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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

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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

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Range extension of Great Grey Owl in Europe

Łukasz Ławicki, Andrej V Abramčuk, Sergey V Domashevsky, Uku Paal, Roar Solheim, Tomasz Chodkiewicz & Bartłomiej Woźniak

Great Grey Owl *Strix nebulosa* is a boreal species, occurring in vast areas of the taiga of Eurasia (*S n lapponica*) and North America (*S n nebulosa*). Its main range in the Western Palearctic includes Fennoscandia and northern Russia (König et al 2008, Mebs & Scherzinger 2008, Mikkola 2012; figure 1). The poorly known population in European Russia (west of the Ural mountains) is estimated at 1500-4500 pairs (BirdLife International 2004). In Fennoscandia, the species is relatively abundant in Finland, with slightly smaller populations in Sweden and Norway, where in recent years its range has expanded far to the south (Solheim 2009, Berg et al 2011, Valkama et al 2011; see below). Around 1900, it was known to breed in Fennoscandia's northernmost forests only, mainly in northern Finland and Sweden and in north-eastern Norway but, probably in the mid-1960s, the area expanded southward (Sulkava & Huhtala 1997). In addition to its extensive range in the north there is also an isolated population in northern Ukraine and adjacent Belarus, c 400-500 km from the southern boundary of its main range (Snow & Perrins 1998; see below).

In this paper, we discuss the southward and westward spread of the Great Grey Owl population in Europe, which in recent years has proceeded very rapidly.

Distribution and southward range extension in Fennoscandia

In Fennoscandia, Great Grey Owl expanded its distribution southward between the mid-1960s and early 1990s (Stefansson 1997, 2009, Sulkava & Huhtala 1997, Solheim 2009, Valkama et al 2011, Ottosson et al 2012). In Sweden, there was a marked increase in population size from 1960 to the late 1980s (Stefansson 1997), with 1987 be-

175 Great Grey Owls / Laplanduilen *Strix nebulosa*, female with grown nestlings on artificial breeding platform, Aasnes, Hedmark, Norway, 3 June 2011 *(Roar Solheim)*. This female was ringed as nestling 120 km to the east in central Sweden on similar breeding platform in 2010.

176 Great Grey Owl / Laplanduil *Strix nebulosa*, female incubating eggs on top of Ural Owl *S uralensis* nest box, Elverum, Hedmark, Norway, 2 June 2011 *(Roar Solheim)*

ing a very good breeding year. According to Stefansson (1997), the autumn population in Sweden that year must have been at least 3000 individuals. However, the total population in Sweden is considered to have declined slightly during the last 30 years to 400 pairs (from an estimated 500 pairs; Ottosson et al 2012, cf Hipkiss et al 2008), while it is considered stable in Finland (estimated population size fluctuating between 300 and 1500 breeding pairs; Valkama et al 2011). In Norway, Great Grey Owls have been regularly sighted in south-eastern districts ever since the first breeding pair was found there in 1989 (Solheim 2009; figure 1). The winters of 2009/10 and 2010/11 in Norway were cold with dry and loose snow, which seemed to trigger the biggest vole year in decades. The species bred in the south-east of the country in unprecedented numbers, with three pairs in 2010 (Berg 2010) and at least 22 pairs in 2011 (Berg et al 2011; figure 1; plate 175-176). Based on wing moult patterns (cf Solheim 2011), the majority of them were aged as first-year birds (Solheim et al in prep). Two breeding females had been ringed as juveniles in mid-central Sweden one and 11 years earlier (Berg et al 2011). During the winter of 2011/12, at least 12 individuals (adult and juvenile birds) were reported along the coast of south-eastern Norway (figure 1). In autumn 2012, birds were reported from six localities in the same area. In central and southern Sweden, birds turned up in considerable numbers after April 2012, although only two nesting pairs were found that year, one as far south as Kalmar at c 58˚N (Anders Wirdheim pers comm; figure 1).

Surveys of ringed Great Grey Owls show that adults and juveniles may choose different dispersal strategies. Most adults seem to remain within the same area where they have bred once (Stefansson 2009). Juveniles have been found breeding up to 650 km from their natal area, while adults ringed as breeding birds have later been found breeding up to 450 km away (Stefansson 1997, 2009). Individuals ringed in northern Sweden have been recovered both to the east in Finland and Russia, and to the south-south-west in central Sweden (Fransson et al 2008).

Range extension and increase in numbers in eastern Europe

Belarus

Breeding in north-eastern Belarus in the early 19th century was first reported by Tyzenhauz (1843). The second published record was by Shnitnikov (1913), who described two cases of breeding in 1902-03 in the Yaselda river valley north of Pinsk. No records were reported by German ornithologists working in Belarus during World War I. Two nests were found in the Białowieża primeval forest in 1929-30, near the present-day Polish-Belarusian border. The species was considered extremely rare in Belarus after World War II (Fedyushin & Dolbik 1967, Dolbik & Dorofeev 1978, Nikiforov et al 1984). However, numerous subsequent discoveries of the species in the Belarusian part of Białowieża forest suggested the possibility of its nesting there between the 1950s and 1990s (Tishechkin et al 1997, Tomiałojć & Stawarczyk 2003). In the 1990s, a number of new breeding sites were found: six territories along the Shchara river floodplain, Lyakhavichy district, in 1992 and 1995-96; five territories at Svyatitsa, Lyakhavichy district, in 1994-96; one or two territories along the Neman river floodplain, Navahrudak district, in 1993-95; four nests at Olmany, Stolin district, in 1995-96; and four-five territories in Białowieża forest in 1999. In the mid-1990s, there were a number of breeding records from south-west and south-central Belarus, on the Black Sea-Baltic watershed in the upper Pripyat river basins and tributaries, the river Narew, the upper Neman and the Białowieża

FIGURE 1 Current distribution of Great Grey Owl *Strix nebulosa* in Fennoscandia and western Russia (based on Solheim 2009, Berg et al 2011, Valkama et al 2011, Ottosson et al 2012; this paper).

forest. At that time, the population in Belarus was estimated at 50-100 pairs (Tishechkin et al 1997).

The current distribution area in southern Belarus extends from the western border of Belarus (Białowieża forest; plate 177-180) through the southern part of the Rozanska forest (Buslowka reserve), Important Bird Area (IBA) Chavanscyna, the Wygonowskie swamps, the Podwielikij Moch reserve, IBA Vieluta, the swamps around Lake Kniaz, the Pripyat National Park and the Olmanskie swamps to the border with Ukraine. The total number in Belarus is currently estimated at 100-250 pairs. In recent years, however, there has been a tendency for this species to expand south-westward. In 2007-09, the species was found near the Polish border in the Brest and Maloritsky districts, in the vicinity of the villages of Rogozno and Czarne, respectively (Abramčuk 2010; Andrej Abramčuk pers obs; figure 2).

Ukraine

The first Great Grey Owl in the forest zone of Ukraine was recorded in 1912 in the Zhytomyr district (Burchak-Abramovich 1928). A breeding

177-179 Great Grey Owl / Laplanduil *Strix nebulosa*, Białowieża forest, Bobrovichy area, Belarus, 31 May 2010 *(Ronald Messemaker)* **180** Great Grey Owl / Laplanduil *Strix nebulosa*, nestling, Białowieża forest, Bobrovichy area, Belarus, 31 May 2010 *(Ronald Messemaker)*

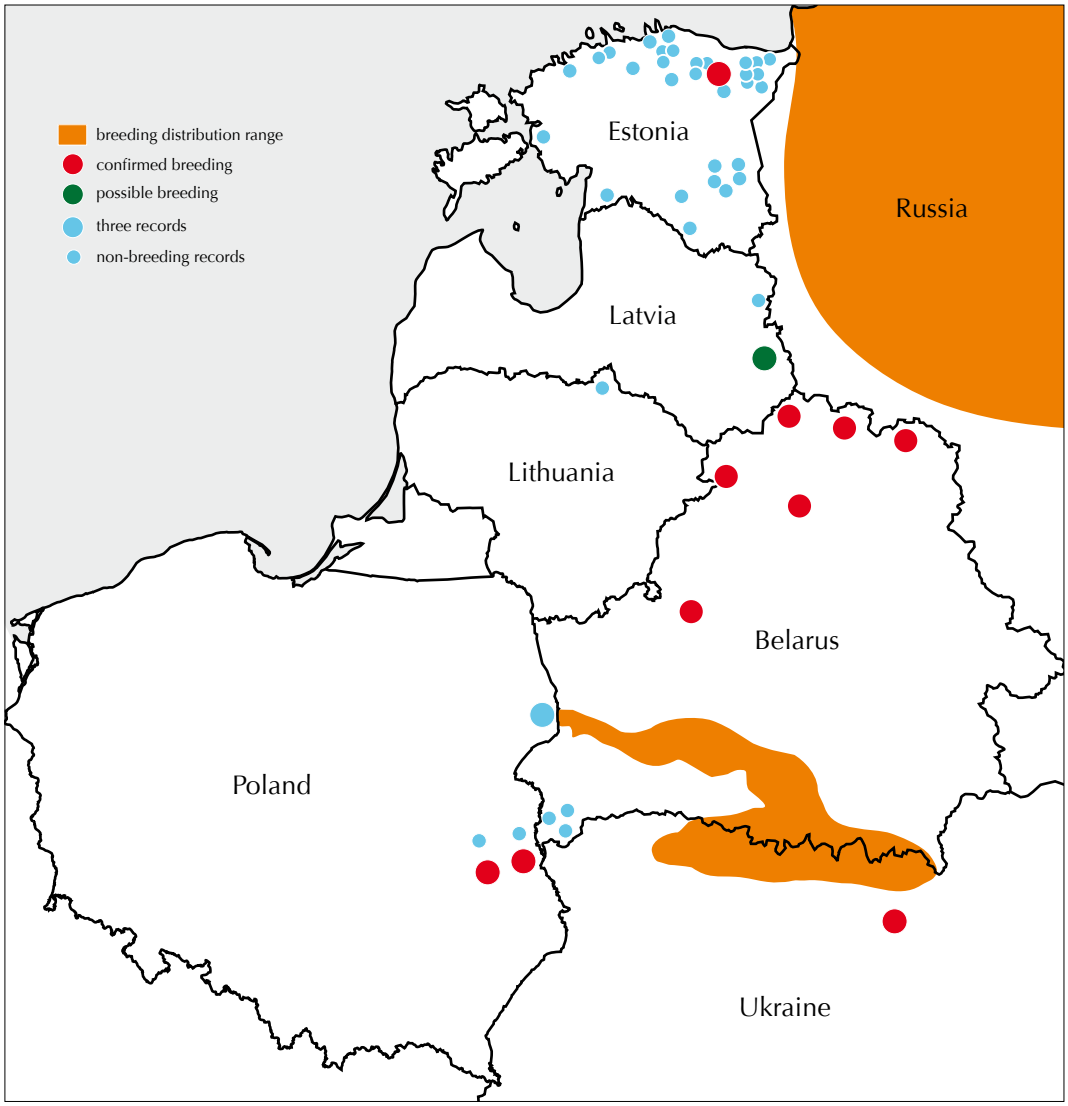

FIGURE 2 Distribution of Great Grey Owl *Strix nebulosa* in eastern Europe in 2000-12 (based on data cited in this paper).

bird was noted for the first time in 1985, in the Ovruch, Zhytomyr district in the Polesie reserve on the border with Belarus (Yaremchenko & Sheygas 1991). Until 1997, there were regular reports of the species nesting in the reserve; in some years, 15 territories were reported (Wyre 1997). In the same administrative district in 1992, a new site with breeding Great Grey Owls was found, c 60 km east of the main distribution range (Tsitsyura et al 1993). In 1997, a single bird appeared in a park on the outskirts of Kiev – the first record in this part of Ukraine (Topishko & Matus 1998). In 2002-03, the first successful breeding in the Kiev region was reported (Mishchenko 2004). Following this discovery, a female with fresh belly feathers (regrown on the incubation patch) was caught by hunters in the 30 km Chernobyl exclusion zone in the Kiev district in May 2003. These new localities lie 120-150 km to the east of the core breeding population in Ukraine (Domashevsky 2004; figure 2). During the period of increase and dispersal of birds in the neighbouring

181 Great Grey Owl / Laplanduil *Strix nebulosa*, adult, Sobibor forest, Lublin province, Poland, 15 July 2012 *(Maciej Kowalski)*

182 Great Grey Owl / Laplanduil *Strix nebulosa*, juvenile, Sobibor forest, Lublin province, Poland, 15 July 2012 *(Maciej Kowalski)*

Zhytomyr district in the Polesie reserve in 2002, a total of 26 occupied nests were reported. Overall, the number is estimated at 30-33 pairs (Gorban & Bumar 2003). During this period, the species began to show up in areas south of the reserve. Later, it was found nesting west of the Polesie reserve in the Rivne and Volyn districts. A nest was found in the Rivne reserve in May 2005 (Hymyn 2005a), while previously at least 10 breeding pairs had been found in the reserve (Gorban & Bumar 2003). Thereafter, a nest was found in Cheremskom reserve in the western Volyn region in late May 2005 (Hymyn 2005b); this is the most westerly nest found in Ukraine. The distance from the Polesie reserve is c 290 km west-south-west. Only one sighting was reported in the Chernihiv region of left-bank Polesie in September 1984 (Marisova et al 1991). However, these data are not confirmed. There are no other reports from left-bank Polesie.

In recent decades, Great Grey Owl has spread over northern Ukrainian Polesie, with some new locations of the right bank of the Kiev district, as well as in the Zhytomyr, Rivne and Volyn districts. New nests should be expected in the northern part of right-bank Polesie (Domashevsky 2009). As we assumed earlier, at this pace of settlement, in the near future we may see the species in left-bank Polesie (Domashevsky 2004). The current number of Great Grey Owls in Ukraine can be estimated at 60-110 pairs, concentrated in the right-bank region (Sergey Domashevsky pers obs).

Poland

Up to 2010, there were 17 records in Poland: in the mid-1860s, 1872, 1953, 1985, 1987, 1991, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2007 (Tomiałojć & Stawarczyk 2003, Keller et al 2011). Most observations were from the Białowieża forest, where the species nests on the Belarusian side. In the spring of 2010, unexpectedly, two nests with young were found in the Sobibor forest, Lublin district, in south-eastern Poland. These were the first breeding records for Poland (Keller et al 2011). In 2011, there was a lack of food (as it was a poor rodent year) and no breeding. In 2012, however, seven pairs were found in Sobibor forest (plate 181-183) and another pair in Wlodawa forest, Polesie Lubelskie – making it a total of eight pairs in 2012 for south-eastern Poland (Tomasz Chodkiewicz, Bartłomiej Woźniak and Sylwester Aftyka pers obs; figure 2).

Estonia

In the first half of the 19th century, Great Grey Owl was considered to be a regular breeder in Estonia (Kumari 1958) but no exact numbers are

available. During the 19th century, there were five observations (all involving birds shot), including three breeding records: in 1859, between 1862 and 1874, and in 1893 (Leibak et al 1994). There were 41 records from 1904-98, all except one of the 15 before 1958 relating to birds shot. Most of these records were from winter, and the owls were presumably from distant populations. At least six records were from the summer period but no breeding was confirmed during the 20th century. The number of records has risen rapidly since the turn of the century, with 25 records in 2001-11 (data from the Estonian Rarities Committee; figure 2). After a 116-year interval, breeding was confirmed in 2009 in the north-eastern part of the country in Iisaku in the province of Ida-Virumaa; three territorial pairs were found, including one pair with three nestlings (Ots & Paal 2010; plate 184). The best year was 2011 with seven records, illustrating that the species is becoming more common in Estonia (for details of all records, see www.eoy.ee/en/rc).

Latvia

There are only three confirmed and properly documented historical records for Latvia. One bird was shot near Lielvarde on 24 February 1873 and another near Valmiera in August 1903. A third bird was shot (at a possible nesting site) near Lubana on 20 April 1910. The latter was published as a nesting record (see, eg, Krüdener 1910, Perrins 1998) but neither the nest nor the second bird of the presumed nesting pair were found (Strazds et al 2006). Then, after a long absence, in spring 2006, the species was again recorded east of Ludza near the border with Russia: one singing male was discovered on 27 April and a pair was observed in the same place on 11 May. However, no nest was found, and the birds' behaviour did not reveal any signs of nesting (Strazds et al 2006). On 11 May 2007, again in Ludza, a pair (heard only) was confirmed, and on 17 April 2009 several song series were heard and one bird was seen. In addition, around 20 November 2006, a second-year female was found dead in the town of Vilaka (Agris Celmins in litt).

Lithuania

Only five records are known. On 5 February 1933, one bird was found dead in the Siauliai region; in 1963, a nest with young was found in Panevezys district; in 1982, a female was shot in Panevezys

183 Great Grey Owls / Laplanduilen *Strix nebulosa*, female with five nestlings on old nest of Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*, Sobibor forest, Lublin province, Poland, 29 April 2012 *(Tomasz Chodkiewicz)*. Photograph taken by digital trail camera.

184 Great Grey Owls / Laplanduilen *Strix nebulosa*, nestlings, Iisaku, Ida-Virumaa, Estonia, 12 June 2009 *(Riho Männik)*. First breeding record in Estonia for 116 years.

district; on 3 March 1983, a female was killed by a car in the Alytus district; and the latest record was on 16 February 2011 when one bird was sighted in Birzai in the northern part of the country (Žalakevičius 1995; Vytautas Jusys in litt). The information given by Perrins (1998; 'bred in 1825 in Lithuania') refers to the present-day territory of Belarus, near the village of Postav (cf Ivanauskas 1959; Vytautas Jusys in litt).

European Russia

In European Russia, Great Grey Owl regularly nests in the Tver, Moscow, Vladimir, Ivanovo and Nizhny Novgorod regions. The most southern locality is in the Ryazan region. The species may also breed in the Yaroslavl and Smolensk regions (Kontorshikov et al 2008, Levashkin et al 2011; Alexander Sharikov in litt). Information from European Russia is sparse and the population figures (1500-4500 pairs; BirdLife International 2004) are only a very rough estimate. So far, there appears to be little evidence of a southward expansion (Alexander Sharikov in litt).

Discussion

The numbers and distribution of Great Grey Owls in Europe (especially in the eastern part) are still poorly known. On the basis of published data, it can be assumed that both the numbers and distribution have varied considerably in the past 120 years. In the Finnish population, for example, there has been a clear southward shift in range – from Lapland towards the central and eastern regions (Sulkava & Kuhtala 1997). In 2010-12, the species was found nesting in unprecedented numbers in south-eastern Norway. In 2007-09, the species was found in Belarus near the Polish border, south-west of its regular breeding grounds. After a 116-year gap, breeding was again confirmed in Estonia in 2009, and there were seven further records in 2011. In Latvia, a stationary pair was recorded in 2006-07 and a territorial male in 2009 but nesting has yet to be confirmed. Finally, Great Grey Owls nested for the first time in Poland in 2010, and in 2012 eight pairs were found. This overview provides evidence that new areas have been colonized and that, since 2007, this occurred with an unprecedented speed when comparing it with published data from previous decades.

The increase in the number and distribution in south-eastern Norway and probably also in Estonia may be due to an influx of birds from northern Europe, while in other countries it may reflect dispersal from the population in eastern Europe. The influx from the north may be the result of harsh weather and lack of food, ie, small mammals like rodents and shrews. Limited access to food during winters with thick snow cover may impair the hunt for small mammals (Mikkola 1981, 1983, Hipkiss et al 2008; cf Lehikoinen et al 2011). These conditions occurred during the extremely harsh and snowy winter of 2009-10 (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winter_of_2009), and some birds that move long distances in search of food do not return to their former breeding grounds (Mikkola 1981, 1983, Mebs & Scherzinger 2008). The intensity of the influx may be related to the considerable abundance and productivity of owls in northern Europe, as observed in Finland in 2009 (Honkala et al 2009). The species' successful breeding attempts in new areas greatly increase its chances of permanently colonizing them. This may have occurred in Poland, where the rearing of young by two pairs in 2010 may have contributed to the population increase two years later.

We cannot rule out the possibility that the increase in numbers in eastern Europe (especially in Belarus and Ukraine) is simply due to the increased activity of birdwatchers and the use of appropriate methods for their detection. In Estonia, the species was probably also overlooked. During the last two decades, the species has attracted much attention from local birders and nature photographers here, and more time is being spent looking for it in poorly visited areas. Most of the records come from the north-eastern parts of Estonia, which has excellent breeding habitat but very poor observer coverage. Some of the vast old-growth forest areas in north-eastern, eastern and central Estonia are hard to access and need extra effort to be surveyed properly, especially when dealing with a fairly elusive species such as Great Grey Owl. The increase in the number of nests found in northern Europe in 1960-94 was partially due to the increase in nest searching efforts for all owls for ringing and monitoring, and in the building of artificial nests (Sulkava & Kuhtala 1997).

The other three owl species that are basically restricted to the boreal zone (Eurasian Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium passerinum*, Ural Owl *Strix uralensis* and Boreal Owl *Aegolius funereus*) have also increased their numbers in many regions in east-central Europe during 1990-2007 (Kopij 2011). According to this author, these changes can be explained by the possible decline of their potential competitors and/or as a consequence of the population expansion of these owl species from their Fennoscandian and Russian strongholds.

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Samenvatting
Uitbreiding van Laplanduil in Europa Dit artikel beschrijft de recente sterke uitbreiding van Laplanduil *Strix nebulosa* in Europa. Binnen de West-Palearctische regio komt de soort vooral voor in Fenno-Scandinavië en het noorden van Rusland maar er bevindt zich ook een geïsoleerde populatie in Oost-Europa, c 400-500 km ten zuiden van het aaneengesloten boreale verspreidingsgebied.

In Fenno-Scandinavië breidde Laplanduil zich zuidwaarts uit aan het eind van de jaren 1960 tot het begin van de jaren 1990. In Zweden nam de populatie opvallend toe van 1960 tot ver in de jaren 1980 maar de laatste 30 jaar lijkt zich weer een afname voor te doen. In Finland is het verspreidingsgebied duidelijk naar het zuiden opgeschoven, van Lapland naar het midden en het oosten van het land. In Noorwegen wordt de soort regelmatig waargenomen in het zuidoosten sinds daar een broedpaar werd gevonden in 1989. Ongekend hoge aantallen Laplanduilen broedden in het zuidoosten van Noorwegen in 2010 (drie paren) en 2011 (22 paren).

In Oost-Europa bevindt zich een geïsoleerde populatie, die vroeger beperkt was tot het centrale en zuidelijke deel van Wit-Rusland. De soort koloniseerde het noorden van Oekraïne in de loop van de jaren 1990, met nieuwe vestigingen op c 120-150 km buiten het normale verspreidingsgebied in het oosten van het land. Deze zeer snelle uitbreiding vond plaats tijdens de laatste vijf jaar. In 2007-09 dook de soort op in Wit-Rusland dicht bij de Poolse grens, ten zuidwesten van het normale broedgebied. In Estland werd een broedgeval vastgesteld in 2009 na een afwezigheid van 116 jaar; in 2011 waren er al zeven broedgevallen. In Letland werd een plaatstrouw paar waargenomen in 2006-07 en was er een roepend mannetje in 2009 maar het is niet zeker of het tot een broedgeval kwam. In Polen hebben Laplanduilen zich voor het eerst gevestigd in 2010 en waren er acht broedparen in 2012. De toename in aantal en verspreiding van Laplanduil in deze landen is mogelijk het gevolg van een invasie vanuit Noord-Europa of van dispersie uit Oost-Europa. De toename in Oost-Europa (Wit-Rusland en Oekraïne) en Estland kan echter ook verklaard worden door een toegenomen intensiteit van zoekacties, met betere methoden.

