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De volgorde van vogels in Dutch Birding volgt in eerste instantie een klassieke 'Wetmore-indeling'. Binnen dit raamwerk worden voor taxonomie en naamgeving de volgende overzichten aangehouden: Zeldzame vogels van Nederland door A B van den Berg & C A W Bosman (2001, Haarlem) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke, Nederlandse en Engelse namen van Nederlandse vogels); Palearctic birds door M Beaman (1994, Stonyhurst) (Engelse namen van overige Palearctische vogels); Vogels van de wereld – complete checklist door M Walters (1997, Baarn) (Nederlandse namen van overige vogels van de wereld); en Birds of the world door C G Sibley (1996, Version 2.0, Cincinnati) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke en Engelse namen van overige vogels van de wereld). Afwijkingen van en aanvullingen op bovenstaande overzichten zijn gebaseerd op beslissingen van de CSNA (cf Dutch Birding 19: 21-28, 1997; 20: 22-32, 1998).

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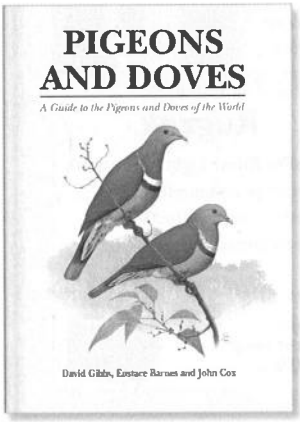


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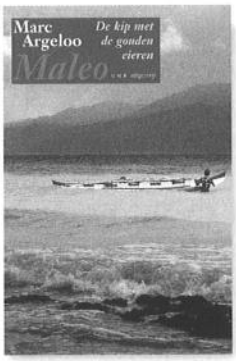


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# Autumn seawatching in Ireland

*Anthony McGeehan*

Ireland's geographical position on the eastern edge of the North Atlantic confers a ringside seat for seawatching. The topography of the west coast is a picturesque mix of promontories, bays and long sandy strands that, in the right configuration, act as a leading line and funnel seabirds close past headlands. So where are the best spots, when is the best time to seawatch and what species can be seen? Let's begin with the last point. Living in Ireland means that I grew up surrounded by Manx Shearwaters *Puffinus puffinus*, European Storm-petrels *Hydrobates pelagicus* and Black Guillemots *Cepphus grylle.* Twenty years ago, the icing on the cake was provided by watching across the entrances to sea-loughs for jaegers during autumn migration or travelling to Cape Clear Island at the south-western extremity of the country and hoping to see rarer seabirds in August, the chief targets being Sooty Shearwater *P griseus*, Balearic Shearwater *P mauretanicus,* Great Shearwater *P gravis,* Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis* and Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*.

Naturally, Cape Clear is still a fantastic place to observe seabird migration but our understanding of what occurs elsewhere has broadened enormously in recent years. Indeed, it is becoming increasingly true to say that enigmatic rarities such as Wilson's Storm-petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* and Fea's Petrel *Pterodroma feae* are equally possible off other headlands. In other words, you make your own luck, no matter where you seawatch. At Cape Clear, seabird passage streams west into the Atlantic and is concentrated close inshore by south-westerly winds. This is the prevailing wind direction throughout Ireland and, when the wind picks up and is accompanied by rain, 1000s of seabirds are deflected closer to the coast and seem to use it as a landmark steering them back into the open ocean. Put simply, the accepted wisdom is that seabirds feeding in or migrating through the South-west Approaches are, as it were, 'caught on the hop' by adverse weather conditions offshore and finish up moving inshore past Cape Clear, bringing a smile to the faces of those lucky birders who happen to have had the foresight to be in exactly the right place at the right time.

Over the last 40 years, a long list of rare seabirds has been recorded from Blannanaragaun, the very tip of Cape Clear, including Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris*, Little Shearwater *P assimilis*, Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*, Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* and about a dozen Fea's Petrels. Intensive coverage undoubtedly biases results, as the stream of birds passing west off Cape Clear would almost certainly also be visible from other nearby headlands along the adjacent Cork mainland – notably at Galley Head to the east and at Mizen Head immediately to the west. Nevertheless, it is hard to compete with Cape Clear's pole position, especially as more pairs of eyes will be concentrated here than elsewhere. Of course, if you want to see sights like 5000 Great Shearwaters passing in a morning then you do have to be very fortunate and one fundamental but frustrating rule is that the best seabird movements are always weather dependent; although at least in Ireland you will not be disappointed if you are happy to watch Manx Shearwaters, auks, Northern Fulmars *Fulmarus glacialis* and Northern Gannets *Morus bassanus*. Incidentally, although common in coastal waters, European Storm-petrels are not 'guaranteed' from land-based seawatch points and it usually takes some wind – and especially rain – to bring them within sight of the coast (see Boat Trips section for information on how to see this species).

In the 1960s, Frank King began seawatching at Brandon Head in Kerry and made some startling discoveries. He detected seabird passage comparable in quality if not quantity to Cape Clear. However, the best results occurred in north-westerly winds, normally a 'dead' wind at Cape Clear. Bit by bit, knowledge of both optimum weather conditions and the best locations has evolved slowly from this time. The combination of a small birdwatcher corps and a preference to stick to successful sites with a proven track record has meant that some of the very best headlands have only been found recently. As ever, mistakes have been made along the way and it is easy, with hindsight, to point out that offshore islands, such as Tory Island off north-western Ireland, are poor for seawatching (because more birds are concentrated along the coast than scattered across the open sea).

Nowadays, most seawatching is timed to co-

incide with westerly or north-westerly winds that follow in the wake of Atlantic depressions. A perfect scenario is a deep area of low pressure tracking in off the Atlantic during August or September and accompanied by strong south-westerly winds and rain. At the outset these conditions are ideal for Cape Clear and neighbouring headlands in Cork, although such weather can make for unpleasant watching conditions. As the front clears eastwards, the emphasis shifts and virtually all of the Irish west coast is then the best place to be. Here, there is the considerable added benefit of drier interludes – even full sun – between squally, clearing showers with magical light on the sea. The wind ought to be onshore and, if blowing from a north-west quadrant, it will be drawing birds from seas west and north of Ireland. A wide cocktail of species, displaced inshore from the north-eastern Atlantic, can be viewed at ranges down to a few 100 m. Often the spectacle is amazing. Sooty Shearwaters outnumber Manx, Leach's Storm-petrels *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* exceed European and all three jaegers *Stercorarius* and Great Skuas *S skua* can be seen in all age classes! Your chances of a rarity are as good on a west coast headland as they are at Cape Clear although large passages of Great and – especially – Cory's Shearwaters are pretty much the prerogative of Cape Clear. Nevertheless, both species can be seen in lesser numbers on good days at the best west coast sites (chiefly, Brandon Head, Bridges of Ross, Kilcummin and Rocky Point).

In summary, south-westerly winds provide optimum conditions for those headlands to the east of Mizen Head in Cork. North of Mizen Head, onshore winds from a westerly or – best of all – north-westerly direction produce top results. Wind strength is also important. Less than force 4 is usually insufficient to generate a busy passage; conversely, a wind strength above force 7 may be too strong and cause birds (especially the smaller species) to settle on the sea and wait for more clement conditions.

**Comments on selected species**

*Fea's Petrel*

All records of 'soft-plumaged petrel' *P feae/madeira/mollis* are presumed to involve Fea's Petrel. Perhaps due to improved seawatching coverage, this former great rarity has become virtually annual off Ireland in the last decade, although very few are actually seen (maximum five in a year). One popular theory is that small numbers disperse north from breeding areas on the Atlantic Islands to feed in the South-west Approaches, thereby explaining the scatter of records from not just south-western Ireland but also south-western England and in the southern Irish Sea. This may well be true. However, in the last five years sightings have come from Irish west coast headlands in north-westerly winds, suggesting that vagrants also originate from further north. Interestingly, in the last four years two have been seen in late summer off eastern Canada and one flew purposefully south 59 km west of Donegal on 18 August 2000 (Dutch Birding 22: 292-293, 2000). Perhaps those noted off the Irish west coast have crossed the Atlantic from west to east? Fea's Petrels are present in late spring along the edge of the Gulf Stream off North Carolina, USA. Although, as ever, small numbers are involved, there seems to be a possibility that some individuals may move north from here in summer and track east to reach latitudes west (or even north-west) of the British Isles. Off Ireland, almost all records are in August. Although Fea's Petrels do not seem to associate strongly with other seabirds (and are often alone), it is worth checking through lines of Manx Shearwaters for one. Fea's Petrel is about the size of a Manx Shearwater and several have been detected among the 'Manx stream' that is a regular feature off many headlands.

*Little Shearwater*

On Irish seawatches, real Little Shearwaters are rarer than Fea's Petrels; despite this, the species is claimed much more often than the latter. Fortunately, I have observed Little Shearwaters on numerous occasions. Unfortunately, all were around the Canary Islands: I have never seen an Irish one. Manx Shearwaters can play all sorts of tricks from looking small or showing a pale face, to lone birds 'messing about' and adopting a variety of quirky flight styles while lines of others glide past normally and suggest that the 'odd one out' cannot possibly be a member of the same species. A recent review by the Irish Rare Birds Committee of all Irish records has left only eight acceptable records remaining out of the previous total of 42 (Birdwatch, January 2001: 5).

*Leach's Storm-petrel*

As recently as 1980, most Irish birders had not seen this species and yet today it is regarded as a regular component on September seawatches – but only on the northern and western coasts during blustery north-westerly winds. Leach's

**146** European Storm-petrels / Stormvogeltjes *Hydrobates pelagicus*, off south-western Ireland, August 1985 *(Anthony McGeehan)*

**147** Leach's Storm-petrel / Vaal Stormvogeltje *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, Newfoundland Grand Banks, North Atlantic Ocean, September 1997 *(Bruce Mactavish)*

Storm-petrels breed uncommonly in western Ireland. Autumn migrants presumably originate from much larger colonies further north, and perhaps from as far away as eastern Canada. On seawatches, most are seen in the afternoon, even on days of constant wind. It seems that the birds are normally well offshore – they feed and migrate along the 'shelf break' at the edge of the continental shelf – and take several hours to accumulate closer to the coast. More are seen after prolonged high winds and, at headlands flanked by the 'trap' of a large bay, a steady passage may develop with birds passing westwards all day. Leach's Storm-petrels are very unusual before the end of August. Any 'Leach's-type' (meaning a storm-petrel showing a pale grey panel on the upperwing) seen in late July or August should be looked at very closely. Wilson's Storm-petrel is an equally likely possibility at this time.

*Wilson's Storm-petrel*

Pelagic trips off all parts of the west coast of Ireland have, over the last 15 years, produced erratic sightings of Wilson's Storm-petrel. Numbers are small (maximum nine) and the species appears to be absent in some years. Land-based sightings are rare but increasing. Observer awareness and a growing familiarity with the species have been the key to finding them. August is the best time to look and the job of detecting one is made somewhat easier by the scarcity of Leach's Storm-petrels at this time.

**148** Wilson's Storm-petrel / Wilsons Stormvogeltje *Oceanites oceanicus*, 88 km off south-western Ireland, 17 August 1985 *(Dennis Weir)* **149** Sooty Shearwater / Grauwe Pijlstormvogel *Puffinus griseus*, off north-western Ireland, August 2000 *(Anthony McGeehan)* **150** Sabine's Gulls / Vorkstaartmeeuwen *Larus sabini*, Long-tailed Jaeger / Kleinste Jager *Stercorarius longicaudus* and Black-legged Kittiwakes / Drieteenmeeuwen *Rissa tridactyla*, Kilcummin Head, Mayo, Ireland, September 1998 *(Anthony McGeehan)*

**151** Ideal seawatching weather – squally showers and blustery onshore winds – at Ramore Head, Antrim, Northern Ireland, September 1992 *(Anthony McGeehan)*

Once you know the species, it can be surprisingly straightforward to identify. Unlike European Storm-petrel and Leach's Storm-petrel, Wilson's usually fly strongly and glide with a fixed-wing, level flight-path even in strong winds. When they pause to foot-patter, they use a remarkably vigorous 'puppet on a string' action with long legs kicking off the sea surface and making the bird almost bounce.

*Sabine's Gull*

In autumn, Sabine's Gulls migrate south at some distance well west of Ireland. Fellow travellers in this offshore corridor seem to be Arctic Terns *Sterna paradisaea* and probably Long-tailed Jaegers *S longicaudus*. Seawatches that feature steady passages of Arctic Terns also tend to be good for Sabine's Gulls – indeed the two species may pass together in loose associations. Like Leach's Storm-petrels, Sabine's Gulls frequently do not appear in the early stages of a seawatch; presumably because they too take some time to be displaced from offshore waters. Juvenile Sabine's, along with Leach's Storm-petrels and juvenile Long-tailed Jaegers, have a flight action that is somewhat jerky and floppy and not very efficient in blustery conditions. Consequently, they may take time to pass. Again mainly in juveniles, both Sabine's Gulls and Long-tailed Jaegers have a habit of pausing and settling for short periods on the sea. Depending on light conditions this can make a bird temporarily vanish against a dark sea background.

