensdrecht, Noord-Brabant, and then even further west from Rilland to Yerseke, Zeeland. The next days, it was seen in Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium, at Heusden on 26 December and at Denderbelle on 27-30 December. The first in Poland since 2005 was photographed on 16 January.

WADERS In England, single **American Golden Plovers** *Pluvialis dominica* were reported at two sites during December. Up to five out of nine **Sociable Lapwings** *Vanellus gregarius* GPS-tagged in northern Kazakhstan have been followed this winter on their southward migration down to either Gujerat, India, Bahrain or western Saudi Arabia (see www.birdlife.org/sociable-lapwing/?cat=8). In Italy, one was seen in Piemonte on 4 December. Monitoring of colour-ringed **Red Knots** *Calidris canutus* in a small tidal mudflat at Bohai bay, China, showed that over 45% of the combined world population of two Russian-breeding subspecies, *C c piersmai* and *C c rogersi*, stage at and depend on this 20 km coastline which is now being destroyed through construction and reclamation (Emu 110: 307-315, 2010). From 18 January, a first-winter **Baird's Sandpiper** *C bairdii* stayed at Ebro delta, Tarragona. In the Netherlands, the first-year **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* at Wissenkerke, Zeeland, on 17-26 October was again (or still) present on 9 December and remained through January.

GULLS A first-winter **Ivory Gull** *Pagophila eburnea* stayed at Grindavík, Iceland, from 13 January. Adult **Bonaparte's Gulls** *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* were present at Tarragona harbour, Spain, from 18 December onwards, in Durham, England, on 20 December, at Presqu'île de Quiberon, France, in mid-January and in Cork from 15 January. The second **Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla* for Switzerland turned up at Klingnauer Stausee, Aargau, on 16 December. An adult **Franklin's Gull** *L pipixcan* was seen at Oued Souss, Agadir, Morocco, on 12 December. For its 18th winter, the adult **Ring-billed Gull** *L delawarensis* returned to Bergen, Hordaland, Norway, on 12 December. The sixth **Glaucous-winged Gull** *L glaucescens* for the WP at Århus harbour, Østjylland, Denmark, first seen on 27 November 2009 was again (or still) present intermittently on 14-28 November and on 12 and 28 December. In Norway, 1100 **Glaucous Gulls** *L hyperboreus* were counted at Svartnes, Finnmark, on 18 November. The second **Slaty-backed Gull** *L schistisagus* for the WP (if accepted) was a subadult at Rainham Marsh, London, England, on at least 13-14 January; the first was in Lithuania in November 2008 and then in Latvia in April 2009 (Dutch Birding 30: 426, 2008, 31: 54, plate 32, 55, 2009).

TERNS TO AUKS On 4 December, a wintering **Chinese Crested Tern** *Sterna bernsteini* was photographed in Pulau Lusaolate, north Seram, Indonesia, representing the first record of the species outside the breeding season since 1937; its nesting site was discovered in Taiwan off the Fujian coast of China in 2000 (see, eg, Dutch Birding 22: 248-249, plate 249, 2000, 23: 300, 2001, 24: 378, 2002, 26: 267, 343, 2004). In Ireland, the returning **Forster's Tern** *S forsteri* was seen at Nimmo's Pier, Galway, from mid-November through January. The first-winter from 12 November at Peniche, Portugal, stayed through January. In Russia, the first **Little Auk** *Alle alle* for Moscow was picked up alive near the city centre on 3 December and taken into care; it died shortly after.

DOVES TO SHRIKES A displaying pair of **Mourning Collared Doves** *Streptopelia decipiens* photographed at Abu Simbel on 29 December concerned the first record for Egypt and the WP. A **Western Oriental Turtle Dove** *S orientalis meena* frequenting bird feeders along the Aegean Sea at Ayvalık, Balıkesir, from at least 12 January onwards was the first to be well documented by photographs for Turkey. A **Bruce's Green Pigeon** *Treron waalia* photographed along the Nile river at Luxor, Upper Egypt, at 08:00 on 3 January was the first for the WP. **Snowy Owls** *Bubo scandiacus* were seen at Helsingør, Nordsjælland, Denmark, on 3 December and in Västergötland, Sweden, on 23 December. In southern Finland, a total of seven was found between 27 November and 12 December. In the Azores, the **Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon* at Paul da Praia, Terceira, from 29 September stayed until at least 19 December. A total of at least five pairs of **European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* were nesting at three sites in the Netherlands in 2010 (two in Limburg and one in Overijssel). A dead bird photographed on 30 October on the coast at Adal Deeb was subsequently identified as the first **Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus* for Egypt. The first **Middle Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos medius* for Finland occurred at Vääksy, Asikkala, on 13-30 November. In 2010, record numbers of more than 200 pairs were breeding in the Netherlands with at least 104 in Limburg, 84 in Twente, Overijssel, 18 in Achterhoek, Gelderland, and six in Noord-Brabant. The third-ever hybrid of **Philadelphia** x **Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo philadelphicus x olivaceus* was found on Southeast Farallon Island, California, USA, on 7-13 September 2008 and described in Western Birds 41: 231-239, 2010. In France, a **Daurian Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus* was singing at Amphise, Camargue, on 28-29 December. The number of breeding pairs of **Red-backed Shrike** *L collurio* in the Netherlands increased again in 2010 with, eg, c 200 in Drenthe, a remarkable 50 in Limburg and four in eastern Noord-Brabant.

63 Hypocolius / Zijdestaart *Hypocolius ampelinus*, male, Cape Greco, Cyprus, 4 December 2010 *(Alex Kirschel)*

64 Moussier's Redstart / Diadeemroodstaart *Phoenicurus moussieri*, Malta, 13 December 2010 *(Raymond Galea)*

CROWS TO LONG-TAILED TITS In Ireland, the **House Crow** *Corvus splendens* at Cobh, Cork, from 5 September 2010 stayed through January. In the Netherlands, six pairs were possibly breeding at Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland, in 2010 (Sovon-nieuws 23 (4): 4, 2010). Up to three **Pied Crows** *C albus* 152 km north-east of Dakhla, Western Sahara, Morocco, were seen again on 21 December (cf Dutch Birding 32: 329-332, 2010). Up to two **Ashy Drongos** *Dicrurus leucophaeus* at Jahra farms from 7 December were the second and third for Kuwait; the previous one was in April 2010. In the Netherlands, 44 pairs of **Eurasian Penduline Tit** *Remiz pendulinus* were counted at the IJssel mouth, Overijssel, in 2010 while only a few became known for other sites (cf Sovon-nieuws 23 (4): 5, 2010). An **Azure Tit** *Cyanistes cyanus* at Kaunas on 27 November was the third for Lithuania since 1964. In France, a **'Pleske's Tit'** *C cyanus x caeruleus* was present at Grans, Bouches-du-Rhône, from 1 December to at least 12 January. A Dutch ringer retrapped a **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* in Zambia on 12 December that he himself had ringed at Elburg, Overijssel (there was one previous recovery of this species ringed in the Netherlands in Zambia; cf www.boerenzwaluw.nl). In the Netherlands, **Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti* remains a rather rare breeder outside the Biesbosch area, Noord-Brabant/Zuid-Holland, where a remarkable 250 pairs were counted in 2010. The unprecedented influx of **White-headed Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus caudatus* in the Netherlands, with c 600 from 14 October, was still visible during January with some 10s. Similarly, a record influx occurred in France while a handful was seen in Kent, England, in early January.

