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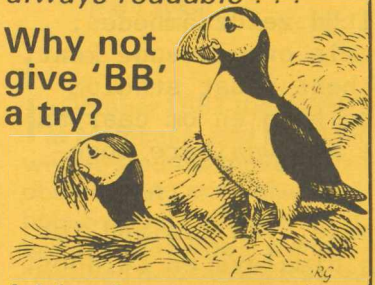

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Field identification of Pintail Snipe and recent records in Kenya

P B Taylor

In October 1981 the author noted the arrival of unfamiliair *Gallinago* snipe at Mombasa, and these birds were seen regularly until the end of 1981 when the author moved to Nairobi. In 1982, other birds of this species were observed at Lake Naivasha and also at Thika, and one was seen at Shombole Swamp in January 1983. The author suspected that all these birds were Pintail Snipe *G stenura* - an eastern Palearctic species which has been recorded from Africa only three times and for which there exists little published information on field identification, especially on field separation from the very similar Swinhoe's Snipe *G megala* (also an eastern Palearctic species). In order to clarify identification features, the author corresponded with many observers, some of whom are familiar with both Pintail and Swinhoe's in the field. The results of this correspondence confirm that the Kenya snipe were indeed Pintail and have brought to light some interesting and valuable points on field identification.

observations in 1981-83

Detailed accounts of all Kenya observations of Pintail are filed at the British Museum (Natural History) at Tring, England, and only brief notes are given here. The full details of the 1982-83 records have not been submitted to any rarities committee. For the co-ordinates of the localities mentioned in this paper, see the gazetteer in Britton (1980).

Mombasa 1981

All observations of Pintail were made at the Nguuni Property at Bamburi, Mombasa. The area is rough pastureland with scattered trees, and has shallow valleys with small permanent dams. The snipe occurred in wet grass, at dam margins on mud and open shore, on grassy tracks at rain pools, and in dry grassland. The first bird appeared after rain on 19 October and at least two were seen regularly from 22 October to the end of December. The snipe apparently moved locally in response to the intermittent rainfall, and in dry spells they were absent for up to three days at a time. After 31 December the author was resident in Nairobi and observations at Mombasa therefore ceased. Great Snipe *G media* were also present from late November to mid December but no other snipe were recorded from the area.

64 Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura,* Thailand, January 1981 *(John H Marchant).*

The Pintail were easy to flush, especially with a dog, and were seen very well and frequently by the author. A number of other observers also saw the snipe and corroborated the author's descriptions. All observers agreed that the birds were superficially similar to Common Snipe *G gallinago* but were perhaps a little smaller and fatter-looking in flight with perhaps slightly shorter wings. In flight the birds appeared short-tailed and the feet projected up to two centimetres beyond the tail-tip. The bill appeared slightly shorter than that of Common and was usually carried at an angle of 30-40 degrees below the horizontal in flight but sometimes almost horizontally.

The Pintail had dull brown upperparts with no distinctive patterning and no white markings. The pale longitudinal lines on the mantle and scapulars usually appeared broken and less well-defined than those of Common. The upperwings were paler than the upperparts, the coverts being very pale and the remiges dull brown. The primaries were darker than the secondaries which had a poorly-defined and narrow pale brownish trailing edge. The head pattern was similar to that of Common. The underparts were heavily barred with dark, including all the underwing-coverts, the flanks and the undertail-coverts. Throat to breast were well-streaked and barred with dark. The unmarked white belly patch was small and very noticeable in flight, being surrounded by dark-barred areas, and was less extensive than that of Common. The tail showed no white under normal viewing conditions, even when spread during take-off and landing, and the pin-like outer rectrices were seen only once when a Pintail landed into the light at close range and spread its tail against the light. The bill had a pale grey-green base and a dark tip, the eyes were dark brownish and the legs and feet were greyish-green.

The Pintail called at least once almost every time they were flushed, normally calling two to four times just after rising. All observers noted that the calls were similar in form to those of Common but were less harsh. A tape-recording of the call confirms that the note is lower-pitched and weaker than calls of Common recorded in Europe and East Africa. The normal note was described as a rather nasal *tchaa.* The calls of Great were markedly different, being lower and much weaker.

Flight of Pintail was normally rather slow with few and poorly-marked zigzags, and was often short (20-30m). Occasionally, for instance, when flying to another valley or when newly-arrived, the birds would make faster and much longer flights. Short flights were low, often just above the grass, and sometimes reminded observers of the flight actions of Jack Snipe *Lymnocryptes minimus* or Great. The angles of rising and descent varied with habitat and other factors. Zigzagging usually occurred only just after rising, and long flights were usually straight. The birds would sometimes circle round and fly back rather slowly over the observer. When flushed with Great, both species usually flew off together at the same speed. Pintail made much less wing noise on rising than did Great.

The Pintail usually flushed only on very close approach and were usually first located in or near wet habitat at times when they would probably have been feeding. When flushed, the birds often landed in completely dry grassland which was more or less tussocky. If flushed several times, they usually finally went to cover in dry tussocks from which it was almost impossible to flush them except by walking over them or by the dog putting them up. Although dry ground was resorted to for concealment, the snipe probably also fed there. When landing in long dry grass, the birds often moved quickly away from the landing spot and were difficult to relocate.

65 Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura*, Thailand, January 1981 *(John H Marchant)*.

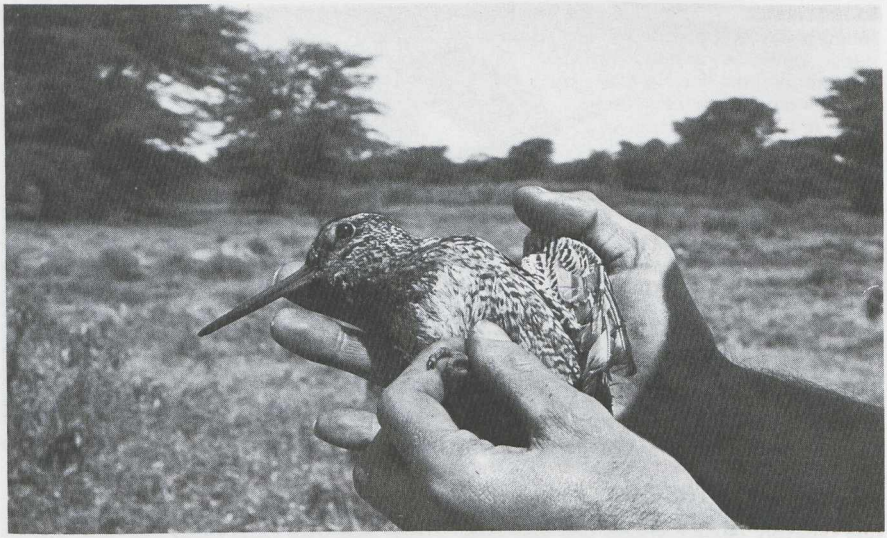
central Kenya 1982-83

After moving to Nairobi, the author made a point of closely observing as many Common as possible, to compare field characters with those of the Mombasa Pintail. Observations at localities in or near the Rift Valley provided such comparisons and also brought to light the presence of snipe which were in alle respects indentical to the Mombasa birds.

LAKE NAIVASHA JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1982 On 10, 17 and 24 January and 21 February single Pintail were flushed several times in an area of shallowly-flooded sedge beds at the lake edge, with patches of open mud and damp grass. The birds were seen alongside Jack, Common and African Snipe *G nigripennis*, and all observed features were as described for the Mombasa Pintail. Compared with Common, the Pintail were slightly smaller with a plumper body and pointed wings which were not as elongated-looking as the wings of Common. The bill was shorter than in most Common, the upperparts were duller and less patterned and the upperwing-coverts and remiges were paler. Flights were slow to fast, with few or no zigzags, and birds were flushed from wet and dry ground. The calls, usually uttered at least once on rising, were short and were weaker and lower-pitched than those of Common.

THIKA SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1982 Single Pintail were seen on 26 September, 10 October and 7 November at the edge of a small dam in grassland. The water-level was low and there were patches of mud with scattered sedge clumps. All the birds were alongside Common, and were once with Jack and Great. All the field characters given for the Naivasha Pintail were noted, and in addition the birds were observed on the ground alongside Common. It was noted that the Common had less heavy dark barring on the flanks and more prominent and unbroken pale lines on the mantle and scapulars. The paler upperwing-coverts of the Pintail showed as a noticeable patch on the closed wing. The coverts of Common were dark with pale spots. The white tips to the rectrices were easily visible in crouching Common but were not normally visible in the Pintail's tail. Leg colour of the Common was bright greenish-yellow. The Pintail had grey-green legs, one bird showing a brown tinge. The Common's bills were dull brownish at the base, the Pintail's bills were grey-green at the base.

SHOMBOLE SWAMP JANUARY 1983 On 2 January a single Pintail was flushed from a drying patch of muddy water in short grass near tall dry grass at the edge of Shombole Swamp. No other snipe were found in the area.



66 Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura*, Kenya, January 1969 *(E D Steele)*.

identification of Kenya Pintail Snipe

On the observed characters, the Kenya snipe could only have been Pintail or Swinhoe's. One of the Mombasa birds was conclusively proved to be Pintail on tail structure. No other species has the six *plus* pin-like outer rectrices which were observed, and the tail was exactly like that shown by Kobayashi (1980) for Pintail. The pattern of the central rectrices as observed also best fits Pintail. As this individual was in all respects very similar to the other snipe observed in Mombasa and central Kenya, it was thought almost certain that all these birds must be Pintail. Furthermore, a tertial shed by one of the snipe has been compared with skins of Common, Pintail and Swinhoe's and fits Pintail best of all (P R Colston *in litt)*. I S Robertson *in litt* who saw the Mombasa birds in October 1981, has subsequently seen many Pintail elsewhere and has no doubt that identification is correct while both S C Madge *in litt* and J H Marchant *in litt* agree that it is Pintail which is occurring in Kenya.

The major problem in identification occurs in eliminating the little-known Swinhoe's - a species which has been regarded as inseparable in the field from Pintail (eg Ali & Ripley 1980, King *et al* 1975). The Swinhoe's has not yet been recorded from Africa but could conceivably occur as a vagrant since it is known to winter in small numbers in India and also to have reached the Maldive Islands (Cramp & Simmons 1983). Investigation and correspondence have shown that Swinhoe's can be eliminated and that the Kenya snipe were indeed Pintail. The main points of field identification are summarized below.

67 Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura*, Kenya, January 1969 *(E D Steele)*. **68** Common Snipe *G gallinago*, Westzaan, Noordholland, September 1975 *(Oene Moedt)*.

field separation of Pintail and Common Snipe

Detailed accounts of field characters are given by Cramp & Simmons and Madge (1980). The former give the distinguishing features of Pintail as the duller upperwings with mottled pale wing-coverts, the lack of a distinct pale trailing edge to the secondaries, the completely barred underwing and the lack of visible white on the tail in flight. They also mention the duller upperparts, blunter-ended wings and slower heavier escape flight. Madge also mentions the narrower and less distinct buff stripes on the mantle and scapulars, the browner remiges and the brownish-white (not whitish) outer web of the outermost primary. J H Marchant states that in Thailand Pintail and Common are easy to separate with the naked eye immediately they fly by Pintail's obviously browner upperwings with no white trailing edge and its marginally slower take-off. In addition, the author's own Kenya observations indicate the following differences which are useful in the field.

1 The Kenya Pintail showed comparatively short tails in flight. Cramp & Simmons give tail length for definitive (= adult) Common as 52-63 mm and for Pintail as 42-55 mm. The small extent of overlap indicates that Pintail may often appear shorter-tailed. Tarsus lengths are similar, so the feet of Pintail should project further beyond the tail in flight as was observed in the Kenya birds.

2 The Pintail appeared rather plumper. The effect could have been partly due to the shorter tail and bill but it is interesting that Cramp & Simmons state that samples of the weights of Pintail collected in southern India during the winter are 'significantly heavier than *G gallinago* collected at the same time'.