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Łukasz Ławicki, West-Pomeranian Nature Society, Flisacza 35e/6, 74-100 Gryfino, Poland (izuza@interia.pl)
Andrej V Abramčuk, APB-BirdLife Belarus, Oltus, Maloritsky district, Brest oblast, 225921, Belarus (strix113@wp.pl)
Sergey V Domashevsky, Ukrainian Birds of Prey Research Centre, Zhukov st 22, apt. 42, Kyiv, 02166, Ukraine (domashevsky@gmail.com)
Uku Paal, Estonian Ornithological Society, Estonian Rarities Committee, Veski 4, Tartu 51005, Estonia (melanotos@gmail.com)
Roar Solheim, Agder Natural History Museum, PO Box 1887, Gimlemoen, 4686 Kristiansand, Norway (roar.solheim@kristiansand.kommune.no)
Tomasz Chodkiewicz, Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP), BirdLife Poland, Odrowąża 24, 05-270 Marki k. Warszawy, Poland (tomasz.chodkiewicz@otop.org.pl)
Bartłomiej Woźniak, Department of Forest Zoology and Wildlife Management, Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW), Nowoursynowska 159, 02-776 Warszawa, Poland (accipiter.nisus@wp.pl)

Is Peat Partridge a valid subspecies of Grey Partridge?

Sander Bot & Justin J F J Jansen

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix* is a familiar bird in large parts of Europe and occurs as far east as north-western China. It has been introduced in North America (del Hoyo et al 1994). Within its native range, seven subspecies are recognized. Geographical variation is clinal and western subspecies are generally darker and smaller than eastern subspecies (Madge & McGowan 2002). The nominate subspecies *P p perdix* (hereafter *perdix*) occurs from Britain east to Fennoscandia, the Alps and the Balkans (Madge & McGowan 2002).

One of the western subspecies is Peat Partridge *P p sphagnetorum* (hereafter *sphagnetorum*), first described by Altum (Altum 1894). His description was based on a single bird collected at Meppen, Niedersachsen, Germany. It was generally believed that *sphagnetorum* occurred on heaths and peat-bogs in Drenthe, Friesland and Groningen in the Netherlands and in adjacent Emsland in Germany (figure 1; Hartert 1917, Snouckaert van Schauburg 1918, Peus 1929, Hens 1938, Haverschmidt 1942, Eykman et al 1949, van IJzendoorn 1950). However, Harrison (1952) showed that *sphagnetorum* occurred further north-east in Germany, as far as Hamburg. This observation triggered Kelm (1979) to investigate *sphagnetorum* in more detail. Besides confirming Harrison's (1952) statement, he also concluded that *sphagnetorum* occurred further south-west, across parts of the Netherlands and as far as Antwerpen in Belgium (figure 1; Kelm 1979). However, various standard works do not follow Kelm's findings and still adopt the originally described distribution (Cramp & Simmons 1980, del Hoyo et al 1994, Madge & McGowan 2002).

185 Grey Partridge / Patrijs *Perdix perdix*, Sint-Joris, Nieuwpoort, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, 10 April 2006 *(Rudi Debruyne)*. Photographed within range of nominate *P p perdix*.

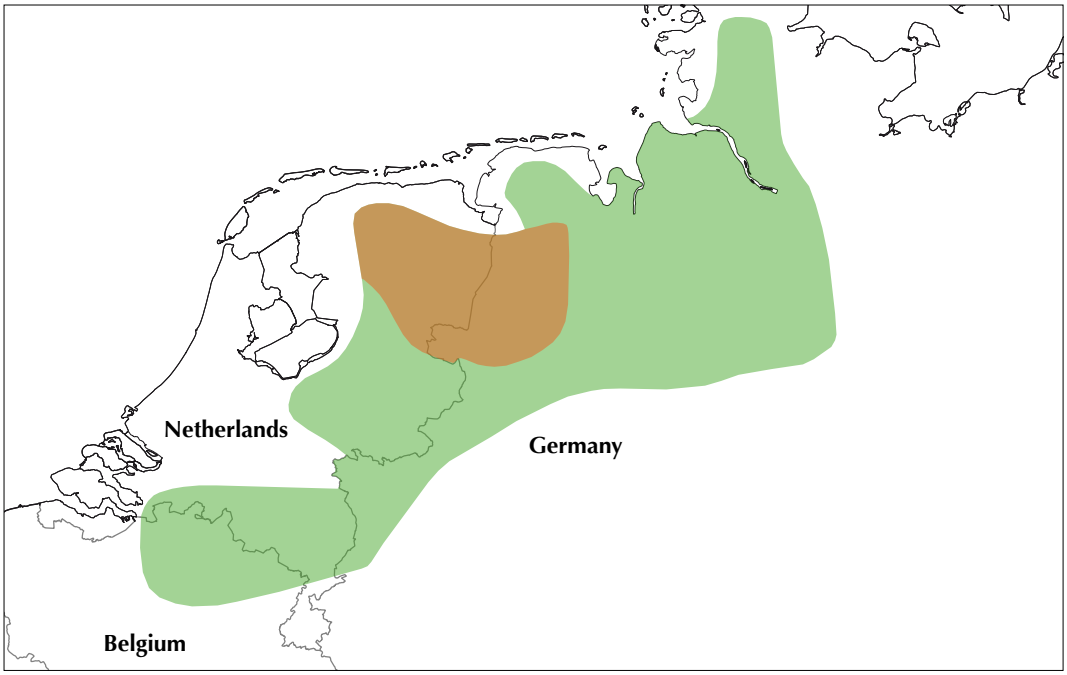

FIGURE 1 Distribution of Peat Partridge *Perdix perdix sphagnetorum*. Generally accepted distribution ('traditional') in brown; brown and green combined: distribution according to Kelm (1979; 'Kelm').

The status of *sphagnetorum* is unclear. Because peat-bogs, its favourite habitat, have a long history of being reclaimed, it was feared that *sphagnetorum* had been largely replaced by *perdix* or had even become extinct (Altum 1894, Hens 1938, Voous 1960). It was also feared that Grey Partridges released in the Netherlands for hunting purposes (Haverschmidt 1942, Eykman et al 1949, Vergeer & van Zuylen 1994, Hagemeijer & Blair 1997, SOVON 2002) had mixed with *sphagnetorum*. However, Kelm (1979) and van Dijk & van Os (1982) conclude that *sphagnetorum* is not extinct and still occurs in good numbers. Nowadays, birdwatchers only rarely report *sphagnetorum* in the field; reports including a description or other documentation are virtually lacking (cf www.waarneming.nl).

Various authors have described differences between *sphagnetorum* and *perdix*. Based on the holotype, Altum (1894) mention *sphagnetorum* as being darker with a more greyish neck and smaller and darker belly patch ('horse shoe'). Besides being darker, Stresemann (1933), Hens (1938) and Kelm (1979) note the following aspects when comparing *sphagnetorum* with *perdix*: *sphagnetorum* is smaller, lacks golden-brown coloration on undertail-coverts and back, has more obvious flank streaking and the head pattern shows more streaks. Additional criteria to differentiate *sphagnetorum* from *perdix* were given by Cramp & Simmons (1980): 'scapulars more blackish than in *perdix*, chest more closely barred dark grey and rufous bars on flanks wider and darker'. There is large individual variation in characters, making it difficult to identify individual birds, probably explaining the paucity of recent field records.

In addition to the large individual variation, the differences between *sphagnetorum* and *perdix* are subtle, so the validity of this and other subspecies of Grey Partridge has been questioned regularly. Cramp & Simmons (1980) mention that 'variation needs re-evaluation' and Madge & McGowan (2002) state that 'racial taxonomy plainly requires revision'. The aim of this paper is to test the validity of *sphagnetorum* as a subspecies by applying the described morphological differences from the literature on museum specimens.

Material and methods

To learn more about the differences between *sphagnetorum* and *perdix*, we visited Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig, Bonn,

FIGURE 2 Grey Partridges / Patrijzen *Perdix perdix*, Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, Germany, 12 August 2011 *(Justin J F J Jansen)*. Four scores for undertail-coverts coloration (from left to right): golden-brown coloration 'absent', 'only faintly present', 'clearly present' and 'not possible to score'.

186 Grey Partridge / Patrijs *Perdix perdix perdix*, male (collected at Szabolcs, Hungary, on 22 February 1934), Naturalis Biodiversity Centre, Leiden, Netherlands, 28 December 2011 *(Justin J F J Jansen)*. Grey circle in middle of Grey Card was used to calibrate colours (see text). Despite being collected far from *sphagnetorum* range, this individual shows large belly patch.

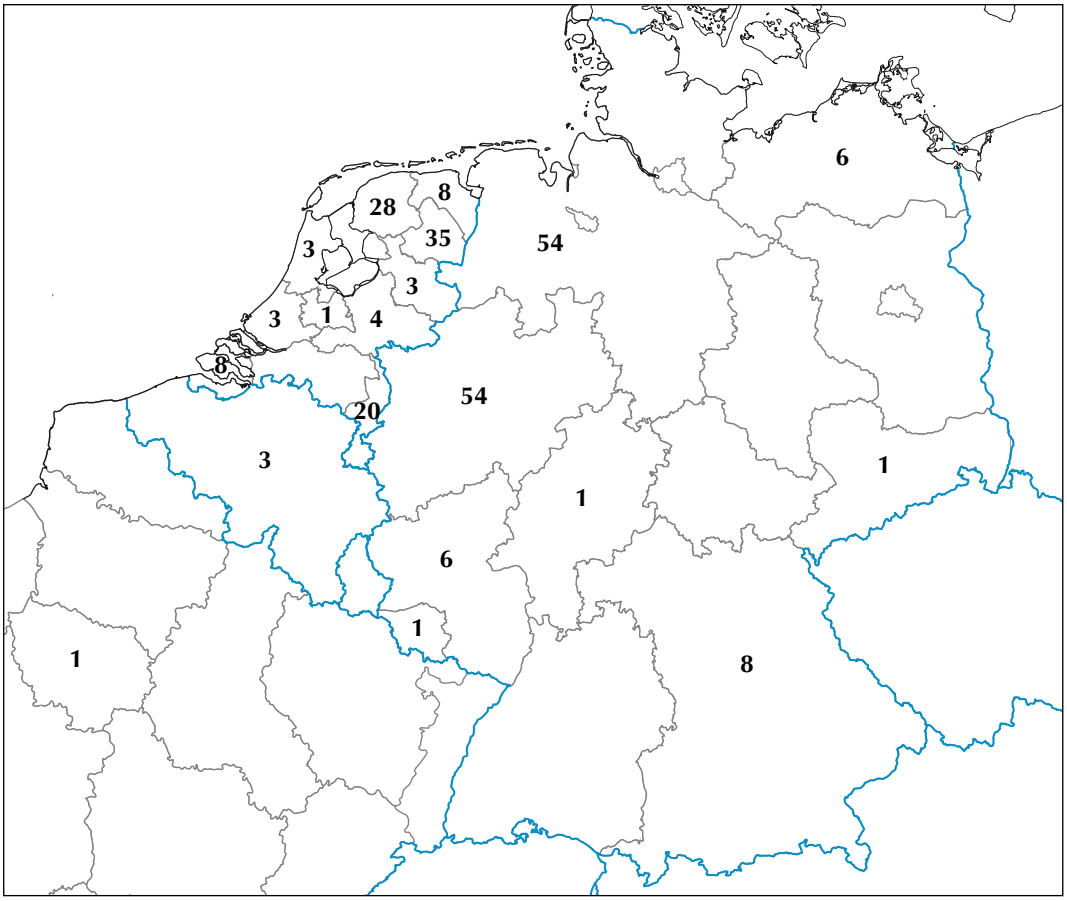

FIGURE 3 Origin of Grey Partridges *Perdix perdix* used in the analysis, from the Netherlands (per province), Germany (per federal state), Belgium and France (per department) (two birds from Hungary and one bird from Britain not included)

Germany (hereafter ZFMK), and Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, the Netherlands, to photograph specimens. Since we had to study differences in colours among individuals, we did not use observations or photographs from the field, where we could not standardize for light conditions, which influence colours (see, eg, plate 189).

We tested the following characters, described by Altum (1894), Stresemann (1933), Hens (1938), Kelm (1979) and Cramp & Simmons (1980), for differences between *sphagnetorum* and *perdix*: ***1*** size of belly patch; ***2*** colour of belly patch; ***3*** density of dark grey barring on chest; ***4*** amount of grey on neck and mantle; ***5*** amount of black in scapulars; and ***6*** colour of undertail-coverts. The density of flank streaking was not quantified in our study because, in stuffed specimens, the wing largely conceals the flanks. *Sphagnetorum* is also reported to be smaller but we could not test this because, in stuffed birds, one cannot measure the original length accurately. Here, we test the characters for both published distributions, the broader one according to Kelm (1979; hereafter 'Kelm') and the more widely accepted traditional distribution followed by most other authors (hereafter 'traditional'). Grey Partridge is sexually dimorphic, so we tested males and females separately. We did not include juveniles in the research but we did include first-winter birds since their post-juvenile moult is almost complete (van Duivendijk 2011), resulting in an adult-like plumage in their first winter. To exclude juvenile birds from our analysis, we used birds collected between October and April only. Sexing and aging was according to the labels of the specimens. Although sexing Grey

TABLE 1 Measurements on six characters of Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*, split by sex, subspecies and distribution (number of individuals (n), mean and range). For each group, subspecies are compared and outcome of statistical test is given at end of each row (P<0.05 considered as significant (in bold)).

	n	mean (range)		n	mean (range)	P
belly patch size (cm²)						
♂ *perdix* traditional	102	15.7 (3.8-39.0)	♂ *sphagnetorum* traditional	34	22.2 (4.2-41.5)	**<0.001**
♂ *perdix* Kelm	66	17.3 (6.8-39.0)	♂ *sphagnetorum* Kelm	70	17.4 (3.8-41.5)	0.72
♀ *perdix* traditional	54	5.1 (0-22.6)	♀ *sphagnetorum* traditional	39	7.5 (0-19.8)	**0.04**
♀ *perdix* Kelm	37	4.5 (0-22.6)	♀ *sphagnetorum* Kelm	56	7.2 (0-19.8)	**0.02**
belly patch (brightness)						
♂ *perdix* traditional	102	0.20 (0.10-0.32)	♂ *sphagnetorum* traditional	34	0.18 (0.10-0.34)	**0.01**
♂ *perdix* Kelm	66	0.22 (0.10-0.32)	♂ *sphagnetorum* Kelm	70	0.18 (0.10-0.34)	**<0.001**
♀ *perdix* traditional	70	0.31 (0.16-0.47)	♀ *sphagnetorum* traditional	45	0.24 (0.13-0.40)	**<0.001**
♀ *perdix* Kelm	50	0.32 (0.22-0.47)	♀ *sphagnetorum* Kelm	65	0.25 (0.13-0.43)	**<0.001**
chest (brightness)						
♂ *perdix* traditional	102	0.31 (0.18-0.40)	♂ *sphagnetorum* traditional	34	0.27 (0.16-0.34)	**<0.001**
♂ *perdix* Kelm	66	0.31 (0.18-0.40)	♂ *sphagnetorum* Kelm	70	0.29 (0.16-0.35)	**0.001**
♀ *perdix* traditional	69	0.32 (0.22-0.41)	♀ *sphagnetorum* traditional	45	0.27 (0.14-0.39)	**<0.001**
♀ *perdix* Kelm	49	0.32 (0.22-0.41)	♀ *sphagnetorum* Kelm	65	0.28 (0.14-0.39)	**<0.001**
mantle and neck (saturation)						
♂ *perdix* traditional	102	50 (33-66)	♂ *sphagnetorum* traditional	33	51 (36-67)	**0.033**
♂ *perdix* Kelm	66	50 (33-63)	♂ *sphagnetorum* Kelm	69	53 (36-67)	0.78
♀ *perdix* traditional	68	58 (49-70)	♀ *sphagnetorum* traditional	44	59 (46-72)	0.63
♀ *perdix* Kelm	49	58 (49-70)	♀ *sphagnetorum* Kelm	63	58 (46-73)	0.89
scapulars (brightness)						
♂ *perdix* traditional	87	0.23 (0.12-0.31)	♂ *sphagnetorum* traditional	31	0.18 (0.12-0.24)	**<0.001**
♂ *perdix* Kelm	55	0.24 (0.16-0.31)	♂ *sphagnetorum* Kelm	63	0.20 (0.12-0.31)	**<0.001**
♀ *perdix* traditional	59	0.23 (0.15-0.33)	♀ *sphagnetorum* traditional	41	0.18 (0.11-0.30)	**<0.001**
♀ *perdix* Kelm	40	0.24 (0.15-0.33)	♀ *sphagnetorum* Kelm	60	0.20 (0.11-0.30)	**<0.001**
undertail-coverts						
♂ *perdix* traditional	76	1.65 (0-2)	♂ *sphagnetorum* traditional	30	1.90 (0-2)	**0.02**
♂ *perdix* Kelm	42	1.81 (0-2)	♂ *sphagnetorum* Kelm	63	1.67 (0-2)	0.26
♀ *perdix* traditional	54	2.00 (2-2)	♀ *sphagnetorum* traditional	39	2.00 (2-2)	-
♀ *perdix* Kelm	37	2.00 (2-2)	♀ *sphagnetorum* Kelm	56	2.00 (2-2)	-

Partridges can be difficult, the sex given on the labels of museum specimens is likely to be correct since it is probably based on the reproductive organs, removed in the process of stuffing the bird.

We took four photographs of each Grey Partridge: upperside, underside and lateral sides. We only used indirect sunlight. All specimens were photographed with the same camera at a fixed distance, with a Kodak Grey Card (Tiffen 2007) in the background (cf plate 186). The Grey Card in the background enabled us to calibrate the colours in the photograph, using Adobe Photoshop 10.0.1. We used brightness as a measure to assess the darkness of the belly patch, where a high brightness value corresponds with a bright red belly patch and a low value with a dark red belly patch. To quantify the brightness of the belly patch, we measured its median spectral reflectance of red, green and blue (RGB) by using Photoshop. These values were used to calculate brightness following the formula: brightness patch = (MAX RGB)/255 with the maximum RGB value being 255. To quantify the belly patch size, the number of pixels of the patch were counted and divided by the number of pixels of 1 cm² from the Grey Card in the background. The density of vermiculations on the chest is very difficult to quantify, so we measured the brightness of a standard part of the chest instead. If the dark grey barring is dense, brightness will be low and vice versa. To assess the amount of grey on the otherwise complex dark red, brown and beige mantle and neck pattern, we measured the saturation. This was calculated by using the formula: saturation = ((MAX-MIN)/MAX)x100, where MAX and MIN are the maximum and minimum of the median RGB val-

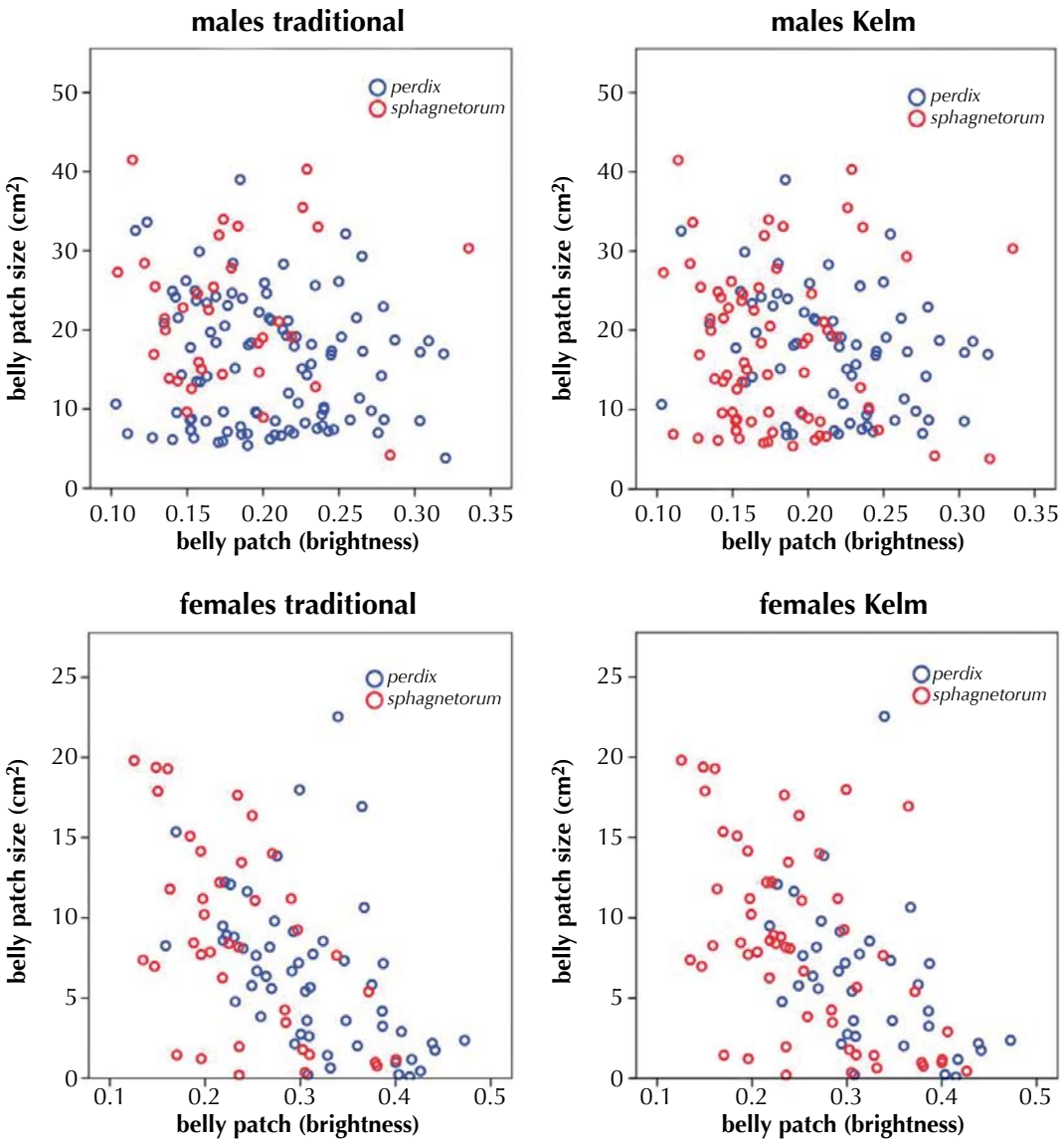

FIGURE 4 Scatterplots of belly patch size plotted against belly patch brightness in Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*, split by subspecies, distribution and sex

ues as measured by Photoshop. A low saturation value corresponds to much grey in the mantle and neck and vice versa. To assess the amount of black on the scapulars, we measured brightness of the scapulars using Photoshop, where much black in the scapulars results in a lower brightness value. We visually scored the presence of golden-brown coloration on the undertail-coverts as follows: golden-brown coloration clearly present (score 2), only faintly present (score 1), absent (score 0) or not possible to score (figure 2). The latter can be the case when the undertail-coverts have largely been lost during the process of preparing the specimen or when they are covered by the legs.