WARBLERS TO WALLCREEPERS The first **Pallas's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus* for Switzerland was photographed at Olten, Solothurn, on 4-5 December. In England, **Hume's Leaf Warblers** *P humei* tried to survive the snow in Norfolk at Holme on 22-23 November and at Well's Wood on 2-3 December. In Sweden, one stayed at Malmö, Skåne, on 11-13 December. If accepted, a calling **Iberian Chiffchaff** *P ibericus* sound-recorded at Siracusa, Sicily, on 14 January may be the first for Italy. On 1 November, a **Central Asian Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca halimodendri* trapped at Kalmthoutse Heide, Antwerpen, Belgium was confirmed by DNA taken from feathers. No DNA was obtained from one photographed at Drogheda, Louth, Ireland, on 17 January. In Spain, **Bohemian Waxwings** *Bombycilla garrulus* turned up in Asturies on 18 and 29 December (two); there have been six records until 2006. The first **Hypocolius** *Hypocolius ampelinus* for Cyprus and Europe was a male photographed at Cape Greco on 3-4 December. In the Netherlands, the **Wallcreeper** *Tichodroma muraria* at Sint Pietersberg, Maastricht, Limburg, from 22 November was last seen on 11 December. This or another individual stayed at Rhöndorf, Drachenfels, south-west of Bonn, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, on at least 18-31 December. In Portugal, two were seen at Santa Luzia dam on 15 December.

THRUSHES On 21 December, a **Siberian Thrush** *Geokichla sibirica* was reported in Mazowieckie, Poland. In Italy, a **Dusky Thrush** *Turdus eunomus* was trapped at Passo Croce, Valle Trompia, Brescia, on 7 November. A male was photographed in a garden in Blewbury Close, Leigh, Greater Manchester, on 8 December; it was present for just an hour. The first twitchable **Black-throated Thrush** *T atrogularis* for Belgium was a first-winter male in a birder's garden at Loppem, West-Vlaanderen, from 7 December into January; it was trapped on 15 December. Others occurred, eg, at Old Basing, Hampshire, England, on 13 December and at Prevessin-Moens, Ain, France, on 17 December. In Ireland, **American Robins** *T migratorius* occurred at Dooneen, Sligo, on 18-19 December and at Knockmoyle, Kerry, on 25 December. The first-winter male at Turf, Devon, England, from 10 November was last reported on 18 November. On 12 December, at least one **Black Scrub Robin** *Cerco-*

65 American Robin / Roodborstlijster *Turdus migratorius*, first-winter male, Turf, Devon, England, 11 November 2010 *(Karen Woolley)*

66 Black-throated Trush / Zwartkeellijster *Turdus atrogularis*, first-winter male, Loppem, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, 12 December 2010 *(Edouard Dansette)*

67 Black-throated Accentor / Zwartkeelheggenmus *Prunella atrogularis* Pori, Pihlava, Finland, 4 December 2010 *(Stuart Piner)*

68 White-headed Long-tailed Tit / Witkopstaartmees *Aegithalos caudatus caudatus*, Ridderpark, Katwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 12 November 2010 *(René van Rossum)*

trichas podobe was photographed at Marsa Alam, Egypt. In Ornis Fennica 87: 168-179, 2010, the results of a study on song divergence between **Red-spotted Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica svecica* and **White-spotted Bluethroat** *L s cyanecula* were published; it was found that Red-spotted produced less diverse songs with lower frequencies than White-spotted, while repertoire size and temporal song parameters did not significantly differ between the taxa. The fourth and fifth **Red-flanked Bluetails** *Tarsiger cyanurus* for Spain occurred at Clot de Galvany, Elx, Alicante, on 1-2 December and at Sant Feliu de Buixalleu, Girona, from 26 December into January. From 13 December onwards, at least one female **Moussier's Redstart** *Phoenicurus moussieri* was wintering in Malta. The first **Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina* for the Canary Islands stayed on Lanzarote from 26 November to 1 December. The second **Red-tailed Wheatear** *O chrysopygia* for Gebel Elba and Egypt was a male photographed on 1 December. A **'Basalt Wheatear'** *O lugens* photographed at Shalateen on 2 December might be the first record of this black morph for Egypt and Africa (cf Dutch Birding 19: 18-19, 1997). A first-winter **Taiga Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicilla* was seen at Mas de Rougety, Saint Etienne-du-Grès, Bouches-du-Rhône, on 12 November.

ACCENTORS TO BUNTINGS A **Black-throated Accentor** *Prunella atrogularis* at Pori, Pihlava, on 4-6 December was the eighth for Finland. Scandinavian rarities committees reviewed records of **Black-headed Wagtail** *Motacilla feldegg*; as a result, 13 were rejected in Denmark (one on 16-31 July 2006 remains accepted); two were rejected in Norway (one on 3-5 June 2008 on Utsira, Rogaland, remains accepted) and 36 were rejected in Sweden (eight remain accepted); the only one in the Netherlands, in May 1988, was rejected upon review a few years ago. In France, at least 16 **Richard's Pipits** *Anthus richardi* were wintering and, as usual, a flock (up to nine) was present in Crau, Bouches-du-Rhône. On 19-22 December, a **Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit** *A rubescens japonicus* was seen at Viken, Helsingborg, Sweden. A **Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis cabaret* at L'Aspu, Colunga, Asturias, on 8 December was (only) the c fifth for Spain. At least one and possibly five **Asian Crimson-winged Finches** *Rhodopechys sanguineus* at Kormakiti on 27 November constituted the first record for Cyprus and Europe. In December-January, one of the largest influxes ever of **Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis* for Italy numbered 40 individuals with a largest flock of at least 16 near Verona and one as far south as Siracusa, Sicily. In England, a **Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis* occurred at Waltham Abbey, Essex, on 18-19 December. In Belgium, one was found dead aboard a ship at Antwerpen, Antwerpen, on 28 October 2010. The first **Grey-necked Bunting** *Emberiza buchanani* for Sweden has recently been identified from video footage taken at Utlängan, Blekinge, on 2 June 2010. On Lanzarote, the **Bobolink** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* first seen on 21 October was still present on 25 December.

69 Red-flanked Bluetail / Blauwstaart *Tarsiger cyanurus*, Sant Feliu de Buixalleu, Girona, Spain, 4 January 2011 *(Rafael Armada)*

For a number of reports, Birding World, Birdwatch, Ornithos, Sovon-nieuws, www.birdguides.com, www.netfugl.dk, www.rarebirdalert.co.uk and www.trektellen.nl were consulted. We wish to thank Peter Adriaens, André van Aken, Peter Alfrey, Ahmed Badry Sayed, Sherif Baha El Din, Max Berlijn, Jan Bisschop, Richard Bonser, Bennie van den Brink, Simba Chan, Rolf Christensen, Dirk Colin, José Luis Copete, Andrea Corso, Pierre-André Crochet, Kris De Rouck, Ben Dielissen, Enno Ebels, Lee Evans, Tommy Frandsen, Raymond Galea, Steve Gantlett, Barak Granit, Geert Groot Koerkamp, Marcello Grussu, Ricard Gutiérrez, Trinus Haitjema, Cornelis Hazevoet, João Jara, Yves Kayser, Ted van der Knaap, Peter de Knijff, André van Loon, Erik Maassen, Christodoulos Makris, Frank Majoor, Gerbrand Michielsen (Azores), Richard Millington, Dominic Mitchell (www.birdingetc.com), Geir Mobakken (Norway), Nial Moores, Killian Mullarney, Gerry O'Neill, Gerald Oreel, Gert Ottens, Gerard Ouweneel, Yoav Perlman (IRDC), René Pop, Vladimir Povolozky, Magnus Robb, Craig Robson, René van Rossum, Luciano Ruggieri, Michael Sammut, Viktor Savtchenko, Itai Shanni, Roy Slaterus, Laurens Steijn, Peter Symens, Jugal Tiwari, Steven van der Veen, Míchele Víganò, Pieter van Vollenhoven, Etienne de Vries, Rik Winters, Pim Wolf, Steven Wytema, Emin Yogurtcuoğlu and Peter van Zwol for their help in compiling this review.