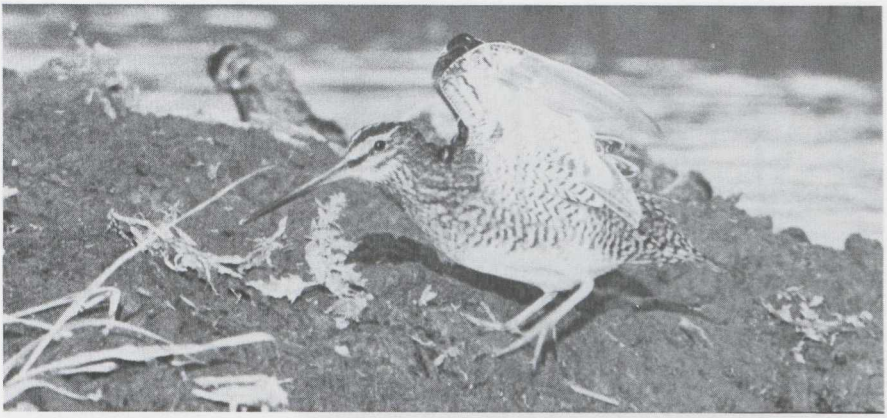
3 The Pintail carried their bills at a shallower angle in flight than did Common. They also appeared shorter-billed, and although bill lengths overlap considerably, a very long-billed bird would be less likely to be Pintail. The bill length ranges from 55 to 70 mm in Pintail and from 55 to 72 mm in Common (Cramp & Simmons, Prater *et al* 1977).

4 The Pintail were thought to have shorter wings but this is not borne out by measurements given in the literature, both species having similar wing lengths. The apparent difference may have been due to the blunter wingpoint of Pintail, a character not noted by the author but which is mentioned by Cramp & Simmons, Gallagher & Woodcock (1980) and Madge. However, J H Marchant points out that in skins both Common and Pintail have equally blunt wings while Swinhoe's has a more pointed wing.

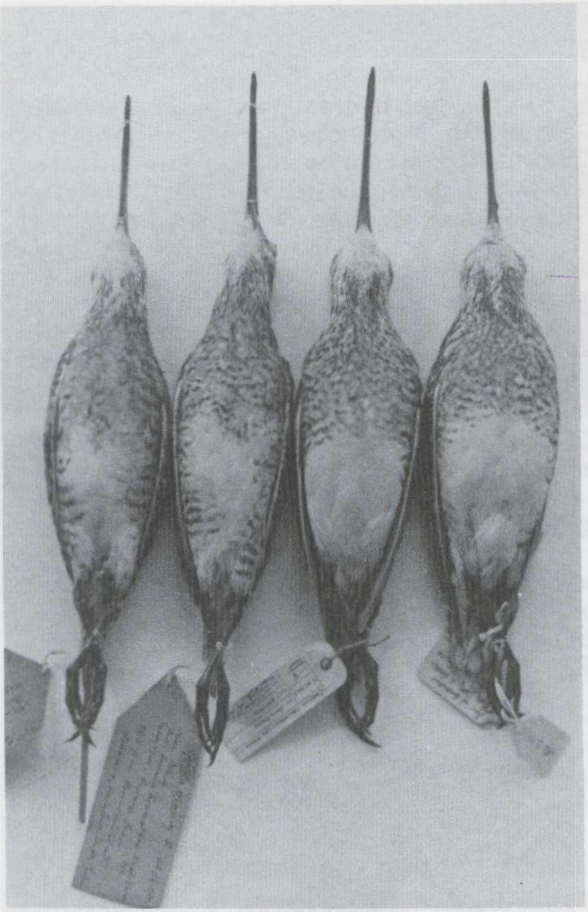
5 The small and well-defined white belly patch of Pintail is a useful field mark. This character is illustrated by Madge but is not mentioned in his text.

6 Leg colour of Pintail in Kenya was grey-green and bill colour was grey-green towards the base. Common usually has yellowish-green legs (author's observations) and a pale red-brown base to the bill (Cramp & Simmons).

7 The call of the Kenya Pintail was lower-pitched and weaker than that of Common. Cramp & Simmons describe Pintail's call as 'more abrupt' but



69 Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago,* Halfweg, Noordholland, September 1981 *(Robert Heemskerk).* **70** Pintail Snipe *G stenura,* Malaysia, March 1979 *(Chris J Hails).*

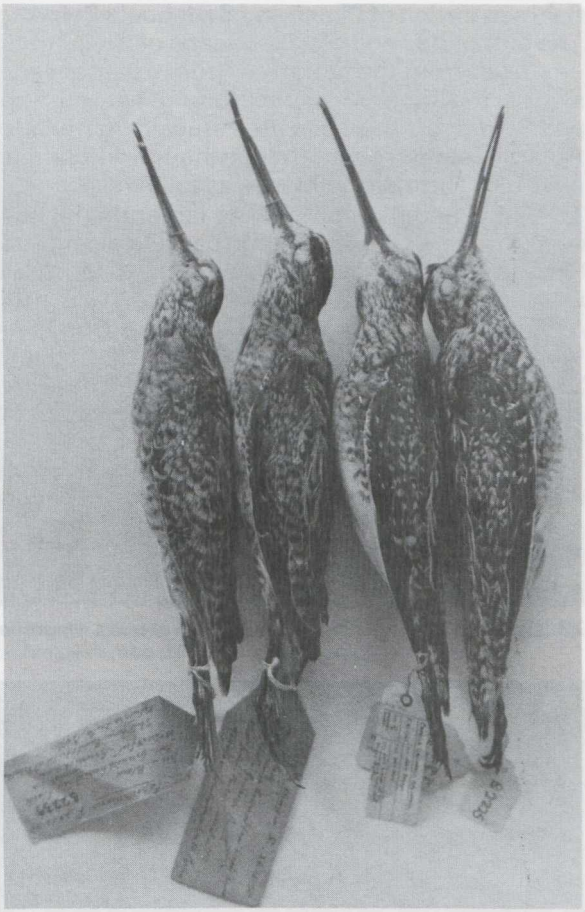


71 Two Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura* (left) and two Common Snipe *G gallinago* (right), National Museum of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya, April 1982 *(P B Taylor;* taken and reproduced with permission of National Museum of Kenya).

Madge notes it to be 'possibly weaker'. These authors also conclude that Pintail often rises silently. However, the Kenya birds called almost every time they were flushed. I S Robertson mentions that Pintail in Thailand had a lower-pitched call than Common while B F King *in litt* regards Pintail's call as thinner than Common's - *sceep* rather than *scaap*. Both Ali & Ripley and Viney (1982) state that Pintail call frequently in flight.

8 Pintail's flight is often slow but can be as fast as Commons's. B F King considers that the flight is similar in both species, so any differences may not always be well-marked. However, the Kenya Pintail made fewer zigzags in flight than does Common.

9 The Pintail were often found on dry ground, and at Mombasa usually resorted to dry cover for concealment. The latter behaviour is apparently



72 Two Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura* (left) and two Common Snipe *G gallinago* (right), National Museum of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya, April 1982 *(P B Taylor;* taken and reproduced with permission of National Museum of Kenya).

not recorded in the literature.

One point noted by Viney is not mentioned elsewhere: Common have been seen without a white trailing edge to the secondaries. This may be due to wear or to plumage variation, and at Lake Naivasha in 1983 the author found a Common with dull plumage and no white trailing edge. It did, however, have a typical Common underparts pattern and call. Thus, a dull-plumaged bird which is suspected to be Pintail, should be confirmed on other characters as well as upperparts pattern, and a snipe without a white trailing edge to the secondaries needs not be either Pintail or Swinhoe's. Plumage variation is a well-known feature of snipe, and even the well-marked melanistic variety of Common ('Sabine's Snipe') has been seen in Kenya (Taylor 1983).

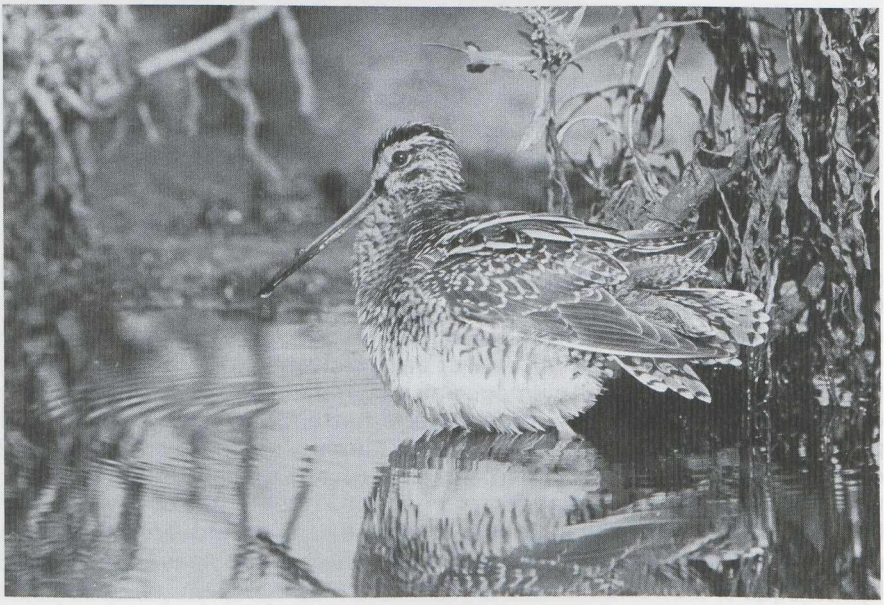
field separation of Pintail and Swinhoe's Snipe

The author has no field experience of Swinhoe's and the following points are taken from the literature, from other observers' comments and from skins at the British Museum (Natural History). The field separation of Pintail and Swinhoe's has been little studied but recent observations in Asia and Australia have brought to light enough differences to make field separation possible. The main points are as follows.

1 The Swinhoe's is up to 10% larger than Pintail, with longer wings and legs (Cramp & Simmons), and has a heavier fatter appearance than either Pintail or Common (K Kobayashi *in litt,* Madge). Size and bulk recall Great (S C Madge). It is also said to have a longer bill than Pintail (Ali & Ripley, Cramp & Simmons, Johnsgard 1981) but measurements overlap considerably: 58-74 mm for Swinhoe's and 55-70 mm for Pintail (Ali & Ripley, Cramp & Simmons, Kobayashi). Therefore, bill length may not be a reliable field character in all cases. Swinhoe's tail is longer than that of Pintail: 52-62 mm for Swinhoe's and 42-55 mm for Pintail (Ali & Ripley, Cramp & Simmons, Kobayashi). Thus, Swinhoe's should not look as short-tailed in flight as Pintail, and the feet do not normally project beyond the tail-tip - only in very good views directly overhead can the tips of the toes be seen to project (S C Madge).

2 Plumage is possibly too similar in Swinhoe's and Pintail to be of value in

73 Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago,* Westzaan, Noordholland, September 1975 *(Oene Moedt).*



74 Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala,* Siberia, June 1982 *(Alex Randall).* **75** Pintail Snipe *G stenura,* Malaysia, March 1979 *(Chris J Hails).*

field separation although Abdulali (1970) stated that his Bombay Swinhoe's was darker in flight than both Pintail and Common. Madge considers that Swinhoe's mantle and scapulars should have broader buff stripes and a darker ground colour while Cramp & Simmons state that Swinhoe's has broader pale tips to the wing-coverts. However, Viney pointed out that the breadth of the pale scapular edgings may be variable, and that Swinhoe's seen in Hong Kong in April have had distinctly grey-brown upperparts, lacking any obvious rich or dark coloration. Examination of skins indicates that the stripes on the upperparts of Swinhoe's are variable (for instance, some Japanese birds have very indistinct stripes) and that the overall colour and pattern of the upperparts overlap with that of Pintail.

3 Swinhoe's and Pintail have similarly patterned underparts (including the underwings) but Cramp & Simmons state that Swinhoe's has heavier barring on the underparts and lacks the obvious pale belly of Pintail. However, K Kobayashi provides photographs of specimens from Japan, Korea and Thailand which show that the barring and the extent of white on the belly is similar in both species, and examination of skins shows that some Swinhoe's have a more extensive white belly patch than Pintail. If any real differences exist, they may only be that Swinhoe's averages a larger white area on the belly and that Pintail has a darker ground colour on the neck and breast. However, these are not constant characters in skins examined.

4 Both McKean (no date) and Viney noted that Swinhoe's has more white in the tail, and this white is sometimes visible in flight. Normally, no white is visible in Pintail's tail in flight. The difference in the structure and number of the rectrices is well-shown by Kobayashi.

5 B W Finch *in litt* and Viney mention the yellowish legs of Swinhoe's while Johnsgard states that the legs can also be yellow-grey to lead-grey. Cramp & Simmons give Pintail's leg colour as grey-green, and the authors's Kenya observations support this, so leg colour may be a useful field character. However, S C Madge cautions that Swinhoe's seen in Siberia, while having yellower legs that Pintail, are yellowish-green, not yellow. Bill colour of Swinhoe's is said to be yellow-brown becoming more yellow towards the base of the upper mandible (Johnsgard) and thus differs from the dark-tipped grey-green bill of Pintail.