All statistical analyses were performed using SPSS 21.0.0 (IBM Corp 2012), except for the dis-

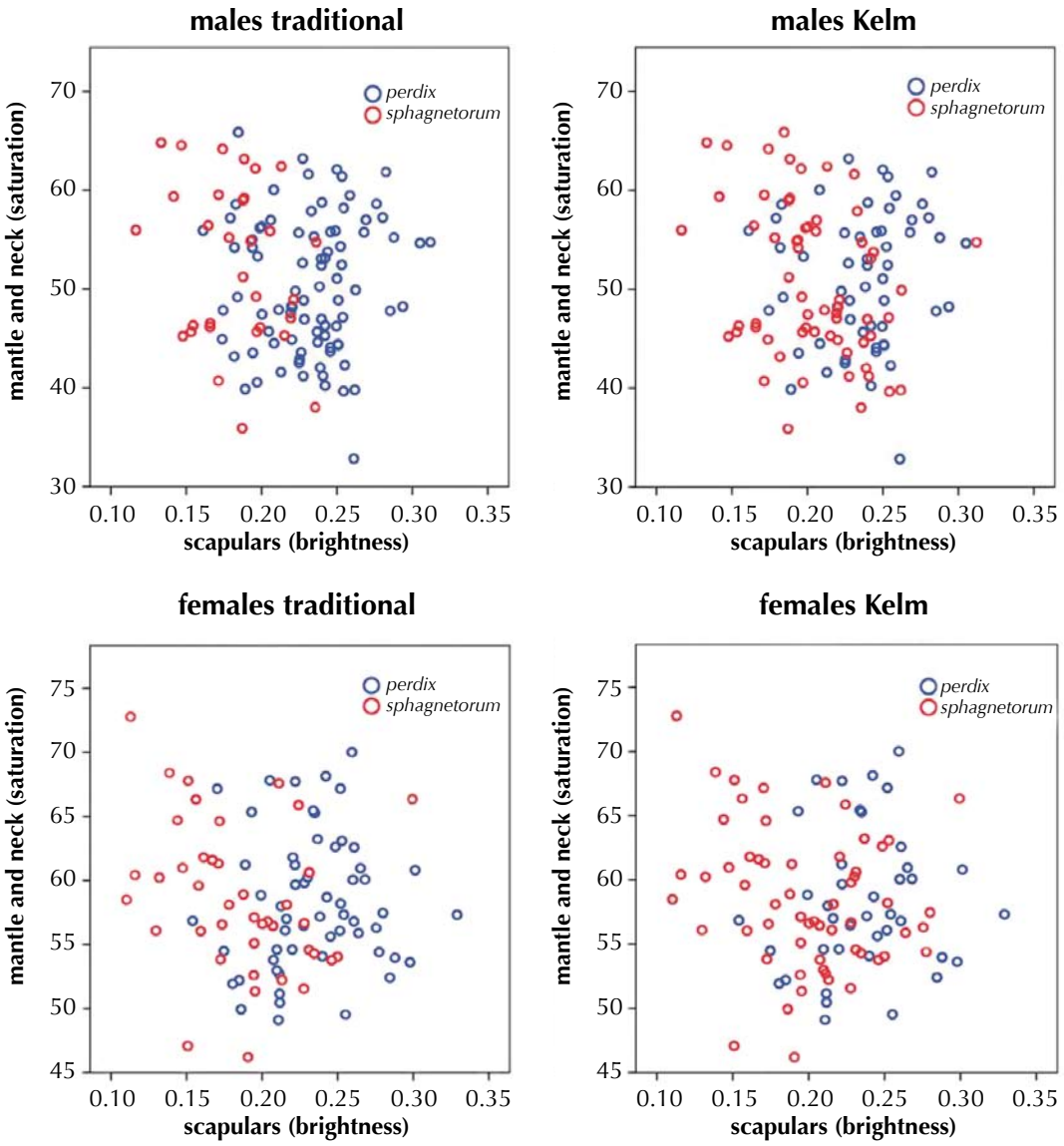

FIGURE 5 Scatterplots of saturation of mantle and neck plotted against brightness of scapulars in Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*, split by subspecies, distribution and sex

criminant function analysis, where R 2.15.1 (R Development Core Team 2013) was used. We used t-tests to analyse the data and, if data were not normally distributed, a Wilcoxon signed-rank test was used. With a discriminant function analysis, we estimated the percentage of individuals which can be correctly identified, combining all the characters we scored on specimens.

Results

In total, we photographed 251 Grey Partridges (figure 3), 123 in Bonn and 128 in Leiden. Our sample of birds dates, on average, from 1945 with 1878 and 1978 as extreme years. The proportion of *sphagnetorum* and *perdix* used in the research depends on which distribution is followed. When following 'Kelm', 46% of the birds belong to *per-*

FIGURE 6 Grey Partridges / Patrijzen *Perdix perdix*, males, Naturalis Biodiversity Centre, Leiden, Netherlands, 28 December 2011 *(Justin J F J Jansen)*. From left to right: collected at Raalte, Overijssel, Netherlands, on 14 December 1925; Marche-en-Famenne, Luxembourg, Belgium, on November 1947; and Westerwolde, Groningen, Netherlands, on 31 December 1933. These birds illustrate (from left to right) minimum, mean and maximum belly patch size in males in our sample.

dix and 54% to *sphagnetorum*; however, when following 'traditional', 69% of the birds are *perdix* and 31% *sphagnetorum*. In either case, the number of *sphagnetorum* is sufficiently large to allow a good comparison. 54% of the birds used in the analysis are male and 46% female.

The results of testing the six characters among subspecies are summarized in table 1 and in figure 4 and 5 and are outlined below. ***1*** *Sphagnetorum* has on average a larger belly patch than *perdix*; this difference is significant in all tests, except in males according to 'Kelm'. ***2*** On average, the belly patch of *sphagnetorum* has a lower brightness, thus being darker compared with *perdix*, regardless sex or distribution. ***3*** In *sphagnetorum*, brightness of the chest is lower compared with *perdix* and the difference is significant for all classes. Since fewer vermiculations correspond with lower brightness, *sphagnetorum* has on average less dense vermiculations on chest. ***4*** The saturation of mantle and neck, a measure for the amount of grey in mantle and neck, does not differ between subspecies, except when comparing males according to 'traditional' where *sphagnetorum* has a higher saturation, corresponding with less grey on mantle and neck. ***5*** The brightness of the scapulars is always significantly lower in *sphagnetorum*, thus corresponding with darker and blacker scapulars. ***6*** In females of both *sphagnetorum* and *perdix*, the golden-brown coloration on undertail-coverts is always clearly present (score 2; cf figure 2). Males also often show golden-brown coloration on undertail-coverts, however; according to 'traditional', males *sphagnetorum* show significantly more often golden-brown coloration while this pattern is absent according to 'Kelm'.

Even though we find that for all six characters, some or all mean values differ among subspecies, the range of overlap among subspecies for all six characters is large (table 1, figure 4 and 5).

The discriminant function analysis shows that 77% of the individuals are correctly classified following 'traditional', and this is true for 69% under 'Kelm'. When birds from the traditional *sphagnetorum* range are compared with *perdix* according to 'Kelm', 80% of the individuals are correctly classified.

FIGURE 7 Grey Partridges / Patrijzen *Perdix perdix*, females, Naturalis Biodiversity Centre, Leiden, Netherlands, 28 December 2011 *(Justin J F J Jansen)*. From left to right: collected at Ede, Gelderland, Netherlands, on 15 January 1934; Echt-Susteren, Limburg, Netherlands, on 10 November 1974; and Houthem, Limburg, on 23 December 1933. These birds illustrate (from left to right) minimum, mean and maximum belly patch size in females in our sample.

Discussion

This research shows that for several plumage characters, the mean values among *sphagnetorum* and *perdix* do differ. First, early authors were right that *sphagnetorum* is darker than *perdix*: their belly patch and scapulars average darker indeed. According to Altum (1894), the belly patch in *sphagnetorum* is smaller but we found the opposite. The same applies to chest-barring: it is described as being dense in *sphagnetorum* (Cramp & Simmons 1980) but we found the opposite. Differences in the amount of grey on the mantle and neck and coloration of undertail-coverts do not give a clear pattern.

The results suggest which distribution reflects the actual subspecies distribution best. In three characters (belly patch size, saturation mantle and neck and undertail-coverts), males differ significantly from each other when grouping them according to the traditional distribution while they do not differ following 'Kelm'.

Moreover, the discriminant function analysis is better able to correctly classify individuals if following the 'traditional' distribution rather than 'Kelm'. It is interesting to note that after removing the birds that are *sphagnetorum* according to 'Kelm' but *perdix* according to the 'traditional' distribution (ie, the birds in the green area in figure 1), a higher percentage of the birds is correctly classified in the discriminant function analysis (80%). This implies that these removed birds show intermediate characters, supporting the idea that the differences between *sphagnetorum* and *perdix* are clinal.

The large overlap in most characters shows that it is difficult to identify individual birds. Also bear in mind that in this study, the characters were scored in museum specimens under standardized conditions and that these characters cannot be scored in an objective way in the field. Furthermore, in the field one can only rarely observe the underparts in detail, complicating the study of birds in the field further (cf plate 185).

Because Grey Partridge is a popular game species, it has been feared that large-scale introductions have led to local subspecies being mixed with alien subspecies (see references in introduction). This research shows that *sphagnetorum* and

187 Grey Partridge / Patrijs *Perdix perdix*, Lage Veld, Drenthe, Netherlands, 21 April 2013 *(Roel Lemstra)*. Photographed within range of *P p sphagnetorum*.

188 Grey Partridge / Patrijs *Perdix perdix*, male, Eemsmond, Groningen, Netherlands, 13 May 2007 *(Mark Schuurman)*. Photographed within range of nominate *P p perdix*.

FIGURE 8 Grey Partridges / Patrijzen *Perdix perdix*, females, Naturalis Biodiversity Centre, Leiden, Netherlands, 28 December 2011 (right and centre) and Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, Germany, 12 August 2011 (left) *(Justin J F J Jansen)*. From left to right: collected at Hersel, Bornheim, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, on 20 November 1967; Wijnjewoude, Friesland, Netherlands, on 21 November 1934; and Orvelte, Drenthe, Netherlands, on 12 November 1935. These birds illustrate (from left to right) minimum, mean and maximum darkness of scapulars in females in our sample.

perdix still differ from each other, suggesting that complete mixing has not taken place. Different genetic studies elsewhere in Europe also show that introduced partridges do not replace the native subspecies (Liukkonen-Anttila et al 2002, Liukkonen 2006, Andersen & Kahlert 2012). This may be explained by the often low survival of released Grey Partridges (Putaala & Hissa 1998). To our knowledge, there have been no large-scale introductions in the range of *sphagnetorum* in recent times, so the differences found in the museum specimens might well reflect the present situation. Grey Partridge within the *sphagnetorum* range has nonetheless undergone a dramatic decline and it now only occurs in low densities (SOVON 2002).

We did not investigate whether there are genetic differences among *sphagnetorum* and *perdix*. There has been genetic work on Grey Partridges in Europe though, mainly to study the effects of farmed Grey Partridges on native populations (Liukkonen-Anttila et al 2002, Liukkonen 2006, Andersen & Kahlert 2012). Liukkonen-Anttila et al (2002) analysed genetic data from individuals from all over Europe, including 18 birds from Germany very close to the range of *sphagnetorum*. Results of this work show that these birds are genetically very similar to *perdix* from elsewhere in western Europe.

The question remains whether *sphagnetorum* is a valid subspecies or not. To answer this question, we first need to define the term subspecies. When applying the biological species concept (BSC), a subspecies is usually defined as a breeding population that occupies a distinct segment of the geographic range of a species and that is measurably distinct in phenotype, genotype or both (James 2010). In the phylogenetic species concept (PSC), there is only limited need (or room) for a subspecies concept since all fully diagnosable populations would be elevated to full species status, although subspecies are still widely used under different species concepts. However, the lower boundary for subspecies recognition is usually set below full diagnosibility, eg, a commonly used rule of thumb for subspecies designation is the

'75%-rule' (Amadon 1949, Mayr 1969). This means that 75% of the individuals of one subspecies must be distinguishable from all individuals of the other subspecies. Finally, the geographic transition in character variation between subspecies should be (fairly) abrupt and not clinal (James 2010). So, does *sphagnetorum* fulfil these criteria?

Genetic work shows no clear differences among any Grey Partridges in western Europe, including birds very close to the *sphagnetorum* range, so it is unlikely that *sphagnetorum* is genetically distinct from *perdix*. This study investigated morphology from which we conclude that *sphagnetorum* differs from *perdix* but, importantly, there is large overlap between the subspecies, and the differences appear to be clinal. If variation is clinal, one can not speak of a distinct population, since it is arbitrary where to divide *sphagnetorum* from *perdix*. The criterion for the 75% rule is also not met: even though 77% of the individuals are correctly classified in the discriminant function analysis, not nearly all of these differ from all individuals of the other subspecies (data not shown). Most individuals still have characters overlapping with *perdix* (see figure 4 and 5). Since the observed differences are small, overlapping, and likely clinal, we advise that the population known as *sphagnetorum* should no longer be regarded as a separate subspecies. Instead, these birds can best be synonymized with nominate *perdix*.

Most of the other described Grey Partridge subspecies are not geographically isolated, so it is possible that Grey Partridge can best be seen as a monotypic species with clinal variation from west to east, with birds in the west dark and small, and birds in the east paler and larger. However, research on morphology and genetics should be applied on the remaining subspecies to test this hypothesis. For many bird species in the world, one or more subspecies have been described. Often, these were described before modern statistics or molecular methods were available. In the current definition of subspecies, probably many described subspecies will not pass the test anymore and should be synonymized (Haig & Winker 2010). For a discussion of the subspecies concept, see also Wilson & Brown (1953), Zink (2004), Price (2008) and Winker & Haig (2010).

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Samenvatting

Is Veenpatrijs een valide ondersoort van Patrijs? Patrijs *Perdix perdix* is een van oorsprong Euraziatische soort met zeven beschreven ondersoorten. Eén daarvan is Veenpatrijs *P p sphagnetorum* in Noordoost-Nederland en aangrenzend Duitsland. Kelm (1979) beweerde echter in zijn onderzoek dat *sphagnetorum* een veel ruimer verspreidingsgebied heeft, inclusief grote delen van Duitsland en Nederland en tot in België (figuur 1). Een aantal auteurs heeft verschillen beschreven tussen *sphagnetorum* en nominaat *P p perdix*: *sphagnetorum* is kleiner, heeft een grijzere mantel en nek, heeft een kleinere en donkerdere borstvlek ('hoefijzer'), mist goudbruine kleur op onderstaartdekveren en rug, en heeft duidelijkere en donkerdere flankstreping, meer streping op de kop, donkerdere schouder en dichtere streping op de borst. Omdat deze kenmerken zeer variabel zijn en in het veld moeilijk vast te stellen, is er veel onduidelijkheid over het voorkomen van *sphagnetorum* en ontbreken goed onderbouwde recente waarnemingen.

Dit artikel probeert duidelijkheid te verschaffen over de status van *sphagnetorum* als ondersoort door naar morfologie te kijken bij 251 balgen van Patrijzen (figuur 2) waarbij de meeste van bovengenoemde kenmerken zijn vergeleken. Alle Patrijzen zijn op gestandaardiseerde wijze gefotografeerd met een grijskaart in de achtergrond om kleur objectief te kunnen vergelijken. Uit de analyse blijkt dat gemiddeld genomen *sphagnetorum* een groter en donkerder borstschild, minder dichte streping op borst en een donkerdere schouder heeft vergeleken met *perdix* (tabel 1). De overlap in deze kenmerken is echter groot. In de overige kenmerken, hoeveelheid grijs in nek en kleur onderstaartdekveren, is geen of een onduidelijk patroon zichtbaar.

De verschillen tussen *sphagnetorum* en *perdix* zijn duidelijker wanneer de oorspronkelijke verspreiding werd aangehouden ten opzichte van de grotere verspreiding volgens Kelm (1979). Dit is een indicatie dat de kenmerken clinaal verschillen, en minder duidelijk worden richting het areaal van *perdix*. De grote individuele variatie laat zien dat determinatie van individuen vaak onmogelijk is, zeker omdat vanaf foto's genomen in het veld kleuren niet objectief te meten zijn. Om voor ondersoortstatus in aanmerking te komen, is het noodzakelijk dat een afgebakende groep binnen een soort ver-

189 Grey Partridge / Patrijs *Perdix perdix*, Tilburg, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands, 19 December 2009 *(Paul Cools)*. Birds photographed within range of nominate *P p perdix* when following 'traditional' range but within range of *P p sphagnetorum* when following Kelm (1979). Note that both snow and low sunlight affect colours here.

schilt van de rest van de populatie. In het geval van *sphagnetorum* zijn de verschillen clinaal en er is geen duidelijke grens tussen *sphagnetorum* en *perdix*. Dit, in combinatie met eerder onderzoek dat heeft aangetoond dat er weinig genetische verschillen zijn, leidt er toe dat *sphagnetorum* beter als synoniem van nominaat *perdix* kan worden aangemerkt.

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Sander Bot, Postbus 41139, 9701 CC Groningen, Netherlands (sanderbot@yahoo.co.uk)
Justin J F J Jansen, Ravelijn 6, 5361 EJ Grave, Netherlands (justin.jansen@gmail.com)

Occurrence of Pallas's Rosefinch in the Western Palearctic

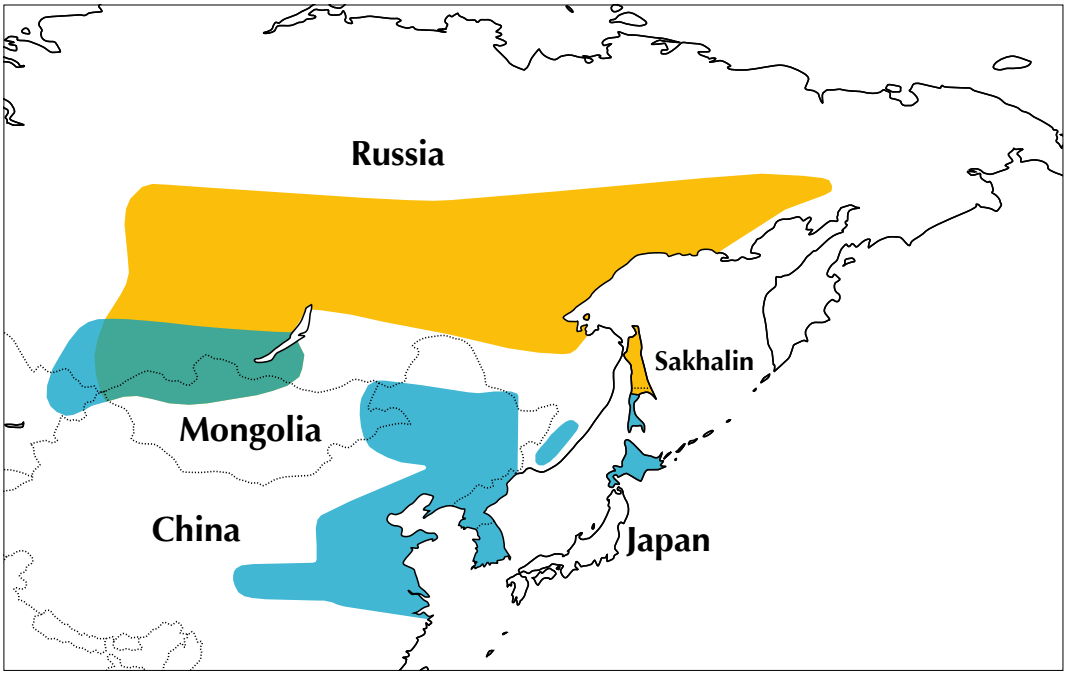
Marcel Haas, Pierre-André Crochet, Geert Groot Koerkamp, Vladimir Yu Arkhipov & Vladimir M Loskot

Pallas's Rosefinch *Carpodacus roseus* is an Eastern Palearctic species (del Hoyo et al 2010; cf figure 1). Its status as a vagrant in the Western Palearctic (WP) has been clouded by the fact that the species is (or was) well known in captivity. The species is currently on the WP list based on 19th century records from Hungary, Russia and Ukraine (cf Snow & Perrins 1998). Recent European Russian records prompted us to further investigate its status in the WP. In this paper, all published WP records known to us are listed and have been divided into (presumed) genuine, doubtful, erroneous and of dubious origin (ie, probable escape).

Distribution and movements

Two subspecies of Pallas's Rosefinch are currently recognised (Dickinson 2003, del Hoyo et al 2010). Nominate *C r roseus* (Pallas, 1776) breeds mainly in mountains of central and eastern Siberia and the Far East of Russia, in the west from the middle parts of the Yenisey river, Kuznetskiy Alatau and Altai mountains, in the east to the basin of the Kolyma river, the north-western coast of Sea of Okhotsk and the upper parts of the Bureya river, in the north as far north as 67-68°N, in the south to southern Altai, Tannu-Ola, mountains of northern Mongolia and Transbaykalia. It winters in southern Siberia (Tomsk region), eastern Mongolia, south of the Russian Far East, north-eastern and central-eastern China (east from Gansu, south to Jiangsu) and Korea. *C r portenkoi* (Browning, 1988) breeds in northern Sakhalin, Russia; it winters from the south of the Russian Far East and southern Sakhalin to Korea and northern Japan (Hokkaido). Some authors, eg, Stepanyan (2003), Koblik et al (2006) and Nechaev & Gamova (2009), consider *por-*

FIGURE 1 Distribution of Pallas's Rosefinch *Carpodacus roseus*, with breeding range in yellow and wintering range in blue (after del Hoyo et al 2010)



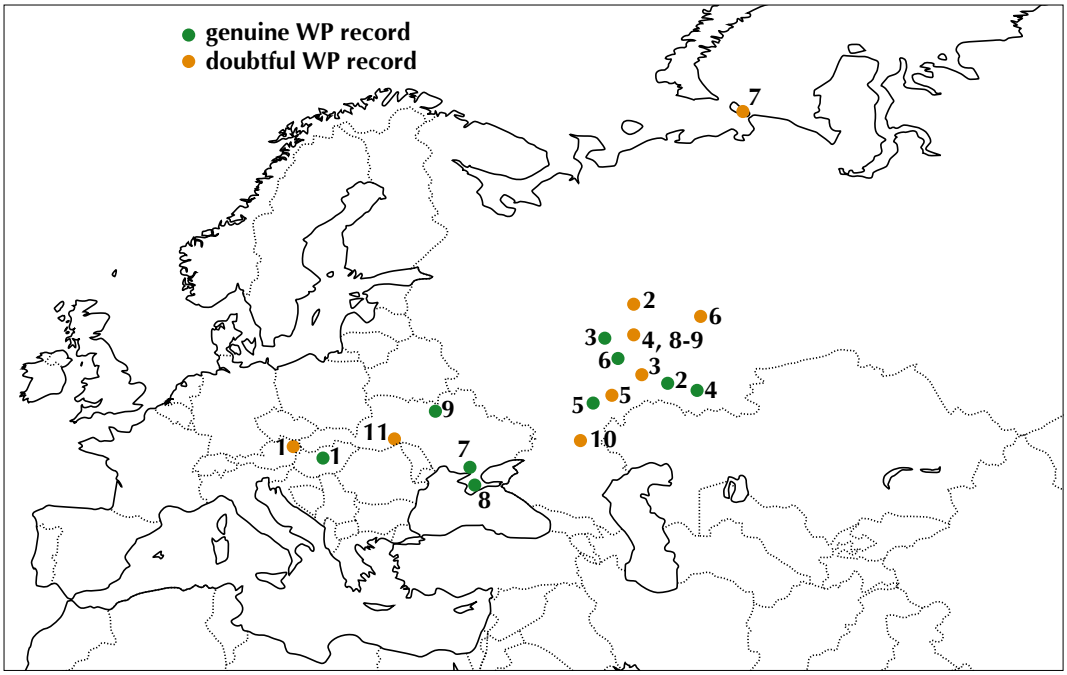


FIGURE 2 Genuine and doubtful records of Pallas's Rosefinch *Carpodacus roseus* in Europe; numbering of records corresponds with numbering in main text.

FIGURE 3 Pallas's Rosefinch / Pallas' Roodmus *Carpodacus roseus*, male, collected at Budapest, Istenhegy, Hungary, on 1 December 1850, published in Petényi [c 1850]

tenkoi as a synonym of '*sachalinensis*' (Portenko, 1960), although Browning (1988) provided convincing evidence that the type of '*sachalinensis*' was a migrant of the nominate subspecies, making '*sachalinensis*' a junior synonym of *roseus*.

According to Cramp & Perrins (1994), Pallas's Rosefinch is partially migratory and nomadic. Most winter dispersal is southward, and movements peak from September to March, depending on regions and years. Some westward dispersal is apparent as well; the species reaches the Tomsk area in most years and the Zaysan region in eastern Kazakhstan irregularly (Wassink & Oreel 2007). Extralimital records further west are extremely rare (see below). A bird recorded in Hong Kong, China, in October 1989 may have been a genuine vagrant but might also have been an escape due to the fact that numbers of wild-caught individuals have been exported from here (Clement et al 1993).