Arnoud B van den Berg, Duinlustparkweg 98, 2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid, Netherlands (arnoud.vandenberg@planet.nl)
Marcel Haas, Helmweg 12C, 1759 NE Callantsoog, Netherlands (zoodauma@gmail.com)

Recente meldingen

Dit overzicht van recente meldingen van zeldzame en interessante vogels in Nederland beslaat voornamelijk de periode **november-december 2010**, maar ook enkele waarnemingen uit januari 2011 zijn verwerkt. De vermelde gevallen zijn merendeels niet geverifieerd en het overzicht is niet volledig. Alle vogelaars die de moeite namen om hun waarnemingen aan ons door te geven worden hartelijk bedankt. Waarnemers van soorten in Nederland die worden beoordeeld door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna wordt verzocht hun waarnemingen zo spoedig mogelijk toe te zenden aan: CDNA, p/a Duinlustparkweg 98A, 2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid, Nederland, e-mail cdna@dutchbirding.nl. Hiertoe gelieve men gebruik te maken van CDNA-waarnemingsformulieren die verkrijgbaar zijn via de website van de DBA op www.dutchbirding.nl of bovenstaand adres.

De eerste helft van november kende wisselvallig weer maar daarna deed de winter al heel vroeg zijn intrede. Vanaf eind november en vooral half december vielen grote hoeveelheden sneeuw: Nederland kende zelfs een witte Kerst. Pas in de laatste week van december viel in de meeste delen van het land de dooi in. De sneeuw en vorst zorgden voor massale verplaatsingen van vooral ganzen, eenden, roofvogels, steltlopers, meeuwen, leeuweriken en piepers.

GANZEN TOT KWARTELS **Sneeuwganzen** *Anser caerulescens* werden uit alle provincies gemeld. Op enkele plekken betrof het groepjes, zoals drie over Etten-Leur, Noord-Brabant, op 27 december, vier vanaf 21 december in de omgeving van Dalfsen, Overijssel (waarvan twee blauwe vorm), en vier op 12 december bij Mepperveld, Drenthe. Er doken overal in het land bewezen escapes en/of vogels op uit Duitsland, met als meest sprekend voorbeeld een groep van negen tussen de boerenganzen bij Genderen, Noord-Brabant, op 26 november: in ieder geval één van deze vogels droeg een verdachte ring. De maximumaantallen **Dwergganzen** *A erythropus* bedroegen 74 bij Strijen, Zuid-Holland, op 21 november en 43 in de Vereenigde Harger- en Pettemerpolder, Noord-Holland, op 14 december. Tijdens de tweede sneeuwperiode half december waren de meeste vogels verdwenen. Zo werden op 19 december 12 naar zuid trekkende exemplaren gezien langs Camperduin, Noord-Holland. Buiten de reguliere pleisterplaatsen kwamen van c acht plekken nog waarnemingen binnen, meestal van eenlingen, maar in Polder Burgh en Westland op Westenschouwen, Zeeland, pleisterde op 29 december nog een groep van negen. Uit 10 provincies werden **Roodhalsganzen** *Branta ruficollis* gemeld: alleen in Drenthe en Flevoland ontbraken ze. Het ging meestal om eenlingen maar er werden ook enkele duo's waar-

70 Rotskruiper / Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*, Sint Pietersberg, Maastricht, Limburg, 4 december 2010 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

71 Oehoe / Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*, Sint Pietersberg, Maastricht, Limburg, 4 december 2010 *(Wilma van Holten)*

72 Witbuikrotganzen / Pale-bellied Brent Geese *Branta hrota*, met Rotgans / Dark-bellied Brent Goose *B bernicla,* Smerp, Wieringen, Noord-Holland, 10 januari 2011 *(Arnoud B van den Berg/The Sound Approach)*

73 Koereiger / Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*, Onnerpolder, Groningen, 27 november 2010 *(Guido Meeuwissen)*

74 Vermoedelijke Baltische Mantelmeeuw / presumed Baltic Gull *Larus fuscus fuscus*, adult, Harselaar, Barneveld, Gelderland, 20 december 2010 *(James Lidster)*

genomen. Het zwaartepunt van de meldingen lag in Zuid-Holland. Het winterse weer zorgde voor een grote influx van **Witbuikrotganzen** *B hrota*. Vooral in de laatste vijf dagen van deze periode werden hoge aantallen gezien, met bijvoorbeeld maximaal 185 in Polder Eendracht, Friesland, maar liefst 245 bij Hegewiersterfjild, Friesland, en 140 bij Hargen aan Zee, Noord-Holland. De kuststrook van Den Haag, Zuid-Holland (enkele 10-tallen), en de Brouwersdam, Zuid-Holland/Zeeland (maximaal 42) trokken lage aantallen maar wel veel vogelaars. Hoge aantallen langstrekkers werden geteld vanaf De Vulkaan bij Den Haag, met in december 173, en Camperduin met 149 tussen 30 november en 31 december. De oudst bekende gekleurringde Witbuikrotgans ter wereld (wit TI) dook in de maand december weer eens op langs de kust tussen het Westland en Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland. Deze vogel werd op 16 februari 1991 geringd op Holy Island, Northumberland, Engeland, en is nu ruim 20 jaar oud (inmiddels is de ring slecht af te lezen). Een geringde die op 26 en 31 december werd afgelezen in de Eemshaven, Groningen, bleek eveneens op Holy Island te zijn geringd, op 29 januari 1995, en was nooit eerder in Nederland gemeld. De vogel is de witte kleurring (wit JI) kwijt maar dankzij de combinatie van andere kleurringen was het mogelijk de herkomst toch te traceren. Het voorkomen van **Zwarte Rotgans** *B nigricans* kende weinig verrassingen, met een laag aantal (meestal één of twee) tussen Rotganzen *B bernicla* op bekende plekken in Delta- en Waddengebied. Groepjes verbleven op 10 november op Texel, Noord-Holland (drie) en op 13 december vlak voor de Afsluitdijk, Friesland (vier, waaronder een eerstejaars). Knap was de waarneming van een langstrekkende die op 6 november bij Westkapelle, Zeeland, werd gefotografeerd. Op ten minste acht plekken hielden zich **Witoogeenden** *Aythya nyroca* op, waaronder nog steeds bij Botshol, Utrecht. Een mannetje **Ringsnaveleend** *A collaris* werd op 8 november gemeld in een ontoegankelijk deel van de Lauwersmeer, Friesland. Een eerstejaars mannetje **IJseend** *Clangula hyemalis* in Scheveningen raakte op 26 november verstrikt in visdraad en lood. Hij werd uit zijn benarde positie bevrijd door de Kustwacht en vervolgens ter controle een nachtje bij vogelasiel De Wulp gehouden. Daar werd hij geringd, als eerste IJseend op Nederlandse bodem. Hij bleef na vrijlating tot 8 december in Scheveningen rondhangen en maakte daarbij een fitte indruk. Het mannetje **Buffelkopeend** *Bucephala albeola* van Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland, werd tot ten minste 27 november gemeld maar gedurende de daaropvolgende vorstperiode ontbrak ieder spoor. Op 8 januari werd hij niet ver van de Gaatkensplas gemeld enkele kilometers ten oosten van de Heinenoordtunnel, Zuid-Holland, en pas vanaf 14 januari weer op de bekende plek. Van 16 oktober tot 15 november verbleef een mannetje **Amerikaanse Wintertaling** *Anas carolinensis* bij Dijkmanshuizen op Texel (mogelijk een terugkerend exemplaar). Het betrof de eerste sinds het voorjaar van 2009 (contra Dutch Birding 32: 424, 2010). Er was weer eens een winterwaarneming van een **Kwartel** *Coturnix coturnix*. Ditmaal ging het om een twitchbaar exemplaar van 12 tot 22 december aan de rand van Limbricht, Limburg, dat regelmatig foerageerde op een voederplek in een tuin.