**Sites and directions**

*Antrim, Northern Ireland*

*Ramore Head* Portrush is one of Northern Ireland's main seaside resorts and is located at the base of Ramore Head. For Northern Irish observers this is the best 'close to home' site for specialities such as Sabine's Gull, Leach's Storm-petrel, Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicaria* and Long-tailed Jaeger, all of which pass erratically in small numbers. Sooty Shearwaters are more regular but Great and Cory's Shearwaters are rare. A chain of low offshore skerries (islands) lead Sabine's Gulls and jaegers close to the tip of the headland. Leach's Storm-petrels sometimes gather in the bay to the east and can be seen well as they battle west past the seawatch point. Otherwise Ramore Head does not rank with the

FIGURE 1 Seawatching sites in Ireland

much superior west coast sites and is only worth visiting in 'classic' north-westerly conditions. The best seawatch spot is beside a concrete life-belt stand reached by following the obvious coastal path around the headland.

*Donegal*

*Malin Head* This is the most northerly point of Ireland. Passage can be excellent – Sooty Shearwaters can number 100s in September – but the site has an uninspiring track record for Great and Cory's Shearwaters and even Sabine's Gulls. There are probably two reasons for this poor performance. First, few seawatchers go to Malin Head these days. Secondly, the headland is very exposed and is almost within sight of Scotland. Strong onshore winds undoubtedly push many seabirds well to the east of Malin Head and, by following the line of the Scottish coast, birds are 'haemorrhaged' into the gap of the North Channel and thence south into the Irish Sea. Movements of, for example, Leach's Storm-petrel along the north-western coast of England testify to this process. The headland is easy to find and is something of a tourist spot due to its extreme northerly position (in an Irish context). The road ends on a hill-top (signposted as 'Bamba's Crown') and there is a stone-built square-sided signal tower. Signal towers were constructed at strategic points all around the Irish coast in Napoleontic times to serve as early warning stations in the event of an invasion fleet being spotted offshore. Park on the highest point and walk downslope in a northerly direction. After c 100 m, there is quite good shelter on lower ground. Unfortunately, the very tip of the coast is separated by a chasm, so birds do not pass directly beneath the seawatch point. Although picturesque, Malin Head is not as good as west coast seawatch headlands.

*Fanad Head* Fairly similar to Malin Head. Follow a minor road that leads to the lighthouse but use discretion to park discretely away from it (the lighthouse is now privately owned). A signal tower on the low hill to the west provides both good shelter and optimum views.

*Bloody Foreland* Although reasonably familiar with the district, I have not seawatched along this coast. The terrain is not high and there is no eyecatching headland. Nevertheless, quality passage has been noted, although no better than at Malin or Fanad Heads (best birds being Sabine's Gulls, Leach's Storm-petrels, Long-tailed Jaegers and small numbers of Great Shearwaters).

*Aran Island (also called Aranmore)* A ferry trip is needed to reach this island. The disused lighthouse at the island's north-west tip is undoubtedly a superb seawatching spot. No systematic observations have been carried out, although over 1000 Great Shearwaters have been seen in early October. The ferry takes cars and there are at least two daily sailings from Burtonport. Bed and breakfast accommodation is available on Aranmore.

*Rocky Point (also called Rossan Point)* The best seawatching spot in Donegal. However, it requires a long walk to get there and shelter is not good. Large numbers of Great Shearwaters occasionally occur and Wilson's Storm-petrels and a single Fea's Petrel have been recorded from pelagic trips in waters immediately offshore. Drive west from Killybegs to Carrick (avoid Kilcar). Beyond Carrick, continue west and drive to Malin More (the single road ultimately leads to Malin Beg). Ignore signs leading to Glencolmcille. Settlement at Malin More consists of a cluster of houses at a cross-roads. Drive straight across the cross-roads and, in c 1 km, the road ends at a turning circle. From here open moorland and low cliffs stretch west. To find the best seawatching spot, walk in a northerly direction around the circumference of the headland for c 2

**152** Black Guillemot / Zwarte Zeekoet *Cepphus grylle*, Bangor, Down, Northern Ireland, June 1982 *(Anthony McGeehan)*

**153** Balearic Shearwater / Vale Pijlstormvogel *Puffinus mauretanicus*, Catalunya, Spain, April 1996 *(Anthony McGeehan)*

**154** Great Shearwater / Grote Pijlstormvogel *Puffinus gravis*, off south-western Ireland, September 1991 *(Anthony McGeehan)*

**155** Manx Shearwaters / Noordse Pijlstormvogels *Puffinus puffinus*, Irish Sea, August 1996 *(Anthony McGeehan)*

**156** Sabine's Gull / Vorkstaartmeeuw *Larus sabini*, juvenile, Cork, Ireland, September 1984 *(Anthony McGeehan)*

**157** Pomarine Jaeger / Middelste Jager *Stercorarius pomarinus*, adult, off western Ireland, July 1993 *(Anthony McGeehan)*

km until you are forced to step across a small stream. A boulder-field to the north of the stream occasionally holds Lapland Longspurs *Calcarius lapponicus* and a few shorebirds (White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* has been seen here twice). Beyond the boulder-field, walk down a bare soil bank and choose a sheltered spot to seawatch.

*Mayo*

*Kilcummin Head* This is one of the best headlands and has the added luxury of being right beside a small car-park. A terraced, grassy bank provides ideal seating and, if bad weather arrives, you can retreat to the shelter of a car – and even seawatch from inside. Kilcummin overlooks the mouth of Killala Bay which lies along the southern shore of Donegal Bay, the largest 'bay' along the entire western seaboard of Ireland. In essence, Donegal Bay acts as a huge trap. When seabirds emerge from it they are deflected past Kilcummin. Uniquely for a west coast headland passage can be quite good in south-westerly winds. The reason seems to be that Donegal Bay is so large that continuous seabird 'traffic' flows through it.

From Ballina, drive north to Killala. Take the R314 west of Killala which soon crosses the Palmerston River. A local pub called the 'Kerryman' is well signed once you cross the river. Follow these signs which take you past the Kerryman, located close to the small settlement of Kilcummin (beside a pier). Next the road passes 'Bessie's Bar' (another pub!) and then a Y-junction appears. Follow the right-hand fork to a crossroads. The road is now poor. At the crossroads, turn right. The road/track goes over a low hill and leads down to the car-park at Kilcummin Head (containing a sign proclaiming 'Frenchman's Landing'). Step over the car-park wall and pick a comfortable spot.

*Downpatrick Head* A scenic, prominent headland but probably too high (high headlands tend to push seabird passage further off the coast). However, it is undoubtedly in a good location and by sitting on the grassy slopes on the eastern flank you will be able to obtain good views although maybe not much shelter. Downpatrick Head is easy to find and a short walk is necessary to reach it.

*Benwee Head* Perhaps a prime location but not one I am familiar with.

*Erris Head* Erris Head is high and its absolute tip is an island, separated from the cliff top by a chasm. Not recommended.

*Annagh Head (on Belmullet Peninsula)* Can be good, but suffers by being in the 'shadow' of Eagle Island to the north, although I have seen Great Shearwaters and Sabine's Gulls here. Annagh Head can also produce good seawatching in winds that have a south-westerly component: unusual for a west coast headland. Follow one of the minor roads west across the Mullet Peninsula – making sure not to veer north to Lake Termoncarragh (but worth checking here for American shorebirds and waterfowl). The road coming closest to Annagh Head ends in a rough track – not safe to drive – and the final walk is c 1 km which rises over a low hill and then descends above a rocky, low cliff affording good shelter.

*Achill Head* Stunning position but massive height renders it impractical. Not recommended.

*Galway*

Although there may well be some good seawatching locations along the mainland coast of western Galway, none have yet come to light. Note that an island (Illaunamid) lies off the tip of Slyne Head. This has the regrettable effect of directing seabirds away from the actual tip of Slyne Head that otherwise seems an obvious choice as a prime seawatching point. In previous springs, D L Davenport obtained permission to stay and seawatch from the lighthouse on Illaunamid and recorded impressive numbers of Pomarine *S pomarinus* and Long-tailed Jaegers.

*Clare*

*Bridges of Ross* This is one of the best spots. Intensive efforts have produced many rarities including several Wilson's Storm-petrels, Fea's Petrels and Little Shearwaters. Drive south from Kilkee on the R487 (some maps call this road R497). Do not turn into Carrigaholt but continue on through Freeard. At Freeard there is a Y-junction. Take the right fork that, in c 5 km, passes a car-park signed 'Bridges of Ross'. Park in the car-park and walk c 200 m west to overlook the sea. Seating is quite poor (low soil banks on a slope). A few miles further lies Loop Head. Despite an impressive position it is not as good as Bridges of Ross (but is worth checking in south-westerly winds).

*Kerry*

*Kerry Head* Kerry Head can be very good but is much less favoured than Bridges of Ross to the north and Brandon Head to the south-west. Directions (accurate in 1992, courtesy of Peter McDermott): drive west from Ballyheigue, ignore all turn-offs as the road begins to climb. At the highest point, west of Triskmore Mountain, there is a fairly new house on the left beside a red barn. Turn on to the rough road in front of the house and continue west for c 1 km. Next there is a sharp left-hand bend; after this, continue 70 m and park. From here, walk towards the sea across open moorland and look for seating on the low cliff.

*Brandon Head (or Point)* Drive west from Tralee on a fairly tortuous road through Cloghane and then continue north until the road ends in a small, fairly high-level car-park. You may, if conditions are classic (ie, strong north-westerly wind), be able to seawatch from the car-park. However, I think this location is too high and favour walking along the rough ground above the cliff-edge for c 2 km west to find a lower, more protected vantage point. Be prepared for a reasonably strenuous walk.

*Clogher Head* This is in western Kerry, south of Sybil Head, and is apparently the best headland in this part of Kerry. I have not been here but it has lived up to expectations when 'pioneered' by Michael O'Clery. Good numbers of Great and Cory's Shearwaters have been seen.

*Cork*

*Dursey Island* Dursey is recommended for rare passerines but not seabirds (although Great and Cory's Shearwaters are occasionally seen from the end of the island). It is served by a cable car but there is no accommodation (or shop). In addition, it is a long walk to the western tip.

*Mizen Head* A spectacular cape but now spoiled as a 'tourist attraction' and there is a charge to simply visit the headland. Fea's Petrels have been seen in the recent past by seawatching just east of the lighthouse. Bear in mind that many seabirds probably pass Galley Head and Cape Clear en route to Mizen Head and either of these localities might prove to be a better choice.

*Cape Clear Island* The island mail-boat departs daily from Baltimore. There are up to three sailings a day between May and the end of August, only one thereafter. During summer, an additional daily service operates from Schull – a ferry called the Karykraft. Varied accommodation is available on the island (from a camp-site to bed-and-breakfast) and the Bird Observatory was refurbished in 2000 and sleeps seven people (bookings through Birdwatch Ireland, 6 Longford Place, Monkstown, Dublin, telephone +353-1-2804322). Alternatively, you can rent a cottage from Mary O'Driscoll – telephone +353-28-39153. The Bird Observatory warden (Steve Wing) can be reached by email (steve.wing @tinet.ie) and is currently resident in 2001. The best seawatching spot is the imposing tip of Blannanaragaun (Blannan for short), the headland at the southern end of the island. This is c 40 min walk from North Harbour. Follow signs for the campsite and continue southwards beyond it along the only road. The road becomes a track and finishes between enclosed fields. From here, walk over the heather and grass hillside on your left and pick up a narrow cliff path leading out toward Blannan. In c 0.5 km, the path peters out over bare rock. At this stage, many people opt to seawatch beside a large, table-sized flat rock. The alternative is to continue and pick your way beneath a large blow hole in the side of the cliffs, after which you should swing immediately upslope and then 'climb' south along the ridge of Blannan itself. In c 100 m, you reach a hollow rocky terrace that offers limited shelter but not much comfort – so bring something to sit on.

*Galley Head* A short distance west of Clonakilty and well sign-posted. The seawatching spot is in front of the lighthouse. The lighthouse is now privately owned so you may have to explain why you want to be in the area. However, there have been no access problems to date. Remember south-westerly winds are best on the Cork coast which may mean rainy conditions. Several Fea's Petrels have been seen from Galley Head.

*Old Head of Kinsale* There is currently no access here due to a legal battle with a newly established golf course.

**Boat trips**

European Storm-petrels are reliably seen on a variety of ferry trips. Highly recommended is a day trip to the Skellig Islands off the Kerry coast. Weather permitting, daily trips visit two small offshore islands that are superb for seabirds. Little Skellig has an enormous gannetry (landing is not

**158** Skellig Islands, Kerry, Ireland. Located 10 km offshore, both islands have impressive concentrations of seabirds. Boat trips are available to Great Skellig (right) and both Manx Shearwaters *Puffinus puffinus* and European Storm-petrels *Hydrobates pelagicus* are reliably seen during the crossing *(Anthony McGeehan)*

possible) and the Great Skellig (Skellig Michael) has splendid monastic ruins and many breeding Atlantic Puffins *Fratercula arctica* and other very approachable seabirds. European Storm-petrels breed abundantly but only come ashore at night – after the day trips leave! Numerous boat trips cross from seaside villages on the Kerry coast and European Storm-petrels can be seen en route to the islands between May and late August. It is possible to book a boat trip on the internet (using 'skelligs boat trips' as a word search).