Genuine WP records

A number of records are substantiated by supporting documents (specimens, photographs, descriptions) and their identification is firmly accepted. Among these records, we consider the following to relate most probably to genuine vagrants rather

190-191 Pallas's Rosefinch / Pallas' Roodmus *Carpodacus roseus*, first-year male (collected in Buzuluk district, Orenburg oblast, Russia, in November 1900), Zoological Museum, St Petersburg, Russia, 27 January 2012 *(Vladimir Loskot)*

than escaped individuals (figure 2; numbering of records in map corresponds to numbering of records below).

Hungary (1)

1 1 December 1850, hilly outskirts of Buda, Budapest, male, caught alive and taken into captivity where it soon died. The specimen was identified and described (with paintings; figure 3) by the foremost Hungarian ornithologist Salamon Janos Petényi (c 1850). It was later deposited in the bird collection of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest. Unfortunately, the building of the Natural History Museum burned down in 1956 during the revolution and the specimen was destroyed in the fire. The description (see also Petényi et al 1905) and painting leave no doubt that the identification is correct. It is more difficult to evaluate the origin of this bird. Gorman (1996) mentions that doubts exist about this record but Keve (1984) accepted it. Because of the current policy of the Hungarian Rarities Committee to retain the records accepted by Keve (1984), the species is accepted into category B of the Hungarian list (Magyar et al 1998, Hadarics & Zalai 2008). The earliest confirmed evidence of import of the species in western Europe dates back to 1878 (in Germany; Peter Barthel in litt), even if the species is likely to have been available earlier. We thus agree with the assessment of the Hungarian Rarities Committee that this record is most likely genuine.

European Russia (5)

2 November 1900, Buzuluk district, Orenburg oblast, first-year male, collected by A N Marychev. It was examined by Professor P P Sushkin (Karamzin 1909). The specimen is now in the Zoological Museum in St Petersburg, Russia (number 124900/466-60; plate 190-191).

3 9 December 1995, valley of Malaya Tsivil river, near village of Opytny in Tsivil district of Republic of

192-193 Pallas's Rosefinch / Pallas' Roodmus *Carpodacus roseus*, female or first-year male, Tsivil district, republic of Chuvashia, Russia, 9 December 1995 *(A Yakovlev)*

Chuvashia, female or first-year male, trapped by A Ksenofontov (plate 192-193). This record was accepted by the regional Middle Volga ornithological records committee. The man who trapped the bird claimed he saw other Pallas's Rosefinches at the same location some two weeks later (Sotnikov 2008, Isakov et al 2009; Oleg Borodin in litt, Vladimir Yakovlev in litt).

4 24 November 1998, near Prechistinka village, Saraktash district, European part of Orenburg oblast, female or first-year male, collected from a flock of Eurasian Bullfinches *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* and Eurasian Tree Sparrows *Passer montanus* (Kornev & Korshikov 1999). The specimen is now kept in the collection of the Institute of Plant and Animal Ecology, Ural Centre of Russian Academy of Sciences, Yekaterinburg (no specimen number; plate 195-197).

5 16 November 2005, outskirts of Saratov, Saratov oblast, two males and female. While trapping Eurasian Siskins *Spinus spinus*, Mealy Redpolls *Acanthis flammea* and Eurasian Bullfinches along the edge of a forest, Sergei Penchelyuzov found three cardueline finches feeding on plant seeds on a field along a deserted country road close to the trapping site. Shortly afterwards, one of the males was accidentally caught and shown to Sergei Sidorenko, who kept it as a cage bird and allowed Pavel Blashkin to take some photographs (plate 194), which showed it to be a first-winter male.

6 25-26 January 2011, Ulyanovsk, Ulyanovsk oblast, male, photographed by Andrei Moskvichev and Galina Pilyugina (van den Berg & Haas 2011; plate 198-199).

Ukraine (3)

7 15 November 1902 (2 November 1902 according to the Russian calendar), Askania-Nova, Taurian province, now Khersons'ka oblast, young male, collected (Grote 1914, Dementiev & Gladkov 1970). This specimen was originally kept in the Falz-Fein collection where it had been examined by professor Menzbier and professor Pleske, who both confirmed the identification (Grote 1914). This collection was destroyed during the October 1917 Revolution. Grote (1914) states that this is the same record as the one mentioned by Molchanov (1906) as 'caught in Dnjeprbezirk' (= Dnipro district).

8 13 December 1902, near Simferopol, Crimea peninsula, male and female, collected from a 'small flock' (Molchanov 1906, Grote 1914). This record was mentioned in Cramp & Simmons (1994) as 'December 1902, Ukraine' only. The two specimens were kept in the collection of the Taurian Natural History Museum in Simferopol at the time but we have been unable to find any information about their current whereabouts. Obviously, these specimens were examined by Molchanov himself.

194 Pallas's Rosefinch / Pallas' Roodmus *Carpodacus roseus*, first-year male (caught at Saratov, Saratov oblast, Russia, 16 November 2005), in captivity, Saratov, November 2005 *(Pavel Blashkin)*

195-197 Pallas's Rosefinch / Pallas' Roodmus *Carpodacus roseus*, female or first-year male (collected at Saraktash district, Orenburg oblast, Russia, 24 November 1998), Institute of Plant and Animal Ecology, Ural Centre of Russian Academy of Sciences, Yekaterinburg, Russia, 26 July 2010 *(Vadim Ryabistev)*

198 Pallas's Rosefinch / Pallas' Roodmus *Carpodacus roseus*, male, Ulyanovsk, Russia, 25 January 2011 *(Galina Pilyugina)*. Same bird as plate 199.

199 Pallas's Rosefinch / Pallas' Roodmus *Carpodacus roseus*, male, Ulyanovsk, Russia, 26 January 2011 *(Andrei Moskvichev)*. Same bird as plate 198.

9 Late November 1927, suburb of Kiev, adult male, caught by S Guzev in a flock of Eurasian Bullfinches. The specimen was later bought by a local bird keeper called F Tomets who presented it to the Zoological Museum of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences (Sharleman 1928; the record has also been mentioned with less details by Sharleman 1938 and Dementiev & Gladkov 1970). This specimen was presumably destroyed during World War II but Sharleman (Charlemagne) was an experienced ornithologist who worked at the Zoological Museum in Kiev at the time.

These three records (7-9) have been accepted by the Ukrainian rarities committee and the species is currently accepted into category B of the Ukrainian list (Grishchenko 2004; Igor Gorban in litt).

Doubtful WP records

Some or all of the following records might be genuine but they lack supporting evidence and are better treated as doubtful (figure 2; numbering of records in map corresponds to numbering of records below).

Austria (1)

1 According to Brehm (1832), Felix Graf von Gourcy-Droitaumont kept a male in captivity for several years. It had reportedly been caught alive near Vienna in early September 1825. Brehm describes its song and diet in captivity but no other details are known about this record. This record is not accepted by the Avifaunistische Kommission – Austrian Rarities Committee of BirdLife Austria (Ranner 2011).

Russia (9)

2 A bird trapper claimed to have caught a bird near the city of Kirov, Kirov oblast, in winter but details are not known (Vladimir Sotnikov in litt).

3 Kuybyshev (currently Samara, capital of Samara oblast) (Dementiev & Gladkov 1970). No further details are known.

4 In the 19th century in Kazan province (currently Republic of Tatarstan), sightings of individuals in flocks of other birds in early spring were reported by Eversmann (1866). No description was provided.

5 Prior to the 2005 record (see above under genuine vagrants), Zavyalov et al (2005) call the species a very rare vagrant in Saratov oblast. They quote Kozlov (1953), who stated that A N Pichugin collected an individual near Volsk in 1926. Whether this specimen still exists is unclear. It is not listed in the catalogue of ornithological collections in Saratov oblast.

6 On 20 November 1987, five birds were reported near the town of Suksun in the south-western part of the Perm Krai (Karyakin 1998). No photograph or description was provided.

7 There were two claims from Vaygach island, Arkhangelsk oblast, in 1990: a male on 6 August and a flock of two males and four female-type birds, possibly juveniles, on 9 August (Andreev 2002; Vitaly Andreev in litt). These records are not supported by photographs or a description.

8 On 12 and 15 August 2002, a single bird was observed in the Republic of Tatarstan, in the valley of the Kazanka river, c 30-40 km to the northeast of the regional capital Kazan (Oleg Askeev in litt). No photograph or description was provided.

9 On 29 August 2005, a bird was found in the same location as report 8 (Oleg Askeev in litt). No photograph or description was provided.

10 At least one bird was reportedly caught by a bird trapper shortly before the Saratov record in November 2005 near Volgograd, Volgograd oblast (Pavel Blashkin in litt). No photograph or description is available.

Ukraine (1)

11 According to Zawadzki (1840), the species was found several times near Czernowiß (now Chernivtsi, Chernivets'ka oblast, western Ukraine). No description was provided.

Erroneous WP records

Czech Republic (1)

1 Cramp & Perrins (1994) mention a record in the Czech Republic (at the time part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire) in October 1850. No mention of this is made by Kren (2000). According to Martin Vavrik (in litt), this is based on a misunderstanding and probably refers to the Hungarian record.

France / Switzerland (1)

2 A record of a female bought on a market in Genève in November 1889 is reported in Maumary et al (2007), following Von Burg et al (1926). The record is not accepted, however, because there is little information on its origin. Fatio (1899) gives much more detailed information on this record. It is based on a female found by Fatio himself in 1894 in the collection of M H Bourdillon in Geneva. Bourdillon apparently told Fatio that he had bought it in the flesh in November 1889 from a deceased bird catcher and seller and that the bird was part of a large number of small birds allegedly captured near the fort de l'Ecluse, Ain, France, not far from Genève. This report thus pertains to France and not Switzerland. However, this is not the end of the story: Laurent Vallotton (Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Genève) relocated the specimen (specimen number 942-49; plate 200-202). As can be seen from these photographs, it is not a Pallas's Rosefinch but a female-type Purple Finch *C purpureus*, a Nearctic species highly unlikely to occur as genuine vagrant in the WP.

Germany (5 or 6)

3 26-27 October 1858, Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, female, seen well but not collected (Blasius 1906).

200-201 Purple Finch / Amerikaanse Roodmus *Carpodacus purpureus*, female or young male (allegedly obtained at Fort l'Ecluse, Ain, France, November 1889), Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Genève *(Laurent Vallotton)*

202 Purple Finch / Amerikaanse Roodmus *Carpodacus purpureus*, female or young male (allegedly obtained at Fort l'Ecluse, Ain, France, November 1889), Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Genève *(Laurent Vallotton)*

4 24 October 1865, Helgoland, young, presumably collected (Blasius 1906).
5 11 October 1870, Helgoland, seen by Gätke, who acknowledges possibility of confusion with Common Rosefinch *C erythrinus* (Blasius 1906).
6 15 October 1870, Helgoland, young, presumably collected (Blasius 1906).
7 5 June 1885, Helgoland, not collected (Gätke 1886, where this record is reported with question mark).
8 'before 1890', Helgoland, collected (Gätke 1895, this specimen might be one of the records above).

These records have been published in Gätke's diaries (Gätke 1886, Blasius 1906) but most of them certainly refer to Common Rosefinch (cf Dierschke et al 2011). Indeed, Gätke himself does not retain them in his book (Gätke 1895), which suggests he believed them to be possibly erroneous. In this book he retains a single record: a young specimen for which he provides a brief description. It is most likely one of the two records mentioned above (1865 or 1870) in Blasius (1906) for which he could collect a specimen. It could, however, possibly refer to yet another specimen. The description does not fit Pallas's Rosefinch very well, and the identification of all these records is considered either wrong or unproven by the Helgoland Rarities Committee (Dierschke et al 2011; Jochen Dierschke in litt).

WP records of dubious origin

The following records have been treated by the rarities commitees as being of doubtful origin.

Britain (10)

1 2 June to 14 July 1988, North Ronaldsay, Orkney, Scotland, first-summer male or adult female, trapped (Woodbridge 1988, British Ornithologists' Union 1993, Evans 1994, Parkin & Shaw 1994, Rogers & Rarities Committee 1994, Anonymous 1995, 1997).
2 20-23 May 1992, Folkestone, Kent, England, adult male (Anonymous 1995, 1997).
3 11-20 April 1993, Isle of May, Fife, Scotland, adult male (Anonymous 1995, 1997).
4 2-6 June 1994, Pateley Bridge, North Yorkshire, England (Anonymous 1995, Rogers & Rarities Committee 1998).
5 29 May 1995, St Kilda, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, adult male (Anonymous 1995, 1997, Rogers & Rarities Committee 1996).
6 27 April 1997, Holme, Norfolk, England, first-summer male or female (Anonymous 1997).
7 28-30 April 1997, Vane Farm, Perth & Kinross, Scotland (Rogers & Rarities Committee 1998).
8 30 April 1997, Loch Leven, Fife, Scotland, first-summer male or female (Anonymous 1997).
9 4 May 1997, East Newton, East Yorkshire, England, and 6 May 1997, Aldbrough, East Yorkshire, England, male (Anonymous 1997, Rogers & Rarities Committee 1999).
10 12-17 May 2000, Fair Isle, Shetland, Scotland, female or first-summer, trapped (Rogers & Rarities Committee 2001).

These birds are all believed to be escapes from captivity and the species is currently in Category E of the British list (http://tinyurl.com/brwmkbs).

Denmark (3)

11 12 October 1987, Blåvands Huk, Vestjylland, adult male, trapped (Olsen 1988).
12 28 March 1993, Klitmøller, Nordvestjylland, adult male, trapped (Frich et al 1993).
13 17 April 2000, Trend, Nordjylland, adult male (Nielsen & Thorup 2001).

The first record had initially been accepted as a genuine vagrant; all records are now placed into Category E of the Danish list (Frich et al 1993; T E Ortvad in litt).

Faeroes (1)

14 28 April 2003, Nólsoy, Nólsoy, adult male, trapped (Sørensen & Jensen 2006).

This bird had very limited red colour and the wing tips were worn. Therefore, it was placed in Category E (Silas Olofson in litt).

France (1)
15 29 November 1994, Vesoul, Haute-Saône, adult male, found dead (Dubois & CHN 1996).
The species is in category E in France (see www2.mnhn.fr/crbpo/IMG/pdf/ListePO_2007.pdf).

Germany (1)
16 20 June 1995, Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, male (Deutsche Seltenheitenkommission 1997, Dierschke et al 2011).
This bird was in poor condition and has been placed in Category E of the German list (Jochen Dierschke in litt).

Netherlands (2)
17 30 April to 1 May 1991, Lauwersoog, Groningen, adult male (Ebels 1996).
18 14 May 1999, Hargen aan Zee, Noord-Holland (Ebels 2004).
These records have been treated as likely escapes by the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA; Ebels 1996, 2004).

Norway (2)
19 21 April 1997, Lista fyr, Farsund, Vest-Agder, adult male, trapped (Høyland et al 2001).
20 12-13 May 2000, Utsira, Rogaland, adult male (Mjøs & Solbakken 2001).
These birds have been accepted as Category E records (see www.birdlife.no/organisasjonen/nskf/norgeslisten.php).

Sweden (1)
21 24-26 October 2005, Gustavsberg, Åmål, Västra Götaland, male (M Hellström/SOF-Rk pers comm).
The species has been placed into Category D of the Swedish list (see www.sofnet.org/1.0.1.0/1639/download_8595.php).

Discussion

The occurrence of Pallas's Rosefinches in Europe has always been treated with caution. Because the species is (or was) commonly kept in captivity, its occurrence as a genuine vagrant is clouded by the fact that some escape from captivity. Although the current status in captivity is not known to us, Clement & Gantlett (1993) mention that it was imported into Britain regularly in 1972-91 (eg, 37 in 1987 and 72 in 1991). The records in European Russia and Ukraine clearly show that the species has the potential to occur in Europe as a genuine vagrant as well.

All accepted records in European Russia and Ukraine are from winter (November-January). The Hungarian record (December 1850) fits in this pattern as well, which indeed suggests it to be a genuine vagrant. If vagrant Pallas's Rosefinches were to occur even further west, they would most likely turn up in winter too**.** If one looks at the records now listed under records of doubtful origin, the record in France (November 1994) would fit into that pattern, although adult males are rare among genuine European vagrants.

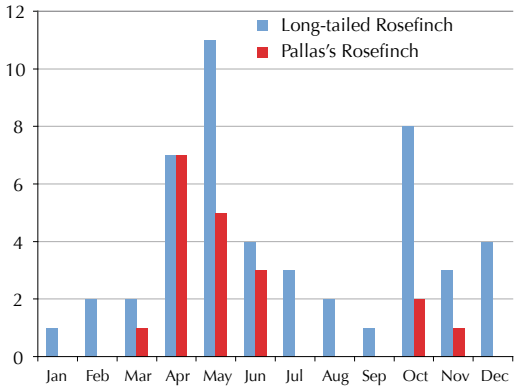


FIGURE 4 Seasonal pattern of occurrence in Europe of Pallas's Rosefinch *Carpodacus roseus* (WP records of dubious origin as in this paper) and Long-tailed Rosefinch *C sibiricus* (only records used from Belgium, Britain, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands and Sweden).

Most of the records in western Europe are in spring and summer (April-July) and in October. This does not match the vagrancy pattern apparent for the European Russian and Ukrainian records, although in Europe most Siberian vagrants turn up in October (cf, eg, Slack 2009). The seasonal pattern could suggest that natural vagrancy is involved in the records in Western Europe. However, this seasonal pattern is closely matched by records of Long-tailed Rosefinch *C sibiricus* (figure 4), another species with a clear history of escaping from captivity (cf, eg, Clement & Gantlett 1993). Records of Long-tailed Rosefinch in Western Europe also show a clear spring peak of occurrence, with a less marked peak in autumn (just like Pallas's Rosefinch). Both Pallas's and Long-tailed are short-distance migrants and this suggests that most records of Pallas's in Western Europe indeed involve escapes from captivity, as judged by Western European rarities committees. Apparently, the species only occasionally moves west into European Russia and Ukraine in winter, so a future West European record in winter might be worth of careful scrutiny. Further research into the current status of the species in captivity would be useful as well.

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Samenvatting

VOORKOMEN VAN PALLAS' ROODMUS IN HET WEST-PALEARCTISCHE GEBIED Pallas' Roodmus *Carpodacus roseus* is een Centraal- en Oost-Siberische soort waarvan gevallen in West-Europa als ontsnapt worden beschouwd. In dit artikel staan alle gevallen vermeld in het West-Palearctische (WP) gebied. Er is een onderverdeling gemaakt in wilde ('genuine'), twijfelachtige ('doubtful') en foutieve ('erroneous') gevallen en gevallen van dubieuze oorsprong ('dubious'). In totaal worden negen gevallen in de WP als wild beschouwd: in Hongarije (1), Europees Rusland (5) en Oekraïne (3); 11 gevallen zijn twijfelachtig en 21 zijn van dubieuze oorsprong. Een vermeend vrouwtje aangetroffen op een markt in Genève, Zwitzerland, in november 1889, bleek te zijn gevangen over de grens in Ain, Frankrijk, en bij bestudering van de balg om een Amerikaanse Roodmus *C purpureus* te gaan.

De gevallen in West-Europa tonen een piek in het voorjaar en de zomer (april-juli) en in oktober. Aangezien Pallas' Roodmus een korte afstandstrekker is, lijkt het aannemelijk dat deze gevallen op vogels afkomstig uit gevangenschap betrekking hebben. Vergelijking met de gevallen in West-Europa van Langstaartroodmus *C sibiricus* (een andere veel in gevangenschap gehouden roodmus) toont een sterk vergelijkbare piek in het voorjaar en de zomer. Het ziet er naar uit dat de gevallen in Europees Rusland, Hongarije en Oekraïne betrekking hebben op vogels die in de winter iets verder westelijk trokken dan normaal.

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Marcel Haas, Helmweg 12 C, 1759 NE Callantsoog, Netherlands (zoodauma@gmail.com)
Pierre-André Crochet, CNRS-UMR 5175 Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive, 1919, route de Mende, 34293 Montpellier cedex 5, France (pierre-andre.crochet@cefe.cnrs.fr)
Geert Groot Koerkamp, ul Akademika Koroleva 4-2-10, 129515 Moscow, Russia (koerkamp@co.ru)
Vladimir Yu Arkhipov, Institute of Theoretical & Experimental Biophysics, Russian Academy of Sciences, 142290 Pushchino, Moscow Region, Russia (arkhivov@gmail.com)
Vladimir M Loskot, Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, 199034 St Petersburg, Russia (otus@zin.ru)

Bruinkeelortolanen op Rottumerplaat in mei 2011 en te Lauwersoog in mei 2013

Enno B Ebels, Max Berlijn, Jeroen Breidenbach, Folkert Jan Hoogstra & Bernard Spaans

In mei 2011 bevond zich enkele dagen een mannetje Bruinkeelortolaan *Emberiza caesia* op Rottumerplaat, Groningen. Deze plek is niet vrij toegankelijk voor vogelaars. Op 5 mei 2013 werd een mannetje van deze soort gevonden te Lauwersoog, Groningen. Deze vogel liet zich gedurende de dag door enkele 100en vogelaars bekijken. In dit artikel worden beide gevallen gedocumenteerd.

Rottumerplaat, 13-17 mei 2011

Tijdens het broedseizoen worden de Waddeneilanden Rottumeroog en Rottumerplaat, Groningen, permanent bewaakt door vogelwachters. Naast bewaking bestaat het werk voor een belangrijk deel uit het volgen van de vele (kolonie)broedvogels op de eilanden. Een leuke bijkomstigheid is de (oostelijke en geïsoleerde) ligging van de eilanden die ervoor zorgt dat tijdens de voorjaarstrek regelmatig interessante waarnemingen worden gedaan. Zo treedt er soms spectaculaire trek op en worden er vaak schaarse en af en toe ook (zeer) zeldzame soorten gezien, waaronder opvallend veel zeldzame gorzen (cf Fontijn 2011, Zekhuis & de Vries 2012). Tijdens hun verblijf als vogelwachters op Rottumerplaat ontdekten Nelly van Brederode, Jenny Cremer, Hans Roersma en Bernard Spaans op 13 mei 2011 zo'n zeldzame gors: een mannetje Bruinkeelortolaan. Deze vogel verbleef op de oostpunt, in de duinen en tuin rondom de (enige) bebouwing op het eiland. Hij liet zich goed bekijken en fotograferen en bleef tot 17 mei (niet 16 mei; contra Ovaa et al 2012). Omdat Rottumerplaat verboden terrein is voor iedereen met uitzondering van de vogelwachters was er helaas geen mogelijkheid voor andere vogelaars om hem te zien (cf Fontijn 2011).

De beschrijving is gebaseerd op foto's van HR en BS (cf Fontijn 2011; cf Dutch Birding 33: 209, plaat 248, 280, plaat 364, 2011, 34: 371, plaat 518, 2012).

203 Bruinkeelortolaan / Cretzschmar's Bunting
Emberiza caesia, mannetje, Rottumerplaat, Groningen, 14 mei 2011 *(Bernard Spaans)*

GROOTTE & BOUW Vleugelprojectie voorbij tertials zeer kort. Culmen vrijwel recht, naar punt toe iets gekromd.
KOP Grotendeels blauwgrijs en ongestreept, kruin met vage grijze streepjes. Teugel en snorstreep licht oranjebruin. Baardstreep blauwgrijs. Kin licht bruinroze. Oogring compleet en witachtig.
BOVENDELEN Mantel en schouder warmbruin met contrasterende zwarte lengtestrepen. Stuit voor zover zichtbaar ongestreept warmbruin.
ONDERDELEN Keel bruinroze. Borst blauwgrijs als kop. Buik, flank en anaalstreek warm oranjebruin zonder streping, op onderstaartdekveren iets lichter, meer bruingeel.
VLEUGEL Hand- en armpennen donkerbruin met smalle bruine zoom aan buitenvlag. Tertials zwart met brede warmbruine rand. Typische *Emberiza*-inkeping van zwart centrum aan buitenzijde van tertials. Kleine dekveren roodbruin met klein zwart centrum en lichte veerranden. Middelste dekveren zwartbruin met smalle lichte veerranden en lichtbruine top, lichte vleugelstreep vormend. Grote dekveren zwartbruin met vrij brede bruine veerranden en top. Duimvleugel zwartbruin met lichte rand.
STAART Staartveren donkergrijs tot zwart met lichtbruine zoom aan beide vlaggen.
NAAKTE DELEN Oog donker. Snavel oranjerozig met grijze punt en bovenzijde van bovensnavel. Poot vleeskleurig roze.
GELUID Niet beschreven.
GEDRAG Niet schuw.