DUIKERS TOT VALKEN Van c 13 plekken werden **IJsduikers** *Gavia immer* gemeld, zoals op 19 november op zee bij Texel tijdens een pelagische tocht en vanaf 20 november tot in het nieuwe jaar bij Maasgouw, Limburg, op de Belgische grens. Er werden slechts 12 **Noordse Stormvogels** *Fulmarus glacialis* doorgegeven, waaronder een exemplaar van de donkere vorm op 31 december langs Camperduin. In november werden door trektellers nog 19 **Grauwe Pijlstormvogels** *Puffinus griseus* genoteerd. Op 25 december vloog mogelijk telkens dezelfde in Noord-Holland langs Egmond aan Zee, Camperduin en Huisduinen. **Vale Pijlstormvogels** *P mauretanicus* wer-

75 Taigarietganzen / Taiga Bean Geese *Anser fabalis*, met Toendrarietgans / Tundra Bean Goose *A serrirostris*, Uilenbroek, Haaren, Noord-Brabant, 5 december 2010
(Arnoud B van den Berg/The Sound Approach)

76 Kwartel / Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*, mannetje, Limbricht, Limburg, 14 december 2010
(Frans Lebens)

77 Grote Geelpootruiter / Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*, eerstejaars, Wissenkerke, Zeeland, 10 december 2010 *(Jaco Walhout)*

78 Grote Trap / Great Bustard *Otis tarda*, mannetje, Rilland, Zeeland, 25 december 2010 *(Garry Bakker)*

den nog waargenomen op 6 november op het Continentaal Plat en op 25 en 27 november langs Camperduin. Het enige **Stormvogeltje** *Hydrobatus pelagicus* werd op 4 november gemeld bij Camperduin. In november passeerden nog 18 **Vale Stormvogeltjes** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* de trektelposten langs de kust. De enige in de laatste maand van het jaar betrof een vogel in Zuid-Holland die op 11 december eerst langs Katwijk en vervolgens langs Noordwijk vloog. Van c zeven plekken werden **Kwakken** *Nycticorax nycticorax* gemeld, waaronder een veel bekeken eerstejaars in Woudrichem, Noord-Brabant. **Koereigers** *Bubulcus ibis* verschenen op c 11 plekken. Veel roofvogels vetrokken met de komst van het winterweer. Overal in het land werden doortrekkende **Blauwe Kiekendieven** *Circus cyaneus* gemeld, c 450 in totaal – driemaal zoveel als in deze periode in 2009. De hoogste aantallen werden geteld bij De Vulkaan: vanaf 30 november 89, met alleen op 19 december al 25. Een dag later vlogen er maar liefst 30 langs Westkapelle, Zeeland. Er was tevens sprake van een stevige invasie van **Ruigpootbuizerds** *Buteo lagopus*. Bijzonder was dat op enkele dagen vanuit alle 12 provincies waarnemingen kwamen. Zelfs in Limburg, waar de soort behoorlijk schaars is, kwamen met grote regelmaat meldingen van verschillende plekken. Zo verbleven er in december maximaal vier in het Hamsterreservaat bij Sibbe. Andere concentraties bevonden zich buitendijks nabij Holwerd, Friesland (maximaal zes), in de Reiderwolderolder, Groningen (vijf) en in ruige velden langs de Dodaarsweg, Flevoland (vier). Trektellers meldden er in deze periode 66, met name tijdens perioden met sneeuw. Alleen langs De Vulkaan vlogen er al 13, met zes op 19 december. Trektellers in den lande meldden voorts nog vijf **Zeearenden** *Haliaeetus albicilla*, 21 **Rode Wouwen** *Milvus milvus* en 51 **Smellekens** *Falco columbarius*. Een eerstejaars **Giervalk** *F rusticolus* werd op 27 november gemeld bij de Veerdam bij Holwerd, Friesland; vervolgwaarnemingen ontbreken.

KRAANVOGELS TOT ALKEN Er werden door trektellers tussen 1 november en 1 december ruim 3800 **Kraanvogels** *Grus grus* gezien. Er waren drie pieken, met c 675 tussen 7 en 9 november, gevolgd door een piek op 17 november, met c 1750 doortrekkers, met name veroorzaakt door 1650 die langs telpost Aan de Majoor, Koningsbosch, Limburg vlogen. De late piek eind november tijdens de eerste sneeuwval was minder gebruikelijk. Toen vlogen op 30 november c 1400 vogels over de trektelposten. Opvallend was dat relatief veel groepen in het westen van het land werden gezien, met onder andere 206 langs De Vulkaan. Ook buiten tellingen om werden grote groepen in het westen gezien, met onder andere 120 over Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, 150 over Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland, en 144 over Serooskerke, Zeeland. Afgezien van een Duitse herintroductievogel in december 2004, dook er voor het eerst sinds 1997 een **Grote Trap** *Otis tarda* op en wel op 24 december bij Groesbeek, Gelderland. Een onvolwassen mannetje werd daar door

slechts één waarnemer gefotografeerd. Tot opluchting van velen werd hij een dag later teruggevonden bij Woensdrecht, Noord-Brabant, c 120 km naar het zuidwesten, en de rest van de dag werd hij gezien op diverse plekken in het aangrenzende deel van Zeeland; de laatste plek die middag was Rilland. Tussen kerstbrunch en -diner kon menigeen hem daar bewonderen. Op 10 november werd kortstondig een juveniele **Siberische Strandloper** *Calidris acuminata* gezien nabij Serooskerke, waarschijnlijk dezelfde als op 16 oktober in deze omgeving. Op 1 december werd een nieuw telpostrecord **Watersnippen** *Gallinago galinago* gevestigd toen tijdens een sneeuwrush over De Vulkaan 1001 exemplaren werden geteld. Na ruim zes weken zonder meldingen bleek dat de eerstejaars **Grote Geelpootruiter** *Tringa melanoleuca* bij Wissenkerke op Noord-Beveland, Zeeland, op 9 december gewoon nog (of weer) aanwezig was. Hij bleef daar tot ver in het nieuwe jaar rondhangen. Langs trektelposten aan de kust vlogen nog 12 **Rosse Franjepoten** *Phalaropus fulicarius,* 113 **Middelste Jagers** *Stercorarius pomarinus* (waarvan 48 op 6 november langs Westkapelle) en 65 **Grote Jagers** *S skua*. Tot 15 november werden van vijf plekken nog acht **Vorkstaartmeeuwen** *Xema sabini* gemeld. Een in Finland geringde eerstejaars **Baltische Mantelmeeuw** *Larus fuscus fuscus* (geel C54A) werd op 19 november gefotografeerd bij Nederweert, Limburg. Een ongeringde – en dus formeel beschouwd onzekere – adulte verbleef van 20 tot 23 december op de vuilnisbelt van Barneveld, Gelderland. Een adulte **Kleine Burgemeester** *L glaucoides* werd op 1 november gemeld in de Eemshaven, Groningen. **Grote Burgemeesters** *L hyperboreus* verschenen op 12 november bij Katwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland; op 22 november bij Westhoek, Friesland; op 11 december bij Westkapelle; en op 29 december bij Noordwijk en Scheveningen. Een **Zwarte Zeekoet** *Cepphus grylle* vloog op 27 november langs Camperduin. Er was in november een piek van langstrekkende **Zeekoeten** *Uria aalge*, met ruim 2850 langs Scheveningen op 3 november en 1975 langs Camperduin op 13 november: dergelijke hoge aantallen zijn in deze maand ongebruikelijk. Trektellers in Noord-Holland en Zuid-Holland meldden in totaal slechts 15 **Kleine Alken** *Alle alle*. **Papegaaiduikers** *Fratercula arctica* werden vanaf het vasteland door slechts één vogelaar gezien en wel op en 17 en 25 november (twee) en 15 en 25 december langs Camperduin. Daarnaast werden er op 6 november 25 geteld op het Continentaal Plat.