6 The Swinhoe's appears to be often silent when flushed (Madge, McKean, Viney) or with at best a 'guttural grunt' (McKean). However, King *et al* regard Swinhoe's call as similar to Common's but slightly higher-pitched and less hoarse while Johnsgard describes the call as a sharp rasping note. The normal silence of Swinhoe's should be useful in the field, and the Kenya Pintail called frequently.

7 Most observers and authors agree that Swinhoe's has a slower heavier flight than Pintail with little or no zigzagging, and observers familiar with both spieces regard flight action as a good field character. K Kobayashi also notes that Swinhoe's when flushed flies straight at first and then rises. Contrary opinion on flight action comes from Johnsgard and McKean who

state that Swinhoe's zigzags in flight.
8 Little is recorded of the behaviour of Swinhoe's but B W Finch mentions that it may be easy to approach in the field.
9 Viney stated that in Hong Kong Swinhoe's apparently prefers drier ground than does Pintail.
These comparisons show that the features at present known to be reliable in separating Pintail and Swinhoe's are: size and shape, tail structure and pattern, extent of projection of feet beyond tail in flight, frequency of call, and probably flight action, leg colour and type of call note. It is on the basis of these characters that the Kenya snipe were not considered to be Swinhoe's. Further field-work is required on plumage, call, habitat and behaviour of these species. From the material to hand it appears that, of the field characters mentioned by Cramp & Simmons as useful in these species' separation, the longer bill, more mottled upperwing-coverts and more heavily barred underparts of Swinhoe's are not realiable.

field separation of Swinhoe's and Common Snipe
Field differences between Swinhoe's and Common are well-marked, Swinhoe's possessing the following features: larger size, slower heavier flight, plumage resembling Pintail (including pale upperwing-coverts), normal silence when flushed, probably distinctive call, preference for dry habitat, and probably different leg colour. King *et al* also mention that Swinhoe's has more white on the sides of the tail-tip than does Common.

status of Pintail Snipe in East Africa
The Pintail has been recorded from Africa only three times: from Kenya (one bird ringed at Lake Naivasha), Socotra and Somalia (Backhurst 1969, Backhurst *et al* 1973, van Someren 1929). It winters throughout the Indian subcontinent and reaches the Maldive Islands (Cramp & Simmons), and it is therefore likely to reach Africa occasionally as a trans-Indian Ocean straggler. There may also be a small undetected movement over the Middle East (Cramp & Simmons). The 1981-83 Kenya records show that it can not be regarded as only a very rare vagrant or straggler to East Africa and that, at least in some years, small numbers may be widespread. It was certainly resident at Mombasa for over two months in 1981 and it should be looked for anywhere in East Africa. The scarcity of previous records may well be due to the difficulty of identifying snipe in the field. Limit dates for Kenya are 26 September and 21 February but the birds may well remain later than this.

acknowledgements
It would not have been possible to write this paper without the help of observers in many parts of the world. I am grateful to B F King, S C Madge, J H Marchant and I S Robertson for comments on field identification, and to J L McKean for access to an unpublished paper on snipe. A particular debt of

gratitude is owed to K Kobayashi for much help, including the provision of photographs and reference material, and to B W Finch for many comments and for the provision of much unpublished material. Thanks are also due to P R Colston who compared snipe skins and feathers at the British Museum (Natural History), to I C J Galbraith for allowing me to study the British Museum (Natural History) collection and to G R Cunningham-van Someren for permitting access to the collection of the National Museum of Kenya, Nairobi. I am very grateful to C J Hails, R Heemskerk, J H Marchant, O Moedt, A Randall and E D Steele for providing photographs, and to E J van IJzendoorn and G J Oreel for their comments on a draft of this paper. R A M McVicker very kindly made a tape-recording of Pintail's call. Finally, I am very grateful to R Haller for allowing me unlimited access to the Nguuni Property.

samenvatting

VELDHERKENNING VAN PIJLSTAARTSNIP EN RECENTE GEVALLEN IN KENIA In 1981-83 werden in Kenia Pijlstaartsnippen *Gallinago stenura* waargenomen. Ze werden zowel aan de kust (1981) als in centraal Kenia (1982-83) gezien. In het eerste deel van het artikel worden de betrokken vogels beschreven en hun specifieke identiteit besproken. In het tweede deel wordt de veldherkenning van de Pijlstaartsnip behandeld. Hierin worden zowel de verschillen met de Swinhoes Snip *G megala* als die met de Watersnip *G gallinago* besproken. Bovendien worden de verschillen tussen Swinhoes en Watersnip behandeld. Het artikel besluit met een bespreking van de status van de Pijlstaartsnip in Oost-Afrika.

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P B Taylor, c/o St Austin's Academy, PO Box 25138, Nairobi, Kenya

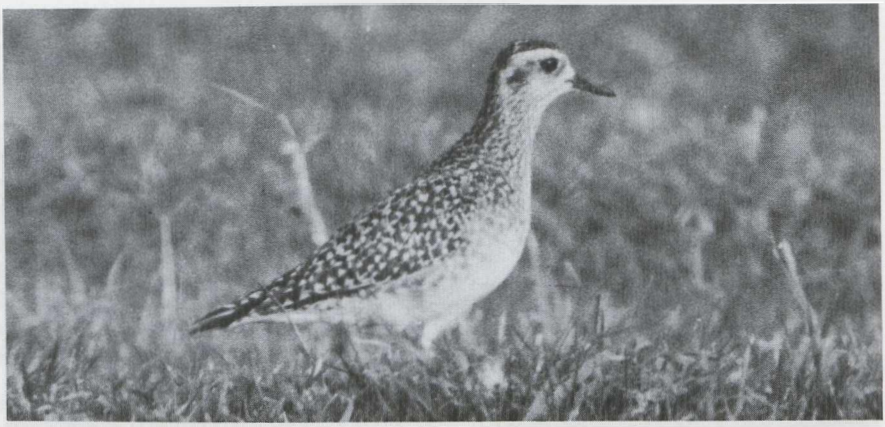
mystery photographs

76 American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica,* Texas, March 1982 *(René Pop).*

13 A casual scan across a grassy field produces a solitary wader. It is slender, alert, feeding busily by watching for movements in the grass, then running quickly a few paces forward to snatch some small invertebrate. Obviously it is a plover, and its patterned mantle proclaims it to be one of the *Pluvialis* species.

One would expect Golden Plover *P apricarius* in such a place, since Grey Plover *P squatarola* rarely chooses grassland for feeding, and indeed the bird is too slim and too erect to be a Grey Plover. But surely the body is a little too long and slender and the bill proportionately too heavy for Golden. Also, the wings project well beyond the tail-tip (wings and tail are about level in Golden) and what of that supercilium! It must be a Lesser Golden Plover *P dominica*.

Only last year, this would have been a sufficient and most satisfactory identification although we might wish to proceed to the difficult stage of trying to decide which subspecies was involved: the American *P d dominica* or the mainly Asiatic *P d fulva*. However, Connors (1983) has shown that these two breed alongside each other in north-western Alaska without hybridizing and must therefore be regarded as separate species; the names American Golden Plover *P dominica* and Pacific Golden Plover *P fulva* are proposed. A recent paper (Pym 1982) has reviewed the separation of these



77 Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*, California, January 1983 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*.

species from Golden Plover. Both share the classic smoky-grey underwing and axillaries which are a simple distinction from Golden Plover's white axillaries and mostly white underwing-coverts. American is the larger and longer-winged species but is proportionately shorter in bill and leg. Alternate (= summer) plumage differences are described fully by Connors: in general, American has blacker flanks and undertail-coverts and broader black and white bands above the bill. However, even using a combination of measurements and plumage characters, he was unable to identify 7% of specimens of birds in alternate plumage. In basic (= winter) plumage American is almost always plainer, darker and greyer above, with small fringes and spots; the hindneck often lacks any spotting. The supercilium is white or whitish rather than yellowish or buffish as in Pacific. Vocalizations require further research but at present no consistent differences are known.

This bird, with bright supercilium, plain hindneck, rather dark upperparts, and wings projecting well beyond the tail-tip, is then an American Golden Plover. It was photographed by René Pop at Brownsville, Texas, on 1 March 1982. Incidentally, this species has not yet been recorded in the Netherlands. All 11 specimens collected since 1900 have been Pacific Golden Plovers.

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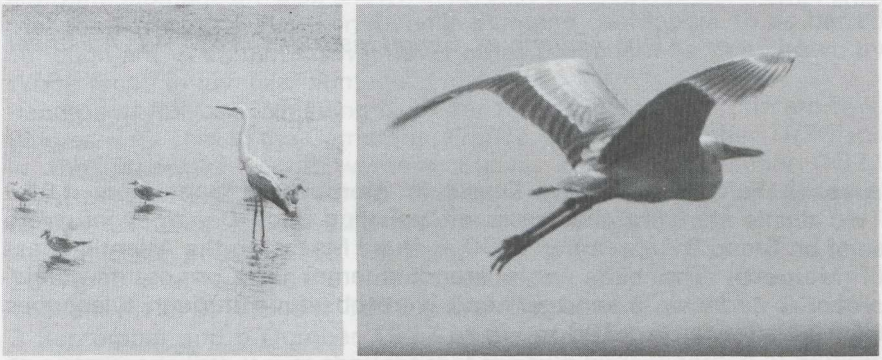
John H Marchant, British Trust of Ornithology, Beech Grove, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5NR, UK

mededelingen

Mogelijke hybriden Grote Zilverreiger x Blauwe Reiger in Flevoland in 1981-83 In de zomers van 1981-83 bevond zich in en bij het noordwestelijk deel van de Oostvaardersplassen Fl een afwijkende reiger. Op grond van gecombineerde kenmerken van Grote Zilverreiger *Egretta alba* en Blauwe Reiger *Ardea cinerea* waren veel waarnemers met mij van mening dat het mogelijk een hybride van deze soorten betrof. Op 9 september 1982 en 12 juli 1983 kon ik een beschrijving van de vogel maken.



78-79 Mogelijke hybride Grote Zilverreiger x Blauwe Reiger *Egretta alba x Ardea cinerea*, Zuidelijk Flevoland, juli 1983 *(Jan Mulder, René van Rossum)*.

GROOTTE & BOUW Iets groter dan Blauwe Reiger. Hals langer en dunner dan bij Blauwe Reiger, dikwijls met opvallende knik halverwege. Geen verlengde kop- en halsveren. Tibia langer dan bij Blauwe Reiger. Poten in vlucht aanzienlijk voorbij staart uitstekend.
VERENKLEED Voorhoofd wit, geleidelijk overgaand in lichtgrijze kruin; achterhoofd lichtgrijs; rest kop wit. Achterhals lichtgrijs. Zijen voorhals lichtgrijs tot wit; voorhals met donkergrijze lengtestrepen, ongeveer als bij Blauwe Reiger. Rest contourveren blauwgrijs als bij Blauwe Reiger.
NAAKTE DELEN Iris geel, pupil zwart; oog op afstand donker contrasterend met witachtige kop. Snavel (met inbegrip van culmen) geeloranje; punt donker, vaag begrensd. Poot onbestemde mengeling van geel, groen en blauwgrijs.

In de zomer van 1983 bevond zich *c* 20 km zuidelijker een tweede mogelijke hybride Grote Zilverreiger x Blauwe Reiger. De vogel leek iets groter dan het andere exemplaar en het verenkleed vertoonde meer wit: kop, hals, mantel, rug, onderdelen en kleine en middelste dekveren waren wit tot vuilwit. De grote dekveren en grote handpendekveren waren zeer lichtgrijs met witte toppen en de slagpennen waren sepia. De staart was licht vuilgrijs. Overigens was de bouw overeenkomstig met die van het andere exemplaar; met name de lange dunne, halverwege geknikte hals en de lange poten. Dit exemplaar werd gefotografeerd.

Mogelijk waren deze vogels afkomstig uit Flevoland waar sinds 1979 onregelmatig Grote Zilverreigers hebben gebroed. Ernst Poorter *pers med* zag tijdens inventarisatievluchten boven de Oostvaardersplassen in 1981 een reigersnest dat afwisselend door een Grote Zilverreiger en een Blauwe Reiger bezet leek te zijn.

summary

PRESUMED HYBRIDS GREAT WHITE EGRET x GREY HERON IN FLEVOLAND IN 1981-83 In the summers of 1981-83 a presumed hybrid Great White Egret x Grey Heron *Egretta alba x Ardea cinerea* was observed in Flevoland, showing plumage and structural characters of both species. A second presumed hybrid was observed and photographed in the summer of 1983. Both individuals are described. They may have originated from Flevoland where a possible mixed pair was reported in 1981.