Daily crossings to Cape Clear on either the island mail-boat or the Karykraft often produce sightings of European Storm-petrels. Alternatively, both the Karykraft and a new boat owned by Ciaran O'Driscoll (telephone +353-2839153) run weekly trips during summer to the Fastnet Rock, 7 km south-west of Cape Clear. European Storm-petrels should be 'certain' on a trip around the Fastnet Rock. Finally, Ciaran O'Driscoll will also take birdwatching charter trips to seas just south of Cape Clear, some of which have produced Wilson's Storm-petrels, Great and Cory's Shearwaters and Sabine's Gulls over the last few years.

**Flights to Ireland from Low Countries**

For birders from the Low Countries, it is possible to reach Ireland via inexpensive flights from Charleroi, Belgium. From there, daily flights to Shannon or Dublin are carried out by Ryanair (for more information, see the internet website www.ryanair.com/flemish/index.html).

**Acknowledgement**

André van der Plas kindly prepared the map outlining the Irish seawatching sites.

**Samenvatting**

Zeetrek in Ierland in de herfst In dit artikel wordt een overzicht gegegven van de beste locaties, beste periode en beste omstandigheden voor het bekijken van zeetrek in Ierland (inclusief Noord-Ierland). De laatste decennia is veel kennis vergaard over het voorkomen van (zeldzame) zeevogels in de herfst. Met name is gebleken dat naast het bekende voorkomen dicht onder de kust van zeevogels in Zuidwest-Ierland bij zuidwestenwind ook bij noordwestenwind grote aantallen zeevogels gezien kunnen worden vanaf een aantal kijkpunten in West- en Noord-Ierland. Naast algemene soorten als Noordse Pijlstormvogel *Puffinus puffinus*, Noordse Stormvogel *Fulmarus glacialis*, Jan-van-gent *Morus bassanus*, jagers *Stercorarius* en alken Alcidae kunnen onder gunstige

omstandigheden 10-tallen of zelfs 100en Kuhls Pijlstormvogels *Calonectris borealis*, Grote Pijlstormvogels *P gravis*, Grauwe Pijlstormvogels *P griseus* en Vale Pijlstormvogels *P mauretanicus* worden waargenomen en 10-tallen Vale Stormvogeltjes *Oceanodrama leucorhoa* (eind augustus en september), Vorkstaartmeeuwen *Larus sabini* en Kleinste Jagers *S longicaudus*. Op de beste plekken en onder optimale omstandigheden worden af en toe zeldzaamheden gezien als Gon-gon *Pterodroma feae* (tegenwoordig jaarlijks gemeld met een maximum van vijf per jaar), Kleine Pijlstormvogel *P assimilis* (extreem zeldzaam) en Wilsons Stormvogeltje *Oceanites oceanicus* (tegenwoordig jaarlijks, vooral eind juli en augustus). De laatste soort wordt in de meeste gevallen buitengaats opgemerkt tijdens boottochten. Stormvogeltjes *Hydrobates pelagicus* zijn algemeen maar laten zich vaak beter zien tijdens een boottocht dan vanaf de kust.

Per provincie ('county') worden de beste locaties beschreven met aanwijzigingen hoe ze te bereiken zijn en waar precies het beste gekeken kan worden. Per locatie wordt vermeld welke soorten verwacht kunnen worden en welke zeldzaamheden hier gezien zijn.

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# A basic understanding of moult: what, why, when and how much?

*Steve N G Howell*

Various papers have been written about moult. Those that most people remember compare basic and alternate plumages (the Humphrey-Parkes system; see references) to winter (or non-breeding) and summer (or breeding) plumages (the traditional system) and try to help people make the transition between the two terminologies. These are good articles and have been very helpful. Nonetheless, I still encounter a widespread misunderstanding, almost a fear, of moult among many birders, even experts. Derived largely from conversations with these birders, this note is an attempt to explain the what, why and when of moult, and to provide a conceptual grounding by showing how moult fits into a bird's life cycle. Armed with this understanding, looking at moult characteristics can be useful for field identification at the levels of species, population and age/sex (eg, Pyle 1997) and can make better birders out of all of us.

## Ground zero

We must recognize at the start that moult is a dynamic, evolutionary process, just like speciation. Over the enormity of time, selection has favoured the moult strategies we see today; we can only guess at the routes taken and we should realize that moult strategies evolve in response to changing environmental parameters.

As is often the case, nature is too complex to be pigeon-holed and, in the same way that ornithologists argue over the merits of different species concepts, there are arguments over the merits of different systems for studying moult. Many 'problems' may be of the kind that lie between the chair and the keyboard, others may be genuine exceptions that challenge us to explain them. Considerable recent progress has been made in the study of moult following the far-sighted work of Humphrey & Parkes (1959, 1963) and it is widely accepted that the Humphrey-Parkes system is the most helpful framework for studying moults and plumages. Anyone with a serious interest in moult should read and assimilate these seminal papers.

## What is moult? And why?

Moult is 'simply' the replacement of feathers. It is also one of the most fundamental processes of any bird's life cycle: every bird on Earth needs to moult, whether adult or immature, breeding or non-breeding, migratory or resident, penguin or hummingbird. Feathers are not permanent structures – they wear out from simple day-to-day

exposure to a variety of elements (such as sun, rain and abrasion) and need to be replaced. Although they grow from follicles in the skin, much as our hair does, new feathers push out old feathers and distinct seasonal plumages comprise distinct coats of feathers. Thus, moult in birds is a cyclic process rather than a continuous renewal process like human hair.

**When to moult?**

This is where things become a little more complicated. To understand the when of moult, it may be best to step back and imagine an evolutionary scenario. You should also consider that feather replacement requires energy and, so far, nobody has documented gratuitous moult: birds moult for a reason.

Let us say a bird evolves, the ancestral bird in a primordial and essentially aseasonal environment. Its plumage protects it from exposure and death but feathers will wear out and need to be replaced. In order to grow new feathers, the bird needs enough food and energy, so feathers get replaced at times when, and/or in areas where, food supply is good. If food supply and exposure to the environment are more or less constant, moult may be essentially an ongoing process without strong seasonal peaks, at least within a species. (In fact, some tropical birds in aseasonal climates still show year-round patterns of moulting.) In particular, though, the replacement of larger feathers demands more energy and, over time, moult cycles may become honed to regimes of food supply which, in turn, are affected by variables such as climate. In areas with a seasonal climate and distinct peaks in food supply, moult may become concentrated to correspond with these peaks; for example, late-summer flushes of seeds and insects in the northern temperate regions. Thus, moult cycles mirror a far larger picture.

Another fundamental, energy-demanding aspect of a bird's life cycle is breeding, so it should not be surprising that active moult is generally reduced or arrested altogether during this season. Then, after energy-demanding phases of breeding have passed (for instance, territory defence or copulation and egg production and laying), moult can start again. Although moult and breeding typically do not overlap, this depends on the species involved and on how one defines 'breeding'. In general, larger species take longer to replace their more numerous and larger feathers than do small species. Therefore, once the last eggs of a season are laid, larger birds (for example, many seabirds and waterfowl) often start moulting again. Smaller birds, on the other hand (for instance, warblers), can wait until their young have fledged and still have time to replace all of their feathers before migration or before winter sets in.

During the breeding season, feathers often become heavily abraded from entering and leaving nests or from birds singing for long periods from exposed perches. Moulting in autumn replaces these worn feathers and provides a coat of new feathers that can better protect and insulate a bird through potentially bad winter weather. Thus, moult occurs at the 'perfect' time to balance these factors.

A second major energy demand that can conflict with moult is migration. As with breeding, birds typically do not moult during the energy-demanding phases of migration and long-distance migrants exhibit various strategies to balance moult and migration. If there is enough food and time before migration, then adults moult before heading south, like many passerines, for example Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* or Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*. If there is not enough time and/or food before migration or, perhaps, if there is more food during migration or on the wintering grounds, then birds migrate and then moult at migration stop-over sites and/or on the wintering grounds, like another group of passerines, for example reed warblers *Acrocephalus* or Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. In which hemisphere birds winter may also be important: long daylight hours in the Southern Hemisphere often mean more food (and, thus, better conditions for moulting) than the short days of the Northern Hemisphere in autumn and winter. In some cases, birds may suspend moult during migration, ie, they start to moult before migration, then stop moulting, migrate and finish moult after migration (for example, various shorebirds, terns, European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*). Furthermore, different populations or age-classes of a species may employ different moulting strategies. For instance, the nominate subspecies of Common Whitethroat *S communis communis* performs a complete moult before migration, whereas most birds of the eastern *S c icterops* have a complete moult in the wintering grounds (but note that transitions between these strategies occur frequently; cf Jenni & Winkler 1994).

**Basic and alternate plumages**

Using basic and alternate as terms for plumages is best done if you forget summer and winter or

breeding and non-breeding – imagine switching to driving on the other side of the road but doing it only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays! So, I am not going to provide a 'conversion table' here to equate basic plumage with winter plumage or any of that. Why? Because the two are often *not* in fact synonymous and all that results is confusion! Instead, I will throw out an evolutionary thesis that may help in understanding what these plumages are. At the same time, while understanding the concept of basic and alternate plumages is critical to studying the evolution of moult and plumage sequences, using the terms 'breeding' and 'non-breeding' for many species' plumages still may be the most meaningful and useful system for many birders in the Northern Hemisphere. These two systems are different but one is not necessarily better: which you use depends on your purpose.

Back to our ancestral bird. Let us say it replaces all of its feathers once over a cycle of time that, for the sake of argument, we will call a year. This plumage it replaces once a year is called its basic plumage because that is what it is – basic plumage, regardless of when it is attained. In this case, the bird simply moults from one basic plumage to another basic plumage to another, each year. By definition, the basic plumage is replaced completely, or nearly completely, once a cycle and the moult by which it is attained is the prebasic moult. Although most birds in the world do this, most birders and ornithologists live in temperate northern climates where such species are 'exceptions'. Consequently, we tend to have a warped view of the bigger picture. Think about a Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* or a Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* – they have one moult a year, so does a pigeon or a woodpecker or a Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. What could be simpler? We are just stuck with so many gulls and shorebirds changing their plumages that the basic facts have become obscured.

Some birds have feathers that wear out more quickly than others because, for example, these birds live in harsher environments or fly long distances during migration. Thus, certain feathers may need to be replaced more than once a cycle – maybe the head-feathers of a bird that lives in exposed environments or the scapulars and upperwing-coverts that protect the major wing-feathers of birds that fly long distances. As with any moult, these extra moults become honed to food supply and fit into the bird's annual energy cycle but in theory they could occur at any time of year. However, if hormones associated with the start of the breeding season affected feather pigmentation and if these extra moults corresponded with the start of the breeding season, then a different-looking plumage might result. Perhaps, this could be brighter or 'fancier' than the basic plumage, or perhaps more cryptic and better suited to camouflage on the breeding grounds? Over time, forces, such as sexual selection and predation, may have enhanced and refined these random variations, these *alternate plumages*, and they have become a regular part of a bird's annual cycle; and alternate plumage is attained by a prealternate moult. Although we tend to associate alternate plumage with breeding plumage, this is not a good idea – the terms alternate and basic were proposed to free studies of moult from such preconceptions. Thus, an alternate plumage is any second plumage distinct from a basic plumage, *regardless of when it is attained*.

Most species with distinct alternate plumages live in relatively harsh, often aquatic, environments (for instance, loons *Gavia*, waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and alcids) and/or are long-distance migrants (for example, Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* or Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava*). In addition, these are all species that can find the concentrated, rich food resources required to fuel two moults. Other species of open environments, including tubenoses and raptors, have only one moult and plumage per cycle – but these species tend to be apex predators: their food is harder to find and perhaps less predictable. Presumably, they compensate by investing more energy into producing better-quality feathers that will last through a moult cycle. As might be expected, very few resident tropical birds of aseasonal and relatively protected forest environments are known to have alternate plumages. The handful of Neotropical birds that are known to have alternate plumages are mainly birds of exposed habitats in open country, for instance, seedeaters. In northern temperate forests with relatively protected environments, most of the resident species, for example, woodpeckers and tits, also follow the basic-basic-basic pattern.

Prealternate moults can be considered as comprising two (or three) types. *Facultative prealternate moults* are those whereby feathers attained are similar in appearance to those shed (for instance, Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* or Northern Chiffchaff *P collybita*). These moults tend to be highly variable in extent, even within a spe-

cies, and reflect the replacement of feathers that become heavily worn, such as tertials, central rectrices and some head-feathers.

*Obligate prealternate moults* are those whereby feathers attained are obviously different in colour and/or pattern from those they replace, for example, a male Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, male Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* or male Pied Flycatcher. While the original impetus for such moults may have been facultative, subsequent selection (eg, sexual selection) has 'obliged' these species to undergo more extensive moults than they might need simply to replace a few worn feathers.