NACHTZWALUWEN TOT BOSZANGERS Een nagekomen melding betreft de vondst van een doodgereden in Noorwegen geringde **Nachtzwaluw** *Caprimulgus europaeus* bij Den Burg op Texel op 10 september. Een late **Gierzwaluw** *Apus apus* werd gemeld op 11 november boven Zoetermeer, Zuid-Holland. Tekenend voor de gestage opmars van **Middelste Bonte Specht** *Dendrocopos medius* is het feit dat in deze periode in zowel Drenthe (Oosterhesselen en Westerbork), Friesland (Oranjewoud) als Groningen (Ter Apel) één of meer exemplaren werden gezien. De laatste drie **Buidelmezen** *Remiz pendulinus* van het jaar werden op 25 november geringd in het Verdronken Land van Saeftinghe, Zeeland. Een **Kortteenleeuwerik** *Calandrella brachydactyla* bevond zich op 7 november op de noordpunt van Texel. De enige plek waar **Kuifleeuweriken** *Galerida cristata* eenvoudig waren op te sporen was bij Venlo, Limburg, waar er ten minste twee verbleven. Verspreid over de periode schreven trektellers langs de kust ruim 200 **Strandleeuweriken** *Eremophila alpestris* in hun boekjes. In november werden nog op drie plekken **Cetti's Zangers** *Cettia cetti* geringd in Noord-Holland (Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen, Kennemerduinen bij Bloemendaal en Naarden), en één te Westenschouwen, Zeeland. De invasie van **Witkopstaartmezen** *Aegithalos caudatus caudatus* liep in deze periode stevig door: dagelijks waren er meldingen uit alle hoeken van het land met regelmatig dagen dat ze in alle provincies werden waargenomen. Op 7 december werden alleen al in het Rembrandtpark in Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, 44 exemplaren geteld (tegenover 41 Staartmezen *A c europaeus*). Trektellers noteerden er in deze periode nog 160, waarmee het najaarstotaal (oktober-december) uitkwam op ruim 400. Gedurende het gehele najaar werden er zeker c 70 geringd. De meeste waren aan het eind van de periode verdwenen maar tot in het nieuwe jaar bleven op vele plekken groepjes of losse exemplaren hangen. **Pallas' Boszangers** *Phylloscopus proregulus* verbleven van 6 tot 15 november in Meijendel bij Wassenaar, Zuid-Holland (maximaal twee); op 6 november bij Wijk aan Zee, Noord-Holland; op 7 november op Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, en Rottumerplaat, Groningen; en op 21 november bij Castricum, Noord-Holland (vangst) en in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen. In november werden nog van c 15 plaatsen **Bladkoningen** *P inornatus* gemeld. Populaire vogels verbleven van 9 tot 15 november in Meijendel bij Wassenaar (maximaal twee), van 16 tot 23 november in Katwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland, en van 26 tot 30 november in Hoorn, Noord-Holland. Op 7 en 17 november waren er daarnaast nog ringvangsten bij Castricum. De tweede **Bruine Boszanger** *P fuscatus* van het (na)jaar betrof wederom een vangst, namelijk op 7 november bij Castricum. Eveneens op 7 november, en in mindere mate in de dagen daarna, was er langs de kust een flinke aankomst van **Tjiftjaffen** *P collybita*. Op vier ringstations langs de Noord- en Zuid-Hollandse kust werden er tussen 7 en 9 november bijna 100 geringd, met alleen al 43 bij Castricum op 7 november. Een deel vertoonde kenmerken van noordoostelijke populaties. **Siberische Tjiftjaffen** *P c tristis* werden gemeld op 1 november nabij Durgerdam, Noord-Holland; van 5 tot 7 november op Rottumerplaat; op 7 november op Schiermonnikoog; van 10 tot 27 november bij Egmond aan Zee, Noord-Holland; en op 23 november bij Maastricht, Limburg. Een aantal goede kandidaten werkte in het veld onvoldoende mee voor een zekere determinatie. Voorts werden tussen 2 en 28 november ringvangsten gemeld bij Almere, Flevoland (drie); Westenschouwen; Naarden; Castricum en Schiermonnikoog (twee), al was ook bij de gevangen vogels regelmatig sprake van discussie over de determinatie. Late **Fitissen** *P trochilus* werden vastgesteld op 1 november op Schiermonnikoog (vangst), van 1 tot 16 november bij Durgerdam en op 21 november bij Castricum (vangst).

79 Zwartbuikwaterspreeuw / Black-bellied Dipper *Cinclus cinlus cinclus*, Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen, Noord-Holland, 10 november 2010 *(Co van der Wardt)* **80** Zwartbuikwaterspreeuwen / Black-bellied Dippers *Cinclus cinlus cinclus*, Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen, Noord-Holland, 22 november 2010 *(Harm Niesen)* **81** Zwartbuikwaterspreeuw / Black-bellied Dipper *Cinclus cinlus cinclus*, Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen, Noord-Holland, 10 november 2010 *(Theo van Veenendaal)*

82 Woestijntapuit / Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*, vrouwtje, Camperduin, Noord-Holland, 5 november 2010 *(Harm Niesen)*

83 Woestijntapuit / Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*, mannetje, Stellendam, Zuid-Holland, 5 november 2010 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

84 Citroenkwikstaart / Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, adult, Klaas Hennepoelpolder, Warmond, Zuid-Holland, 1 november 2010 *(Hans Overduin)*

85 Kortteenleeuwerik / Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*, De Cocksdorp, Texel, Noord-Holland, 7 november 2010 *(Jos van den Berg)*

86 Pallas' Boszanger / Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*, Ganzenhoek, Wassenaarse Slag, Zuid-Holland, 30 oktober 2010 *(Menno van Duijn)*

87 Woestijntapuit / Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*, mannetje, Stellendam, Zuid-Holland, 5 november 2010 *(Anita de Bruijn)*