Lauwersoog, 5 mei 2013

Op 5 mei 2013 besloten Jeroen Breidenbach en Merel Zweemer te gaan vogelen in de Lauwersmeer. De eerste halte werden de Morinelplevieren *Charadrius morinellus* bij Anjum, Friesland. Hier kwamen zij Durk Lautenbag tegen en bespraken

204 Bruinkeelortolaan / Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia*, mannetje, Lauwersoog, Groningen, 5 mei 2013 *(Roef Mulder)*

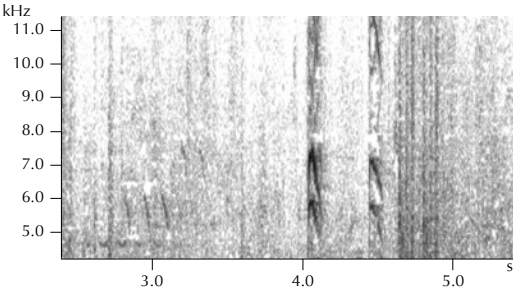
ze de plannen voor de dag. DL zou aan de Friese kant van de Lauwersmeer blijven om op zoek te gaan naar iets leuks, 'een Ortolaan of zo'... Later op de ochtend gingen JB en MZ naar vakantiepark Robbenoort in Lauwersoog. Toen ze daar om c 11:30 langs de centrale speeltuin liepen vloog een zangvogel van het grasveld die in een boom ging zitten. Toen ze hem in de kijker kregen was de vreugde groot: een 'Ortolaan' *E hortulana*! Het nieuws werd lokaal verspreid en de waarneming werd ingevoerd op www.waarneming.nl. Binnen een kwartier waren er al drie vogelaars gearriveerd die graag een Ortolaan aan de grond wilden zien. Voor de grap meldde JB hen dat Bruinkeelortolaan nog niet was uitgesloten... Toen JB en MZ waren vertrokken en het groepje vogelaars verder groeide was Marchel Stienstra de eerste die de mogelijkheid van Bruinkeelortolaan hardop uitsprak. In discussie met andere waarnemers bleef er echter twijfel over enkele details, zoals de kleur van de oogring, en voor de zekerheid pakte MS de ANWB-vogelgids (Svensson et al 2010) er bij. Het was snel duidelijk dat de vogel als twee druppels water leek op de afbeelding van een mannetje Bruinkeelortolaan. Daarom besloot de aanwezige Folkert Jan Hoogstra om 13:05 de waarneming met de nodige voorzichtigheid via Dutch Bird Alerts door te geven, nadat hij daarvoor al enkele beelden online had gezet. Op dat moment stonden Max Berlijn en Gerard Steinhaus – bezig met een dagje vogelen in de Top of Holland – langs de weg in de Bantpolder, Friesland. MB las het bericht hardop voor: 'Bruinkeelortolaan, mogelijk deze soort, wordt aan gewerkt, Robbenoort, Folkert Jan Hoogstra – dat is hier in de buurt!'. Na een ritje van amper 10 min draaiden ze het park op en zagen al snel een groepje vogelaars staan. Ze sprongen uit de auto en de vogel werd meteen aangewezen en door MB en GS snel als Bruinkeelortolaan bevestigd. Op datzelfde moment hadden ook enkele vogelaars die de beelden op internet zagen, waaronder Garry Bakker en Daniel Benders, de alarmfase bereikt. Voordat zij actie konden ondernemen volgde al het DB Alerts-bericht van MB met code 'zeker' en vanaf dat moment stroomden vogelaars uit het hele land toe. De vogel liet zich de rest van de dag vrijwel onafgebroken en vaak van korte afstand uitvoerig bekijken en fotograferen door in totaal c 300 vogelaars. Om 21:20 stopte de vogel met foerageren en leek hij te gaan slapen onder een struik. Na een heldere en rustige nacht was hij de volgende dag niet meer aanwezig.

205 Bruinkeelortolaan / Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia*, mannetje, Lauwersoog, Groningen, 5 mei 2013
(Arnoud B van den Berg)

206 Bruinkeelortolaan / Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia*, mannetje, Lauwersoog, Groningen, 5 mei 2013
(Arnold W J Meijer/Blue Robin)

De beschrijving is gebaseerd op foto's van Arnoud van den Berg, Jaap Denee, Rob Halff, Willem Hartholt, Arnold Meijer, Roef Mulder, Co van der Wardt en andere fotografen (zie www.dutchbirding.nl en www.waarneming.nl).

GROOTTE & BOUW Vergelijkbaar met Rietgors *E schoeniclus*. Vleugelprojectie voorbij tertials zeer kort. Culmen vrijwel recht, naar punt toe iets gekromd. Staartpennen met vrij afgeronde top.
KOP Overwegend blauwgrijs, kruin met duidelijke donkere lengtestreepjes. Mondstreep en gebied tussen oog en snavel bleek bruinoranje tot zalmkleurig. Kin licht bruinoranje tot zalmkleurig. Baardstreep blauwgrijs als rest van kop. Oogring compleet en vuilwit. Achter oog zeer korte en onopvallende aanzet van bruinoranje oogstreep.
BOVENDELEN Mantel warmbruin met contrasterende zwarte lengtestrepen, bovenste schouderveren grijsbruin met donkere schachtstreep, onderste schouderveren oranjebruin met donkere schachtstreep. Stuit ongestreept bleek bruinoranje. Bovenstaartdekveren warmbruin met donkere schachtstreep.
ONDERDELEN Keel bleek bruinoranje tot zalmkleurig. Borst blauwgrijs als kop. Buik, flank en anaalstreek warm oranjebruin zonder streping. Meeste veren met gesleten lichte veerzomen, 'frosty' indruk gevend, met name op achterflank en anaalstreek.
VLEUGEL Tertials zwart met brede warmbruine zoom. Typische *Emberiza*-inkeping halverwege zwart centrum aan buitenzijde van tertials. Middelste tertial links met beschadiging in veerzoom. Grote dekveren zwart met opvallende bruine zoom, vage vleugelstreep vormend. Middelste dekveren zwartbruin met naar buiten toe verblekende licht oranjebruine zoom, tweede (en meer opvallende) vleugelstreep vormend. Kleine dekveren zwartbruin met lichtgrijsbruine zoom. Hand- en armpennen donkergrijs met smalle bruine zoom aan buitenvlag. Duimvleugel zeer donker met bruine rand.
STAART Staartveren donker met brede lichtbruine zoom aan beide vlaggen. Buitenste staartpen rechts overwegend wit, naar top versmallend met langgerekte donkere vlek op buitenvlag (links niet goed zichtbaar op foto's). Onderzijde van buitenste staartpen wit met smalle donkere zoom.
NAAKTE DELEN Oog donker. Snavel overwegend roze met donkere rand op bovensnavel, lopend van voorhoofd tot snavelpunt. Poot oranjeroze.
RUI & SLEET Aan linkervleugel buitenste zeven grote dekveren bleek met smalle lichte rand en gesleten, binnenste (twee zichtbaar op foto's, derde mogelijk ontbrekend) helderder gekleurd en verser, met bredere zoom. Aan rechtervleugel alle grote dekveren (10) van zelfde generatie, gesleten lijkend.
GELUID Bij wegvliegen uit tuin scherp, herhaald, hoog, vrij dun, maar goed hoorbaar *tsie*-geluid, gehoord door meerdere waarnemers (Dick Groenendijk in litt, Rinse van der Vliet in litt). Met deze beschrijving overeenkomende roep op zelfde moment van opvliegen (c 16:30) opgenomen door 'onbemande' apparatuur van AvdB



FIGUUR 1 Bruinkeelortolaan / Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia*, mannetje, Lauwersoog, Groningen, 5 mei 2013 *(Arnoud B van den Berg/The Sound Approach)*. Roep bij opvliegen.

(figuur 1) en door DG en RvdV herkend als zelfde roep.
GEDRAG Meestal op grond foeragerend. Soms korte tijd op hoge post (in boom of op dak of dakgoot zittend). Niet schuw, foeragerend tot op c 5 m van fotografen en waarnemers.

Determinatie

Door de uitstekende documentatie van de vogels van 2011 en 2013 en het feit dat het om mannetjes ging was hun determinatie eenvoudig. De combinatie van blauwgrijze kop, bleek bruinoranje kin en keel en blauwgrijze baardstreep, warm bruinoranje onderdelen en ongestreepte bleekbruine stuit past alleen op Bruinkeelortolaan. Bij Ortolaan is de kop meer groengrijs, zijn de keel en mondstreep bleekgeel, is de stuit meer grijsbruin en gestreept, en zijn de onderdelen bleker zalmkleurig. Verder zijn subtiele verschillen bijvoorbeeld te vinden in formaat (Bruinkeelortolaan is iets kleiner dan Ortolaan), handpenprojectie (gemiddeld korter bij Bruinkeelortolaan) en kleur van de oogring (geelachtig bij Ortolaan, witachtig bij Bruinkeelortolaan) (Byers et al 1995, Svensson et al 2010, van Duivendijk 2011). Steenortolaan *E buchanani* – nog zeldzamer dan Bruinkeelortolaan als dwaalgast in Europa – heeft wat weg van een bleek uitgevallen Bruinkeelortolaan en mist de diepe warme tint op de onder- en bovendelen en heeft een blekere grijze kop en bleek geelachtige kin, keel en mondstreep; deze soort onderscheidt zich verder van zowel Ortolaan als Bruinkeelortolaan door het afwijkende patroon van de tertials zonder de voor de meeste gorzen karakteristieke inkeping in het zwarte centrum en door het ontbreken van een borstband (cf Roselaar & Vrs Castricum 2006). Vrouwtjes Bruinkeelortolaan zijn wat bruiner op de kop en borst dan mannetjes en vertonen altijd streping op de kop. Vrouwtjes en vooral onvolwassen exemplaren zijn een stuk lastiger op soort te brengen (cf Byers et al 1995, Svensson et al 2009, van Duiven-

dijk 2011) en het is daarom niet verbazend dat de weinige gevallen van zekere vrouwtjes buiten de reguliere gebieden verzamelde exemplaren betroffen (op Helgoland in 1848 en 1866 en in Nederland in 1859; van den Berg & Bosman 2001, Dierschke et al 2011).

De vogel van Rottumerplaat is niet met zekerheid op leeftijd gebracht (cf Ovaa et al 2012). Op basis van de beschikbare foto's is het moeilijk vast te stellen maar waarschijnlijk betrof het een adult mannetje. De vogel van Lauwersoog vertoonde in de linkervleugel een duidelijk ruicontrast tussen de buitenste zeven en de binnenste grote dekveren. Adulte vogels vertonen na de broedtijd een complete rui naar adult winterkleed en eerstejaars wisselen bij de postjuveniele rui doorgaans alle grote dekveren (Cramp & Perrins 1994); de grote dekveren van adulte en eerstejaars zijn dus in de winter van ongeveer dezelfde leeftijd. Bij de rui naar zomerkleed wisselen zowel adulte als eerstejaars vervolgens eventueel enkele binnenste grote dekveren. De vogel van Lauwersoog had dat alleen in de linkervleugel gedaan. Leeftijdsbepaling aan de hand van dit kenmerk is dus niet met zekerheid mogelijk. Wel vertoonde deze vogel enkele kenmerken die mogelijk duidden op een eerstezomer, zoals de fijne streping op de kop, de relatief lichte bruinoranje tint van de mondstreep, kin en keel, en de aanwezigheid van enige bruinoranje tekening vlak achter het oog (cf Small 1992, Klinge et al 1997).

De geluidsopname (figuur 1) past niet op de bekende geluiden van Bruinkeelortolaan in de database van The Sound Approach; de meest bekende roepjes zijn lager en 'voller' van toon (eg, van den Berg et al 2003). De opname is geplaatst in de database van Xenocanto (www.xeno-canto.org) onder nummer XC133169. Nadere studie zal uitwijzen hoe het geluid zich verhoudt tot het ruime repertoire van Bruinkeelortolaan (cf Cramp & Perrins 1994).

Verspreiding en voorkomen

Bruinkeelortolaan broedt in het zuiden van Griekenland, op veel eilanden in de Egeïsche Zee en op Cyprus, langs de west- en zuidkust van Turkije en via Syrië en Libanon tot in Noord-Israël en Jordanië. Opmerkelijk daarbij is dat de vogels voorkomen binnen een strook van c 100 km van de Middellandse Zeekust. De soort overwintert relatief dicht bij de broedgebieden, voornamelijk in Noord-Soedan en Zuid-Soedan en Eritrea maar in

207 Bruinkeelortolaan / Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia*, mannetje, Lauwersoog, Groningen, 5 mei 2013 *(Jaap Denee)*

klein aantal ook noordelijker, in Egypte en in het noordwesten van Saoedi-Arabië (Byers et al 1995).

Bruinkeelortolaan is zeer zeldzaam in Centraal- en West-Europa. Het lijkt erop dat de soort in de 19e eeuw minder zeldzaam was in West-Europa dan in de 20e eeuw. Zo zijn er ten minste zes voorjaarsgevallen bekend van Frankrijk in de 19e eeuw tegenover geen enkel in de 20e eeuw (Dubois & Yésou 1992). Hetzelfde beeld komt naar voren voor Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Duitsland, met 11 gevallen in 1848-79 maar geen daarna; Dierschke et al 2011). In de 20e eeuw waren er gevallen in Brittannië (4: Fair Isle, Shetland, Schotland, 10-20 juni 1967 en 9-10 juni 1979; Stronsay, Orkney, Schotland, 14-18 mei 1998; en North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 19-21 september 2008); Finland (4: Lampela, Lieksa, 19 mei 1981; Hovinsaari, Kotka, 30 september 1990; Kökar, Åland, 8-10 mei 2007; en Lohtaja, 14 mei 2007); Oostenrijk (Salzburg, 1 mei 1995); Spanje (Cabrera, Balearen, 1-2 mei 2011; www.surfbirds.com/gallery); en Zweden (Öland, 29-30 mei 1967) (cf Klinge et al 1997; Marcel Haas in litt; www.netfugl.dk). De eerste voor Bulgarije was een mannetje dat werd gefotografeerd bij Poltocharka op 25 april 2012 (http://neophron.com/news-21.html) en de eerste voor Roemenië een mannetje dat werd gefotografeerd bij Vadu, Constanta, op 8 mei 2013 (www.netfugl.dk). Voor meer informatie over Europese gevallen in de 19e en 20e eeuw en verwijzingen naar deze gevallen, zie Klinge et al (1997).

De determinatie van een mogelijke Bruinkeelortolaan (eerstejaars) te Ona, Møre & Romsdal, Noorwegen, van 29 september tot 7 oktober 2010 bleef onzeker en de waarneming is niet aanvaard door de Noorse dwaalgastencommissie (Bert de Bruin in litt). Een vrouwtje dat door enkele 10-tallen vogelaars werd gezien bij Puttenplas, Oost-Vlaanderen, België, op 10 mei 2012 (http://waarnemingen.be/soort/view/1585; Dutch Birding 34: 189, plaat 248, 2012) is eveneens niet aanvaard.

In Nederland waren er twee eerdere gevallen, op 11 oktober 1859 bij Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland (eerstejaars vrouwtje, verzameld) en op 7-11 mei 1994 op Ameland, Friesland (eerste-zomer; Klinge et al 1997). De vogel van Overveen werd in 1859 als Ortolaan verzameld en het opgezette exemplaar werd pas 65 jaar later op naam gebracht (van den Berg & Bosman 2001; Dutch Birding 18: 171, plaat 191, 1996). De vogel van 1994 was ondanks het verblijf van vijf dagen door een combinatie van miscommunicatie en pech niet twitchbaar (cf Klinge et al 1997).

Dankzegging

Wij danken Arnoud van den Berg, Bert de Bruin, Marcel Haas, Dick Groenendijk en Rinse van der Vliet voor hun hulp bij het aanleveren of controleren van gegevens.

Summary

Cretzschmar's Buntings on Rottumerplaat in May 2011 and at Lauwersoog in May 2013 On 13-17 May 2011, a male Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia* stayed on Rottumerplaat, Groningen, the Netherlands. It was only seen and photographed by the four wardens on the tiny island, which is off-limits for any visiting birder. On 5 May 2013, a male Cretzschmar's stayed for most of the day (until dark) at Lauwersoog, Groningen. It was confiding and observed and well documented by c 300 birders. In both cases, identification proved straightforward, based on the blue-grey head and breast, buff to brownish orange malar stripe, chin and throat, warm brownish orange underparts and warm rufous brown mantle. The Lauwersoog bird showed moult contrast in the greater coverts of the left wing (outer seven old and worn, inner fresh) but, in the right wing, all greater coverts were old. Since both adults and first-year birds mostly moult all greater coverts in autumn and some of the inner greater coverts in the following spring, ageing was not possible. However, a few plumage details probably indicated a first-summer, such as the rather pale colour of the buff parts on the head, the fine streaking on the upperhead and the tiny buffish patch behind the eye. A double *tseee* call heard and recorded when the bird flew up from the ground did not match the most commonly known calls of the species, which are lower and fuller. However, the vocal repertoire of the species is broad and, presumably, further research will show that this call is fitting. These were the third and fourth record for the Netherlands and the one at Lauwersoog was the first twitchable, after birds on 11 October 1859 (first-year female, collected) and 7-11 May 1994 (male).

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Enno B Ebels, Joseph Haydnlaan 4, 3533 AE Utrecht, Nederland (ebels@wxs.nl)
Max Berlijn, Wilhelminastraat 9, 6285 AS Epen, Nederland (m.berlijn@mandema.nl)
Jeroen Breidenbach, Achter de Hoven 197, 8933 CL Leeuwarden, Nederland (yeronimo2@hotmail.com)
Folkert Jan Hoogstra, Wibenaheerd 97, 9736 PG Groningen, Nederland (f.j.hoogstra@gmail.com)
Bernard Spaans, Oesterstraat 27, 1794 AR Oosterend, Texel, Nederland (bspaans@texel.com)

Mystery shearwater in Canary Islands in December 2012

On Monday 10 December 2012, I was carrying out an on-boat survey on cetaceans and seabirds from the fast ferry that links Tenerife and La Gomera, Canary Islands. The conditions were almost perfect, with the sea totally calm (wind force 2). This ferry route is nowadays probably the best option for birders to see Barolo Shearwater *Puffinus baroli*, which was one of the main objects of my survey. However, the first bird I saw was a puzzling shearwater, similar to Manx Shearwater *P puffinus* in coloration but with the structure more like Barolo. The bird flew in the same direction as the ferry, at c 400 m distance; I was able to take some record shots, hoping that they would suffice to determine the species. The bird was striking in many aspects. First of all, it lacked the pale panel on the greater coverts, noticeable on Barolo even from a large distance. The light was not strong, what usually accentuates the impression of the pale panel, but even then at least two pale bars should have been noted. Moreover, the face was dark, with the black of the upperhead encompassing the eye. There are many Barolo with black in the lores and behind the eye but there are always traces of white between this area and the black cap. From a distance, the shape of the black in Barolo's face looks more rounded, going from the bill to the nape avoiding the eye and the cheeks, while in the mystery shearwater the black crossed the face as a more or less straight line around eye-level. Finally, the underwing showed a broader dark leading edge and all-dark primary bases, in contrast with the thin leading edge and white tongues in the primaries typical for Barolo. Some individuals supposed to be

208 Unidentified shearwater / ongedetermineerde pijlstormvogel *Puffinus boydi/lherminieri*, between Tenerife and La Gomera, Canary Islands, 10 December 2012 *(Marcel Gil Velasco)*. Note dark face and absence of pale panel or even pale bars on greater coverts.

209 Unidentified shearwater / ongedetermineerde pijlstormvogel *Puffinus boydi/lherminieri*, between Tenerife and La Gomera, Canary Islands, 10 December 2012 *(Marcel Gil Velasco)*. Note large and solid dark leading edge on underwing, as well as dark face.

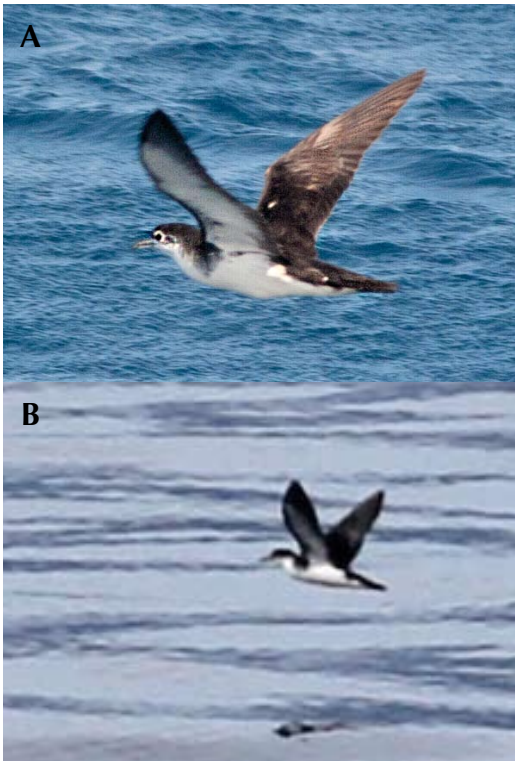

FIGURE 1 **A** Boyd's Shearwater / Kaapverdische Kleine Pijlstormvogel *Puffinus boydi*, off Cape Verde Islands, March 2009 *(Killian Mullarney)*; **B** unidentified shearwater / ongedetermineerde pijlstormvogel *P boydi/lherminieri*, between Tenerife and La Gomera, Canary Islands, 10 December 2012 *(Marcel Gil Velasco)*. Note similar long-tailed impression. Compare also all-dark primary bases in both individuals.

FIGURE 2 **A** Boyd's Shearwater / Kaapverdische Kleine Pijlstormvogel *Puffinus boydi*, off Cape Verde Islands, March 2009 *(Killian Mullarney)*; **B** unidentified shearwater / ongedetermineerde pijlstormvogel *P boydi/lherminieri*, between Tenerife and La Gomera, Canary Islands, 10 December 2012 *(Marcel Gil Velasco)*. Centre of gravity is similarly close to chest. Lower bird seems to have blunter head but this impression could be distorted by light conditions.

Barolo seem to show this extensive dark underwing pattern and some authors (eg, Howell 2012) have even speculated about the possibility of these belonging to a new taxon.

It is hard to judge the structure from the photographs but the bird gave a thick-billed impression, with a more angular chest and a longer tail and neck than Barolo Shearwater. All these features together gave the bird a heavier impression. The flight action noted in the field was very similar to that of Barolo. The bird flew parallel to the water surface on an apparently rather straight trajectory, without any detectable arcing or shearing. It interspersed periods of flapping with brief glides, lasting just a few seconds.

Yelkouan Shearwater *P yelkouan* can be easily ruled out by structure. Yelkouan would show a short tail and most individuals show projection of the feet beyond the tail that, on a bird at this distance, would show as an up-pointing hook. Moreover, the centre of gravity is positioned further to the rear. The overall coloration of the upperparts is browner/greyer in Yelkouan, whereas it was pure black in the mystery shearwater. Persian Shearwater *P persicus* shows a quite obvious dark underwing, whereas the Canary Islands bird had pure white axillaries (plate 209). The combination of both structural and coloration features rules out Barolo Shearwater and Manx Shearwater and points to either Boyd's Shearwater *P boydi* (breeding in the Cape Verde Islands) or Audubon's Shearwater *P lherminieri* (western Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean) which would be a first record for the Canary Islands in both cases.