*Ornamental prealternate moults* are those whereby feathers attained differ in structure, but not necessarily in colour or pattern, from those they replace and may be viewed simply as a subset of obligate prealternate moults. In some cases, ornamental alternate feathers may have no equivalent in basic plumage, such as the crests of European Shag *Stictocarbo aristotelis*, plumes of breeding herons and the long tail-streamers of jaegers *Stercorarius*.

In a few reported cases, some feathers may be replaced more than twice per cycle but, in general, the details of such moults are not well documented and these need not be considered here. Essentially, any moult strategy we see today involves some modification upon the basic-basic-basic pattern. Armed with this overview of moult, we can look at a couple of representative examples of two common moult strategies, Common Buzzard, Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* and Pied Flycatcher.

*Common Buzzard and Eurasian Sparrowhawk*

We have to start somewhere, so let us start with the egg. The chick hatches and, in the case of a raptor, undergoes a relatively long nestling period which culminates, after two downy stages, in a strong plumage with which the young buzzard or sparrowhawk fledges (its juvenile plumage). This plumage protects the bird through migration and winter when it learns how to forage. Having survived the winter and sitting out its first nesting season, the yearling raptor takes advantage of the longer days and increased food in summer when it undergoes a complete moult into fresh basic plumage. Sometimes, however, birds may not have time and/or food enough to complete this moult before migration or winter, and so, in the case of Common Buzzards, they can suspend their moult and leave the outer primaries and some other feathers unmoulted until winter or until the next moult cycle. And so, moult is fitted into the annual cycle and Common Buzzards and Eurasian Sparrowhawks moult from one basic plumage to another.

*Pied Flycatcher*

Again, let us start with the egg. A Pied Flycatcher hatches and, after a fairly brief nestling stage with a single, fluffy feather coat (its juvenile plumage), it moults into a plumage very similar in appearance to the adult basic plumage – brownish and dull, perhaps selected for to help birds be inconspicuous to predators. This plumage carries the young Pied Flycatcher through migration to western Africa where there is plenty of food during the boreal winter. There, it undergoes a moult of its head and body again, plus some upperwing-coverts and tertials (ie, a prealternate moult), replacing these feathers within only six months or so of fledging. Surely, those feathers would last a little longer, so why replace them again in winter? Thinking ahead, after winter the Pied Flycatcher has to undertake a long migration followed by breeding, so that the next time it could 'find time' to moult it would be over a year old. By then, its feathers probably *would* have become too worn to function and so a winter moult balances the equation of moult, migration and breeding. While the original impetus for a prealternate moult may have been functional rather than ornamental, it is completed just prior to return to the breeding grounds and the ensuing competition for territories and mates. This timing may help explain why evolution has caused male Pied Flycatchers to upgrade their unassuming winter appearance along with their moderately worn feathers. Then, in late summer after breeding, the Pied Flycatcher takes advantage of plentiful food and undergoes a complete (prebasic) moult before migrating south, the males again incognito. Thus, an alternate plumage is fitted into the annual cycle.

**Summary**

While moult may seem an overwhelming and bewildering subject, such as when viewing a 'messy-looking' moulting bird in the field, the underlying principles of moult are fairly simple. Every bird has to moult, and when and where it moults are inter-related to, and balanced with all other aspects of its life history, in particular breeding and, when relevant, migration. All species have a complete (or near-complete) moult once a year, usually after breeding: the prebasic

moult producing basic plumage. The prebasic moult occurs when a bird can find sufficient food to fuel the moult: on the breeding grounds immediately after breeding; on the wintering grounds after autumn migration; or, in some cases, the moult starts on the breeding grounds and ends on the wintering grounds. A minority of species (in the global sense) fit a second moult into their annual cycle: the prealternate moult producing alternate plumage. Usually, this moult involves only some head- and body-feathers because moult is an energy-demanding process and to replace an entire plumage twice a year would require a lot of fuel.

In conclusion, any moulting regime is a result of compromise among the demands of a bird's life cycle and the moult strategies we see today reflect millions of years of evolutionary fine-tuning.

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**Samenvatting**
BASISKENNIS VAN RUI: WAT, WAAROM, WANNEER EN HOE VEEL? Hoewel een ruiende vogel er in het veld soms 'slordig' en 'ingewikkeld' uit kan zien, zijn de basisprincipes die aan rui ten grondslag liggen betrekkelijk eenvoudig. Omdat veren slijten, moet iedere vogel ruien. Wanneer, waar en in welke mate dit gebeurt is afhankelijk van en ingebed in alle andere aspecten van de jaarcyclus van een vogel, met name broeden en, indien van toepassing, trek. Alle vogels ondergaan één keer per jaar een complete (of bijna-complete) rui (rui naar het 'rustkleed' of 'winterkleed'). Deze rui vindt plaats wanneer en waar de vogel voldoende voedsel kan vinden om dit energievragende proces te 'bekostigen': in het broedgebied direct na het broeden; na de najaarstrek in het overwinteringsgebied; of de rui begint in het broedgebied, wordt onderbroken tijdens de trek, en voltooid in het overwinteringsgebied. Een minderheid (op wereldschaal) van de vogelsoorten passen een tweede rui in in hun jaarcyclus (rui naar het 'wisselkleed' of 'zomerkleed'). Deze rui omvat doorgaans slechts een klein deel van de veren (kop- en lichaamsveren), waarschijnlijk omdat het wederom vervangen van het gehele kleed te kostbaar is. Bij sommige soorten zijn de tijdens deze tweede rui verkregen veren anders gekleurd en spelen een visuele rol tijdens balts en paarvorming.

Iedere ruistrategie van de huidige vogels is het resultaat van een compromis tussen de verschillende eisen die gedurende de jaarcyclus aan een vogel worden gesteld en reflecteert miljoenen jaren van evolutionaire fijnafstemming.

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An earlier version of this article was published in Canada, in Birders Journal 8: 296-300, 1999. Those who, after reading Steve Howell's paper, are nevertheless interested in comparing the Humphrey-Parkes moult terminology with the, at least in Europe, more familiar 'breeding vs non-breeding terminology' are referred to, for example, the North American bird guide (Sibley 2000) or Dutch Birding 7: 1-5, 1985. EDITORS

# Double-crested Cormorant on Ouessant, France, in October 2000

*Alain De Broyer*

On Friday 5 October 2000 on Ouessant, Finistère, France, the weather was calm with a blue sky, mild temperatures and hardly any wind, after a strong south-westerly depression the days before. At the end of the day, while walking along the lower reservoir, Alain De Broyer noticed a cormorant coming out of a small reedbed and disappearing again in the reeds some seconds later. The overall colour of the gular throat and the bill was strangely rich orange-yellow but, as the observation did not last long and the night was falling, ADB went back to the Ornithological Centre and did not pay too much attention to the observation. During the evening, he consulted the literature about Double-crested Cormorant *Hypoleucos auritus* mainly to check the identification characters, just in case...

**159** Double-crested Cormorant / Geoorde Aalscholver *Hypoleucos auritus*, juvenile, Ouessant, Finistère, France, 6 October 2000 *(Alain De Broyer)*

The next morning, ADB and Xavier Vandevyvre returned to the reservoirs. As they passed the dike between the two reservoirs, XV noticed a sleeping cormorant with its head on its shoulder, less than 10 m away. From that distance, the bird looked quite small, reminiscent of a European Shag *Stictocarbo aristotelis*, but not for long. The cormorant awoke a few minutes later and, astonishingly, it did not look like a European Shag but more like a small Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*!

ADB suggested to XV the possibility of a Double-crested Cormorant as the characters he had been reading last night fitted the bird remarkably well, so they began to consult 'Rare birds' (Lewington et al 1991). They checked the characters one by one, even counting the number of rectrices. Since all characters fitted, ADB quickly phoned his friends who were birding on the other side of the island. They hurried to the site on their bicycles, arriving 15 min later. By that time, the bird had gone for a swim in the reservoir but later it came closer again. After a while, the cormorant jumped on the dam, just 3 m from the observers.

The Double-crested Cormorant was alone on the reservoir whereas Great Cormorants are mostly seen on the rocky coasts of the island and seem to avoid the reservoirs. It seemed to be completely exhausted and had burned all his fat and probably also his muscles, as its breastbone was clearly visible. It was sleeping most of the time and was active only when it was fed with fish chops, although this activity only lasted a few minutes.

The bird had probably already reached a point of no return at that time, and was found dead on the morning of 8 October 2000 on the border of the reservoir. The corpse was collected by a local ornithologist.

## Description

SIZE & STRUCTURE General appearance close to Great Cormorant but slightly smaller with more slender head and rounded nape. Neck strong, like Great Cormorant, but bill thinner and longer; tail appearing quite longer and narrower. 11 rectrices visible, one clearly lacking on left side.



[*Dutch Birding 23: 136-139, 2001*]

HEAD Facial skin rich orange-yellow, appearing somewhat 'square angled', running from bill base vertically down to throat. No gular feathering below bill. Obvious bright-yellow supraloral stripe, ending at border of eye. Pale cheek patch absent, unlike most juvenile Great Cormorants; only pale feathers visible on head being those slightly outlining edge of facial skin. Facial skin not extending behind eye.

UPPERPARTS & WING Upperparts and wing mostly blackish. Most wing-coverts showing brownish tinge on centre, outlined by black feather edges. Most coverts showing worn brownish tip.

UNDERPARTS Lower belly black, becoming paler towards breast. Breast cream-coloured, quickly darkening towards neck. Most of neck dark brown. Throat dark.

BARE PARTS Eye emerald, deep blue-green. Lower mandible completely yellow; upper mandible mainly yellow, including culmen, only upper part grey; bill looking completely yellow from distance.

**Identification**

Double-crested Cormorant is quite similar to Great Cormorant and can be difficult to identify when seen from a distance. However, several characters are typical and can lead to an unequivocal identification.

Double-crested Cormorant is more slender, less bulky, and has a much more rounded nape than Great Cormorant. The head pattern is the most distinctive of all characters.

The colour of the gular pouch is a rich orange-yellow, much brighter than Great Cormorant.

The shape of the gular pouch is 'square angled' as it goes vertically from the bill base down to the throat, a pattern shared with Continental Great Cormorant *P c sinensis*, although it is slightly more acutely angled on that subspecies; Atlantic Great Cormorant *P c carbo* has an acutely angled gular pouch going diagonally from the bill base and, therefore, reducing the surface of naked skin (cf Lewington et al 1991, van den Berg et al 2000). Note, however, that the separation of *carbo* and *sinensis* may be clouded because of extensive intergradation of both taxa (eg, on inland reservoirs in Britain).

A good character to look for, although sometimes less well visible, is the bare skin under the bill: all Great Cormorants have an extension of throat-feathering under the bill, even when the plumage is very worn; Double-crested Cormorant never shows this pattern but this can be difficult to tell on a distant individual (Lewington et al 1991).

The bill is also distinctive; it is proportionally thinner than that of Great Cormorant, and the lower mandible is completely bright-yellow, at least in juveniles and immatures. Most Great Cormorants usually have an ivory-grey lower mandible, only exceptionally showing yellowish tones, and the tip is grey (Lewington et al 1991).

The supraloral stripe is very obvious and bright-yellow in Double-crested Cormorant, ending at the border of the eye. Some immature and non-breeding adult Great Cormorants show some yellow on the upper lores but the tone is usually less bright and the stripe is less extended, and broken by small dark feathers (cf Beaman & Madge 1998).

Finally, Double-crested Cormorant always shows 12 tail-feathers, whereas Great Cormorant has 14 tail-feathers (but beware of moulting birds) (Lewington et al 1991).

**Ageing**

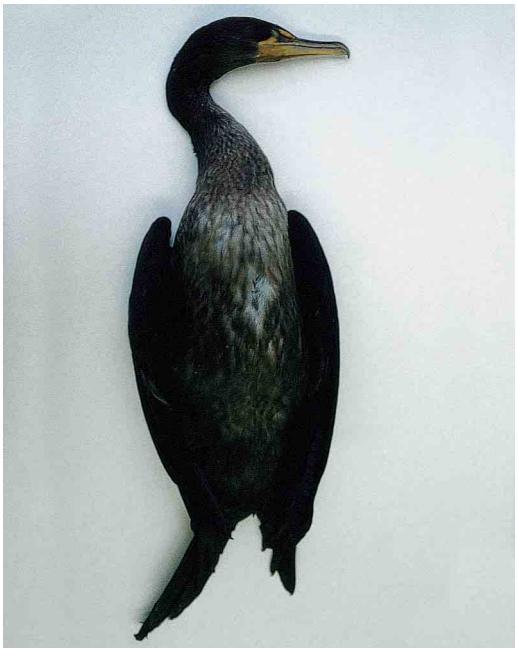
Ageing can be quite difficult, especially in immature plumages. Juveniles have a pale breast, neck and throat, and their upperparts are chocolate-brown. The lower belly is usually dark, and the scapulars and wing-coverts are sharply pointed. They also have a dark-grey iris. Subsequent immature plumages begin in the spring of the second year and the adult plumage is reached in the third or fourth year. These plumages are transitional and vary individually but are usually darker than the juvenile plumage, especially on throat and upperparts. Adults in winter have a dark plumage, the only pale area being the breast, and their wing-coverts and scapulars are more rounded than in juveniles. Their iris is emerald (cf Lewington et al 1991, Lethaby & Moores 1999). The bird of Ouessant showed an intermediate plumage between adult and juvenile and is best aged as an immature, probably a second-year bird.