GRASMUSSEN TOT TAPUITEN Late **Braamsluipers** *Sylvia curruca*, mogelijk van oostelijke origine, werden gemeld op 15 en 16 november in Katwijk en op 17 november in Bergschenhoek, Zuid-Holland. Late **Tuinfluiters** *S borin* werden geringd in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen op 8 en 16 november (met een terugvangst van de laatste op 21 november) en gefotografeerd op 18 december in Berkheide bij Katwijk. Late **Kleine Karekieten** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* werden gevangen op 2 november in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen; op 7 november in Meijendel bij Wassenaar, Zuid-Holland; op 8 november bij Castricum (op die dag werd ook een exemplaar gezien bij Katwijk); en op 13 november bij Den Oever, Noord-Holland. Een extreem late **Rietzanger** *A schoenobaenus* werd op 21 november geringd bij Castricum. **Pestvogels** *Bombycilla garrulus* bleven de hele periode talrijker dan normaal. Aan doortrekkers werden er nog 168 gemeld, waarmee het najaarstotaal (oktober-december) uitkwam op 647. De tweede **Rotskruiper** *Tichodroma muraria* voor Nederland verbleef van 22 november tot 11 december in de ENCI-groeve in de Sint Pietersberg bij Maastricht, Limburg. Op 4 december organiseerde Natuurmonumenten, de beheerder van de groeve, een excursie voor c 50 vogelaars die deze lastig te twitchen vogel uiteindelijk mooi te zien kregen. De eerste overwinterde in 1989/90 en 1990/91 in Amsterdam-Buitenveldert (en in 1991 in nabijgelegen Amstelveen), Noord-Holland. Er waren nog c zes veldwaarnemingen van in totaal zeven **Taigaboomkruipers** *Certhia familiaris familiaris*, waaronder een veelbezochte die tot in het nieuwe jaar in Meijendel bij Wassenaar verbleef. Daarnaast waren er nog nieuwe ringvangsten op Vlieland op 1 november; bij Naarden op 7 november; bij Asten, Noord-Brabant, op 8 november; en bij Overdinkel, Overijssel, op 19 november. Terug van weggeweest: overwinterende **Zwartbuikwaterspreeuwen** *Cinclus cinclus cinclus* in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen. Op 2 november werd een makke vogel gevonden nabij het Renbaanveld. Al snel bleek dat er minimaal nog een tweede verbleef: beide zaten zo nu en dan te zingen. Er waren enkele meldingen van drie of zelfs vier exemplaren maar nooit werden er meer dan twee bij elkaar gezien. De laatste keer dat in dit duingebied langdurig een exemplaar verbleef was in de winter van 2001/02. Tevens werd nog een exemplaar gezien in Middenduin bij Overveen, Noord-Holland. Een eerstejaars mannetje **Blauwstaart** *Tarsiger cyanurus* werd op 1 november geringd in de Kennemerduinen bij Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland, waar een dag eerder ook al een exemplaar werd gevangen. Een laat **Paapje** *Saxicola rubetra* vertoefde op 26 november op de Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland. In november doken nog drie **Woestijntapuiten** *Oenanthe deserti* op: van 3 tot 5 november bevond zich een vrouwtje nabij de Hondsbossche Zeewering, Noord-Holland, van 4 tot 7 november een soms zingend eerstejaars mannetje bij Stellendam, Zuid-Holland, en op 10 november een vrouwtje in het binnenland op de Bussumerheide, Noord-Holland.

KWIKSTAARTEN TOT GORZEN Een adulte **Citroenkwikstaart** *Motacilla citreola* bevond zich van 31 oktober tot 2 november bij Warmond, Zuid-Holland, op dezelfde plek waar zich in september 2009 een eerstejaars ophield. Tot 22 november werden nog c 10 **Grote Piepers** *Anthus richardi* opgemerkt, waaronder een langdurig pleisterende van 16 oktober tot 20 november op de Hondsbossche Zeewering. Het najaarstotaal (september-november) voor de trektelposten kwam uit op 71 exemplaren. Trektellers noteerden in november nog vijf overvliegende **Europese Kanaries** *Serinus serinus*. Hoge aantallen **Fraters** *Carduelis flavirostris* verbleven langs de Friese en Groningse kust, met als uitschieters tot c 1300 op de Dollardkwelders, Groningen, en 800 bij Westhoek. Op diverse andere plekken werden 10-tallen tot enkele 100en exemplaren waargenomen, met bijvoorbeeld 300 bij het Zuidlaardermeer, Groningen, en 105 op de

88 Witstuitbarmsijs / Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*, Texel, Noord-Holland, 14 november 2010 *(Jos van den Berg)*

Hooge Platen in de Westerschelde, Zeeland. Er werden in totaal ook nog c 670 langstrekkende geteld, met onder andere 270 langs de Eemshaven en 187 langs Kamperhoek, Flevoland. Bij Castricum werden er in totaal ook nog acht geringd: de eerste vangsten voor dit ringstation sinds 2004. Er werden van trektelposten ruim 2100 langsvliegende **barmsijzen** *Carduelis cabaret/flammea* gemeld. Daarnaast werden er c 400 geringd, waarvan het merendeel **Grote Barmsijs** *C flammea* betrof. Een **Witstuitbarmsijs** *C hornemanni* werd op 14 november gefotografeerd in de Sluftervallei op Texel. Mogelijk betrof het een **Groenlandse Witstuitbarmsijs** *C h hornemanni*. Een adult mannetje werd op 24 november gevangen op Schiermonnikoog. In de provincie Groningen werden ongekend hoge aantallen **IJsgorzen** *Calcarius lapponicus* gezien. Op 21 november telde één vogelaar in vijf polders tussen het Lauwersmeer en de Eemshaven maar liefst 769 exemplaren. In dezelfde omgeving werden op 26 december van één plek, de Uiterdijksche Landen, 550 vogels gemeld. De enige echt grote groep buiten de Waddenregio verbleef eind november bij Westkapelle, waar op 29 november een maximum van 115 werd bereikt: dit viel samen met de eerste piek in de sneeuwval, die voor verplaatsingen zorgde. Trektellers meldden in totaal nog ruim 450 langsvliegende. Het najaarstotaal vanaf augustus voor trektellers kwam daarmee uit op meer dan 1800, ruim driemaal zoveel als de totalen van 2008 en 2009 bij elkaar. Daarnaast werden in deze periode langs de Noord- en Zuid-Hollandse kust nog acht exemplaren geringd. Vogeltrekfanaten telden deze periode slechts c 220 **Sneeuwgorzen** *Plectrophenax nivalis:* een mager aantal. Bij Castricum werden er ook nog eens 16 geringd. Opmerkelijk was een exemplaar op 4 december in de ENCI-groeve bij Maastricht. **Dwerggorzen** *Emberiza pusilla* werden gemeld op 10 november bij Westkapelle, Zeeland, op 16 november bij Castricum en op 12 december bij Colijnsplaat, Zeeland. Op c 10 plekken in Limburg en Zeeland werden **Grauwe Gorzen** *E calandra* aangetroffen, veelal in kleine groepjes.

We bedanken Max Berlijn, Arjan Boele, Pieter Duin, Jacco Duindam, Gerjon Gelling en Carla van Pelt voor hun hulp bij het samenstellen van dit overzicht.