Klaas J Eigenhuis, Seringenstraat 7, 1431 AJ Aalsmeer

Juvenile Fulvous Whistling Ducks in Morocco in September 1980

Two ducks showing characters of whistling duck *Dendrocygna* were seen on 5 and 6 September 1980 at Oued Massa on the Atlantic coast of Morocco. The birds were standing amongst Cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo* on a sand-spit and were observed through telescopes from a distance of *c* 300m.

GENERAL APPEARANCE & STRUCTURE Largish duck with elongated body, this enhanced by long neck, posteriorly positioned legs and upright stance. Distinctive head shape created by combination of triangular-shaped bill, steep forehead and flattish crown. Tail short with undertail-coverts extending almost to tip.

PLUMAGE Head pale fawn with slightly darker orbital area; nape to apex of crown brown. Neck and breast pale fawn. Mantle slightly darker than head and breast. Scapulars greyish with narrow white outer fringes. Rump grey. Belly and flanks cream-coloured, latter faintly barred grey, most prominently in thigh region. Undertail-coverts white. Primaries dark brown. Secondaries faded brown. Tail black.

BARE PARTS Bill and leg grey.

Our notes did not accord with descriptions of any whistling duck in definitive alternate (= adult summer) plumage. Of the two African species, Fulvous *D bicolor* and White-faced *D viduata,* our notes corresponded most favourably with juvenile Fulvous but accounts of juvenile plumages proved to be sketchy and often contradictory. Therefore, White-faced in juvenile plumage could not be conclusively ruled out instantly. On the following account provided by M A Ogilvie and P R Colston, our tentative identification could be confirmed as Fulvous in juvenile plumage.

Juvenile plumage of both species closely resembles definitive alternate plumage. In Fulvous the head and neck are creamy-buff with a dark

brown cap to the head. The characteristic white rump is dark grey in juvenile plumage. The underparts are pale fawn and the flanks which are much duller than in definitive alternate plumage, show some greyish-white plumes. The undertail-coverts are white as in definitive alternate plumage. Juvenile plumage of White-faced differs from definitive alternate by lacking the distinctive black and white face pattern. Instead, the face is grey with a dark cap. The juvenile plumage exhibits a chestnut lowerneck and upperbreast and thus lacks the even head and neck coloration shown by juvenile Fulvous. The belly, though dark, is not as black as in definitive alternate plumage. The belly and flanks are closely barred grey. The black rump and tail of White-faced in definitive alternate plumage are also shown in juvenile plumage. It should be noted that the flanks of Fulvous in juvenile plumage can appear to be barred although any such barring will never be as prominent as that shown by White-faced in juvenile plumage.

Records of Fulvous Whistling Duck for the western Palearctic are few. Singles were shot in the Camargue, France, on 16 September 1970 and in the Marismas, south-western Spain, on 27 September 1971 (Castroviejo 1972, Hovette 1972). There were no further records prior to 1977 when a flock of 12 birds was discovered at Oued Massa on 7 April (Heinze *et al* 1978). Of these, 11 were present until at least 26 April after which the flock presumably dispersed (Beaubrun & Thévenot 1978, Vielliard 1978). Individuals were seen on 22 July, 3 September and 5 October 1977 at the same locality (Dubois 1979, Rae Vernon *in litt).* It was thought that the two birds recorded at Skhirat, 30 km south of Rabat, on 6 May 1977, originated from this flock as well (Beaubrun & Thévenot, Vielliard). As far as we are aware, our observation is the only subsequent record and the first of birds in juvenile plumage. The possibility of these individuals being of local origin is worth bearing in mind, particularly as Delacour (1954) states that juvenile plumage is worn for a few weeks only.

acknowledgements

We are grateful to M A Ogilvie and P R Colston for confirming our initial identification and for providing additional information on juvenile plumages. Our thanks are also due to Rae Vernon who supplied details on past records of Fulvous Whistling Duck for the western Palearctic, to Martin Latham for translating references and to Steve Madge for criticizing earlier drafts of this note.

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Tony Baker, 'The Croft', Norley Lane, Studley, nr Calne, Wiltshire SN11 9LS, UK

Juveniel Kleinst Waterhoen te Harderwijk in augustus 1983 In de ochtend van 19 augustus 1983 vond ik onder een hoogspanningsleiding te Harderwijk Gld een dood juveniel Kleinst Waterhoen *Porzana pusilla*. De vogel werd geschonken aan het Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie te Leiden Zh. Omdat deze soort in Nederland zelden in juveniel kleed is aangetroffen, lijkt het zinvol de beschrijving te publiceren.

GROOTTE & BOUW Klein formaat; lengte (snavelpunt-staart) *c* 16 cm; vleugellengte ongeveer negen centimeter. Kop klein en smal. Snavel kort en stevig; korte groeve in bovensnavel parallel aan snijrand. Dij sterk ontwikkeld. Onderstaartdekveren gehele onderzijde staart bedekkend. Staart puntig. Tarsus ongeveer gelijke lengte als middenteen (drie centimeter).

KOP Bovenkop donkerbruin, scherp afgescheiden van zijkop; zwarte lengtestreepjes vanaf halverwege kruin en op achterhoofd. Zijkop witachtig met lichtbruine veertoppen, vaag gebandeerd; oorstreek schuin achter en onder oog donkerder. Kin en keel wit, scherp afgescheiden van teugel en oorstreek.

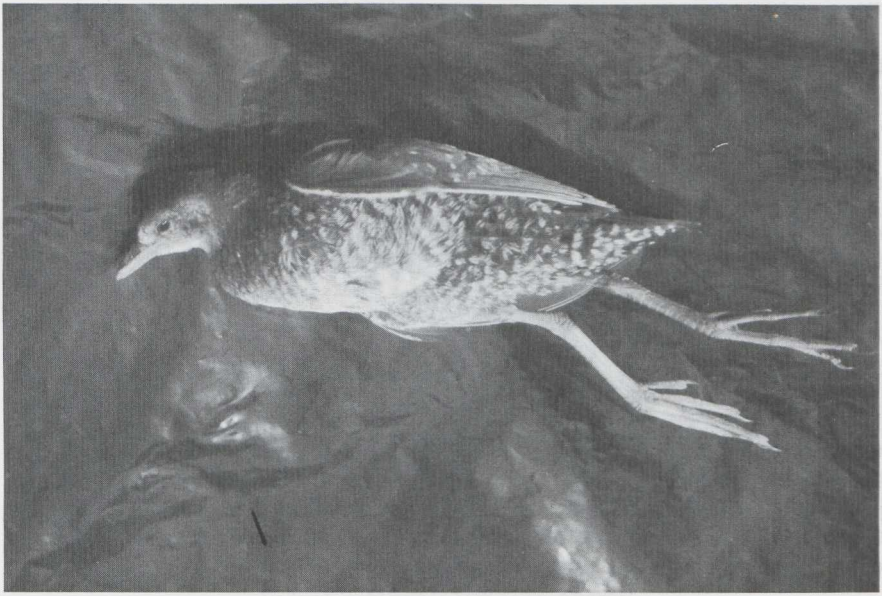
BOVENDELEN Mantel, schouder, rug, stuit en bovenstaartdekveren zachtbruin met rossige zweem, bezet met onregelmatige, met zwart afgezette, witte rondjes en vlekjes.

ONDERDELEN Zijborst zachtbruin, overgaand in fijne bandering van grijs en wit, vervagend naar midden toe; borst scherp afgescheiden van keel. Buik grijswit, langs flank overgaand in bandering. Flank sterk gebandeerd, naar voren toe zachtbruin en wit, naar achteren toe grijszwart en wit; op voorflank witte banden met zwart afgezet. Dij vaag grijs en wit gebandeerd. Anaalstreek en onderstaartdekveren sterk zwart en wit gebandeerd.

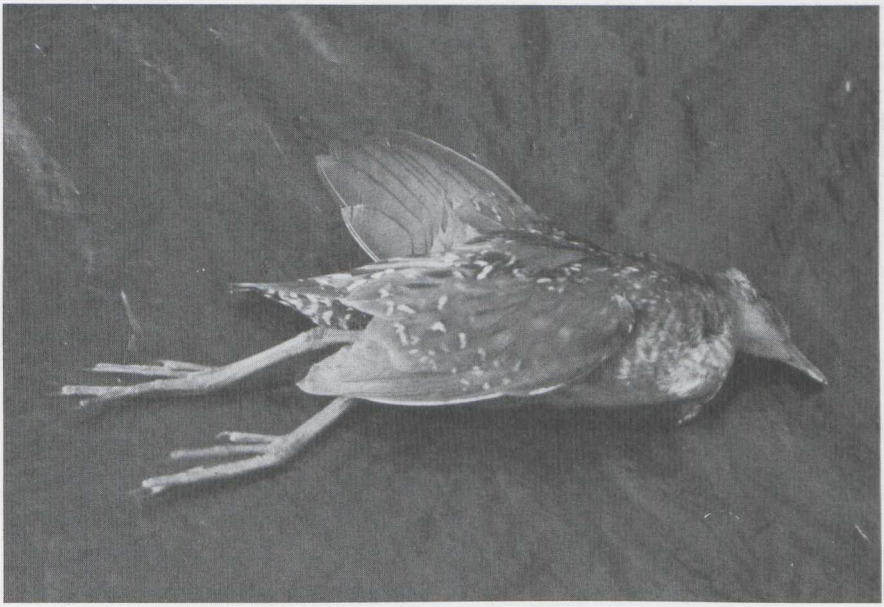
VLEUGEL Handpennen aan bovenzijde vrij donker grijsbruin, aan onderzijde iets lichter; binnenste drie met zeer klein wit vlekje aan uiteinde; buitenste handpen met smalle witte buitenrand. Armpennen iets lichter dan handpennen, alle met zeer klein wit vlekje aan uiteinde, op buitenvlag enkele onregelmatige, met zwart afgezette, witte vlekjes; onderzijde armpennen als handpennen. Tertials zachtbruin met zwarte centra. Grote dekveren zachtbruin, alle met zwart afgezet, wit vlekje aan uiteinde, daarboven onregelmatige, met zwart afgezette, witte vlekjes en streepjes. Middelste dekveren zachtbruin met smalle zwarte centra. Kleine dekveren zachtbruin, alle met basis grijsbruin, langs schacht iets donkerder. Grote handpendekveren vrij donker grijsbruin. Grote onderdekveren grijs als onderzijde slagpennen, met witte veertoppen. Voorrand vleugel met smalle witte lijn.

STAART Bovenzijde zachtbruin, pennen met smal zwart centrum; onderzijde donkerder met zachtbruine randen.

NAAKTE DELEN Iris donkerbruin. Snavel vanaf punt zachtrose, naar basis toe overgaand in licht geelbruin; bovensnavel boven groeve zwartgrijs. Poot vleeskleurig met lichtbruine zweem.



80-81 Kleinst Waterhoen *Porzana pusilla* in juveniel kleed, Harderwijk, Gelderland, augustus 1983 *(Aat Schaftenaar)*.



Dit was het tweede geval van het Kleinst Waterhoen voor Nederland sinds 1979 en het eerste augustusgeval sinds 1970 (CDNA-archief). In 1980 besloot de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna om geluidswaarnemingen van deze soort zonder bandopname niet langer te aanvaarden.