**Range and population**

Double-crested Cormorant is a North American species. In western North America, it breeds around the Gulf of Alaska from the Aleutian Islands to the Alexander Archipelago in southern Alaska and from Vancouver Island south to the Gulf of California. In the east, it breeds from Newfoundland to Cape Cod and well inland to west of the Great Lakes, and from Carolina south through Florida to Cuba (cf Snow & Perrins 1998).

The habitat is similar to that of Great Cormorant and it is the only cormorant regularly seen on freshwater in the USA (apart from Neotropic Cormorant *H brasilianus* which breeds in the extreme south of the USA).

Populations of Double-crested Cormorant declined dramatically during the 1950s and 1960s from the effects of human persecution, the pesticide DDT and the overall declining health



**160-161** Double-crested Cormorant / Geoorde Aalscholver *Hypoleucos auritus*, Ouessant, Finistère, France, 8 October 2000 *(Alain De Broyer)*

of many ecosystems, especially that of the Great Lakes. Today, the population is at historic highs, in large part due to the presence of ample food in their summer and winter ranges, federal and state protection, and reduced contaminant levels. The Interior population of Cormorants, which includes the Great Lakes region, is the fastest growing of the six major North American cormorant breeding populations. During 1970-91, in the Great Lake region of the USA and Canada, the number of Double-crested Cormorant nests increased from 89 to 38 000, an average annual increase of 29%. For the contiguous USA as a whole, the breeding population increased at an average rate of 6.1% per year during 1966-94, and now stands at c 372 000 breeding pairs. Using estimates of one to four non-breeding birds per breeding pair yields an estimated total population of between one and two million birds (cf Katzenberger & Tollefson 1999).

**Movements and vagrancy**

Double-crested Cormorant is migratory to sedentary, depending on breeding grounds; most birds of the north Pacific population are only slightly migratory, and the north Atlantic coastal population shows the highest degree of migratory activity. Birds of the northern part, like Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, move down in October and November along the coast and major valleys to winter in the Gulf of Mexico and Florida. These birds are the most prone to be drifted by Atlantic depressions during their migration (cf Snow & Perrins 1998).

Observations in the Western Palearctic are still extremely rare. There are records from only three other countries, mostly in October-November.

*Azores*

Lagoa Comprida, Flores, 8 November 1998, juvenile (Tony Clarke & Tommy Frandsen; cf Clarke 1999).

Madalena Harbour, Pico, 25-26 September 1999, juvenile (Michael Fricke & Stefan Pfützke; cf Dutch Birding 21: 288, plate 309, 1999; Birding World 12: 406, 1999, 13: 256, 2000).

Angra do Heroismo, Terçeira, 9 October to at least 9 November 2000, juvenile (Filipe Barata) (Tony Clarke pers comm).

Santa Cruz, Flores, 13-16 October 2000, juvenile (Tim & Carol Inskipp).

Vila Franca do Campo, São Miguel, 3-4 November 2000, juvenile (Kris De Rouck, cf Dutch Birding 23: 42-43, plate 53, 2001).

Lagoa das Furnas, São Miguel, 12 November 2000, juvenile (Staffan Rodebrand, Bo Carlsson & Mats Nilsson) (Tony Clarke pers comm).

Flores, February 2001, juvenile (Staffan Rodebrand, cf Birding World 14: 149, 2001).

So far, none of the records have been accepted by the Portuguese rarities committee, because they have not been submitted or have not been dealt with yet. A bird photographed at Mosteiros, São Miguel, on 24-26 October 1991 (van Duin 1992) was rejected by the Iberian Records Committee (cf Clarke 1999).

*Britain*

Charlton's pond, Cleveland, England, 11 January to 26 April 1989, immature (Blick 1989, Williams 1996, Rogers et al 1996).

A bird was found alive in the hold of a cargo ship that arrived at Glasgow, Strathclyde, Scotland, from Newfoundland on 22 December 1963; its status as ship-assisted vagrant (in confinement) prevents any formal acceptance (Evans 1994). The report of an immature at Porthellick Pool, St Mary's, Scilly, England, on 1-4 November 1990 was not accepted (Evans 1994).

*Ireland*

Nimmo's Pier, Galway, 18 November 1995 to 6 January 1996, first-winter (Rogers et al 1997).

Most observations on the Azores refer to a period between the end of September and the beginning of November, when migration is at its height along the North American east coast. The observation in Britain refers to a wintering bird, and the Irish record is also referring to a bird staying at least part of the winter on the site. The fact that wintering birds have not (yet) been recorded on the Azores is perhaps better explained by the lack of birders on the islands than the absence of the birds during that season.

The observation on Ouessant seems to be part of a small influx of Double-crested Cormorants in October and November 2000, with four records on the Azores during that period. Other Nearctic birds were also recorded on Ouessant at the same time, most notably Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*, Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*, Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea* (also the first for France) and Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata*, also drifted by the westerly depressions that hit Bretagne during the first half of October.

This observation is the first for France and mainland Europe but, as the population is still growing and birders are becoming more aware of the identification characters, this species will surely be recorded more regularly in next autumns, and probably also in next winters.

An article about this bird will be published in French in Ornithos (De Broyer in press).

**Acknowledgements**

Thanks go to Arnoud van den Berg, Tony Clarke, David Laloi, André van Loon and Xavier Vandevyvre for the information and help provided.

**Samenvatting**

GEOORDE AALSCHOLVER OP OUESSANT, FRANKRIJK, IN OKTOBER 2000 Op 5-6 oktober 2000 bevond zich een onvolwassen Geoorde Aalscholver *Hypoleucos auritus* op Ouessant, Finistère, Frankrijk; op 8 oktober werd de vogel dood gevonden. Dit betreft het eerste geval voor Frankrijk. De determinatie wordt besproken en een overzicht wordt gegeven van andere waarnemingen in het West-Palearctische gebied.

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# Trends in systematics

## Tenerife Robin – a species of its own?

Two populations of European Robin *Erithacus rubecula* inhabit the Canary Islands. In the western Canary Islands (El Hierro, Gomera and La Palma), robins are found which are similar to continental European birds, both in vocalizations and plumage. Similar populations are found in the Azores and on Madeira. These populations, sometimes regarded as forming a separate subspecies ('*E r microrhynchus*'), are classified as belonging to the continental European subspecies *E r rubecula* (Vaurie 1959) (hereafter *rubecula*). Early ornithologists visiting the central Canary Islands (Gran Canaria and Tenerife) realized that the robins breeding in these islands were different, especially their song impressed them (Bolle 1854). This population is classified as being a separate subspecies of European Robin, *E r superbus* (hereafter *superbus*). In the eastern Canary Islands (Fuerteventura and Lanzarote), *rubecula* of continental European origin are regular but rare winter visitors (cf Martin 1987).

**Song**

Like in *rubecula*, the song of *superbus* has a wistful and at the same time mercurial quality. Also, the mean pitch is virtually the same: 4.7 kHz (Stock & Bergmann 1988). This is also true for the mean durations of elements and intervals between elements within song strophes. These two variables result in almost identical singing speeds: 6.25 ± 1.91 elements per second (mean ± SD, n=91 strophes) for *rubecula* and 6.30 ± 4,29 elements per second (n=163 strophes) for *superbus*.

Despite these similarities, the song of *superbus* differs from that of *rubecula*. It is short (figure 1b-c). The song strophes of *superbus* have a mean duration of 1.29 ± 0.82 s (mean ± SD, n=163) whereas those of *rubecula* average 2.41 ± 0.78 s

**162** Pijaral, Anaga mountains, Tenerife, February 1998 *(Hans-Heiner Bergmann).* Famous laurisilva, endemic Canarian laurel forest, natural habitat of Tenerife Robin *Erithacus superbus*

**163** Genoves, Tenerife, Canary Islands, February 1998 *(Hans-Heiner Bergmann).* Parks and gardens are also inhabited by Tenerife Robin *Erithacus superbus*

[*Dutch Birding 23: 140-146, 2001*]

**164** Tenerife Robin / Teneriferoodborst *Erithacus superbus* on its song post, Tenerife, Canary Islands, February 1987 *(Hans-Heiner Bergmann)*

**165** Tenerife Robin / Teneriferoodborst *Erithacus superbus* on *Opuntia* cactus, Tenerife, Canary Islands, February 1998 *(Hans-Heiner Bergmann)*

(n=91), constituting a highly significant difference. High-pitched elements of just less than 8 kHz occur more frequent in *superbus* than in *rubecula*. In *superbus*, the strophe usually begins with one or two short very high notes followed by a lower motif, which is usually repeated a number of times, or a trill, or a combination of these. In *rubecula*, the contrast between high and low material is also a striking feature of the song, but the general pattern of high units near the start, followed by lower material is more often than not repeated in the course of the much longer strophe, so that there is often a return to high units in the middle of the strophe (Magnus Robb in litt) It is unknown whether female *superbus* sings. Female *rubecula* does so, at least during territory establishment in autumn (Lack 1939, Hoelzel 1986).

*Imitations*

As one of the most intriguing characters, *superbus* is exceptionally good at imitating songs and calls of other birds. Von Thanner (1910) was among the first to note imitations of calls of Red Kite *Milvus milvus*, Tenerife Blue Tit *Parus (caeruleus) teneriffae* and Blue Chaffinch *Fringilla teydea*. Lack & Southern (1949) recorded song imitations of Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* (a surprising observation since this species does not breed in the Canary Islands) and Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* (which can be heard on Gran Canaria and Tenerife in winter).

Figure 2a shows an imitation of a typical song phrase of Atlantic Canary *Serinus canaria* and figure 2b a possible model. Also, sequences of low-pitched whistling elements commonly heard in songs of *superbus* could go back to this model. Figure 2d shows song elements of Northern Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* of the subspecies *P c collybita* and figure 2c an imitation by a *superbus*. Also, elements of songs of Tenerife Blue Tit and Canary Island Chaffinch *F coelebs tintillon* and call imitations of Common Blackbird *T merula*, Canary Island Chaffinch and Atlantic Canary can be frequently heard. The high incidence of trills and rhythmically frequency modulated elements in songs of *superbus* may be due to the high degree of imitating sounds of other birds. If there is a lot of phrasing in the models, for instance, the songs of Tenerife Blue Tit and Atlantic

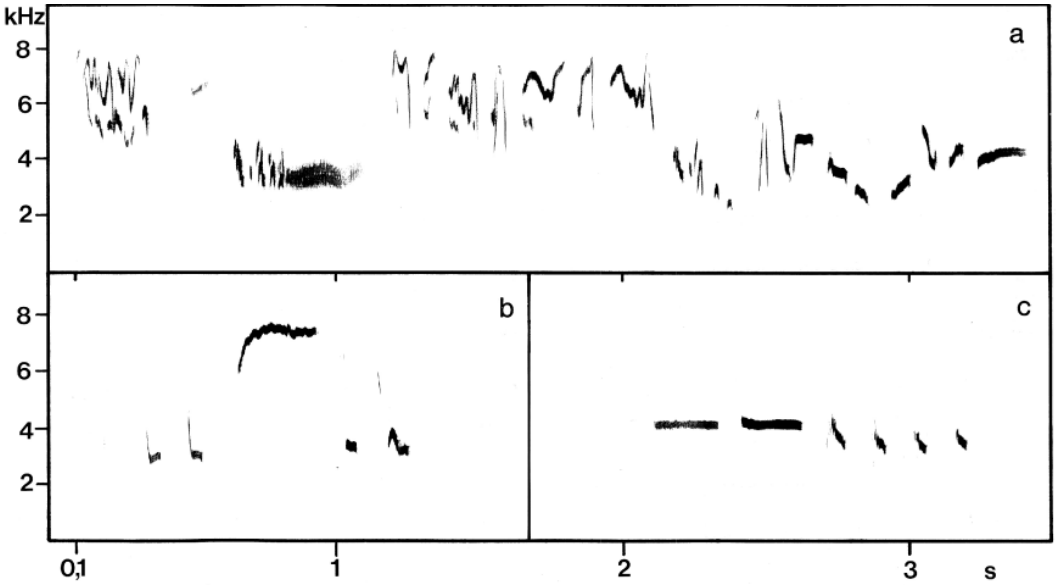
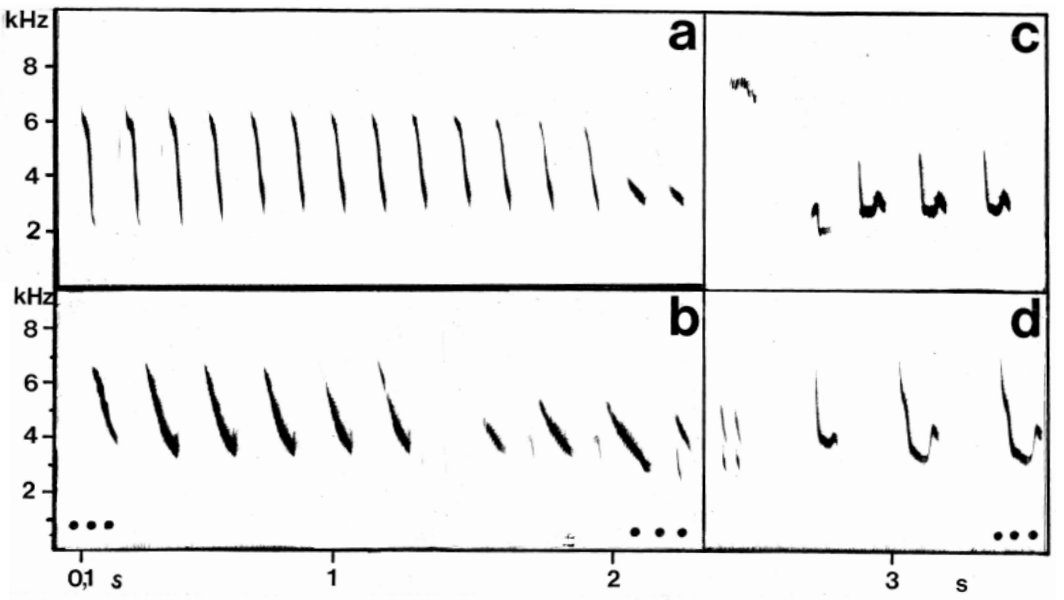