Roy Slaterus, Bervoetsbos 71, 2134 PM Hoofddorp, Nederland (roy.slaterus@dutchbirding.nl)
Vincent van der Spek, Acaciastraat 212, 2565 KJ Den Haag, Nederland (vincent.van.der.spek@dutchbirding.nl)

DB Actueel

Mobiele Grote Trap als kerstverrassing Op vrijdag 24 december 2010 om 09:00 was Jan Jacobs na een week strooien en sneeuwruimen naar huis gegaan om bij te komen van de nachtdienst. Omdat het niet lukte gelijk te gaan slapen ging hij nog even vogels kijken bij Groesbeek, Gelderland, waar een dag eerder een groep ganzen zat. Door stuifsneeuw waren de ganzen echter niet goed te zien; JJ reed daarom terug over de Lage Horst om wat beekjes te gaan bekijken, toen hij aan de zuidkant van de weg een Grote Trap *Otis tarda* zag staan. Hij remde gelijk, met als gevolg dat de vogel opvloog en c 400 m verder weer landde. JJ reed voorzichtig die kant op. De vogel was nu nogal dicht bij de weg aan het foerageren; behoedzaam stapte hij nog dichter naar de weg waarbij hij zijn poten hoog optilde om boven het dikke sneeuwdek uit te komen. Dit ging behoorlijk traag waardoor JJ kon vaststellen dat beide poten ongeringd waren. JJ maakte een aantal foto's. Even later zorgde een passerende auto ervoor dat de vogel opvloog en laag in zuidwestelijke richting verdween. In de vlucht viel op dat hij strak in het pak zat zonder beschadigingen aan staart- of slagpennen. Een zoektocht in de omgeving leverde niks op en JJ keerde terug naar huis. Aan het begin van de middag werd de waarneming via www.waarneming.nl bekend gemaakt; enkele vogelaars die ondanks de moeilijke weersomstandigheden op de melding afkwamen vonden de trap niet meer terug.

De volgende ochtend, Eerste Kerstdag, zochten enkele 10-tallen vogelaars in de omgeving van Groesbeek zonder succes. Even later zou blijken waarom... Mark

89 Grote Trap / Great Bustard *Otis tarda*, mannetje, Groesbeek, Gelderland, 24 december 2010 *(Jan Jacobs)* **90** Grote Trap / Great Bustard *Otis tarda*, mannetje, Hogerwaardpolder, Woensdrecht, Noord-Brabant, 25 december 2010 *(Mark Hoekstein)* **91** Grote Trap / Great Bustard *Otis tarda*, mannetje, Rilland, Zeeland, 25 december 2010 *(Jaap Denee)*

Hoekstein was die ochtend aan het vogelen in de Hogerwaardpolder bij Woensdrecht, Noord-Brabant. Rond 11:55 kwam tot zijn verbazing vanuit het oosten over het Markiezaatsmeer een Grote Trap aanvliegen die landde en begon te foerageren op de akkers. Om 12:12 gaf MH de waarneming door via Dutch Bird Alerts en konden de verbaasde zoekers bij Groesbeek hun plannen bijstellen. Om c 12:40 vloog de trap zonder duidelijke aanleiding op in westelijke richting. MH zag hem daarbij de grens met Zeeland passeren. Sander Lilipaly was bijna bij de plek toen hij een telefoontje van MH kreeg dat de trap was opgevlogen. Amper 20 s later zag SL hem vliegen boven de akkers. Hij keerde en kon de trap c 15 km met de auto volgen terwijl deze strak doorvloog, westwaarts, met een snelheid van c 60 km/u. Rond Oostdijk, Zeeland, verloor SL hem uit beeld. Om c 14:15 vonden Rob Gordijn en Helen Rijkes hem terug langs de Kamperweg ten noorden van Kruiningen en van de snelweg, ruim 4 km ten westen van Oostdijk. Vogelaars in de omgeving konden snel aanhaken maar velen kwamen net te laat omdat de plek lastig te vinden was en de trap om c 14:30 weer doorvloog naar het noordwesten. Hij leek het Kanaal door Zuid-Beveland echter niet over te steken. Om c 15:00 zagen RG en HR hem in oostelijke richting over Yerseke vliegen, langs de Oosterschelde. Zoekende en arriverende vogelaars verlegden daarna hun zoekgebied naar het oosten. Jaap Denee, Sjoerd Radstaak en David Uit de Weerd besloten met het laatste licht nog de velden ten zuiden van Rilland, Zeeland, te checken. Toen ze om 16:00 het dorp uitreden viel het oog van JD op 'iets groots' in het weiland naast hen: 'Jongens, is dat hem niet?!', vroeg hij terwijl hij voorzichtig probeerde af te remmen zonder in de sloot te belanden. Het was hem… De afstand vanaf de waarneming bij Yerseke was c 15 km. Ditmaal bleef de vogel lang genoeg om enkele 10-tallen vogelaars die in de buurt waren tevreden te stellen en liet zich prachtig bekijken, terwijl de zon achter de dijk zakte. Om 16:25 vloog hij weer zonder aanleiding op en verdween over het dorp in oostelijke richting. Daarna is hij niet meer in Nederland waargenomen. Het verhaal kreeg echter nog een vervolg in België: op 26 december was er een waarneming bij Heusden, Oost-Vlaanderen, en op 27-30 december was een exemplaar aanwezig bij Denderbelle, Oost-Vlaanderen (zie foto's op www.waarnemingen.be).

Op basis van gedetailleerde vergelijking van de foto's werd aangetoond dat het bij Groesbeek, in Noord-Brabant/Zeeland en bij Denderbelle steeds om hetzelfde exemplaar ging. De afstand tussen Groesbeek en de Hogerwaardpolder is c 120 km en tussen Rilland en Denderbelle c 45 km. Het betrof een onvolwassen mannetje op basis van bijvoorbeeld de vrij grove bouw en de grijze hals met roodbruine tekening. Een adult mannetje zou onder meer een sterkere koptekening moeten hebben, met een zwaardere 'snor' dan deze vogel.

De kans dat in de 21e eeuw nog een wilde Grote Trap zou opduiken werd door velen erg laag ingeschat, gezien de teruglopende aantallen in het oosten van Duitsland aan het eind van de 20e eeuw, waar 'onze' vogels altijd vandaan leken te komen. Het aanhoudende winterweer van november-december 2010 bleek echter toch voldoende om eentje naar het westen te laten afdwalen. In de 18e eeuw broedde de soort nog in Nederland en in de eerste helft van de 20e eeuw waren er nog broedpogingen van ongepaarde vrouwtjes. In de 20e eeuw werd de soort een steeds zeldzamere invasiegast, meestal tijdens strenge winters. De grote invasie van 1979 (125 exemplaren; Dutch Birding 1: 51-54, 54-55, 104-105, 1979) gaf samen met andere dwaalgasten die winter een grote stimulans voor de oprichting van de Dutch Birding Association. Daarna waren er nog waarnemingen in begin 1980 (drie exemplaren), 1981/82 (vier; Dutch Birding 4: 6-7, 1982), 1984/85 (29; Dutch Birding 8: 60-62, 1986), 1986 (een), 1987 (20, waaronder groepen van 12 en zeven), 1994 (een), 1996 (een) en 1997 (twee). Vanaf 1986 is het een CDNA-beoordeelsoort. In de 21e eeuw was er tot nu toe alleen de waarneming van een in Duitsland uitgezet exemplaar met halszender en roze kleurring in december 2004 bij Beltrum, Gelderland. Deze niet-telbare vogel werd verzwakt gevangen en teruggebracht naar Duitsland. Behalve in Duitsland lopen er ook herintroductieprojecten in bijvoorbeeld Engeland (uitgestorven in 1832 en voor het eerst weer jongen grootbrengend in 2009) en Oostenrijk. Van Engelse projectvogels met vleugelmarkeringen is bekend dat ze tot eind november rond Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, blijven en dan gaan zwerven; zo werden er in de winter van 2005/06 minstens drie in Frankrijk gezien (Dutch Birding 28: 42, 2006). Behalve het ontbreken van merktekens is ook de westwaartse vliegrichting een aanwijzing dat de kerstvogel van 2010 uit het oosten kwam. Enno B Ebels, Jan Jacobs & Mark Hoekstein