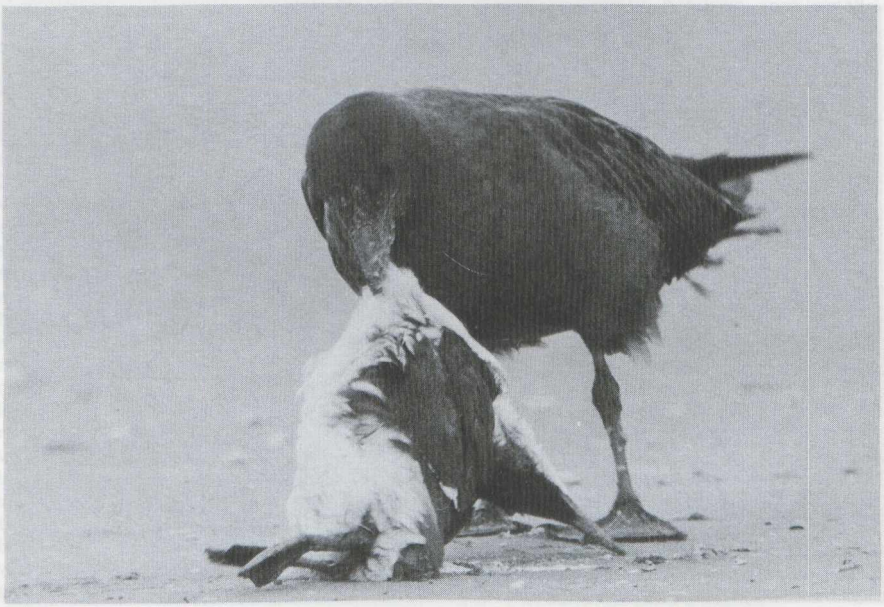
summary

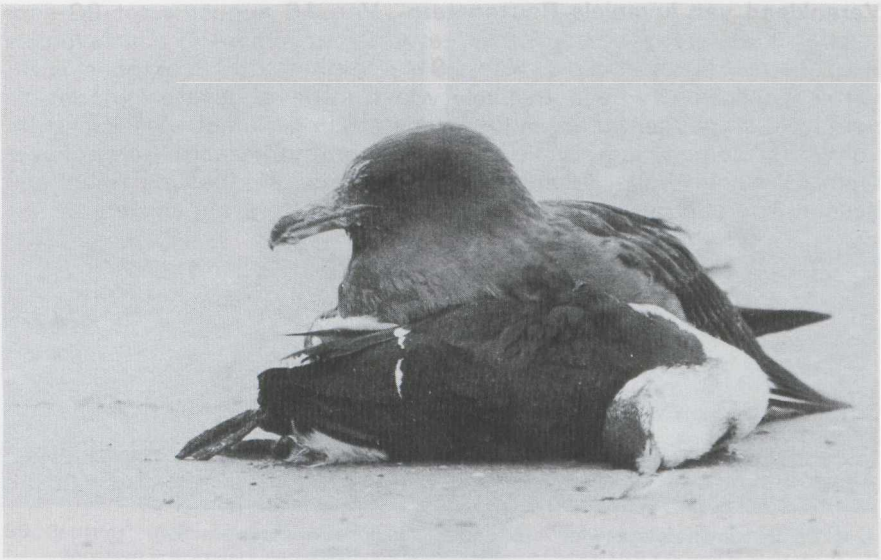
JUVENILE BAILLON'S CRAKE AT HARDERWIJK IN AUGUST 1983 On 19 August 1983, a juvenile Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* was found dead at Harderwijk, Gelderland. A full description is given. It was the second record for the Netherlands since 1979 and the first August record since 1970.

Aat Schaftenaar, Deventerweg 103, 3843 GC Harderwijk

Grote Jager doodt Zeekoet Op 14 september 1983 zagen Arnoud van den Berg, Jaco Diemeer en Jan Mulder op het strand van IJmuiden Nh hoe een juveniele Grote Jager *Stercorarius skua* een Zeekoet *Uria aalge* doodde. De Grote Jager zat naast de verzwakte Zeekoet en pikte meerdere keren in diens nek. Na enige tijd ging de jager staan en met zware snavelhouwen in

82 Grote Jager *Stercorarius skua* in juveniel kleed en Zeekoet *Uria aalge*, IJmuiden, Noordholland, september 1983 *(Jan Mulder)*.





83 Grote Jager *Stercorarius skua* in juveniel kleed en Zeekoet *Uria aalge*, IJmuiden, Noordholland, september 1983 *(Jan Mulder)*.

kop en borst van de Zeekoet wist hij deze na *c* 10 minuten te doden. Hij ging daarbij zo krachtig tekeer dat de Zeekoet bijna geheel van de grond werd getild. Na een half uur afwisselend eten en rusten vloog de Grote Jager op en probeerde een andere Zeekoet aan te vallen. Deze poging mislukte door tussenkomst van een wandelaar.
In de broedgebieden is predatie van vogels door Grote Jagers gewoon (cf Andersson 1976, Furness 1979). Buiten de broedtijd gebeurt dit minder vaak (cf van Klinken-de Boer & Swaan 1984, Norman 1983).

summary

GREAT SKUA KILLING GUILLEMOT The killing of a Guillemot *Uria aalge* by a juvenile Great Skua *Stercorarius skua* at IJmuiden, Noordholland, on 14 September 1983, is described.

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Jan Mulder, Verlengde Koepellaan 9a, 2061 VD Bloemendaal

Verenkleed van juveniele Reuzenstern Van 16 augustus tot 23 september 1983 verbleef aan het Weerwater te Almere Fl een juveniele Reuzenstern *Sterna caspia.* Van 29 september tot 18 oktober 1983 verbleef hier een tweede juveniele vogel. In beide gevallen werden ze vergezeld en gevoerd door een Reuzenstern in definitief wisselkleed (= volwassen zomerkleed). De vogels werden gefotografeerd. Aangezien er weinig bekend is over juveniele Reuzensterns, leek het me zinvol een beschrijving van deze vogels te geven en de foto's te publiceren.

84 Reuzenstern *Sterna caspia* in juveniel kleed, Almere, Flevoland, oktober 1983 *(Karel A Mauer).*

VERENKLEED Kopkap tot aan mondhoek reikend en vrijwel gehele oorstreek bedekkend, uitgebreider dan bij beide exemplaren in definitief wisselkleed; kopkap zwart, kleur ongeveer als bij definitief wisselkleed. Bovendelen eerste vogel geprononceerd getekend met duidelijke donkere subterminale zomen aan mantel-, schouder- en dekveren. Centra grote dekveren en tertials donker, subterminale zomen donkerder. Bovendelen tweede vogel bleker, op grote afstand licht kaneelkleurig, van nabij door licht gezoomde veren iets minder egaal dan bij definitief wisselkleed. Mantelveren grenzend aan nek met donkere zoom, op afstand donkere vlek vormend. In zit tertials en binnenste grote dekveren donkere partij op bovendelen vormend. Onderzijde handpennen iets lichter dan bij definitief wisselkleed. In vlucht vrij donkere armpennen met lichte zoom zichtbaar. Geen donkere vleugelboeg. Staart met onduidelijk begrensde eindband.

NAAKTE DELEN Snavel- en pootkleur als van vogels in definitief wisselkleed.

85 Reuzenstern *Sterna caspia* in definitief wisselkleed (= volwassen zomerkleed). **86** Reuzenstern in juveniel kleed, Almere, Flevoland, september 1983 *(Karel A Mauer).*

Het tweede exemplaar kon op grote afstand *(c* 300m bij een vergroting van 16x) slechts met moeite worden onderscheiden van het exemplaar in definitief wisselkleed. De vrij donkere, licht gezoomde armpennen die in de vlucht zichtbaar waren, vormden het meest bruikbare leeftijdskenmerk.

summary

PLUMAGE OF JUVENILE CASPIAN TERN Two juvenile Caspian Terns *Sterna caspia* were present at Almere, Flevoland, from 16 August to 18 October 1983. A description is given.

Karel A Mauer, Hengelostraat 85, 1324 GV Almere-Stad

Aerial food-pass by Eagle Owl On 22 July 1982, at sunset, Dirk Vercammen and I observed a juvenile Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* in the Alpilles, Bouches-du-Rhône, France. It was perched upon a rock and was calling frequently. The calls were answered by other Eagle Owls. Suddenly two individuals, presumably the parents, came flying into sight, one of them carrying prey in its talons. At that moment, the juvenile took off and, at a few metres height, turned over on its back, taking the food with its claws. I have not found any reference to this kind of food-pass by Eagle Owls.

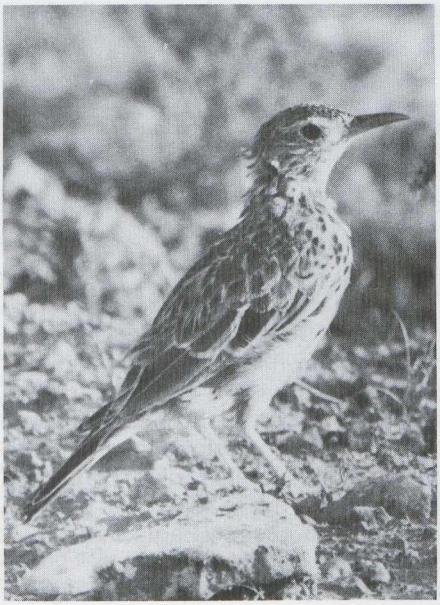
Tom Bogaerts, Essenhoutstraat 19, 2080 Kapellen, Belgium

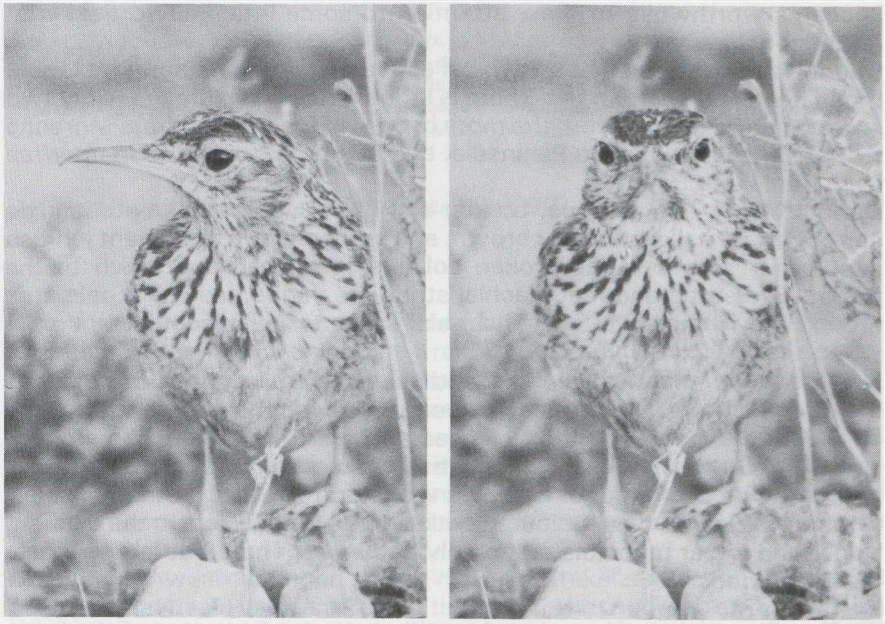
Field identification of Dupont's Lark The rare Dupont's Lark *Chersophilus duponti* breeds in northern Africa, in a narrow range from the Tafilalet region and Middle Atlas in Morocco to Salûm and Marsa Matrûh in north-western Egypt (Etchécopar & Hüe 1964, Heim de Balsac & Mayaud 1962). It also breeds in Europe *(contra* Harrison 1982). Recently, small relict populations were discovered in the Iberian Peninsula (Aragüés & Herranz 1983, Suárez *et al* 1982). The bird occurs mainly in arid scrub, and *Artemisia* and grass steppes.

Dupont's Lark is one of the least known of western Palearctic species. This is not surprising. It is a crepuscular bird with very secretive habits. Dupont's is exceedingly skulking and it can run fast. It keeps close to cover, especially when disturbed, and is hard to flush. It is very difficult to obtain a view of the bird in the open. The best way to locate Dupont's is to listen for its characteristic song which is delivered over the territory at night.

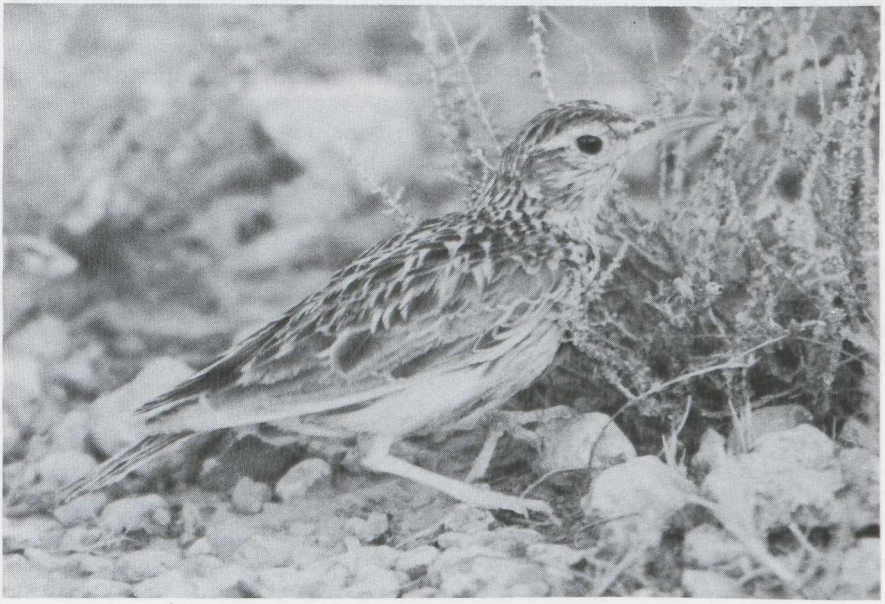
At first sight, Dupont's Lark can be confused with juvenile Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* and several other larks (even with Hoopoe Lark *Alaemon alaudipes* as, for instance, demonstrated in *Birds of the World* 6: 1793, 1970). With the bill quite similar in length and proportions, Dupont's resembles some Maghreb subspecies of Crested Lark *Galerida cristata,* noticeable *G c macrorhyncha,* especially during the (complete) summer moult when lacking a crest. Because of these potential pitfalls,

87-88 Dupont's Lark *Chersophilus duponti,* Spain, July 1983 *(Arnoud B van den Berg).*





89-91 Dupont's Lark *Chersophilus duponti*, Spain, July 1983 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*.



is seems worthwhile to draw attention to some little-known field characters of Dupont's.