FIGURE 1 Sonagrams of songs of European Robin / Roodborst *Erithacus rubecula* and Tenerife Robins / Teneriferoodborst *E superbus (Hans-Heiner Bergmann)*. a, European Robin, Volkesfelden, Dillkreis, Hessen, Germany, 18 April 1976. b-c, Tenerife Robin, Monte del Agua, Teno mountains, Tenerife, Canary Islands, 20 February 1987. Songs of *superbus* are significantly shorter

FIGURE 2 Sonagrams of song imitations by Tenerife Robin / Teneriferoodborst *Erithacus superbus (Hans-Heiner Bergmann, except 2d)*. a, possible song imitation of Atlantic Canary *Serinus canaria*, Genoves, Tenerife, Canary Islands, 16 February 1987. b, model for a: typical song phrases of Atlantic Canary / Kanarie, Vilaflor, Tenerife, Canary Islands, 10 April 1972. c, song strophe imitating song of Northern Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* of subspecies *P c collybita*, Monte del Agua, Teno mountains, Tenerife, Canary Islands, 20 February 1987. d, possible model for c: song of Northern Chiffchaff / Tjiftjaf, Weil, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, date unknown *(E Arendt)*. Three dots indicate that songs are shortened in sonagram



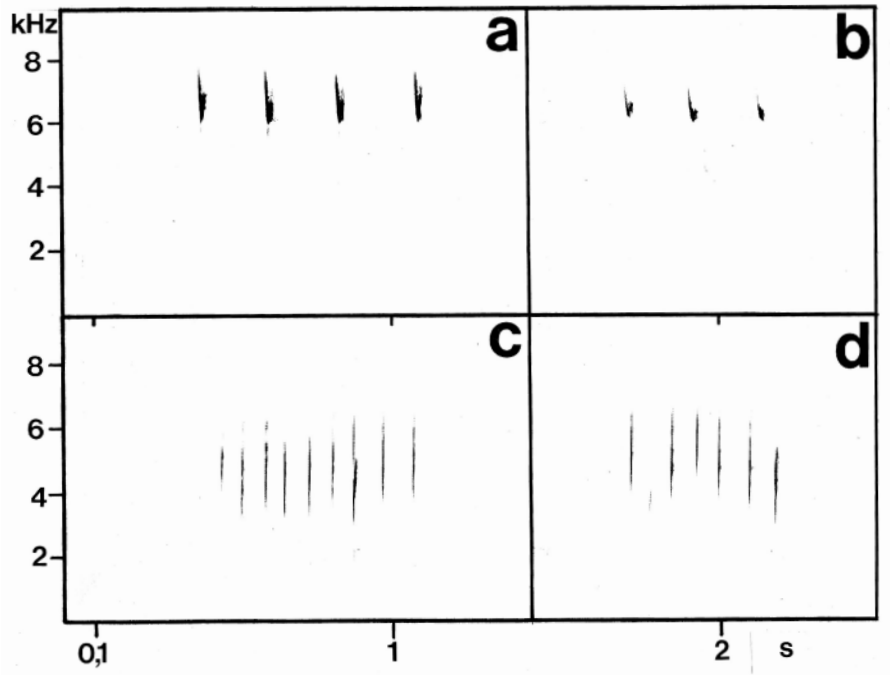



FIGURE 3 Sonagrams of alarm calls of Tenerife Robin / Teneriferoodborst *Erithacus superbus* and European Robin / Roodborst *E rubecula (Hans-Heiner Bergmann)*. a-b, Tenerife Robin, Monte del Agua, Teno mountains, Tenerife, Canary Islands, 20 February 1987. c-d, European Robin, Marburg, Hessen, Germany, 16 July 1978

Canary, then this should be reflected in the imitative songs of *superbus* as well. Imitations increase the complexity of the songs of *superbus*. Complexity and length play a role in mate choice (cf Catchpole & Slater 1995). So, increasing the size of the song repertoire through imitations may play a role in mate choice in *superbus*.

In some rare cases, *rubecula* has been found to imitate songs of other birds as well. Von Pernau (1702) knew that they are able to imitate songs of Common Nightingale when reared in cages. J Hall-Craggs in Cramp (1988: 609) showed a song strophe of Common Chaffinch mimicked by a *rubecula*. This is however not typical. Although repertoires of elements and motives show high individual differences in *rubecula* (Brémond 1968, Hoelzel 1986), imitations of other birds are not easily identified. Presumably, they are present but adapted very much to the robin's own singing style (cf Bergmann & Helb 1982).

An intriguing alternative interpretation is that *rubecula* imitates a great deal but the imitations tend to be incorporated into the song more subtly than in *superbus* (M Robb in litt). Thus, imitations in *rubecula* are often extremely short, making them harder to recognise. The difference is that the song of *rubecula* in general appears more fluid and 'plastic', that of *superbus* being actually simpler and more clearly segmented. According to this interpretation, imitations simply stand out more clearly in the song of *superbus* than in *rubecula*.

*Reactions to songs of rubecula*

When songs of *superbus* were played back to *superbus*, these reacted in all cases (n=25) by singing (Stock & Bergmann 1988). However, when after an interval of 2 min, songs of *rubecula* were played back to the same birds for 1 min, only 64% reacted in the same way. Most *superbus* approached the sound source of *superbus* but only 50% did so when songs of *rubecula* were played back. In *superbus*, the reaction times (the time from the start of the stimulus to the start of the reactions) were longer and the reaction intensities were lower to songs of *rubecula* than to those of *superbus*. All this makes clear that reactions to songs of *rubecula* are strongly reduced in *superbus*. Maybe reactions on *rubecula* would be still less intensive if they

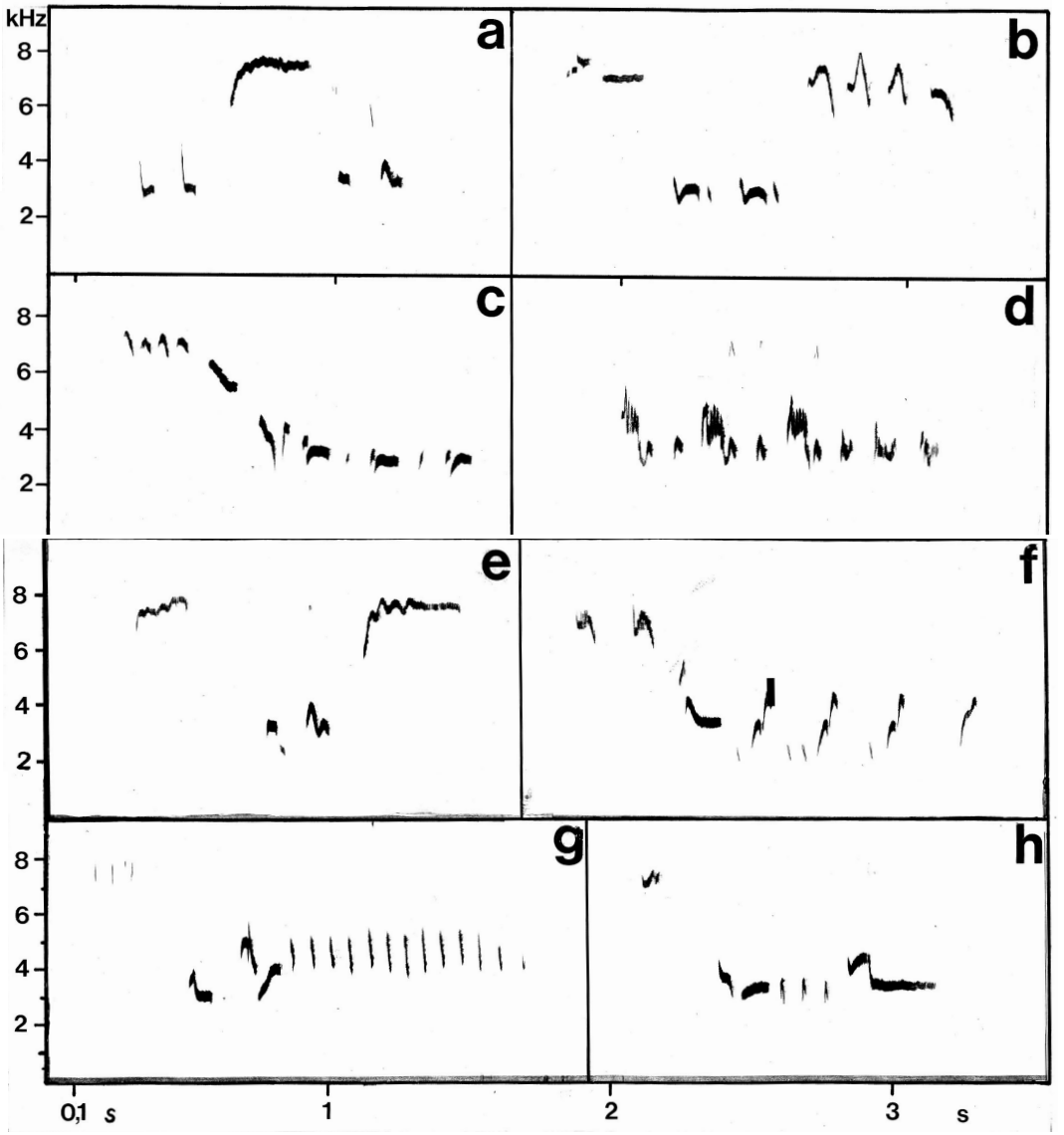



FIGURE 4 Sonagrams of songs of Tenerife Robin / Teneriferoodborst *Erithacus superbus*, Monte del Agua, Teno mountains, Tenerife, Canary Islands, 20 February 1987 *(Hans-Heiner Bergmann)*. Note rich structure

**166** Tenerife Robin / Teneriferoodborst *Erithacus superbus*, Genoves, Tenerife, Canary Islands, February 1998 *(Hans-Heiner Bergmann).* Note dark throat and breast

**167** European Robin / Roodborst *Erithacus rubecula*, Kobbeduinen, Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, Netherlands, 27 March 1998 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*

had not been preceded by songs of *superbus* as done by Stock & Bergmann (1988).

**Calls**

The normal alarm call of *superbus* is a slow sequence or even single sharp *tik* call that is visible in sonagrams as a high-pitched short element of 6-8 kHz (figure 3a-b). In contrast, *rubecula* produces fast phrases of lower-pitched short noisy elements of 4-6 kHz (figure 3c-d). Little is known in *superbus* about the prolonged *seet* calls used by *rubecula* as aerial raptor alarm (Marler 1956, Thielcke 1970) or other social calls (cf Bergmann & Helb 1982, Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer 1988). However, Magnus Robb (in litt) recently made sound recordings of this call type on the Central Canary Islands. The high-pitched *see* element found in many song strophes of *superbus* (cf Stock & Bergmann 1988) could play a special role in mate choice and pairing strategies (Harper 1985).

**Plumage**

*Rubecula* has an orange-red face (formed by the forehead, lore, ear-coverts, chin and throat) and breast. In *superbus*, these parts are a much more saturated red and the dark eye is surrounded by a prominent pale eye-ring. The ash-grey band running down from the forecrown to the sides of the breast is wider and more conspicuous. The upperparts are browner than those of *rubecula* which are greyish-brown and olive tinged. The British subspecies *E r melophilus* differs from *rubecula* in a similar but less intensive way: the orange-red of the face and breast is slightly darker while the upperparts are browner and less olive tinged (cf Svensson 1992, Snow & Perrins 1998). Whereas Tenerife Blue Tit and Canary Island Chaffinch differ in bill morphology from their mainland relatives (Grant 1979, Martin 1991), nothing is known about this in *superbus*. Observations by Magnus Robb (in litt) suggest that *superbus* has a greater inclination to cock its tail than *rubecula*, especially combining this with tail flicking when giving the high *tik* call described above.