Great Bustard On 24 December 2010, an unringed subadult male Great Bustard *Otis tarda* was observed and photographed by a single observer near Groesbeek, Gelderland, the Netherlands. The next day, the same bird (based on detailed comparison of photographs) was first seen near Woensdrecht, Noord-Brabant (c 120 km to the south-west), and then at various sites in the east of Zeeland. It was twitched by several 10s of birders and constituted the first 21th century record for the Netherlands. In Belgium, first there was one reported at Heusden, Oost-Vlaanderen, on 26 December and then, on 27-30 December, it appeared that the 'Dutch' bird stayed at Denderbelle, Oost-Vlaanderen (c 45 km south of Rilland). The previous two records in the Netherlands concerned singles in January and February 1997 (apart from a project bird released in Germany with radio transmitter and colour-ring in Gelderland in December 2004).

Recently described bird species In 2010, a small number of bird species new to science were formally described, mainly from South America. The most remarkable is arguably the single new antpitta *Grallaria* from Colombia that was named separately by two different 'competing' groups of authors, each of them supplying their own name, one of which is deemed a synonym immediately... Two new species remaining from 2009

are also mentioned below. Where possible, internet references to photographs and/or links to pdf files of the original papers are given.

Black-capped Woodnymph / Zwartkapbosnimf *Thalurania nigricapilla* (Valdés-Velásquez, A & Schuchmann, K-L 2009. A new species of hummingbird (*Thalurania*; Trochilidae, Trochilinae) from the western Colombian Andes. Ornithol Anz 48: 143-149). This new hummingbird from the region of lake Calima in the western Andes of Colombia was separated from its congeners by the combination of two plumage characters in adult males, ie, the lack of an iridescent crown patch and the black forehead and crown when viewed frontally. However, the validity of this taxon as a separate species has already been questioned (see www.museum.lsu.edu/~remsen/SACCprop472.html).

Río Orinoco Spinetail / Orinocostekelstaart *Synallaxis beverlyae* (Hilty, S L & Ascanio, D 2009. A new species of spinetail (Furnariidae: *Synallaxis*) from the Río Orinoco of Venezuela. Auk 126: 485-492). This new spinetail species appears to be restricted to scrubby river island vegetation and adjacent river edges that are subject to seasonal inundation. Although similar in plumage and morphology to (but separable from) some other spinetails, it is clearly differentiated by voice. It is presently known only from two well-separated areas along the Orinoco river in Venezuela, the type locality on a stretch of the Orinoco forming a border with Colombia and two locations in the Orinoco delta, but is likely to occur on appropriate intervening islands. However, the restricted range and narrow ecological requirements of the new species are considered a conservation concern. *Synallaxis beverlyae* is named after Beverly J Hilty, the first author's wife.

Fenwick's Antpitta / Fenwicks Mierpitta *Grallaria fenwickorum* (Barrera, L F, Bartels, A & Fundación ProAves de Colombia 2010. A new species of antpitta (family Grallariidae) from the Colibrí del Sol bird reserve, Colombia. Conservación Colombiana 13: 8-24) and **Urrao Antpitta / Urraomierpitta *Grallaria urraoensis*** (Carantón-Ayala, D & Certuche-Cubillos, K 2010. A new species of antpitta (Grallariidae: *Grallaria*) from the northern sector of the western Andes of Colombia. Ornitología Colombiana 9: 56-70). This is perhaps a textbook example of how the formal publication and description of a new species should *not* turn out. It is a sad story, really, of how a conflict between the discoverers of the new bird (Diego Carantón and Katherine Certuche) and Carantón's (former) employer (ProAves) got out of hand, resulting in the description of the same species under two different names! Because *Grallaria fenwickorum* was published first (taking Carantón, Certuche and Ornitología Colombiana by surprise), that name will, unfortunately, have priority over *G urraoensis*.

Both Conservación Colombiana (the journal published by ProAves) and Ornitología Colombiana published an extensive editorial, each explaining their side of the story (see for the English versions www.proaves.org/rubrique.php?id_rubrique=451 and www.ornitologiacolombiana.org/oc9/notaeditoroc9.htm#English, respectively).

Reading both descriptions it seems obvious and only logical that the paper on *G urraoensis* contains far more details and analysis of these birds than the one on *G fenwickorum* (of which the 'holotype' is not more than a bunch of feathers and a photograph). Although readers should judge for themselves, upon reading both editorials, I favour the view of Ornitología Colombiana that the discoverers fell victim to a deliberate and dirty trick played by ProAves. It can only be hoped that such an unfortunate series of events, which is a disgrace for both ornithology and bird conservation, will never happen again. Pdf files of both papers can be found at www.proaves.org/rubrique.php?id_rubrique=451 (*G fenwickorum*) and www.ornitologiacolombiana.org/oc9/MS1004%20Caranton.pdf (*G urraoensis*).

Willard's Sooty Boubou / Willards Fiskaal *Laniarius willardi* (Voelker, G, Outlaw, R K, Reddy, S, Tobler, M, Bates, J M, Hackett, S J, Kahindo, C, Marks, B D, Kerbis Peterhans, J C & Gnoske, T P 2010. A new species of boubou (Malaconotidae: *Laniarius*) from the Albertine Rift. Auk 127: 678-689). In this paper a new *Laniarius* species is described from the Albertine Rift in Burundi and Uganda. A pdf file of the paper can be downloaded at www.luc.edu/biology/reddy/voelker2010.pdf. Note that in the formal description, the authorship of the species is restricted to Voelker & Gnoske. Some photographs and an interview with one of the authors, discussing this dicovery, can be found at www.ornithomedia.com/magazine/mag_art502_2.htm.

Rock Tapaculo / Rotstapaculo *Scytalopus petrophilus* (Whitney, B M, Vasconcelos, M F, Silveira, L F & Pacheco, J F 2010. *Scytalopus petrophilus* (Rock Tapaculo): a new species from Minas Gerais, Brazil. Rev Brasil Ornitol 18: 73-88). Another chapter to the vivid discussions on Brazilian tapaculos *Scytalopus* was added by this description of Rock Tapaculo. A pdf can be found at www.birdforum.net/showthread.php?t=147427 (post nr 17). See also www.museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SACCprop463.html for a short overview of the taxonomic background.

Socotra Buzzard / Socotrabuizerd *Buteo socotraensis* (Porter, R F & Kirwan, G M 2010. Studies of Socotran birds VI. The taxonomic status of the Socotra Buzzard. Bull Br Ornithol Club 130: 116-131). Although its existence has been known for long, the identity of the resident, short-winged buzzard *Buteo* population of Socotra has never been definitely established nor has it been named formally. In this paper, the discussion on the taxonomic position of the Socotran birds in the past is summarised and the reasons why it is appropriate to consider the population as a separate species are discussed. The name '*socotrae*' for these birds, which features in a few earlier publications, is a *nomen nudum* and therefore the species is now formally named *Buteo socotraensis*. A pdf file of the paper can be downloaded at www.socotraproject.org/userfiles/files/Taxonomic%20Status%20of%20the%20Socotra%20Buzzard.pdf.

André J van Loon