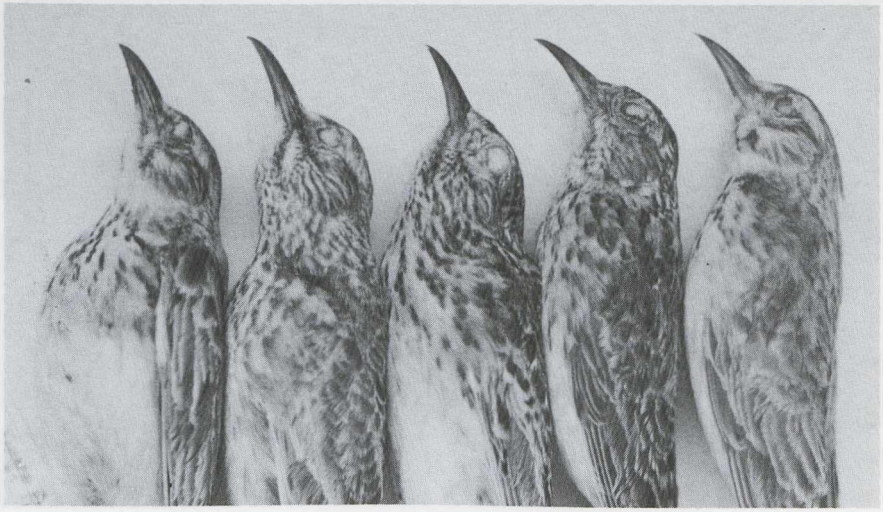
Dupont's Lark often shows a typical appearance with its upright stance, broad head and shortish tail. There is little variation in plumage. Only two subspecies are recognized: the more brownish *C d duponti* from Morocco to Tunisia and the Iberian Peninsula, and the more rufous *C d margaritae* from Tunisia to Egypt.

Dupont's Lark has a vague, broken and narrow pale crown-stripe. The ear-coverts are slightly richer brown, and bordered by a prominent whitish supercilium and a vague broken collar around the nape down to the throat. Eye-stripe and moustachial stripe are vague, leaving a pale area around the whitish eye-ring. The malar stripe is conspicuous, especially when seen in front.

In *C d duponti,* mantle, scapulars and back show prominent white edges and fringes to the blackish feather-centres, giving the upperparts a more contrasting appearance then in Crested Lark. The throat shows dark speckles. On the breast, distinct streaks are sharply demarcated on a buffish-white background. It shows white on the outer rectrices.

The long bill is pale flesh-coloured with a greyish suffusion on the culmen. Upper and lower mandible are evenly decurved. The stout legs are pale flesh-coloured.

92 Three Dupont's Larks *Chersophilus duponti* flanked by two Crested Larks *Galerida cristata,* British Museum (Natural History), Tring, England, September 1982 *(Arnoud B van den Berg;* taken and reproduced with permission of Trustees of British Museum). From left to right: *G c macrorhyncha,* Algeria, March 1931; *C d duponti,* Algeria, February 1931; *C d duponti,* Algeria, October 1937; *C d margaritae,* Egypt, January 1920; and *G c macrorhyncha,* Tunisia, April 1925.



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Voorkomen van Krekelzanger in Nederland Tot en met 1983 werden in Nederland negen gevallen van de Krekelzanger *Locustella fluviatilis* vastgesteld. De laatste zes gevallen (waarvan vier sinds 1976) hadden betrekking op zingende vogels. De waarnemingen van zingende exemplaren kwamen voornamelijk uit het oosten van het land en dateerden alle uit de tweede helft van mei en de eerste helft van juni. De vogels werden gedurende twee tot 16 dagen gehoord. Een broedgeval kon in geen enkel geval worden aangetoond, mogelijk deels door de zeer verborgen leefwijze van deze vaak 's nachts zingende soort.

De recente waarnemingen van zingende Krekelzangers in Nederland passen in het beeld van een areaaluitbreiding in het noorden en midden van Europa. Deze uitbreiding werd reeds in 1920 ten westen van de Oder, DDR, gesignaleerd (van Hileghem 1963). In oostelijk Nedersaksen, BRD, werden in 1958-79 alleen al in het stroomgebied van Aller en Ur 64 zingende vogels gevonden (Ringleben 1983). Het eerste broedgeval werd in 1982 bij Hildesheim aangetoond (Becker 1983). In Denemarken is een toename te zien van jaarlijks een of twee naar vier zingende vogels in 1979 en 1980 (Pedersen 1982). In Zweden wordt de Krekelzanger sinds 1950 aangetroffen. Het aantal zingende vogels nam toe van een 10-tal rond 1970 tot 81 in 1980, 97 in 1981 en 103 in 1982 (Risberg 1981-83). In Noorwegen waren tot 1980 zes gevallen bekend waarvan vier sinds 1973 (Geoffrey Acklam *in litt).*

Meer naar het westen zijn zingende Krekelzangers (nog) zeldzaam. In België verbleef van 13 juni tot 15 juli 1962 een zingende vogel te Olen A (Franckx & Leemans 1962). In Westfalen, BRD, waren tot 1982 vijf gevallen van zingende vogels bekend (Andreas Helbig *in litt).* In Groot-Brittannië werd voor het eerst een zingende Krekelzanger waargenomen van 29 mei tot 6 juni 1981 in Norfolk (Pratley 1984).

summary

OCCURRENCE OF RIVER WARBLER IN THE NETHERLANDS Up to and including 1983, there have been nine records of River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis* for the Netherlands. The six most recent ones involved birds in song, all in the second half of May and the first half of June. Four of these occurred since 1976. This coincides with the recent increase of singing birds in Denmark, northern GFR and Sweden. A summary of spring occurrences in north-western Europe is given.

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93 Krekelzanger *Locustella fluviatilis,* Midwolda, Groningen, juni 1983 *(Arnoud B van den Berg).*

94 Krekelzanger *Locustella fluviatilis,* Midwolda, Groningen, juni 1983 *(Arnoud B van den Berg).*

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tabel 1 Voorkomen van Krekelzanger *Locustella fluviatilis* **in Nederland tot en met 1983.** Twee gevallen (cf Koridon 1955, Marra *et al* 1969) zijn naar huidige maatstaven onvoldoende beschreven om voor aanvaarding in aanmerking te komen (Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna *in litt)* en zijn niet opgenomen. Laatste zes gevallen betroffen zingende exemplaren.

1924 september 8	Ouddorp Zh	Verwey 1925
1931 augustus 25	Gouda Zh	Eykman 1936
1955 augustus 20-26	Terschelling Fr	Mörzer Bruijns & Rooth 1955
1956 mei 28-30	Nijmegen Gld	ten Kate 1957
1965 juni 5-10	Spijk Zh	Meeth 1966
1976 juni 11-12	Haren Gr	Scharringa & Osieck 1978
1978 mei 23-juni 7	Son en Breughel Nb	Scharringa & Osieck 1980
1981 mei 14-22	Harderbos Fl	Blankert *et al* 1981, Hazevoet 1983
1983 juni 4-17	Midwolda Gr	E Boerma, C Bouwer & H J Wight *pers med*

brieven

Alleged winter record of Baird's Sandpiper for the Netherlands I do not agree with Wassink (1983), casting doubt on the identification of a Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* in the Netherlands in January 1977 (van IJzendoorn 1982b).
My critisism on his remarks can be detailed as follows. *1* As the bird is photographed in winter, the elongated appearance may have been reduced by feather rising to prevent heat loss. *2* Wassink's statement that it seems as if the wings are not longer than the tail suggests visibility of the tail which is certainly not the case in the photograph. *3* In the photograph the bird does not show a breast-band. Although a breast-band is typical for Baird's in all plumages (Prater *et al* 1977), variation may occur (cf van IJzendoorn 1982a), and *4* to me it seems hard to judge shape and size of the bill the way Wassink does.
The photograph was not meant to be evidence for identification but merely to illustrate van IJzendoorn's note. Identification based on this plate only seems indeed inadvisable but to my opinion it favours Baird's Sandpiper more than Wassink wants us to believe.

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– 1982b Wintergeval van Bairds Strandloper voor Nederland. *Dutch Birding* 4: 87-88.

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Karel A Mauer, Hengelostraat 85, 1324 GV Almere-Stad

Separation of Richard's and Tawny Pipit Grant (1983) pointed out differences in structure and plumages between Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* and Tawny Pipit *A campestris*. After studying skins at the Zoological Museum at Copenhagen, Denmark, and several photographs, we are of the opinion that a number of the characters separating Richard's and Tawny Pipit mentioned by Grant are not consistent.
Although most Richard's Pipits showed a somewhat warmer coloration than Tawny Pipit, several specimens of juvenile Tawny showed breast, flanks and undertail-coverts as pale rufous as in Richard's. Most specimens and photographs of Tawny showed pale ear-coverts contrasting with a dark eye-stripe behind the eye. Therefore, the solid dark ear-coverts of juvenile Tawny should not be considered a constant feature. Moreover, Tawny may show a broader and Richard's a narrower eye-ring than the

birds depicted in Grant. Finally, the dark loral eye-stripe of Tawny appeared to be one of its most consistent features. Some Richard's, however, had a darker (greyer) loral eye-stripe than is showed by the two individuals depicted in Grant but no Richard's had such a clear blackish loral streak as Tawny Pipit.

reference

GRANT, P J 1983 Mystery photograph 11: Richard's Pipit. *Dutch Birding* 5: 67-69.

Steen Christensen, Møllegade 23A, 2200 København V, Denmark
Klaus Malling Olsen, Harsdorffsvej 1A, 1874 København V, Denmark

Peter Grant *in litt* has commented as follows: 'This is useful cautionary comment. As with all similar pairs or groups of difficult species, it is often the case that there are no 'black-and-white' differences and identifications must be based on a weighted appraisal of all the features'. Editors.

dba-nieuws

Vogelen op Terschelling in september-oktober 1984 Van vrijdag 28 september tot en met vrijdag 12 oktober 1984 vinden de twee door de stichting Dutch Birding Association georganiseerde vogelweken op Terschelling Fr plaats (cf *Dutch Birding* 5: 110, 1983). Er zijn voor de gehele periode vijf appartementen in Oosterend gehuurd. De deelnamekosten per persoon bedragen voor één week *f* 75 en voor twee weken *f* 150. Het is ook mogelijk om een kortere periode deel te nemen; de kosten bedragen dan *f* 12 per dag. Er zijn in totaal 28 slaapplaatsen en tijdens de weekeinden kunnen slechts 10 extra personen (twee per appartement) worden ondergebracht. Het is dus zaak vroeg te reserveren! Het ligt in de bedoeling om tijdens het weekeinde van 6 en 7 oktober lezingen te organiseren. Deelname aan de vogelweken staat alleen open voor DBA-begunstigers. Geïnteresseerden dienen zo spoedig mogelijk schriftelijk of telefonisch contact op te nemen met Peter de Knijff (Stichting Dutch Birding Association, Postbus 473, 2400 Alphen aan den Rijn, 01720-92186).

varia

Beginning birders identifying rarities 'Virtually every beginning birder 'identifies' rarities during his birding youth. If not verified by experienced observers at the timè, most of us, in later years, come to question such records, especially if supported only by memory or by the usual embryonic note-taking system. Even if we still count such birds on our personal lists, we rarely feel secure enough in our early judgment to report the sightings to a group like the CBRC [= California Bird Records Committee]. When a beginner sees a rarity, he should *immediately* notify the closest and most experienced birder available, as well as any others he knows. If confirmed, such a record will enhance the beginner's reputation, result in meeting new friends (who come to see the bird), and alleviate the possibility of having question the record in later years' (L C Binford 1983 Sixth report of the California Bird Records Committee. *Western Birds* 14: 127-145).

aankondigingen

Checklist of Faroese birds In 1984 the *Checklist of Faroese birds* by Dorete Bloch & Søren Sørensen has been published by Føroya Skúlabókagrunnur at Tórshavn. The price is Dkr 64.00 (excluding postage). The text is in Faroese and English. A copy of the 84-page checklist can be ordered from Dorete Bloch (Føroya Náttúrugripasavn, Debesartrød, 3800 Tórshavn, Faroe Islands).