210 Audubon's Shearwater / Audubons Pijlstormvogel *Puffinus lherminieri*, off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, USA, 1 June 2011 *(Steve N G Howell)*. Note long-tailed impression, similar to Canary Islands bird. Note also bulkier impression of head and bill in comparison with Barolo Shearwater *P baroli* in plate 213 and dark surrounding of eye. Although secondaries are still growing, it is already possible to see lack of pale panel. **211** Boyd's Shearwater / Kaapverdische Kleine Pijlstormvogel *Puffinus boydi*, off Cape Verde Islands, 24 March 2007 *(Killian Mullarney)*. Note lack of pale panel in greater coverts, black of cap extending to eye and long-tailed impression. Note strong similarity between this individual and Audubon's Shearwater *P lherminieri* in plate 210.

A third option would be Tropical Shearwater *P bailloni*. This species is hard to separate from the *lherminieri*-complex but only juveniles show as dark (almost pure black) a back as the mystery shearwater. Although it is impossible to age the bird without much more detailed images, as fledgling Tropical Shearwaters do not leave their colonies in the Indo-Pacific before December, it is highly unlikely one would find its way to the Canary Islands at this time of year. Moreover, as there are only two sightings from the well-watched eastern South African coast and no sightings at all from the even more intensively watched South African western coast (Sinclair 2009) it is probably safe to assume that it is an unlikely vagrant further north in the Atlantic.

So, we are left with the North-Atlantic trio of small black-and-white shearwaters. These species are extremely similar and it is hard to separate them even with good photographs. Although it has been described that Boyd's Shearwater is genetically closely related to Barolo Shearwater and that both are genetically more distinct from Audubon's Shearwater (which led the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) to consider Boyd's and Barolo as belonging to one species; Sangster et al 2005), there are other authors pressing for review of the small black-and-white shearwater complex, since Boyd's is in many aspects much more similar to Audubon's than to Barolo (eg, Onley & Scofield 2007). Robb et al (2008) show that the songs of Boyd's and Barolo differ in various aspects and, as they show morphological differences as well, they present both taxa as specifically distinct. So, it seems that the taxonomic status of these three taxa is still in a state of flux, with Audubon's well differentiated from Barolo but the position of Boyd's not being clear yet.

There is little information about the separation of Boyd's Shearwater from Audubon's Shearwater but some preliminary research has pointed to leg coloration, Audubon's having pink legs and Boyd's having blue legs (as Barolo Shearwater) (Austin et al 2004, Howell 2012). However, it seems there are some populations – such as Audubon's from Guadeloupe – that also show blue legs. Another subtle difference seems to be that Boyd's generally shows more extensive white around the eye, sometimes recalling Barolo (eg, Robb et al 2008; plate 212). Despite this variability, it is advised that birders visiting the Canary Islands in the future keep this feature in mind. Unfortunately, it is not possible to judge it from the photographs of the mystery shearwater which could have put some more light on its identification. Moreover, although it is difficult to judge the structure without any comparison, Audubon's seems to be slightly larger than Boyd's, with a blunter bill and head (Onley & Scofield 2007).

The former 'Audubon's Shearwater' that has been sighted in Israel (June 1992 and May 1999; Haas 2012) is nowadays considered Tropical Shearwater, which means that the mystery shearwater would be a first for the Western Palearctic if

212 Boyd's Shearwater / Kaapverdische Kleine Pijlstormvogel *Puffinus boydi*, off Cape Verde Islands, 25 March 2007 *(René Pop)*. Note rather pale face. **213** Barolo Shearwater / Kleine Pijlstormvogel *Puffinus baroli*, off Canary Islands, 6 August 2012 *(Antonio Acedo)*. Note parallel pale wing-bars giving impression of pale panel on greater coverts. Note also isolated eye in middle of face and short-tailed and short-winged impression.

it were definitely identified as Audubon's. However, the big surprise in all this is that there is actually some strong evidence to indicate that Boyd's Shearwater is in fact quite likely to be encountered around the Canary Islands at this time of year: a new research project (not yet published) with geolocators has put some light on Boyd's movements (Jacob González-Solís & Zuzana Zajkova in litt). A significant part of the population from the Cape Verde Islands moves northward during the pre-breeding season, with some birds reaching the Azores. Some of these birds spend the winter in the Canary Islands, from November to early January, which means that the mystery shearwater was seen just in the middle of this period. (Note that the Spanish rarities committee, unlike some other committees in Europe, does not accept any records of tagged birds if they have not been seen alive.) Nevertheless, taking into account all the features that can be determined in the photographs as well as the recent geolocator data, the mystery shearwater would appear very likely to have been a Boyd's. Given its winter distribution, this species could well turn into a target species for pelagic trips in the north-eastern Atlantic region and even for seabirding from land. However, Audubon's also seems to be a possible visitor to the northern Atlantic.

I thank Bob Flood, Steve Howell, Daniel López Velasco and Killian Mullarney for their comments on the identification of the bird, especially KM, who kindly sent me Boyd's Shearwater photographs for direct comparison. Special thanks go to Jacob González-Solís and Zuzana Zajkova for the information about Boyd's movements which has improved the discussion a lot. And last but not least thanks go to José Luis Copete, Stephen Menzie and Guillermo Rodríguez for improving the text and content of this note.

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Marcel Gil Velasco, Dalt 1, 3r 2a 08980 Sant Feliu de Llobregat, Barcelona, Spain (marcelgilvelasco@gmail.com)

Aberrant Clamorous Reed Warbler at Nile Delta, Egypt, in April 2012

On 20 April 2012, during reed warbler *Acrocephalus* studies in the Nile Delta, Egypt, an aberrantly coloured Clamorous Reed Warbler *A stentoreus* was observed in a small wetland on the western outskirts of Ismailiya (22°21'N, 31°36'E, 179 m above sea level; plate 214-218). The probably paired male sang close to a freshly-built nest in a clump of Phragmites. Apart from the unusual coloration, the bird's dominant behaviour towards conspecifics in neighbouring territories was also remarkable. With the help of a sound lure the bird was caught in a mist net (plate 219-220) and subsequently measured and ringed (Vogelwarte Helgoland T002802) and blood samples were taken.

In the field and later in the hand, the following characteristics were determined. Wing (83.5 mm), tail (75.0 mm) and tarsus length (29.6 mm) were all consistent with the known measurements of males of nominate A s stentoreus (cf Cramp 1992, Kennerley & Pearson 2010). The short primary projection typical for the species was also noticeable. The non-feathered body parts and the eye showed a normal coloration. The basic colour of the plumage was generally paler in comparison with other Clamorous Reed Warblers; for comparison, plate 221-222 show a normally coloured Clamorous Reed Warbler. The primaries and secondaries had a beige basic colour with a pale fringe. The cream-coloured fringes of the tertials were particularly broad and covered almost the complete feather vane. The tail-feathers also had a pale fringe, with the fringes broadening towards the tip so that the distal half of the innermost tail-feather appeared almost completely cream-coloured. The uppertail-coverts also displayed a remarkable paler colour. According to Hein van

214-217 Aberrantly coloured Clamorous Reed Warbler / Indische Karekiet *Acrocephalus stentoreus*, Ismailiya, Nile Delta, Egypt, 20 April 2012 *(Jens Hering)*




218-220 Aberrantly coloured Clamorous Reed Warbler / Indische Karekiet *Acrocephalus stentoreus*, Ismailiya, Nile Delta, Egypt, 20 April 2012 *(Jens Hering)*

Grouw (pers comm), the pale fringes were enhanced by bleaching by the (sun) light since these feather parts are always exposed. The actual colour due to the mutation could only be observed on the feathers' inner webs.

First, it was thought that the colour aberration recorded here was 'brown', a qualitative reduction of eumelanin. This is a recessive and sex-linked mutation causing an incomplete eumelanin oxidation (cf van Grouw 2006, 2013). However, because the bird was a male, the aberrant colour is not likely to be caused by this sex-linked mutation. Therefore, it is assumed that a form of 'dilution', a quantitative reduction of melanin, was responsible for the bird's coloration. Many different mutations are known for reducing pigmentation but they all result, in slightly different ways, in a diluting effect on the colours (van Grouw 2006, 2013).

As far as we know, abnormally pale Clamorous Reed Warblers have not previously been described in the relevant literature but pale mutations have been recorded more often in other reed warbler species, for example in Eurasian Reed Warbler *A scirpaceus* (cf Bub & Dorsch 1988, Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer 1991, Barthel 2002, Zedler 2005, Hering 2009) and Sedge Warbler *A schoenobaenus* (www.birdforum.net/showthread.php?t=57344). Pale colour deviations are also known for Great Reed Warbler *A arundinaceus* (eg,

221-222 Clamorous Reed Warbler / Indische Karekiet *Acrocephalus stentoreus*, Dakhla Oasis, Libyan Desert, Egypt, 10 January 2012 *(Jens Hering)*. Normally coloured individual.

Heunks 1999, Bensch et al 2000) and above all for various island-based representatives of *Acrocephalus* in Polynesia, including leucism in several species (Holyoak 1978, Graves 1992, Kennerley & Pearson 2010, Leisler & Schulze-Hagen 2011). In contrast, in the Middle East subspecies *A s levantinus* of Clamorous Reed, dark-coloured birds have been noted regularly, and these are indicated as dark morph (being unique to this subspecies; cf Kennerley & Pearson 2010; http://blumen.smugmug.com/Birds/Clamorous-reed-warbler-Dark). For example, in Israel, the proportion of ringed dark morphs is 30-40% (Yosef Kiat pers comm). The only other reed warbler species with a distinct dark morph is Tahiti Reed Warbler *A caffer* in Polynesia (Hering 2011, Leisler & Schulze-Hagen 2011, Cibois et al 2012).

The study was conducted within the framework of a research trip on the subject 'Field studies on the breeding occurrence and breeding biology of the Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* complex, as well as clarification of certain taxonomic questions, in eastern North Africa (Egypt)'. The research was supported by the German Ornithology Society (DO-G) and Carl Zeiss Sports Optics. Our thanks go to Hein van Grouw for the attribution of the colour aberration. We received additional assistance from David Conlin, Dieter Saemann, Karl Schulze-Hagen and Till Töpfer.

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Jens Hering, Wolkenburger Straße 11, D-09212 Limbach-Oberfrohna, Germany (jenshering.vso-bibliothek@t-online.de)
Wieland Heim, Paracelsusstraße 7, D-09114 Chemnitz, Germany (wieland.heim@gmx.de)
Elmar Fuchs, Hohensteiner Straße 45, D-09117 Chemnitz, Germany (elmar.fuchs@gmx.de)
Hans-Jürgen Eilts, Johannisbergerstraße 3, D-14197 Berlin, Germany (h-j.eilts@gmx.de)

Recensies

XANNIO LIMITED 2013. *Xannio WorldBirdList*. Xannio Limited, Elsinore House, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury HP20 2NQ, UK. http://xannio.com, info@xannio.com.

Xannio WorldBirdList is a new Windows birding software application to be used for entering your life list. It incorporates both the IOC list and the Clements list, which, at the moment, are the two that are most commonly used by world listers. All bird families, species and subspecies are listed, and in alphabetical order.
You can enter a species via the scientific name or via the English name. You first select the family, and then within the family the species or subspecies. You can choose to only list species but you can also choose for listing subspecies. That is up to you. However, only the species are counted for the total number on your lifelist.

When you click on a (sub)species, a form appears which gives both the Clements and the IOC names plus the range and the authority. You can then enter the country, the site and the date where you first saw the (sub) species and add any remarks. After having entered your species you can see on top the total number of species for both IOC and Clements.

The list cannot be used for multiple listing like province, year, garden, etc; you can only enter a species once. A drawback for Dutch users is that Dutch Birding (and CSNA) use a species concept different from IOC and Clements; it means that you will have to enter some DB species as subspecies (eg, the DB species Rouwkwikstaart / Pied Wagtail *Motacilla yarrellii* will have to be entered as a subspecies (of Witte Kwikstaart / White Wagtail) *M alba yarrellii* and will not be counted in the species totals). And there are no Dutch names listed.

Download and install is free and easy and you will be able to enter up to 25 species in order to evaluate the application. When you like it, you can register for GBP 35.00 (c EUR 40.50) and you will have full access. When IOC or Clements issues an update, corresponding files will be made available at the Xannio website. Because the data are stored at subspecies level, an update will amend your data automatically and within minutes you will see your updated life list. More information at http://xannio.com. To be recommended. PETER VERCRUIJSSE

WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic mainly from **April to mid-May 2013**. 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.

DUCKS The immature male **Harlequin Duck** *Histrionicus histrionicus* at Balranald, North Uist, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, from 18 February remained until 25 April. Adult male **American Scoters** *Melanitta americana* were seen at Melby Overdrev, Denmark, from 16 February to 30 March, at Lukencin, western Pomorania, Poland, on 16-24 March, in Somme, France, from 30 March to 4 April, and in flight at Slettnes, Finnmark, on 15 May (photographed; first for Norway). From 19 March to 19 April, an adult male **Falcated Duck** *Anas falcata* was accompanied by Eurasian Wigeons *A penelope* at Spijkenisse, Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands. The first and second **American Wigeons** *A americana* for Poland were males at Sitno, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, on 13-14 April, and at Łapy, Narew river, Podlaskie, on 22 April. In Iceland, three males were found within a week in early April by one visiting birder. In Ireland, the two male **American Black Ducks** *A rubripes* at Crookhaven, Cork, from 7 February stayed until 8 March, while the male on Achill Island, Mayo, was still present on 4 April. On 21-30 March, a male occurred at Husøy, Tønsberg, Norway. At Flamborough Head, Yorkshire, England, a male **Baikal Teal** *A formosa* flew in off the sea in the morning of 15 April with a few Common Teal *A crecca*; it was relocated in the afternoon on North Cliff Marsh but had disappeared the next day. Another male was swimming at Frövisjön, Västmanland, Sweden, from 23 April and one was photographed at Tevenerheide, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, on 4 May.

SEABIRDS The returning adult **Pacific Loon** *Gavia pacifica* at Mount's Bay, Cornwall, England, from 5 December 2012 was last seen on 1 April. More than 30 **White-billed Loons** *G adamsii* were seen in Scotland in April, including 13 counted offshore from Portsoy, Aberdeenshire, on 27 April. At Órzola, Lanzarote, two **Red-billed Tropicbirds** *Phaethon aethereus* were breeding from 9 April into May. The first **Brown Boobies** *Sula leucogaster* for Kuwait were two at sea at Fahaheel Al-Kout Shopping Mall on 4 April, while the first for Turkey, if accepted, flew past Alanya on 2 May. The first **Northern Gannet** *Morus bassanus* for the North Pacific Ocean at Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco, California, USA, from 25 April 2012 remained through at least February (Western Birds 44: 1, 2013). If accepted, a **Pygmy Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* flying over Texel, Noord-Holland, on 7 May will be the sixth for the Netherlands. In the Agadir area, Morocco, two or three **Moroccan Shags** *P aristotelis riggenbachi* were photographed 10 km north of Tamri on 10 April. An immature **Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* was photographed in Podkarpackie, Poland, on 16 May.

HERONS TO GREBES At Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, Cape Verde Islands, both the **Black Heron** *Egretta ardesiaca* and the **Intermediate Egret** *Mesophoyx intermedia* were still present on 22 April (cf Dutch Birding 35: 131, 2013). Dark-morph **Western Reef Herons** *E gularis* were found at Tudela, Navarra, Spain, on 3-8 April and Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, France, on 13 April. This spring, only one **Northern Bald Ibis** *Geronticus eremita* returned to Palmyra, Syria, where a tiny colony of three pairs was discovered in 2002. It concerned the female, 'Zenobia', once paired to the last male, 'Odeinat', which wore a satellite transmitter that stopped transmitting in southern Saudi Arabia in July 2012; in January, there were still four individuals reported in the wintering area in the highlands of Ethiopia but it is now clear that only one of them made it back to the breeding area. The only remaining wild breeding colonies of this formerly widespread species are the two along the Atlantic coast of south-western Morocco, north and south of Agadir, with a total of 77 pairs nesting in 2012. In England, the singing male **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* at Ham Wall, Somerset, England, from 15 February stayed until at least 6 May. On 14 May, an adult summer was found on Achill Island, Mayo, Ireland.

RAPTORS The fifth **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* for Denmark migrated over Vaserne and Hellebæk, Sjælland, on 8 April, while the sixth stayed for 15 min at Skagen on 23 April. A pair of **Short-toed Snake Eagles** *Circaetus gallicus* raising one chick in Haut-Valais in April-July 2012 constituted the first breeding record for Switzerland (Nos Oiseaux 60: 3-24, 2013). From mid-April to mid-May, six individuals were reported in the Netherlands. The juvenile female **Northern Harrier** *Circus hudsonius* at Tacumshin, Wexford, Ireland, from 19 October 2012 remained until 12 April. In April alone, 21 **Pallid Harriers** *C macrourus* migrated over Denmark, 38 over France, 13 over Germany, five over Norway, 15 over Poland, 19 over Spain and 20 over Sweden; in April and the first week of May, more than 30 were reported for the Netherlands. In Spain, **Atlas Long-legged Buzzards** *Buteo rufinus cirtensis* have bred for the first time with certainty at Tarifa, Cadiz, in 2009 and, nowadays, c 10 are found annually, mostly in the south, while the taxon is regularly seen in Italy and Portugal as well and turning up as a vagrant in France; recently published papers discuss differences with nominate Long-legged Buzzard *B r rufinus* and Steppe Buzzard *B b vulpinus* and hybrids with Common Buzzard *B buteo* (Birding World 26: 147-173, 2013, Ostrich 84: 41-45, 2013).

RAILS TO CRANES The first **Allen's Gallinule** *Porphyrio alleni* for Turkey was an adult photographed and video-

223 Thayer's Gull / Thayers Meeuw *Larus thayeri*, adult, San Ciprian, Galicia, Spain, 23 March 2013
(Kris De Rouck)

224 Thayer's Gull / Thayers Meeuw *Larus thayeri*, adult, San Ciprian, Galicia, Spain, 23 March 2013
(Vincent Legrand)

225 Yellow-billed Loon / Geelsnavelduiker *Gavia adamsii*, adult, Herston, South Ronaldsay, Orkney, Scotland, 7 April 2013 *(Hugh Harrop)*

226 Falcated Duck / Bronskopeend *Anas falcata*, male, Spijkenisse, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 30 March 2013 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

227 Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse / Roodbuikzandhoenders *Pterocles exustus*, Sandafa, Minya, Egypte, 6 April 2013 *(Kris De Rouck)*

228 Rufous Turtle Dove / Meenatortel *Streptopelia orientalis meena*, Suchedniow, Skarzysko-Kamienna, Swietokrzyskie, Poland, 6 April 2013 *(Mateusz Matysiak)*

229 Moroccan Shag / Marokkaanse Kuifaalscholver *Phalacrocorax aristotelis riggenbachi*, Tamri, Morocco, 10 April 2013 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)* **230** American Wigeon / Amerikaanse Smient *Anas americana*, male, Njarðvík, Iceland, 5 April 2013 *(Richard Bonser)* **231** Baikal Teal / Siberische Taling *Anas formosa*, male, Tevenerheide, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, 4 May 2013 *(Ger de Hoog)* **232** Senegal Thick-knee / Senegalese Griel *Burhinus senegalensis*, El Gouna, Egypt, 23 March 2013 *(Edwin Winkel)* **233** American Scoter / Amerikaanse Zee-eend *Melanitta americana*, adult male, Blåvand, Syddenmark, Denmark, 16 February 2013 *(Vincent Legrand)* cf Dutch Birding 35: 129, 2013 **234** American White-winged Scoter / Amerikaanse Grote Zee-eend *Melanitta deglandi deglandi*, adult male, with Velvet Scoter / Grote Zee-eend *M fusca*, male, Blåvands Huk, Syddenmark, Denmark, 16 February 2013 *(Vincent Legrand)* cf Dutch Birding 35: 129, 2013

235 Little Swift / Huisgierzwaluw *Apus affinis*, Ghadira, Malta, 16 March 2013 *(Nicholas Galea)* **236** Pallas's Leaf Warbler / Pallas' Boszanger *Phylloscopus proregulus*, Zurrieq, Malta, 21 April 2013 *(Patrick Sammut)* **237** Common Bulbul / Grauwe Buulbuul *Pycnonotus barbatus*, Tarifa, Cádiz, Spain, 1 May 2013 *(Javier Elorriaga)* **238** Red-tailed Shrike / Turkestaanse Klauwier *Lanius phoenicuroides*, Comino, Malta, 20 April 2013 *(Luca Pisani)* **239** Citrine Wagtail / Citroenkwikstaart *Motacilla citreola*, adult male, Bagno di Venere, Pantelleria, Italy, 3 April 2013 *(Andrea Corso)* **240** Brown-necked Raven / Bruinnekraaf *Corvus ruficollis*, Vila-Seca, Tarragona, Catalunya, Spain, 11 April 2013 *(Edu Gracia Tinedo)*

ed at Mogan Gölü, Ankara, on 26-27 April. The **American Coot** *Fulica americana* at Murloch, Ballyconneely, Galway, Ireland, from 28 November 2012 stayed until 13 April. The second **Sandhill Crane** *Grus canadensis* for Finland (and 11th for the WP) was photographed in a flock of Common Cranes *G grus* at Välimaanperä on 7 May; possibly, it is the same individual seen in recent years elsewhere in Europe, including Estonia and Finland.

WADERS A **Senegal Thick-knee** *Burhinus senegalensis* at a golf course along the Red Sea coast of El Gouna, Egypt, on 23 March was the second observation for this locality (the species is rarely seen away from its Nile river breeding sites). On 3 May, three **Greater Painted-snipes** *Rostratula benghalensis* turned up at Ya'ar pond, near Hadera, Israel. The eighth **Cream-coloured Courser** *Cursorius cursor* for Portugal was photographed at Alvor, Faro, on 30 March. A **Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus* turned up at Killybegs, Donegal, Ireland, on 29 March; probably the same bird stayed at Alston Reservoirs, Lancashire, England, on 7-8 April. If accepted, a **Mongolian Sand Plover** *C mongolus* at Adana on 20 April will be the first for Turkey. In the third week of March, a **Greater Sand Plover** *C leschenaultii* was found as a windmill victim at Eemshaven, Groningen, the Netherlands. The first **American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica* for Croatia was photographed on Pag on 28 April. A **Sociable Lapwing** *Vanellus gregarius* stayed at Ettenheim, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, from 31 March to 3 April. A **Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii* near Pavia south of Milano from 6 May was the second for Italy.

GULLS TO TERNS A second calendar-year **Bonaparte's Gull** *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* was photographed 43 km north of Oualidia, Morocco, on 27 April. From early April to mid-May, four were found in England, two in Ireland, one in Scotland, one in Spain and two in Wales. If accepted, a first-summer **Grey-headed Gull** *C cirrocephalus* reported near Eilat on 3 April will be the fourth for Israel. In the Netherlands, a colour-ringed **Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans* (yellow PDLH) in the centre of Groningen on 6 April had been ringed as a nestling at Paczków in south-eastern Poland on 27 May 2010 and was then, surprisingly, encountered three times between San Sebastian and Bilbao in northern Spain on 17 December 2010, 19 January 2011 and 5 December 2011. The adult **Thayer's Gull** *L thayeri* at San Ciprian, north-eastern Galicia, Spain, from 10 March stayed until 17 April. The **Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri* at Séné, Morbihan, France, from 15 March was last seen on 7 April; on 3 May, an adult turned up at Tacumshin, Wexford. A **Roseate Tern** *S dougallii* photographed at Yverdon, Vaud, on 16 May was the first for Switzerland since 1863.