**Systematics and nomenclature**

Taking into account the differences in vocalizations and plumage and the lowered reactions of *superbus* to songs of *rubecula*, we think that the central Canarian population should be treated as a species: *Erithacus superbus* Koenig, 1889. Because *superbus* and *rubecula* are both diagnosable and almost certainly reproductively isolated, this taxonomic treatment is in accordance with both the Phylogenetic Species Concept and the Biological Species Concept. *Superbus* could be regarded as an allospecies (sensu Eck 1996) belonging to the superspecies *E rubecula*.

For a short popular name, the bird should be called Tenerife Robin in English and 'Teneriffa-Rotkehlchen' in German although it occurs on Gran Canaria as well. The Spanish name for robin is 'Petirrojo' and to our knowledge no difference is made between the central and western Canarian populations (for the vernacular Canarian names, see Martin 1987).

## Biogeography

Gran Canaria and Tenerife play a special biogeographical role because of their richness in forest habitats (Kämmer 1982). This is, for instance, also illustrated by the endemic Blue Chaffinch whose breeding distribution, however, is linked to the distribution of the huge endemic pine tree *Pinus canariensis* on both Gran Canaria and Tenerife (Bergmann & Schäffer 2000). The high elevations and big size of the central Canarian islands may have been crucial for creating conditions to develop or conserve special taxa because both elevation and size allow for refuges under changing climate conditions.

## Acknowledgement

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# Masters of Mystery

SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

## Solutions of second round 2001

The solutions of mystery photographs III and IV (Dutch Birding 23: 89, 2001) appear below.

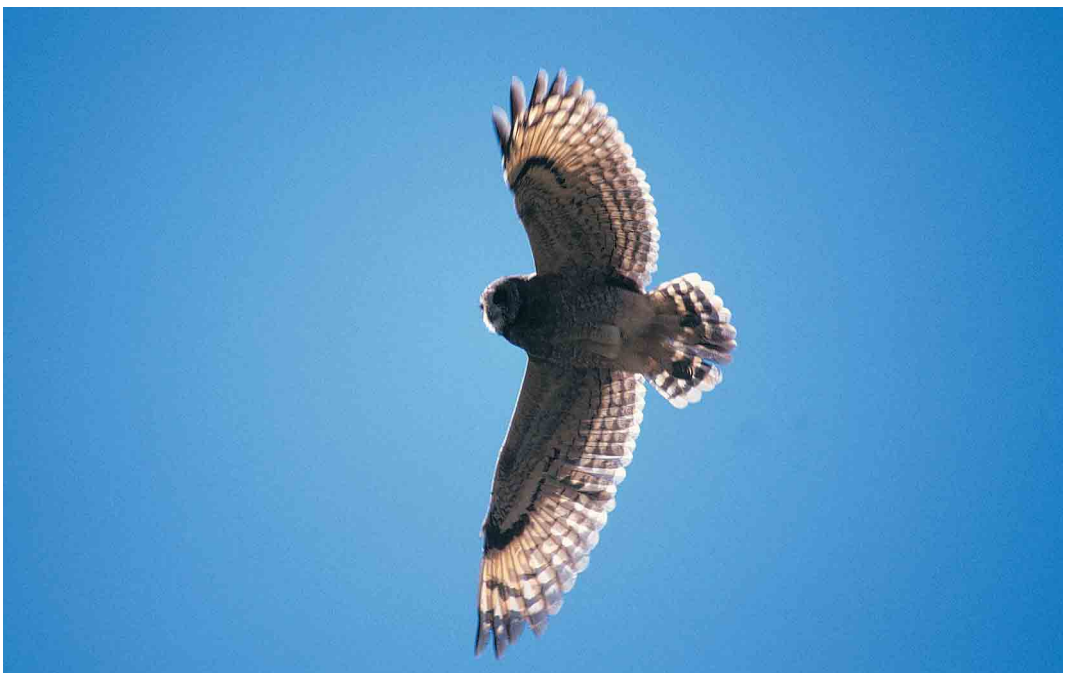
**III** With 55% correct answers, this mystery bird proved not very difficult. The mystery bird's large body, rounded wings with at least the suggestion of fingered outer primaries, and barring on the outerwing and tail indicate a bird of prey. The combination of rounded wings with strong barring on the upperside of the primaries and full round body strongly suggests an owl, rather than a diurnal raptor species. Also the buffish coloration of the pale remiges barring is commonly found in owls.

The type of primary barring is often diagnostic in owl species but as a result of the angle of view, it is less useful here, so we better concentrate on other features. Although sometimes misleading in a single photograph, the coloration of the upperside of the wings and the upperparts seems truly dark brown and, perhaps surprisingly for an owl, they look uniform. The secondaries and inner primaries are tipped white, forming a trailing edge to the wing strongly contrasting with the dark upperwing. With these features noted, there is only one conclusion: Marsh Owl *Asio capensis*. Note also the diagnostic tail pattern in which the barring is nearly interrupted by the more uniform central tail-feathers.

This Marsh Owl was photographed at Merja Zerga, Morocco, on 21 December 1987 by Arnoud van den Berg. Incorrect entries consisted of a variety of other species, including Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*, Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus* and Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*.

**IV** After a first view at this mystery bird, entrants may have asked themselves what else it could be than a black-eared wheatear. Well, it can not be anything else: it is a black-eared wheatear. The question, however, is: which one? The choice is

**168** Marsh Owl / Afrikaanse Velduil *Asio capensis*, Merja Zerga, Morocco, 20 September 1999
*(Arnoud B van den Berg)*



**169** Western Black-eared Wheatear / Westelijke Blonde Tapuit *Oenanthe hispanica*, adult male, Algarve, Portugal, 2 June 1998 *(Ray Tipper)*. Same bird as original mystery bird. Note orange-buff tinge on nape and crown. Black on head extends narrowly over bill base unlike in most Western Black-eared Wheatears, but does not reach far down over throat as in Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *O melanoleuca* and shows more rounded rear border

between Western Black-eared *Oenanthe hispanica* and Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *O melanoleuca*, formerly treated as two subspecies of a single species (cf Dutch Birding 20: 22-32, 1998). These two species are very similar and show only subtle differences in general coloration and, in males, shape of the black face patch. The mystery bird is a male of the black-throated form, which occurs in both species (but is more common in Eastern).

Adult summer male Western Black-eared Wheatear shows on average a stronger and warmer colour on the upperparts and underparts than Eastern Black-eared Wheatear. In spring and summer, mantle, crown, nape and breast of Western are typically tinged with a warm golden orange-buff colour. Upperparts and underparts of Eastern tend to show a less warm, less bright and browner, or even greyer, tinge. The coloration is on average also overall weaker than in Western, making the upperparts and underparts look whitish on some birds and resulting in a more contrasting black-and-white pattern. Many Eastern show a sandy, buff or yellowish tinge on mantle, crown, nape and breast, but usually slightly less golden orange-buff than in Western. This difference in coloration is, of course, very subtle and some birds of both species are extremely similar if not identical in this respect. Note that first-summer males of both species are browner above than adult males (wings also browner instead of black). Looking at the mystery bird, the upperparts show a rather golden orange-buff tinge that is indicative of Western (but does not exclude Eastern). On the other hand, the tinge is rather weak, almost absent on the underparts, and this would fit Eastern slightly better. However, it is important to take into account the date of the photograph in this respect. Both species undergo a complete post-breeding moult (starting from June or July) and therefore show a worn plumage in June, when this bird was photographed. With wear, the tinge on upperparts and underparts of both species becomes weaker, resulting in whiter upperparts and underparts. The whitish impression caused by the weak tinge on the underparts, in particular, of the mystery bird is not strange for a

**170** Eastern Black-eared Wheatear / Oostelijke Blonde Tapuit *Oenanthe melanoleuca*, adult male, Lesbos, Greece, 1 May 2001 *(René Pop)*. Note very extensive black throat patch, reaching far down and including lower throat, and typically squarely bordered at rear. Black extending distinctly over bill base and, in this individual, also well above eye. Only weak buffish tinge to mantle **171** Western Black-eared Wheatear / Westelijke Blonde Tapuit *Oenanthe hispanica*, male, Oued Massa, Morocco, 16 April 1997 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*. Black does not extend over bill base. Note typical bright orange-buff coloration of this early spring bird (becoming more whitish in late spring and summer)

Western at this time of the year. In fact, it is not unusual for a worn Western in summer to show a rather black-and-white plumage with only a faint buff tinge on the mantle.

The shape of the black face patch is also important. In Eastern Black-eared Wheatear, the black extends onto the lower forehead to meet above the bill base as a narrow strip of black, whereas in Western Black-eared Wheatear the black usually does not reach to above the bill base. As with the other differences between the two species, this feature has to be handled with care as some Eastern show only very limited or absent black extending over the bill base and some Western may show a very narrow strip of black extending over the bill base. In the mystery bird, the black seems to reach narrowly over the bill base, thus suggesting Eastern (but the black reaching over the bill base looks too narrow to reliably rule out Western). The black face patch of Eastern frequently also reaches above the eye. In the mystery bird the black does not reach above the eye, as in most Western but also some Eastern.

In black-throated males, like the mystery bird, special attention should be paid to the lower border of the throat patch. In black-throated males of Eastern Black-eared Wheatear, the throat patch is more extensive and reaches further down than in Western Black-eared Wheatear. As a result, the throat patch of Eastern reaches down to the border between the throat-feathers and breast-feathers, including chin and lower and upper throat. In Western, the throat patch includes chin and upper throat but not the lower throat, which is whitish. The mystery bird shows a throat patch that is typical for a black-throated male Western: it does not include the lower throat. Such a throat patch would be unusual for Eastern. Also, as a result of the larger throat patch, black-throated males Eastern typically show a rather square border to the black face patch on the rear ear-coverts. Black-throated males Western show a black face patch that is relatively narrow on the rear ear-coverts and that has a more rounded border. The mystery bird matches a Western in this respect as well.

Taking all these (very subtle) features of the mystery bird into consideration, the balance tips in favour of Western Black-eared Wheatear. Fortunately, this identification is confirmed by the location of the bird, as it was photographed in the Algarve, Portugal, on 2 June 1998 by Ray Tipper. Another photograph of the same bird

Mystery birds V (left) and VI (right) (September)

appears as plate 169. Half of the entrants (49%) identified it correctly; practically all others named it an Eastern Black-eared Wheatear and a few entrants identified it as a 'Black-eared Wheatear'. Readers might be interested to know that an article by Magnus Ullman on the identification of Western and Eastern Black-eared Wheatear is in preparation for Dutch Birding.

There were 140 participants in this round. This round was again not very difficult and 46 of them identified both mystery birds correctly. From them, Sybrand de Bruin was drawn as the winner of a copy of the *Collins bird guide* 'Large Format' by Lars Svensson, Peter Grant, Killian Mullarney and Dan Zetterström, donated by HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.

After two rounds there are 19 entrants on the lead with a 100% score, followed by 24 entrants with three correct answers. Their names can be viewed at www.dutchbirding.nl.

## Third round 2001

This round consist of two mystery birds (V and VI) as usual, but this time they are shown in the same photograph. Please, study the rules (Dutch Birding 23: 36, 2001) carefully and identify the two birds in the photograph. Solutions can be sent in three different ways:

- by *postcard* to Dutch Birding Association, Postbus 75611, 1070 AP Amsterdam, Netherlands
- by e-mail to masters@dutchbirding.nl
- from the Internet site of the Dutch Birding Association at www.dutchbirding.nl

Entries for the third round have to arrive by **1 July 2001**. From those entrants having identified both mystery birds correctly, one person will be drawn who will receive a copy of the *Collins bird guide* 'Large Format' by Lars Svensson, Peter Grant, Killian Mullarney and Dan Zetterström, donated by HarperCollins Publishers Ltd. Swarovski Benelux will award a Swarovski AT80 telescope with 30x wide angle eyepiece to the overall winner after six rounds.

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# Recensies

JORJE I ZALLES & KEITH L BILDSTEIN (EDITORS) 2000. *Raptor watch: a global directory of raptor migration sites* (BirdLife Conservation Series 9). BirdLife International (Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, UK, e-mail birdlife@birdlife.org.uk) & Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (1700 Hawk Mountain Road, Kempton, Pennsylvania 19529, USA). Distributed by Natural History Book Service, 2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN, UK, e-mail sales@nhbs.co.uk. 318 pp. ISBN 0-946888-38-8. GBP 37.00.