Club 300 Anyone who has (or claims to have) identified 300 or more bird species in *Sweden*, is welcome to join the recently founded 'Club 300'. He or she can apply for membership by sending his or her Swedish lifelist (based on the 1978 edition of *Sveriges fåglar*) to the club's secretary, Erik Hirschfeld (Kristianstadsgatan 13, 214 23 Malmö, Sweden). The annual fee is Skr 30.00. The club has started to organize various activities for its members (including bird races like the 'Rally 300' which started on 1 January 1984). Also, meetings are being planned. These will be held twice a year at good birding spots. Apart from field trips, the programme will offer talks and slide shows (mainly on identification). Another activity is the set up of a Travel Reports Centre where photocopies of filed reports of foreign bird trips can be borrowed on payment. Hopefully, many Swedish birders will join Club 300. Every effort to make birding more enjoyable should be welcomed!

De laatste wulp In 1984 is onder de titel *De laatste wulp* de door A R Kaal verzorgde vertaling verschenen van *Last of the curlews* door C Fred Bodsworth (waarvan de eerste druk in 1954 gepubliceerd werd). Het boekje met veel fraaie tekeningen door T M Shortt bevat een lezenswaardig en spannend verhaal over de ondergang van de Eskimowulp *Numenius borealis*. De auteur kruipt als het ware in de huid van de vogel en beschrijft op indringende wijze de trek van zijn broedgebied in arctisch Noord-Amerika naar het overwinteringsgebied in Zuid-Amerika dat tot in Patagonië reikt. De lezer wordt deelgenoot gemaakt van de vele gevaren waaraan deze eens zo algemene 'Prairieduif' blootstaat. De Nederlandse vertaling bevat een door E M Binsbergen samengesteld overzicht van de verspreiding en trekroutes van de acht op de wereld voorkomende wulpesoorten. Hierin staat vermeld dat in het noorden van Canada nog zo'n 30 Eskimowulpen zouden broeden! Deze 119 pagina's tellende paperback (12 x 22 cm) kost *f* 18,50 en kan direct besteld worden bij de uitgever: Kaal Boek, Nieuwe Herengracht 61, 1011 RP Amsterdam, 020-262908. De uitgave (met ISBN-nummer 90-9000630-3) is ook verkrijgbaar bij het Instituut voor Natuurbeschermingseducatie en een aantal groene boekwinkels.

WingTips The new American bird journal *WingTips* wants to help provide a bridge between amateurs and professionals, bringing information to amateurs of discoveries in ornithology and the needs of others. The first issue was published in the spring of 1984. It is well-produced and informative. Much space is devoted to the recent publication of the sixth edition of the American Ornithologists' Union's *Check-list of North American birds*. The quarterly *WingTips* is published by Bluestone Publishing. Its publishers and editor is Helen S Lapham (PO Box 226, Lansing, New York 14882, USA). The annual subscription price is US $10.00; subscribers outside the USA should add $2.00 for postage. Send subscriptions and all other communications to the above address. Make cheques out to *WingTips*. Subscribers to *Dutch Birding* can receive a free copy by sending *WingTips* their name and address.

verzoeken

Birds in Huesca A group of Dutch and Spanish birders is collecting all available information on the distribution and occurrence of birds in the province of Huesca in northern Spain during 1976-85. All records, no matter how fragmentary, are welcome. Please acknowledge that you have such information by contacting Maarten Platteeuw (Jan van Scorelpark 57, 1871 EZ Schoorl, 02209-2450) *or* Kees Woutersen (Dr Schaepmanstraat 3, 1814 RC Alkmaar, 072-116967). A questionnaire (plus additional information on the project) will then be sent.

Zeldzame vogels in Oost-Afrika Om een zo compleet mogelijk beeld te krijgen van het voorkomen van zeldzame vogels in Oost-Afrika (Kenia, Oeganda en Tanzania), wordt men verzocht alle waarnemingen en vondsten op te sturen naar David Pearson (Department of Biochemistry, University of Nairboi, PO Box 30197, Nairobi, Kenia) *of* naar Don Turner (PO Box 48019, Nairobi, Kenia). Ze dienen van een zo volledig mogelijk beschrijving voorzien te zijn terwijl eventueel gemaakte foto's en geluidsopnamen uiteraard ook welkom zijn. Alle gevallen worden ter beoordeling voorgelegd aan de East African Rarities Committee. Deze onlangs in het leven geroepen commissie bestaat uit personen die in verschillende Oostafrikaanse en Europese landen woonachtig zijn. Alle aanvaarde waarnemingen en vondsten worden opgenomen in het jaarlijks in *Scopus* verschijnende East African Bird Report.

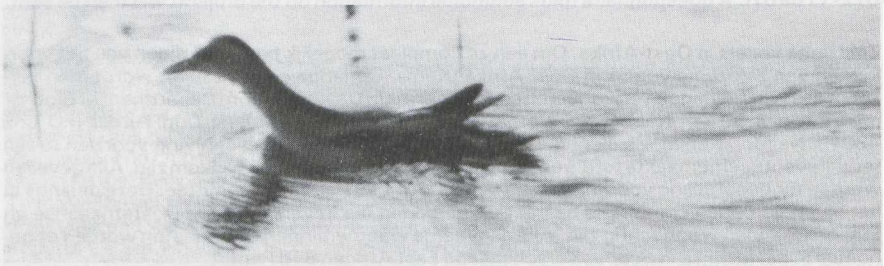
Photographs of divers For a paper on the identification of divers *Gavia* (to be published in *Vår Fågelvärld*), Toralf Tysse (Sundtgårdsvei 7, 4000 Stavanger, Norway) needs photographs of Red-throated *G stellata*, Black-throated *G arctica*, Great Northern *G immer* and White-billed Diver *G adamsii*. In particular, photographs of juvenile, predefinitive (= immature) and definitive basic (= adult winter) and of flying birds are welcome. Please indicate whether the photographs should be returned or not (and if so when).

Lesser White-fronted Geese with colour rings The Fennoscandian breeding population of Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* has dramatically declined. Probably, it now comprises less than 500 individuals. Unfortunately, little is known about the factors which have led to the drastic decrease. In 1981, the Swedish Sportmen's Association has started a project to help restore the population. The project is supported by the World Wildlife Fund. The scheme involves the release of goslings in suitable breeding habitat in Lapland for a number of consecutive years. Semi-wild Barnacle Geese *Branta leucopsis* are being used as foster parents and 'teachers'. These birds belong to the free-flying populations which are kept at the Skansen zoological park at Stockholm and the Öster-Malma Wildlife Management School at Björnlunda. It is expected that the young Lesser White-fronteds will follow the foster parents to their wintering areas (mainly situated in the Netherlands as shown by ringing data) but that they return to Lapland (where they have learnt to fly) during the next spring. All Lesser White-fronted goslings are marked with a numbered aluminium ring and three coloured PVC rings; the Barnacles are wearing three differently coloured rings. It is hoped that anyone who sees a colour ringed Lesser White-fronted, will report this to the Swedish Sportmen's Association, c/o Lambart von Essen (Öster-Malma, 150 11 Björnlunda, Sweden).

Photographs of turtle doves For a paper on the identification of turtle doves *Streptopelia* (to be published in *Vår Fågelvärld*), Erik Hirschfeld (Kristianstadsgatan 13, 214 23 Malmö, Sweden) needs photographs of Turtle *S turtur* and Rufous Turtle Dove *S orientalis*. In particular, photographs of juvenile and aberrant birds are welcome. Please indicate whether the photographs should be returned or not (and if so when). EH is also interested in receiving the details of all records of Rufous Turtle Dove in Europe.

recente meldingen

Dit overzicht van recente meldingen van zeldzame en interessante vogels in Nederland en Vlaanderen beslaat hoofdzakelijk de maanden *april, mei* en *juni 1984*. De vermelde waarnemingen en gevallen zijn merendeels niet geverifieerd en het overzicht is niet volledig. De Nederlandse en wetenschappelijke namen en hun volgorde komen overeen met de 'Naamlijst van in België en Nederland waargenomen of vastgestelde vogelsoorten en hun ondersoorten' *(Wielewaal* 47: 363-376, 1981).



95 Klein Waterhoen *Porzana parva,* mannetje in definitief (= volwassen) kleed, Vlietland, Zuidholland, april 1984 *(Karel Hoogteyling).*

DUIKERS TOT VALKEN De **IJsduiker** *Gavia immer* van Dodewaard Gld, een vogel in eerste basiskleed (= eerste winterkleed), bleef tot tenminste 2 juni. Tijdens noordwesterstorm werden op 23 juni te Camperduin Nh maar liefst *c* 165 **Noordse Pijlstormvogels** *Puffinus puffinus* geteld. Dit was waarschijnlijk een recordaantal voor de maand juni. Op 12 mei zat op de Maasvlakte Zh een jonge **Kuifaalscholver** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Te Lier A bleven tot 4 juni vier exemplaren (waaronder de twee geringde) en ook te Duffel A werden in mei nog Kuifaalscholvers (zes à zeven) waargenomen. Op 7 juni werd een **Kwak** *Nycticorax nycticorax* gezien in Amsterdam Nh en op 9 juni een in Flevoland. Bovendien was er op 21 mei een melding te Eernewoude Fr. Een **Ralreiger** *Ardeola ralloides* vertoonde zich op 21 juni in de Oostvaardersplassen Fl en vanaf 23 juni foerageerde er een in de uiterwaarden van het Zwarte Water O (tussen Hasselt en Zwartsluis). De **Koereiger** *Bubulcus ibis* van Marken-Binnen Nh werd onder andere op 15 mei en 5 juni weer waargenomen. Op diverse plaatsen werden **Kleine Zilverreigers** *Egretta garzetta* gezien. Zo waren er meldingen bij Antwerpen A (minstens twee), te Diksmuide Wvl, in Flevoland (drie), te Kalmthout A, te Lier en bij Makkum Fr. Gedurende de gehele periode verbleven in de Oostvaardersplassen twee **Grote Zilverreigers** *E alba* terwijl op 12 april een waargenomen werd in de Canisvliet bij Sas van Gent Z (mogelijk de vogel die tot 1 maart op Walcheren Z verbleef). Overtrekkende **Zwarte Ooievaars** *Ciconia nigra* werden gemeld op 3 mei te Wijchen Gld, op 4 mei te Dendermonde Wvl (twee), op 17 mei te Assenede Ovl, op 20 mei te Bergen Nh, Helchteren BL en Rips Nb (twee) en op 31 mei te Ankeveen Nh. Een **Roodhalsgans** *Branta ruficollis* zat op 10 april in de Wilhelminapolder bij Goes Z; de vogel van Wieringen Nh werd op die dag ook nog waargenomen. Op Texel Nh verbleef tot 5 juni een Roodhals tussen de Rotganzen *B bernicla*. Van 18 tot 23 maart werd in de Canisvliet bij Sas van Gent een mannetje **Ringsnaveleend** *Aythya collaris* waargenomen en op 5 en 8 april een te Budel-Dorplein Nb. In de Engbertsdijkvenen O was weer een mannetje **Witoogeend** *A nyroca* aanwezig. Dit jaar bleef de vogel echter ongepaard. Op 17-18 juni werd te Nieuwpoort Wvl een mannetje Stellers Eider *Polysticta stelleri* waargenomen. Dit was het tweede geval voor België (en het eerste van een mannetje). In april en mei bereikten ons 11

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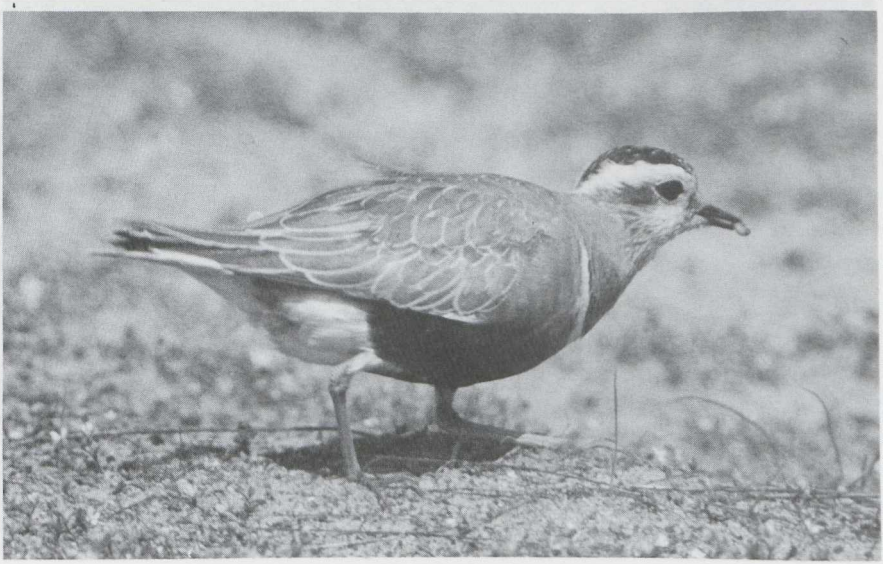
meldingen van de **Zwarte Wouw** *Milvus migrans*. Er werden 10-tallen **Rode Wouwen** *M milvus* gezien. In Twente O viel weer een vergiftigingsgeval te betreuren. De vogel bleek nog te redden en kon na drie weken verzorging weer worden vrijgelaten. Zeer laat was de waarneming van een jonge **Zeearend** *Haliaeetus albicilla* op 24 mei in de Oostvaardersplassen. Opmerkelijk was de melding van een overvliegende **Steppearend** *Aquila rapax (= A nipalensis)* te Denekamp O op 5 mei. Er waren meldingen van **Roodpootvalken** *Falco vespertinus* op 27-28 en 30 april en op 30 mei in Flevoland, op 4 mei te Aarlanderveen Zh, op 22 mei te IJsselmuiden O en op 27 mei op de Strabrechtse Heide Nb (twee).