SANDGROUSE TO SWIFTS A maximum of 80 **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles exustus* was counted near Sandafa, Minya governorate, Egypt, on 6-7 April (cf Dutch Birding 35: 137, 2013). The third **Rufous Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis meena* for Poland occurred at Suchedniow, Skarzysko-Kamienna, Swietokrzyskie, from February and stayed until at least 20 April; the second was photographed at Biała Podlaska, Lubelskie, on 8 February. On North Uist, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, a **Snowy Owl** *Bubo scandiacus* first seen here as an adult male in August 2003 was again present in the first week of April. The third **Northern Hawk-Owl** *Surnia ulula* of the autumn/winter of 2012/13 for Denmark was one far west at Bunken, Nordjylland, from 31 March. This spring, the species bred for the fourth time in Estonia. From 14 February 2012 onwards, several **Eurasian Pygmy Owls** *Glaucidium passerinum* were present at a locality in Wallonia, Belgium, with a breeding attempt and two males singing until 29 May 2012; from 4 September 2012 into 2013, again two males were singing with at least one female being present. The previous record of this species for Belgium was in 1874. A **Fork-tailed Swift** *Apus pacificus* at Kvismare, Närke, on 15 May will be the fourth for Sweden. An **Alpine Swift** *A melba* found moribund at Minsk on 4 April was the first for Belarus. The 11th **Little Swift** *A affinis* for Malta was photographed at Ghadira Nature Reserve on 16 March.

BEE-EATERS TO SWALLOWS A flock of five **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** *Merops persicus* at Pré Bovet, Vaduz, on 6 May concerned the species' first record for Switzerland. In Greece, a total of 12 singles or twos were seen in March-April. The first **Red-tailed Shrike** *Lanius phoenicuroides* for Malta was a male photographed on Comino on 20 April. The **Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus* at Kuwait city from 5 February stayed until at least 4 April. A **Brown-necked Raven** *Corvus ruficollis* photographed at Vila-seca, Tarragona, on 11 April could be the first for Spain and Europe but its arrival is considered as ship-assisted (from Suez, Egypt). Possibly the first genuine **Common Bulbuls** *Pycnonotus barbatus* for Spain were up to two at Tarifa, Cádiz, from 25 April to at least 3 May. A **Greater Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla* photographed at Karsiborska Kepa, Swinoujscie, on 7 May was the 13th for Poland. In Tafilalt, Morocco, **Pale Crag Martins** *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta* were photographed at Begaa near Merzouga on 15 March. Two pairs of **Common House Martins** *Delichon urbicum* successfully raising chicks at Garden Route National Park, Western Cape, in August-November 2012 constituted the first successful breeding record for South Africa (African Birdlife 1 nr 3: 58-59, 2013); the species is known here as a scarce non-breeding migrant but with seven reports of previous breeding attempts in southern Africa; the two of this year are thought to have been the first raising young.

WARBLERS On 28 March, a **Streaked Scrub Warbler** *Scotocerca inquieta* was found 10 km south of Boujdour, Western Sahara, ie, further south than shown in a recent paper on this species in Morocco (Dutch Birding 35: 107-121, 2013). A **Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca* ringed at Eilat on 10 March was retrapped in Belgium, on 21 April. The second **Pallas's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus* for Morocco was trapped at Yasmina

241 Caspian Plover / Kaspische Plevier *Charadrius asiaticus*, male, Yotvata, Israel, 13 April 2013
(Vincent Legrand)

242 Black Scrub Robin / Zwarte Waaierstaart *Cercotrichas podobe*, Yotvata, Israel, 8 April 2013
(David Monticelli)

243 Greater Short-toed Lark / Kortteenleeuwerik *Calandrella brachydactyla*, Karsiborska Kepa, Swinoujscie, Poland, 7 May 2013 *(Zbigniew Kajzer)*

244 Black-throated Thrush / Zwartkeellijster *Turdus atrogularis*, second calendar-year female, Plaza, Chrzanow, Malopolskie, Poland, 4 April 2013 *(Zbigniew Kajzer)*

245 Moussier's Redstart / Diadeemroodstaart *Phoenicurus moussieri*, male, Constantí, Tarragona, Spain, 21 March 2013 *(Ricard Gutiérrez)*

246 Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit / Siberische Waterpieper *Anthus rubescens japonicus*, Sohar, Oman, 23 March 2013 *(René Pop/The Sound Approach)*

247 Subalpine Warbler / Baardgrasmus *Sylvia cantillans*, male, Blåvands Huk, Syddenmark, Denmark, 2 May 2013 *(Henrik Knudsen)*

248 Eastern Subalpine Warbler / Balkanbaardgrasmus *Sylvia cantillans albistriata*, male, Landguard, Suffolk, England, 27 April 2013 *(Richard Bonser)*

249 Cretzschmar's Bunting / Bruinkeelortolaan *Emberiza caesia*, male, Lauwersoog, Groningen, Netherlands, 5 May 2013 *(Roef Mulder)*

250 Dusky Thrush / Bruine Lijster *Turdus eunomus*, first-summer female, Margate, Kent, England, 18 May 2013 *(Dominic Mitchell/birdingetc.com)*

251 Iago Sparrows / Kaapverdische Mussen *Passer iagoensis*, on board of MV Plancius, Atlantic Ocean between Cape Verde Islands and Desertas, Hansweert, Zeeland, Netherlands, 8 May 2013 *(Nils van Duivendijk)* **252** Iago Sparrows / Kaapverdische Mussen *Passer iagoensis*, male (front) and female, on board of MV Plancius, Hansweert, Zeeland, Netherlands, 19 May 2013 *(Roy Slaterus)*. Ship-assisted arrivals from Raso, Cape Verde Islands.

hotel, Merzouga, Tafilalt, on 20 April; at the same site, the second **Moltoni's Warbler** *S subalpina* was trapped on 18 March. The second **Pallas's Leaf Warbler** for Malta was trapped at Zurrieq on 21 April. As in last spring, a **Subalpine Warbler** *S cantillans* was trapped in Blåvands Huk, Denmark, on 2 May. A showy **Eastern Subalpine Warbler** *S cantillans albistriata* was photographed at Landguard, Suffolk, England, on 27 April. The third for the Netherlands, if accepted to subspecies, stayed at Den Helder, Noord-Holland, on 17-18 May.

THRUSHES In Highland, Scotland, a **White's Thrush** *Zoothera aurea* was accidentally photographed by a camera trap for wild cats near Bonar Bridge on 31 January, and one was reported at Glen Fleshie on 5 May. On 15-18 May, a first-summer female **Dusky Thrush** *Turdus eunomus* at Margate, Kent, England, was the 10th for Britain but the first to be twitchable since 1959. On 26-27 March, a male **Black-throated Thrush** *T atrogularis* occurred at Banchory, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, while the first for Poland since 2003 was a second-year female at Plaza, Chrzanow, Malopolskie, on 3-4 April. This spring, a high total of 14 **Black Scrub Robins** *Cercotrichas podobe* was seen in Israel. A singing adult male **White-throated Robin** *Irania gutturalis* occurred on Lesvos, Greece, on 17-24 April. The first **Common Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos* for Latvia was trapped at Kolka, Dundaga, on 29 April. Female **Red-flanked Bluetails** *Tarsiger cyanurus* were photographed in Cuenca, Spain, on 17 March and at Horsey Gap, Norfolk, England, on 14 April. The first **Collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicollis* for Kuwait was a first-summer male photographed at Al Abraq Al Khabari on 10 April. In early May, four males were found far north-west of the species' regular breeding grounds: at Eemshaven, Groningen, the Netherlands (7 May), in Northumberland, England (8-9 May), on Whalsay, Shetland, Scotland (10-16 May), and on Utsira, Rogaland, Norway (12-17 May). Others were reported at Sammy's Point, East Yorkshire, England, on 18 May and Westkapelle, Zeeland, the Netherlands, on 19 May. On 3 March, a **Moussier's Redstart** *Phoenicurus moussieri* was found near Muravera, Sardinia, Italy, and another was photographed at Constantí, Tarragona, Spain, on 18-23 March. The first **Caspian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus hemprichii* for France was a male at Marais de Guérande, Loire-Atlantique, from 31 March to 10 April. The first for Finland was a male on Utö, Parainen, on 26-27 April and a second was reported in Korppoo on 14 May. In Italy, **White-crowned Wheatears** *Oenanthe leucopyga* turned up near Muravera, Sardinia, on 20 March, near Rome in late April, and on Marettimo, Sicily, in early May (there was only one previous record). A second calendar-year male **rock thrush** *Monticola* at Den Helder, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, on 11-14 April may have been either a hybrid **Common** x **Blue Rock Thrush** *M saxatilis x solitarius* or an aberrant **Common Rock Thrush**. A female **Common Rock Thrush** occurred at Spurn, East Yorkshire, England, on 25-26 April, whilst an adult male stayed on Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, from 30 April to 2 May.

SPARROWS TO AMERICAN BLACKBIRDS A male **Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniolensis* found at Rydaholm, Småland, on 19 May was the first for Sweden. Four **Iago Sparrows** *P iagoensis* stayed on board of the MV Plancius all the way from the Cape Verde Islands to the Netherlands, where they arrived at Hansweert, Zeeland, on 18 May; the original group that came aboard on 6 May off Raso numbered c 11 birds and several left the ship during landings on Desertas and Madeira. Male **Citrine Wagtails** *Motacilla citreola* in south-eastern Sicily on 23 March and on Pantelleria on 3 April were among the earliest-ever for Italy. A **Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit** *Anthus rubescens japonicus* was photographed and sound-recorded at Sohar on 23 March; there were seven records for Oman until 2012. The first **Red-fronted Serin** *Serinus pusillus* for Bulgaria was an adult male photographed along the Black Sea coast on 30 April, where the first **Turkish Twite** *Linaria flavirostris brevirostris* for Bulgaria (and Europe) was photographed on 5 April. The first **European Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris* for Kuwait was photographed at Al Abraq Al Khabari on 10-11 April. In Finland, the **Fox Sparrow** *Passerella iliaca* on Utö from 20 December 2012 was last seen on 3 April. If accepted, a **Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia* photographed at Algeciras, Andalucia, on 29 March will be the first for Spain. A **White-throated Sparrow** *Zonotrichia albicollis* stayed at Churchstanton, Somerset, from 23 January to 3 March. A male **Cretzschmar's Bunting**

253 Dusky Thrush / Bruine Lijster *Turdus eunomus*, first-summer female, Margate, Kent, England, 18 May 2013 *(Michael Southcott)*

Emberiza caesia at Robbenoort, Lauwersoog, Groningen, on 5 May was the fourth for the Netherlands and the first twitchable. The first for Romania was an adult male photographed at Vadu, Constanta, on 8 May. A **Common (Bronzed) Grackle** *Quiscalus quiscula versicolor* photographed when flying north-east over the migration watchpoint of Kamperhoek, Flevoland, on 8 April was the first for the Netherlands and the WP (the only other European record concerned a bird in Denmark in March-April 1970 but it was not accepted as a genuine vagrant).

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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 **maart-april 2013**. 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 in te dienen via www.dutchavifauna.nl.

Het weer in maart was opvallend. In de eerste week werden warmterecords gebroken maar daarna volgde het ene na het andere kouderecord, wat verplaatsingen van vogels veroorzaakte. Begin april werd her en der in het land zelfs nog geschaatst. Door de aanhoudende kou arriveerden vroege zomergasten opmerkelijk laat. Toen de koude oostenwind eindelijk wegviel, barstte de voorjaarstrek los.

EENDEN In april trokken relatief veel **Kolganzen** *Anser albifrons* door; vooral de 32 772 exemplaren op 7 april over telpost Oelemars bij Losser, Overijssel, zijn het vermelden waard. Op c 10 plekken in het midden en zuiden werden **Witoogeenden** *Aythya nyroca* gemeld. In de Weerribben, Overijssel, werd op ten minste 17, 18 en 23 maart en 3 mei het bekende vrouwtje **Ringsnaveleend** *A collaris* weer gezien bij het gehucht Nederland. Het bekende mannetje hybride **Kuifeend x Ringsnaveleend** *A fuligula x collaris* verbleef nog tot 13 maart in en bij Woerden, Utrecht. Een mannetje **Kleine Topper** *A affinis* was op 29 april twitchbaar bij Stellendam, Zuid-Holland; mogelijk was hij reeds sinds 13 april aanwezig. Een mannetje **Koningseider** *Somateria spectabilis* werd op 16 maart gefotografeerd langs het Noordzeestrand bij Oosterend op Terschelling, Friesland. De volgende twee dagen toonde hij zich helaas aan slechts een enkeling. Het eerste-winter vrouwtje **Brilzee-eend** *Melanitta perspicillata* van Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, werd voor het laatst gemeld op 31 maart. Op 11 april werd een adult mannetje gezien bij de Hoornderslag op Texel, Noord-Holland; mogelijk betrof het de bekende terugkerende vogel. Door trektellers langs de westkust werden in totaal 25 **IJseenden** *Clangula hyemalis* opgemerkt. Het mannetje **Buffelkopeend** *Bucephala albeola* van Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland, werd voor het laatst op 3 mei waargenomen. Een ongeringd mannetje **Bronskopeend** *Anas falcata* trok van 19 maart tot 9 april en nogmaals op 19 april op met Smienten *A penelope* bij Spijkenisse, Zuid-Holland. Het betrof het eerste twitchbare exemplaar sinds 2007. Langs telpost Kamperhoek bij Swifterbant, Flevoland, trokken op 7 april maar liefst 24 701 **Smienten**: een enorm aantal, zeker bij het ontbreken van strenge vorst. Van 28 februari tot 6 maart was een mannetje **Amerikaanse Smient** *A americana* aanwezig bij Ritthem, Zeeland. Een mannetje **Blauwvleugeltaling** *A discors* van 25 april tot 8 mei bij Workum, Friesland, bleek gecharmeerd te zijn van een vrouwtje Slobeend *A clypeata*. Mannetjes **Amerikaanse Wintertaling** *A carolinensis* werden gezien op 22 maart bij Meppen, Drenthe, en op 13 en 14 april in de Ooijpolder bij Nijmegen, Gelderland.

RUIGPOOTHOENDERS TOT IBISSEN Begin april werden 25 Zweedse **Korhoenders** *Tetrao tetrix* bijgeplaatst op de Sallandse Heuvelrug, Overijssel. Van de vijf vorig jaar uitgezette vogels zijn er drie dood gevonden en was dit voorjaar nog minimaal één haan in leven.

254 Bronskopeend / Falcated Duck *Anas falcata*, mannetje, Spijkenisse, Zuid-Holland, 20 maart 2013 *(Kris De Rouck)*

255 Parelduiker / Black-throated Loon *Gavia arctica*, adult zomerkleed, Het Twiske, Oostzaan, Noord-Holland, 28 april 2013 *(Co van der Wardt)*

256 Steppekiekendief / Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*, mannetje, IJmeerdijk, Flevoland, 14 april 2013 *(Rob Halff)* **257** Blauwvleugeltaling / Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*, mannetje, met Slobeend / Northern Shoveler *A clypeata*, vrouwtje, De Heidenschapsterpolder, Friesland, 29 april 2013 *(Jan Dekker)* **258** Amerikaanse Wintertaling / Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*, Mepper Hooilanden, Coevorden, Drenthe, 22 maart 2013 *(Pieter Doorn)* **259** Koningseider / King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*, adult mannetje, Paal 19, Noordzeestrand, Terschelling, Friesland, 16 maart 2013 *(Arie Ouwerkerk)*

Daarnaast was nog een handjevol Nederlandse vogels aanwezig. In de eerste week van april was er een opmerkelijke passage van duikers. Zo werden ruim 41 000 langsvliegende **Roodkeelduikers** *Gavia stellata* geno-teerd. In dezelfde periode een jaar eerder waren dat er een kleine 4000. Langs Camperduin, Noord-Holland, passeerden er op 3 april liefst 6372, wat een Nederlands dagrecord betekende. Het vorige dagrecord kwam van dezelfde plek maar kende een meer voor de hand lig-gende timing: 6000 op 16 januari 2006. Tevens werd in deze periode, zoals gebruikelijk in april, een normaal aantal van 292 langsvliegende **Parelduikers** *G arctica* geteld. Een vogel in zomerkleed bij Oostzaan, Noord-Holland, van 25 tot 30 april trok veel bekijks. **IJsduikers** *G immer* werden nog gezien met tot twee vogels tot 29 april bij de Brouwersdam, Zeeland/Zuid-Holland. Daarnaast werden nog op c zes locaties exemplaren gemeld, waaronder één langs Breskens, Zeeland, op 21 april, een nieuwe soort voor de telpost. **Koereigers** *Bubulcus ibis* werden gezien op 19 april bij Hoogkerk, Groningen, bij Zwolle, Overijssel, en bij Aarlanderveen, Zuid-Holland, en op 24 april bij Leeuwarden, Friesland. Trektellers meldden in april in totaal vier **Zwarte Ooievaars** *Ciconia nigra*. De 371 **Lepelaars** *Platalea leu-corodia* die op 8 april langs Breskens trokken zorgden voor de op een na beste dag voor een telpost. Het dag-record staat op naam van de Vijfhoek bij Diemen, Noord-Holland, waar op 22 september 2012 493 exem-plaren werden geteld.

SPERWERS TOT KRAANVOGELS Trektellers registreerden in totaal 84 **Zwarte Wouwen** *Milvus migrans*, 286 **Rode Wouwen** *M milvus* met onder andere acht langs de Noordkaap, Groningen, op 18 maart, 26 **Zeearenden**

260 Roodstuitzwaluw / Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*, Kustweg, Lauwersoog, Groningen, 17 april 2013 *(Willem Hartholt)* **261** Iberische Tjiftjaf / Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*, Donkere Duinen, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 30 april 2013 *(Maurits Martens)* **262** Hop / Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*, Beilen, Drenthe, 15 april 2013 *(Frank van der Wielen)* **263** Roodkopklauwier / Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*, Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, 28 april 2013 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

Haliaeetus albicilla, 2183 **Bruine Kiekendieven** *Circus aeruginosus* met onder andere 101 langs Breskens op 8 april, 284 **Blauwe Kiekendieven** *C cyaneus*, 12 **Grauwe Kiekendieven** *C pygargus,* 19 **Ruigpootbuizerds** *Buteo lagopus*, 98 **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus*, 216 **Smellekens** *Falco columbarius*, slechts 97 **Boomvalken** *F subbuteo* (234 in dezelfde periode in 2012) en 218 **Slechtvalken** *F peregrinus*. Een **Slangenarend** *Circaetus gallicus* werd op 29 april gemeld boven het Drents-Friese Wold bij Wateren, Drenthe. Vanaf 6 april werden minstens 15 doortrekkende **Steppekiekendieven** *C macrourus* opgemerkt. Zoals inmiddels gebruikelijk in het voorjaar was de soort nauwelijks twitchbaar. Vanaf half april werden slechts c vijf **Roodpootvalken** *F vespertinus* gemeld, waaronder een pleisteraar vanaf 21 april in het Haaksbergerveen, Overijssel. In de eerste week van maart tekende zich massale trek van **Kraanvogels** *Grus grus* af; alleen al door trektellers werden toen ruim 63 000 exemplaren genoteerd en op 4 en 5 maart werden zelfs meer dan 5000 waarnemingen ingevoerd op waarneming.nl. Exacte aantallen zijn door de vele dubbeltellingen lastig te geven zonder uitvoerige analyse.

GRIELEN TOT ALKEN Een **Griel** *Burhinus oedicnemus* bevond zich op 15 april in 'verboden gebied' in Solleveld bij Monster, Zuid-Holland. De eerste **Steltkluut** *Himantopus himantopus* van het jaar liep vanaf 15 april bij Arcen, Limburg. Daarna volgden meldingen van nog c 12 plekken. De kou in maart bracht grote aantallen **Kieviten** *Vanellus vanellus* in beweging. Het aantal van 20 148 dat op 18 maart langs de Noordkaap vloog is daarbij het vermelden waard. De 23 **Kleine Plevieren** *Charadrius dubius* die op 8 april langs Breskens vlogen vormden een landelijk telpostrecord. Een van de windmolenslachtoffers die in de derde week van maart werd opgeraapt in de Eemshaven,

Groningen, bleek na meting een **Woestijnplevier** *C leschenaultii*; dit is het eerste maartgeval (na 16 gevallen uit april-september). De eerste **Morinelplevier** *C morinellus* van het jaar werd op 15 april gefotografeerd bij Asten, Noord-Brabant. Net als in andere voorjaren waren Texel en de omgeving van Anjum, Friesland, weer in trek als pleisterplaats. Een **Rosse Franjepoot** *Phalaropus fulicarius* bevond zich op 30 april op Ameland, Friesland. De eerste **Poelruiter** *Tringa stagnatilis* van het jaar liet zich fraai bekijken van 9 tot 13 april in Vogelplas Starrevaart bij Leidschendam, Zuid-Holland. In de rest van de maand volgden waarnemingen op acht andere plekken. **Zwarte Zeekoeten** *Cepphus grylle* werden gemeld op 25 maart langs de Oosterscheldekering, Zeeland, en op 20 april langs Castricum aan Zee, Noord-Holland. **Alken** *Alca torda* waren begin april in grote aantallen aanwezig en dat is voor deze maand zeer ongewoon. Langs Scheveningen vlogen er bijvoorbeeld op 3, 4 en 5 april respectievelijk 303, 143 en 44 langs. Daartussen werden vrijwel geen **Zeekoeten** *Uria aalge* waargenomen. Dat plaatst onder andere de 1307 gemelde ongedetermineerde alkachtigen langs Noordwijk op 2 april en 1264 langs Petten, Noord-Holland, op 3 april in een ander daglicht: zouden dit Alken zijn geweest? Het totaal voor maart en april lag voor trektellers voor beide soorten samen op ruim 14 000 langsvliegende vogels. Ter vergelijking: in dezelfde periode in 2012 was het totaal slechts 65.

STERNS TOT MEEUWEN De eerste **Reuzensterns** *Hydroprogne caspia* van het jaar verschenen op 2 april bij Nieuwerkerk, Zeeland, en bij Berkel en Rodenrijs, Zuid-Holland. Vanaf 24 april werd een handvol **Witwangsterns** *Chlidonias hybrida* waargenomen, waarvan een exemplaar op 27 en 28 april bij Waddinxveen, Zuid-Holland, het meest populair was. Een **Witvleugelstern** *C leucopterus* werd op 27 april gemeld bij Loosdrecht, Noord-Holland. **Dwergmeeuwen** *Hydrocoloeus minutus* waren vanaf half april in groten getale voor de kust aanwezig, met name in Noord-Holland. Trektellers noteerden er bijna 113 000, bijna tweemaal zo veel als in 2012. De vogels leken min of meer ter plaatse te hangen. Er was een nationaal telpostrecord op 21 april met 10 729 exemplaren bij Egmond aan Zee, Noord-Holland. Het oude record kwam van Camperduin waar er op 15 april 2006 8632 passeerden. Trektellers meldden ruim 1500 **Zwartkopmeeuwen** *Larus melanocephalus*, waarvan ruim 40% langs Breskens. **Pontische Meeuwen** *L cachinnans* met Poolse kleurringen worden jaarlijks in Nederland waargenomen maar een vierde-kalenderjaar op 6 april op de Vismarkt in Groningen, Groningen, bleek in twee voorgaande winters afgelezen in Baskenland, Spanje. De eerste-winter **Kleine Burgemeester** *L glaucoides* van Heiloo, Noord-Holland, bleef tot 12 april. Andere werden gemeld op 28 april op Texel, Noord-Holland, en op 30 april bij Camperduin. De tweede-winter **Grote Burgemeester** *L hyperboreus* van IJmuiden, Noord-Holland, uit de vorige periode verbleef vanaf 1 maart langdurig in Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland. Een andere populaire pleisteraar was een eerste-winter op Breezanddijk, Friesland. Daarnaast werd de soort nog op enkele andere plekken gemeld.