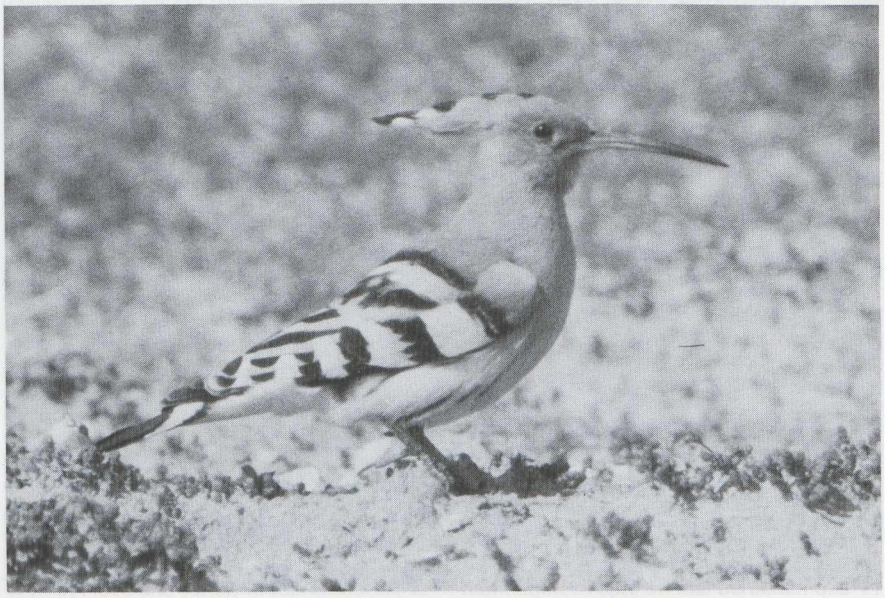
RALLEN TOT ALKEN. Op 27 april werd in Vlietland bij Leidschendam Zh een mannetje **Klein Waterhoen** *Porzana parva* geobserveerd en gefotografeerd. De **Kraanvogel** *Grus grus* van Hoek van Holland Zh bleef tot 7 april. Verder waren er Kranen op 29 april te Bakkeveen Fr (drie à vier), van 13 tot 16 mei op Texel (twee), vanaf half mei bij Sint Maartenszee Nh, op 22-23 mei in Friesland (twee), op 31 mei op Vlieland Fr (twee) en op 8 juni in de Haarlemmermeer (eveneens twee). In Zuidelijk Flevoland werd op 3 en 13 mei een vliegende **Grote Trap** *Otis tarda* gezien, beide keren streek de vogel neer in een koolzaadveld. In mei werden groepjes **Morinelplevieren** *Charadrius morinellus* gemeld te Eemshaven Gr, op de Maasvlakte, in de Wieringermeer Nh en in Zuidelijk Flevoland (maximaal 35). Een **Steppekievit** *Chettusia gregaria* pleisterde van 6 april tot 1 mei bij America L. Van 10 tot 15 juni verbleef in het Amsterdamsche Veld bij Klazienaveen D een **Witstaartkievit** *C leucura*. Dit was het tweede geval voor Nederland; het eerste was van 9 tot 13 juli 1975 op Texel. Een **Amerikaanse Gestreepte Strandloper** *Calidris melanotos* werd op 15 mei waargenomen in Het Zwin Wvl. Op 11-12 mei werd langs de Knardijk in de Oostvaardersplassen een **Breedbekstrandloper** *Limicola falcinellus* waargenomen. Op 13 mei volgde een sensatie toen gewaarschuwde vogelaars maar liefst acht Breedbekken aantroffen. Op 27 mei werd een Breedbek bij Antwerpen gezien. Er waren **Poelruiters** *Tringa stagnatilis* te Spaarnwoude Nh van 26 april tot 1 mei, bij Zeebrugge Wvl op 28 april (twee), te Veurne Wvl op 29 april, bij Antwerpen op 9 mei, te Eemshaven op 14-15 mei (een) en 16 mei (twee) en weer bij Antwerpen op 24

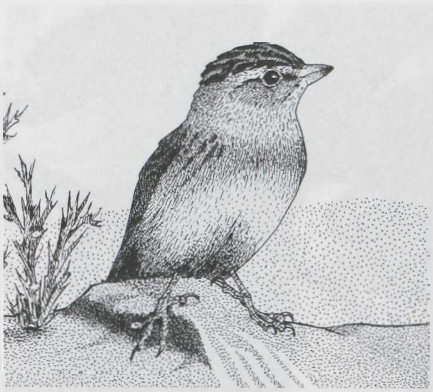
96 Morinelplevier *Charadrius morinellus*, Maasvlakte, Zuidholland, mei 1984 *(René Pop)*.



juni. Interessant was het broedgeval van een paartje **Zwartkopmeeuw** x **Stormmeeuw** *Larus melanocephalus* x *L canus* op de Maasvlakte. Het legsel van vier eieren werd echter na twee weken verlaten. Gedurende de gehele periode verbleef een **Geelpootmeeuw** *L cachinnans* op de Maasvlakte. Verder werden op 24 juni nog exemplaren gezien in De Kennemerduinen Nh en te Ritthem Z (twee). Late **Kleine Burgemeesters** *L glaucoides* waren er van 8 tot 20 april te IJmuiden Nh, op 1 mei te Zeebrugge en op 14 mei te Scheveningen Zh. Op 28 april werden te Makkum Fr twee **Reuzensterns** *Sterna caspia* waargenomen. In Het Zwin broedde voor het negende achtereenvolgende jaar een **Dougalls Stern** *S dougallii* met een Visdief *S hirundo*. Er werd een jong grootgebracht. Op 27 mei foerageerde een **Witwangstern** *Chlidonias hybridus* boven Het Malesbroek bij Geel A. Verder waren er exemplaren op 3 juni te Lier en op 16-17 juni bij Antwerpen (respectievelijk een en drie). **Witvleugelsterns** *C leucopterus* werden gemeld op 26 en 30 april te Zeebrugge (respectievelijk twee en een), op 30 april bij Antwerpen en op 27 mei in de Lauwersmeer.

97 Hop *Upupa epops*, IJmuiden, Noordholland, mei 1984 *(Jan van Laar)*. **98** Hop, Maasvlakte, Zuidholland, mei 1984 *(René Pop)*.





FIGUUR 1 kortteenleeuwerik *Calandrella*, Antwerpen A, juni 1984 *(Gerald Driessens)*.

99 Roodkopklauwier *Lanius senator*, mannetje in definitief wisselkleed (= volwassen zomerkleed), Texel, Noordholland, juni 1984 *(René Pop)*.

GIERZWALUWEN TOT GORZEN Een **Alpengierzwaluw** *Apus melba* vloog op 16 april over de Diefdijk bij Schoonrewoerd Zh en op 31 mei was er een melding bij Antwerpen. Er werden grote groepen **Bijeneters** *Merops apiaster* waargenomen: op 11 juni een van 12 te Serooskerke op Walcheren en in de derde week van juni een van 16 te Den Helder Nh. Op 20 juni werd ook een Bijeneter gezien te Oegstgeest Zh. Tussen 15 april en 31 mei werden 22+ **Hoppen** *Upupa epops* waargenomen. In de eerste helft van mei werd in het Limbrechter Bosch L een **Grijskopspecht** *Picus canus* gemeld. Op 31 mei en 1 juni werd bij Antwerpen een **kortteenleeuwerik** *Calandrella* waargenomen. Over dit geval zal in *De Wielewaal* een nota verschijnen. Een **Roodstuitzwaluw** *Hirundo daurica* werd op 29 april gezien te Kortrijk Wvl. Dit was het eerste geval voor Vlaanderen en het tweede

100 Rose Spreeuw *Sturnus roseus* in definitief (= volwassen) kleed, Texel, Noordholland, juni 1984 *(René Pop)*.

101 Witbandkruisbek *Loxia leucoptera* mannetje in definitief (= volwassen) kleed, Ansen, Drenthe, mei 1984 *(René Pop)*.

voor België. Er werden **Roodkeelpiepers** *Anthus cervinus* opgemerkt bij Antwerpen op 8 april, te Lier van 6 tot 9 mei, bij het Lutterzand O op 8 mei (twee), te Eijsden L op 11 mei, te Eemshaven op 18 en 20 mei en bij Huizen Nh op 26 mei. Een **Middeneuropese Waterspreeuw** *Cinclus cinclus aquaticus* werd op 16 april gezien tussen Herkenbosch en Melick L. Van 22 mei tot tenminste 2 juni zong een **Noordse Nachtegaal** *Luscinia luscinia* in de Ooypolder Gld. **Roodgesterde Blauwborsten** *L svecica* werden waargenomen te Eemshaven op 19 mei en op Texel op 10 juni. Op 5 mei liet zich bij Huizen een **Waterrietzanger** *Acrocephalus paludicola* bekijken. Voorjaarswaarnemingen van deze skulker blijven een grote zeldzaamheid. Een **Bergfluiter** *Phylloscopus bonelli* zong op 1 mei kortstondig in de Utrechtse wijk Overvecht. Op 22 mei werd te Eemshaven een **Kleine Vliegenvanger** *Ficedula parva* gezien en van 15 juni tot 8 juli zat een mannetje te zingen bij Oldenzaal O. Bovendien verbleef ook weer een zingend mannetje op het landgoed Elswout in de gemeente Bloemendaal Nh. **Buidelmezen** *Remiz pendulinus* doken op diverse plaatsen op. Zo waren er waarnemingen te Balen A op 11 april (drie) en te Groningen Gr op 16 april (twee). Op de Maasvlakte werd op 18 juni een **Kleine Klapekster** *Lanius minor* ontdekt. Ook werden er enkele **Roodkopklauwieren** *L senator* gemeld: van 5 tot 12 juni op Texel, op 11 juni in de Engbertsdijkvenen en op 14 juni te IJmuiden. Op drie plaatsen werden **Rose Spreeuwen** *Sturnus roseus* waargenomen: van 25 mei tot 2 juni op Vlieland, van 26 mei tot 1 juni te Venhuizen Nh en vanaf 3 juni op Texel. Op 29 april werd bij Ansen D een mannetje **Witbandkruisbek** *Loxia leucoptera* ontdekt. Het was soms moeilijk de vogel te vinden waardoor over de verblijfsduur onzekerheid bestaat. Hij is in ieder geval nog op 5 mei gezien. Het is overigens waarschijnlijk dat de Witband reeds geruime tijd in het gebied verbleef. Er waren ook weer meldingen van de **Grote Kruisbek** *L pytyopsittacus* op de Noord-Veluwe Gld: op 18 april een dode en twee levende te Nunspeet en op 10 mei een op het landgoed Welna. Een zingende **Roodmus** *Carpodacus erythrinus* werd op 2-3 juni waargenomen op Texel.

DANKZEGGING Hierbij danken we alle vogelaars die de moeite hebben genomen hun waarnemingen (en die van anderen) aan ons te melden. Zonder hun hulp zou dit overzicht niet zo volledig geweest zijn.

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