UILEN TOT PESTVOGELS Het paartje **Oehoes** *Bubo bubo* van de Beekse Bergen, Hilvarenbeek, Noord-Brabant, bracht twee jongen groot. Het mannetje is een escape maar het vrouwtje is ongeringd en mogelijk van wilde herkomst. **Bijeneters** *Merops apiaster* verbleven op 23 en 24 april in de Kennemerduinen bij Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland, en op 26 april op Vlieland, Friesland. Vanaf 8 april deden **Hoppen** *Upupa epops* c 20 plekken verspreid over het land aan; Megchelen, Gelderland, was het eerst aan de beurt. Vanaf 6 april doken op enkele 10-tallen plekken verspreid over het land **Draaihalzen** *Jynx torquilla* op. Een zingende **Grijskopspecht** *Picus canus* werd gemeld op 17 april op een niet nader bekend gemaakte plek in het Drents-Friese Wold, Drenthe/Friesland. **Roodkopklauwieren** *Lanius senator* verbleven op 21 april op de Beninger Slikken, Zuid-Holland; van 21 tot 24 april bij Udenhout, Noord-Brabant; van 23 tot 30 april op de Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland; en op 24 april in de Groote Peel bij Ospeldijk, Limburg. In de tweede helft van april vond een merkwaardige zuidwaartse verplaatsing van **Gaaien** *Garrulus glandarius* plaats. Trektellers in met name het zuidoosten van het land noteerden er c 1400 tegenover nog geen 100 in dezelfde periode in 2012. Er werden 13 overtrekkende **Buidelmezen** *Remiz pendulinus* geteld, waarvan 11 langs Kamperhoek. Twee **Kuifleeuweriken** *Galerida cristata* verbleven de gehele periode bij Venlo, Limburg, en één in Haverleij bij 's-Hertogenbosch, Noord-Brabant. Op 14 april vlogen 3957 **Oeverzwaluwen** *Riparia riparia* langs Breskens, de op twee na beste dag ooit voor een Nederlandse telpost. Opvallend is dat alle dagen met meer dan 1500 trekkers uit dit millennium stammen. **Roodstuitzwaluwen** *Cecropis daurica* werden gemeld op 17 april bij Lauwersoog, Groningen, op 18 april in de Eemshaven en op 28 april in De Kampina bij Boxtel, Noord-Brabant. Meldingen van **Fitissen** *Phylloscopus trochilus* waren in maart opvallend zeldzaam en ook **Tjiftjaffen** *P collybita* hadden hun aankomst, als gevolg van de ongewone kou, massaal uitgesteld: het was zoeken met een nachtkaarsje naar een zingend exemplaar. Toen het vanaf 8 april eindelijk iets warmer werd arriveerde vooral de laatstgenoemde soort plotseling massaal. Vooral langs Breskens werden indrukwekkende aantallen dagtrekkers gezien, met landelijke telpostrecords van 121 en 511 op 8 en 9 april. Een zingende **Siberische Tjiftjaf** *P c tristis* werd op 17 april opgenomen bij Etten-Leur, Noord-Brabant. Een ander exemplaar verbleef van 28 april tot 7 mei bij Nieuwvliet, Zeeland. Een **Iberische Tjiftjaf** *P ibericus* zong van 25 april tot 2 mei in de Donkere Duinen bij Den Helder, Noord-Holland. Een overvliegende **Graszanger** *Cisticola juncidis* werd op 19 april gemeld in de Kennemerduinen bij Bloemendaal aan Zee, Noord-Holland. Twee late **Pestvogels** *Bombycilla garrulus* werden nog gemeld op 23 april in Nieuwegein, Utrecht.

SPREEUWEN TOT GORZEN De trek van **Spreeuwen** *Sturnus vulgaris* in de eerste helft van april was voor

264 Roodkopklauwier / Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*, Udenhout, Noord-Brabant, 23 april 2013
(Co van der Wardt)

265 Rotslijster / rock thrush *Monticola*, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 13 april 2013
(Martijn Verdoes)

deze tijd van het jaar opmerkelijk omvangrijk: de 25 beste aprildagen in de database van trektellen.nl stammen nu alle uit 2013. Vogeltrekfanaten telden er tussen 1 en 15 april bijna 700 000, met onder andere 41 697 en 30 456 langs Kamperhoek op respectievelijk 7 en 8 april. Een **Zwartbuikwaterspreeuw** *Cinclus cinclus cinclus* werd tot 14 maart bij Eibergen, Gelderland, waargenomen. Andere meldingen kwamen op 7 april van Wilp, Gelderland, van 8 tot 13 april bij Deventer, Overijssel, en op 13 april bij Lippenhuizen, Friesland. Een eerste-zomer mannetje **rotslijster** *Monticola* bevond zich van 11 tot 14 april in Den Helder, Noord-Holland; mogelijk betrof het een afwijkende **Rode Rotslijster** *M saxatilis* of een hybride **Rode x Blauwe Rotslijster** *M saxatilis x solitarius*. Een mannetje **Balkankwikstaart** *Motacilla feldegg* liet zich op 28 april (te) kort bekijken in het Noordervroon bij Westkapelle, Zeeland; na enkele minuten verdween de vogel roepend over de waarnemer heen in noordoostelijke richting. **Grote Piepers** *Anthus richardi* trokken over Breskens op 9 april en langs de Eemshaven op 14 april. Daarnaast waren er meldingen op 14 april op Tiengemeten, Zuid-Holland; van 25 tot 27 april bij Wageningen, Gelderland; op 27 april op Vlieland, Friesland; en op 30 april bij Norg, Drenthe. Vanaf 20 april werden slechts vier **Duinpiepers** *A campestris* gemeld. Een regenfrontje met oostenwind in de middag van 9 april dwong langs Breskens trekkende **Vinken** *Fringilla coelebs* massaal tot het kiezen van een lager luchtruim. Er werden deze dag 71 640 exemplaren geteld: een landelijk voorjaarsrecord. Ook de 17 850 en 23 000 die op respectievelijk 7 en 8 april langs de Loozerheide bij Weert, Limburg, vlogen zijn spectaculair te noemen. Trektellers meldden 25 **Europese Kanaries** *Serinus serinus* en 426 **Fraters** *Linaria flavirostris*. De laatste soort werd uitsluitend in Groningen geregistreerd. Gezien de tijd van het jaar waren verplaatsingen van **Kruisbekken** *Loxia curvirostra* vanaf half april opvallend, met in de gehele periode een kleine 300. Met name trektellers in het noordoosten zagen nog 85 **IJsgorzen** *Calcarius lapponicus* en liefst 1053 **Sneeuwgorzen** *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Van de laatste soort was er nog een dag met 194 langs de Noordkaap op 18 maart. Dat waren er op één dag meer dan de 138 uit de periode maart-april in 2012. **Ortolanen** *Emberiza hortulana* werden gemeld op 17 april bij Hank, Noord-Brabant, op 27 april bij Bergen, Limburg, en op 30 april in het Drents-Friese Wold bij Wateren. Bijzonder was de waarneming van een **Bosgors** *E rustica* op 21 maart in de achtertuin van een vogelaar in een woonwijk in Almere, Flevoland. **Dwerggorzen** *E pusilla* werden gemeld op 13 april op de Sallandse Heuvelrug bij Nijverdal, Overijssel, en op 14 april bij Leusden, Utrecht. Door trektellers werden slechts twee **Grauwe Gorzen** *E calandra* genoteerd. Enkele bekende overwinterende groepjes in Limburg en Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, Zeeland, verdwenen in de loop van april. En 'last but not least': een **Glanstroepiaal** *Quiscalus quiscula versicolor* trok op 8 april in noordoostelijke richting over vijf gelukkige waarnemers bij Kamperhoek. Indien aanvaard betreft dit een nieuwe soort voor Nederland.

Voor dit overzicht is gebruik gemaakt van de websites van waarneming.nl, trektellen.nl, dutchbirdalerts.nl en lauwersmeer.com. Voorts gaat onze dank uit naar Michel de Lange en Rinse van der Vliet voor geleverde bijdragen.

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

Glanstroepiaal over Kamperhoek Op maandag 8 april 2013 bracht ik voor het eerst een bezoek aan de befaamde trektelpost Kamperhoek bij Swifterbant, Flevoland. Voor veldwerk moest ik de tweede week van april meermalen in Flevoland zijn en ik meende dat een korte telling wel viel in te passen. Al snel na aankomst besefte ik echter dat het die dag niet meer van veldwerk zou komen. De ene na de andere groep Houtduiven *Columba palumbus* trok over en ook talloze andere soorten vlogen in hoge aantallen voorbij. Daaronder waren de nodige Grote Lijsters *Turdus viscivorus* die op meer dan 400 m ten zuidoosten van de telpost evenwijdig met de hoogspanningsleiding het Ketelmeer overstaken. Het viel mij op hoe bedreven Mervyn Roos was om alle vogels die 'zijn telpost' passeerden op naam te brengen, zelfs op grote afstand en bij slecht licht. Om 10:45 viel mijn oog op een forse zangvogel die in dezelfde baan vloog als de eerdere Grote Lijsters. Ik was gelijk gealarmeerd maar ook met stomheid geslagen. Ik greep naar mijn camera en zei zoiets als: 'wat vliegt daar voor gekke grote lijster?' Ton Lakeman die naast mij zat pikte de vogel snel op en terwijl ik drie foto's maakte zagen we hem het Ketelmeer opvliegen en – naar het leek – naar de Noordoostpolder verdwijnen. MR kreeg nu de vogel in beeld en slaakte een luide kreet, waardoor ook de overige tellers (Guido Berger en Thijs Knol) doorkregen dat er iets bijzonders vloog. Wonderbaarlijk genoeg was de vogel afgebogen en vloog hij recht onze kant op. MR kon zodoende een serie foto's maken, voordat de vogel alsnog – tegen de vrij krachtige oostenwind in – het Ketelmeer overstak. Het ging om een glanzend zwarte zangvogel met een opvallend gevormde lange staart. Het leek op een troepiaal ('grackle') *Quiscalus* maar de gedachte aan allerlei andere soorten maakte het lastig

266-267 Common Grackle / Glanstroepiaal *Quiscalus quiscula*, Kamperhoek, Flevoland, 8 april 2013 *(Mervyn Roos)*

om de determinatie ter plekke rond te krijgen. Veel tijd voor napraten was er bovendien niet; er moest weer worden geteld...

Na bestudering van de foto's werd duidelijk dat het inderdaad een troepiaal betrof. Het formaat (iets groter dan Grote Lijster), het lichte oog, de stevige snavel, de typische staart met 'omgevouwen' buitenste pennen en de vleugelvorm pasten perfect op Glanstroepiaal *Q quiscula*. Het contrast tussen de blauw glanzende kop en hals en de bruinbronzen glans op het lichaam en de vleugeldekveren wees op de ondersoort *Q q versicolor*. Deze combinatie van kenmerken sloot alle overige grackle-soorten uit. Zo zijn Langstaarttroepiaal *Q mexicanus* en Bootstaarttroepiaal *Q major* groter en langgerekter met een nog langere staart. De verschillen met de kleinere Nicaraguaanse *Q nicaraguensis*, Antilliaanse *Q niger* en Caribische Troepiaal *Q lugubris* zijn subtieler maar deze missen onder meer de bruinbronzen glans op het lichaam en de vleugeldekveren. De leeftijd en het geslacht van de vogel konden niet met zekerheid worden bepaald (vrouwtjes zijn iets kleiner dan mannetjes en minder glanzend). Waarschijnlijk betrof het een mannetje omdat het verenkleed veel glans vertoonde en de staart in zijaanzicht driehoekig toonde.

Glanstroepiaal komt algemeen voor in grote delen van Noord-Amerika. Tijdens trektellingen in het oosten van Noord-Amerika is het vaak zelfs een van de meest algemene soorten. Langs de Amerikaanse oostkust trekt de soort noordwaarts tussen half februari en half april. De ondersoort *versicolor* is een trekvogel die broedt in Canada (onder meer op Newfoundland) en in een groot deel van de VS en overwintert zuidelijk tot in Texas, VS. Juist de noordelijke vogels leggen de grootste afstand af ('leap-frog migration'). Wat betreft verspreiding en trekgedrag lijkt Glanstroepiaal op enkele andere zangvogelsoorten die als dwaalgast in Europa zijn vastgesteld, onder meer op Bruinkopkoevogel *Molothrus ater* en Zanggors *Melospiza melodia*. Met enige regelmaat wordt de soort buiten het reguliere verspreidingsgebied waargenomen, bijvoorbeeld langs de Amerikaanse westkust en in Canada ten noorden van het broedgebied. Interessant is bijvoorbeeld een mannetje *versicolor* dat op 17 juni 1943 werd verzameld bij Wainwright in Alaska, VS, langs de Noordelijke IJszee op 70°N, op c 2000 km ten noordwesten van de dichtstbijzijnde broedgebieden. Ook zijn er meerdere gevallen bekend op Bermuda in de Atlantische Oceaan op meer dan 1000 km van de kust van North Carolina, VS. In maart-april 2003 vond hier een influx plaats met onder meer 12 exemplaren op 11 maart en 20 exemplaren op 19 maart. In de WP is slechts één geval bekend van een exemplaar van eind maart tot c 20 april 1970 bij Gevninge, Sjælland, Denemarken. Hoewel deze vogel – voor zover nu nog valt na te gaan – geen tekenen van een herkomst uit gevangenschap vertoonde is hij niet als geval geaccepteerd voor de Deense nationale lijst.

Navraag bij vogelhouders leerde dat Glanstroepiaal niet of nauwelijks in Nederland in gevangenschap wordt gehouden. Zo ontbreekt de soort op de lijst van kweekvogels van de Nederlandse Bond van Vogelliefhebbers (NBvV), waarop soorten staan die in Nederland zijn gekweekt, en is hij volgens deze bond nooit op een tentoonstelling vertoond. In 60 jaargangen van Onze Vogels – het tijdschrift van de NBvV – is bovendien nooit een artikel over de soort verschenen. Voorts worden Noord-Amerikaanse vogelsoorten tegenwoordig nauwelijks nog ingevoerd, onder meer omdat er sinds 2007 een algeheel verbod van kracht is op de invoer van wilde vogels binnen de Europese Unie uit angst voor vogelgriep en andere ziektes. Voor zover bekend is Glanstroepiaal ook nooit met zekerheid als escape in Nederland waargenomen.

Hoewel het verschijnen van Glanstroepiaal in Europa reeds was voorspeld – bijvoorbeeld in het artikel over potentiële Noord-Amerikaanse dwaalgasten in Europa van Chandler Robbins (Br Birds 73: 448-457, 1980) – zullen velen zijn verrast door de waarneming bij Kamperhoek. Indien aanvaard betreft dit niet alleen een nieuwe soort voor Nederland maar ook voor de WP (tenzij de status van het Deense geval wordt herzien).

Noord-Amerikaanse 'landvogels' die reeds op de Nederlandse lijst staan zijn Bandijsvogel *Megaceryle alcyon*, Roodoogvireo *Vireo olivaceus* (acht gevallen), Spotlijster *Mimus polyglottos*, Indigogors *Passerina cyanea* (twee), Zanggors, Witkruingors *Zonotrichia leucophrys*, Witkeelgors *Z albicollis* (vijf), Grijze Junco *Junco hyemalis*, Geelkoptroepiaal *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*, Baltimoretroepiaal *Icterus galbula* (twee), Noordse Waterlijster *Parkesia noveboracensis* en Mirtezanger *Setophaga coronata*. Roy Slaterus

Common Grackle On 8 April 2013, a Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula* was seen by five observers as it flew northeast over migration watchpoint Kamperhoek near Swifterbant, Flevoland, the Netherlands. It belonged to the northern migratory Bronzed subspecies *Q q versicolor*. Based on the large amount of gloss in the plumage and the triangular appearance of the tail in side view it probably concerned a male. If accepted, this is not only the first record for the Netherlands but also for the WP (or the second, if the status of a previous record from March-April 1970 at Gevninge, Sjælland, Denmark, will be reviewed).

Rotslijster in Den Helder zorgt voor hoofdbrekens Soms heb je van die dagen die wat langer in je geheugen blijven hangen en die eigenlijk het predicaat 'te bizar voor woorden' verdienen. Donderdag 11 april 2013 was zo'n dag. De dag begon net als de voorgaande dagen om 05:00 op een hotelkamer in Den Helder, Noord-Holland, waar ik (André Boven) voor mijn werk als grondwerker verbleef – moeizaam wakker worden, tanden poetsen en een ontbijtje met veel koffie. Na aankomst op de bouwplaats werden de werkzaamheden voor die dag nog even doorgenomen en na nog meer koffie werd om 07:00 begonnen met de klus. Het begon net licht te worden. Ik had wat materiaal gehaald van de opslagplaats en toen ik terug liep naar de werkplek ging ineens een vogel op c 10 m voor mijn neus op een hekje zitten – het eerste wat door mijn nog duffe hoofd schoot was: rotslijster!!! Net op het moment dat ongeloof en waarheid samen leken te smelten vloog de vogel weg en zag ik rood in zijn staart. Zonder kijker liep ik rustig en met mijn mobiel in de aanslag richting de vogel in de hoop dat hij nu wel zou blijven zitten. Hij vloog echter direct weer op en verdween over de huizen in de richting van de zeedijk. Hier vond ik hem vrij snel terug maar hij verdween opnieuw achter een flatgebouw. Dit schoot niet op en ik besloot om een hulplijn in te zetten. Omdat ik geen vogelaars kende in de omgeving besloot ik om Bart-Jan Prak in Groningen te bellen en vertelde hem waar ik was en wat ik had gezien. Na nog wat determinatiekenmerken van Rode Rotslijster *Monticola saxatilis* te hebben doorgenomen besloten we om de vogel, met een flinke slag om de arm, als 'mogelijk' via Dutch Bird Alerts door te geven. Tot mijn verbazing gebeurde er vervolgens bar weinig, of beter gezegd: helemaal niets. De enige vogelaar die ik tegen kwam zei het niet hardop maar in zijn ogen kon ik nog net de woorden 'mafkees' lezen… Ook op het forum van www.waarneming.nl werd het verhaal afgedaan met 'het zal vast een roodstaart zijn!!' en de frustratie aan mijn kant werd met het uur groter. Omdat er ook gewoon gewerkt moest worden had ik weinig tijd om tussendoor nog te zoeken. Net op het moment dat ik dacht dat het een uitzichtloze en kansloze toestand was, gebeurde het onverwachte. Om c 16:00, bijna acht uur na de eerste waarneming, vond ik de vogel zelf terug in een parkje achter het Univégebouw en ook nu vloog hij direct weer van me af toen ik te dichtbij kwam. Weer belde ik met het steunpunt in Groningen en wederom werd een bericht op DB Alerts gezet, deze keer met een verzoek om assistentie. Eindelijk leken wat mensen wakker te worden en kreeg ik hulp. De rotslijster werd door de toegesnelde vogelaars vrij vlot gevonden en ik kreeg hem door een telescoop te zien – uren van frustratie vielen van mijn schouders en eindelijk was het tijd voor een klein vreugdedansje. Voor de laatste keer die dag werd contact gezocht met commandocentrum Groningen en met de woorden 'het is er een, hij kan op zeker' werd het start-

268 Rotslijster / rock thrush *Monticola*, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 12 april 2013 *(Eric Menkveld)*

269 Rotslijster / rock thrush *Monticola*, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 13 april 2013 *(Mattias Hofstede)*

270 Rotslijster / rock thrush *Monticola*, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 12 april 2013 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

sein gegeven voor 'circus rotslijster'. Die avond werd hij nog door c 30 vogelaars gezien. 's Avonds ging hij slapen op de kerk en was daar in de verlichting van het gebouw zichtbaar, zodat twitchers hem ook in het donker nog konden aanschouwen. De volgende vier dagen trok hij in totaal enkele 100en bezoekers. Meestal verbleef hij (onzichtbaar) op de daken om regelmatig naar de grond te komen en daar te foerageren op zandige stukjes. Ook verbleef hij regelmatig op de steenhopen bij de dijk. In ieder geval van vrijdag op zaterdag sliep hij wederom op de kerk.

Nadat de eerste goede foto's op internet verschenen barstte al gelijk de eerste avond de discussie los over de identiteit van de vogel. Het was gelijk duidelijk dat de vogel niet paste in het standaardbeeld van een eerstezomer mannetje Rode Rotslijster, met name door de mix van roodoranje en blauwgrijze tekening op de onderdelen, het (vrijwel) ontbreken van een lichte rugvlek en de relatief lange staart. Wat verenkleed betreft had de vogel veel weg van een Aziatische Blauwe Rotslijster *M philippensis* (tegenwoordig als aparte soort beschouwd, voorheen ondersoort van Blauwe Rotslijster *M solitarius*) en sommige waarnemers brachten dit als te overwegen optie naar voren. Op vrijdag bleek dat de vogel duidelijk oranje tekening in de staart had, wat Aziatische Blauwe en Blauwe uitsluit; ook de staart was te kort voor deze taxa. Daarom verschoof de discussie naar de vraag of de kenmerken konden passen op een zuivere Rode Rotslijster of dat rekening gehouden moest worden met een hybride Rode x Blauwe Rotslijster. De aanwezigheid van veel donkere schubtekening op de onderdelen, kenmerk van het juveniele kleed, gaf aan dat de vogel veel minder ver was doorgeruid dan normaal bij Rode in deze tijd van het jaar. Dat zou wellicht de tekening van de onderdelen en het nog ontbreken van de witte rugvlek kunnen verklaren. Omdat ook in structuur niet alles leek te kloppen voor Rode, zoals de staartlengte in relatie tot de vleugelprojectie, lijkt de hybride-optie echter vooralsnog goede papieren te hebben, hoe zeldzaam een dergelijke hybride ook mag zijn. Hybriden zijn eerder beschreven (waaronder een verzameld exemplaar in Italië uit maart 1937). In het artikel over laatstgenoemde vogel van Edgardo Moltoni wordt overigens ook de opmerkelijke gelijkenis met Oostelijke Blauwe Rotslijster genoemd. Er is ontlasting van de vogel verzameld; DNA-onderzoek kan wellicht uitsluitsel geven over (alleen) de identiteit van de moeder van de vogel van Den Helder; als dat een Blauwe was, dan betreft het hier inderdaad een hybride (als dat niet zo is, kan een Blauwe als vader nog niet worden uitgesloten).

Naar verwachting zal het de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) nog wel wat tijd en hoofdbrekens kosten voordat ze een definitief oordeel kan vellen. Als de vogel wordt aanvaard als Rode Rotslijster dan betreft het de 13e voor Nederland en de vroegste ooit (met een verschil van 11 dagen; de eerste voor Nederland was op 22-23 april 1951 en drie andere vogels zijn ontdekt in de laatste week van april). Als de CDNA van oordeel is dat een hybride oorsprong voldoende zeker is dan betreft het de eerste 'moderne'

waarneming van dit type hybride en het eerste geval als dwaalgast, dus buiten de broedgebieden van beide soorten. De kans is natuurlijk ook aanwezig dat de CDNA de zaak onbeslist moet laten... André J Boven & Enno B Ebels

Rock thrush On 11-15 April 2013, a first-summer male rock thrush *Monticola* (with many traces of juvenile plumage) stayed in an urban area where road works were being carried out at Den Helder, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands. It mostly stayed on roof tops, coming down to forage on sandy parts or to perch on stone heaps. On at least the first two nights, the bird was observed sleeping on a floodlit church, enabling twitchers to observe it even after dark. The bird was first reported as Common Rock Thrush *M saxatilis*, based on its small size, relatively short tail, blue upperparts, mostly orange underparts and rufous tail (except for the brown central tail-feathers). However, some characters appeared to be at odds for this species, such as the mix of orange and blue feathers on the underparts, the wing-to-tail ratio, bluish lesser coverts, brownish outer web to the tail-feathers and absence of the white patch on the back. The possibility of Asian Blue Rock Thrush *M philippensis* (the red-bellied sister species of Blue Rock Thrush *M solitarius*) was considered but quickly dismissed because of the tail length and rufous tail. This reduced the possibilities to either an aberrant Common (with the odd characters explained by, eg, retarded moult) or a hybrid Common x Blue. This hybrid type has been described before and may explain the mix of characters of the Den Helder bird. If accepted as Common, this is the 13th record. If accepted as a hybrid, this is the first record, both for the Netherlands and north-western Europe and the first to be documented since 1937.