Raptors have always attracted the attention of people. Perhaps it is no wonder, therefore, that Birdlife International has dedicated this book to them. To me it seems that raptors are best protected by conserving both the breeding and wintering habitat. This book, however, only deals with the migration watch points, which seem somehow of lesser conservational value, although it is probably possible in some cases to get accurate estimates of raptor populations from these sites. Yet, it never becomes really clear from the book what the conservational value of raptor watch points themselves is, apart from a monitoring and educational point-of-view. But maybe monitoring and education is just what it is all about.

The book starts with an introduction which includes, amongst others, a readable analysis of the world's fly-ways. From this, it seems that especially the proposed fly-ways in Australia and (western) Africa are tentative at best, although the lack of data may be explained by the erratic nature of the movements. The book lists 18 sites in the world where more than 100 000 raptors pass each year. Two of those record even more than one million a year (namely Eilat, Israel, and Veracruz Coastal Plain, Mexico), although recently another site also reached this magic number: Talamanca, Costa Rica. The latter site is not mentioned in the book because it was only established in 2000! This example shows that there is still much to learn regarding raptor migration, something that any traveller can contribute to.

The main part of the book is a systematic list of all raptor watch sites in the world, which runs to 308 pages. It is in itself valuable information never brought together in one volume. For the Netherlands, the book gives only four raptor watch sites. Of course, the watch point of Nijmegen is situated east of Amsterdam in the

east of the country rather than in the west (see pages 50, 255). The watch site of 'Den Haag' is stated to be typical for the whole coastline of the Netherlands. While this may be so, there are still good and bad sites! For instance, one of the famous spring migration watch points, Breskens, where many harriers pass, is left out in this way. To find the area of 'Hoorn' among the best raptor watch points (again as an example of a series of similar watchpoints, in this case Dutch lowlands) is perhaps a bit overdone: the number of species and birds quoted for a season in 'Hoorn' is not really impressive, not even for Dutch standards. However, it is stated in the introduction that 'every site for which a […] co-operator contributed data has been included'. It then may be useful to know that the Dutch contributor originally originated from the area of 'Hoorn', which may explain something… On the other hand, the list of North American sites is very complete with all famous localities mentioned. Rather typically, in terms of birds seen annually, it becomes clear that Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Pennsylvania, the sponsor of the book, is only a slightly-higher-than-average watch point in the US (although in the Netherlands we would be happy with an average of 18 000 raptors a year!).

All in all, the book left me more with the feeling of having read a site guide to the raptor watch points of the world than a book of very high conservation value. However, even as such, it is worth having, especially for all raptor fans or world travellers. ROLAND VAN DER VLIET

JAMES F CLEMENTS 2000. *Birds of the world: a checklist (fifth edition)*. Pica Press, The Banks, Mountfield, Nr Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5JY, UK. 867 pp. ISBN 1-873403-93-3. GBP 35.00.

As more and more birders travel to the remote corners of the world, the need for a world checklist of birds is higher than ever before. James Clements is a world traveller himself, and he may well be qualified to produce such a list. He published the first edition of his checklist in 1972, and the presently reviewed edition is already the fifth. It perhaps goes to show that this is not only a very useful list, but also that the birding world has been in a constant change since at least the early 1970s, resulting in many additions and corrections to previous editions. However, it does not hurt for the sale of Clements' checklist that it has been adopted by the American Birding Association as the organisation's official checklist.

This edition, completely revised, is fatter than ever, with over 800 pages of names and names and names of birds. Of course, editing such a number of pages with words only (no pictures, no photos) must be a difficult task; however, the overall quality of it struck me as high. Although there are typos, missing English names, and even missing tick boxes, the overall number of spelling mistakes are few. Compared with previous editions, Clements has now not only included all recognized species (as by Clements of course) but also all subspecies of them. Therefore, the reader (well..., probably better defined as the user in this case) can keep track of any taxon he has seen in his life: very useful in this era where new taxonomic arrangements of birds and bird groups seem to occur by the minute. For each subspecies a range is included, contributing to the possibility to 'identify' certain subspecies in retrospect... The range always includes the breeding area, and often the wintering range (if appropriate) but sometimes not (when inclusion of the latter seemed equally appropriate). Therefore, although its presence is laudable in itself, the wording of the range section seems to be a bit uneven between even similar species. The North American Eskimo Curlew *Numenius borealis* is considered 'possibly extinct' but there is not a word about the similar fate of the Palearctic Slender-billed Curlew *N tenuirostris*: that species apparently still winters in north-western Africa... Personally, I would be surprised if any live individual of any of both species would ever be documented again. It is very disturbing that 2000 was the first year without any reliable report of Slender-billed Curlew; for Eskimo Curlew one has to go back to the 1960s for such a record. Another example is the Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* of which the North American subspecies winter south to northern Mexico, but the northern Palearctic subspecies *E a flava* apparently does not winter south of its quoted range. More examples of uneven treatments can be found throughout the book.

I chose the cited examples above deliberately: the whole book has a distinct American feel. Clements followed the American Ornithologists' Union's decisions in almost all cases (except for the treatment of the New World vultures which Clements chose to retain in the raptor order rather than to place it in the stork order) but his treatment of the Palearctic avifauna is weak. For instance, there are no split teals, no split yellow-browed warblers, no split bonelli's warblers, no split chiffchaffs and no split redpolls. For the split of the three warbler taxa, this should be considered as quite remarkable as the official announcement by the Dutch committee for avian systematics (CSNA) of these splits had already been published in 1997 (and that of the British taxonomic committee, BOURC, in 1997 – in the case of the yellow-browed and bonelli's warblers – or 1998 – in the case of the chiffchaffs)! The other two given examples had already been published by the CSNA in 1998 (with the announcement of the BOURC following in summer 1999). It would seem to me that Clements had some time to include these changes in his book... Therefore, the neglect of the birding community on the Palearctic side of the Atlantic may leave European birders frustrated (not to forget the researchers that work on the taxonomy of the European avifauna). It may be useful to know therefore, that the above splits, as well as addenda, corrections and even more splits, *can* be found (albeit belatedly) on the homepage of Ibis Publishing Company (www.ibispub.com) where regular updates of the checklist have been promised. Indeed: updates have occurred since 30 May 2000, with the last one to occur on 31 December 2000. The list of updates

already runs into seven pages, indicating the ongoing taxonomic developments.

The American feel of the book also becomes apparant in Clements' choice of English names. He uses the name Inornate Warbler for Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*, thereby ignoring the common usage of the latter name in the Palearctic for this species. Again, several other examples of this can be found in the book. In the end of the book there is a useful gazetteer (Adana – in Turkey – is there, but also Zulia – in Venezuela), two lists with distributional data of bird species in the world and several indices. Two maps grace the inside dust jacket (one showing the distribution of bird species by country and one showing the distribution of endemic species by country), but these are not without their mistakes (check the website).

In summary, despite the uneven treatment of the different parts of the world with respect to their avifaunas, Clements' checklist remains a gold-mine of information. The inclusion of all subspecies as well as their ranges is a major bonus. I can only hope that following editions will have a world feel rather than an American bias.
ROLAND VAN DER VLIET

PAUL ISENMANN & AÏSSA MOALI 2000. *Oiseaux d'Algérie. Birds of Algeria*. SEOF, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, 55 rue Buffon, 75005 Paris, France. 339 pp. ISBN 2-9506548-8-6. FF 240.00.

The first checklist of Algerian birds (Ledant et al 1981) was published by Belgian and French expatriates who had been working in Algeria during the 1970s, when the endemic Algerian Nuthatch *Sitta ledanti* was discovered. After that publication and presumably thanks to the new international attention paid to Algerian birds, the first Algerian ornithologists became active in their turn, before facing insecurity in the 1990s. This second checklist of Algerian birds, *Oiseaux d'Algérie. Birds of Algeria*, with an Algerian co-author, is mainly the output of this era, when data had been locally collected but when conditions became more suitable for office work than for further field activity. *Birds of Algeria* is a 339-page book, bilingual French and English, rich in colour photographs and maps. Despite the key role those pictures play in the attractiveness of this book, accurate scientific information should preferably be searched in the text, and especially in the original French version, because no translation is perfect. The book includes several general comments and an extensive annotated checklist, reviewing the status, phenology, distribution, habitat and migrations of each species (406 species). More than just an up-dating of Ledant et al (1981), this new book provides more details, especially on the biogeographical context and on the migration system. The information is so abundant, indeed, that the risk of errors is high. As already suggested, some maps are not consistent with the text. Another example of small errors: the results of White Storks *Ciconia ciconia* counts do not include those of 1974 but are followed by their reference (Thomas et al 1975). Maybe more important is the fact that the Tellian region is described both as belonging to the thermo-Mediterranean climate and as including mountain forests of the Atlas, that is forests of much colder climates. The geographical description of the country is brief indeed, and it omits the important mountainous parts of the Aures (with their cedar forests, Spanish juniper woods, hedgehog-heaths). Despite the Algerian co-authorship, the book is still mainly a foreign product, just like our paper of 1981! Maybe the next one will use recent toponyms, include Arabic (or Kabylian) names and a summary and pay more attention to local initiatives or institutions (instead of MedWet, an international programme which is not active in Algeria). Meanwhile, this is of course *the* new reference on Algerian birds and currently the most detailed one.
JEAN-PAUL LEDANT

PAUL DOHERTY & BILL ODDIE 2000. *Waders. A video guide to the key waders of Europe, Asia & North America* (double video set, 215 min). Bird Images Video Guides, 28 Carousel Walk, Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorkshire LS25 6LP, UK. GBP 24.95.

Those familiar with the Bird Images Video Guides will not be surprised that this is – again – a quality product. With 103 species featured, this video is very complete – including video footage of much wanted species such as Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*, Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris* and Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer*. As the title suggests, not all waders of Europe, Asia and North America are included and a few Asian species have been omitted (of which Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala* is the most important from a Western Palearctic perspective). The filming (mostly by Paul Doherty) is very good, with very calm and shake-free camera movements which provide pleasant watching. On numerous occasions stunning images are shown. The video footage per species shown is a good mix of the bird being active and feeding and being less active or at rest (when features are more easily studied). The narration by Bill Oddie is excellent. Taken into account the limited space per species, the comments are very comprehensive. With the comments varying from the more general type to pointing at very subtle identification features, the narration is done in such a way that both beginners and more advanced birders will find it very instructive.

There is a brief introduction per family group, and each species account starts with comments on distribution and status (I would have preferred showing a map with the species' distribution here). Many species (but not all) are also shown in flight and their calls are included as well – which is of course a clear advantage for identification purposes when compared to 'conventional' guides. In some cases where no video footage was available of a certain plumage, this was solved by including a still of a photograph that depicts that plumage. However, in other cases this was not done and as a result some plumages are not illustrated in this video.

For example, the footage of Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* only illustrates the non-breeding plumage and that of Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* fails to show the non-breeding plumage. Inclusion of these plumages would have made it more complete. Still, this video guide is without doubt an excellent production and is very helpful for identification purposes. Costing 25 GBP, it is well worth its price. DIEDERIK KOK

MARC PLOMP 2001. *Vogels in Israël – Eilat en de zuidelijke woestijnen* (videocassette, 110 min). Plomp Digital Video, Wetering 7, 3461 JA Linschoten, Nederland. NLG 65.00.

Naast de uitgave van de inmiddels bekende Dutch Birding video-jaaroverzichten en de recente publicatie van video's over 'onze' roofvogels en uilen en 'onze' zwanen en ganzen, heeft Marc Plomp zich nu ook buiten de Nederlandse landsgrenzen begeven. Deze bijna twee uur durende video gaat over de vogels en het vogelen in Zuid-Israël, een favoriete bestemming voor veel Nederlandse en Europese vogelaars. De band bevat opnamen van Marc Plomp en Leo Boon (Cursorius), aangevuld met enkele opnamen van Wietze Janse. Het commentaar is van de hand van Gert Ottens en is ingesproken door Marc Plomp. Ongeveer de helft van de band richt zich op de bekende vogelplekken in en om Eilat; verder wordt aandacht besteed aan goede locaties in de Aravavallei en bij Nizzana. Per locatie worden de meest karakteristieke soorten getoond; in totaal gaat het om c 90 vogelsoorten en enkele soorten zoogdieren. Naast informatie over de vogelsoorten wordt veel aandacht gegeven aan praktische zaken zoals routebeschrijvingen en tips om de vogels in kwestie te vinden.

De opnamen zijn vrijwel zonder uitzondering van hoge kwaliteit. De nadruk ligt op de meer algemene vogelsoorten die door de meeste vogelaars – soms met enige moeite – aangetroffen kunnen worden. Goed vertegenwoordigd zijn vooral tapuiten *Oenanthe* en grasmussen *Sylvia*, twee groepen waar Israël om bekend staat. De band richt zich niet op de zeldzamere soorten; uitzonderingen vormen de opnamen van Gestreepte Dwergooruil *Otus brucei*, Siberische Waterpieper *Anthus rubescens japonicus* en Steppeklapekster *Lanius pallidirostris*. De gesproken toelichting geeft compacte informatie over biotoop en herkenning van de getoonde soorten en soms wat extra informatie over de betrokken ondersoort. Af en toe heeft het commentaar een wat oubollig karakter maar over het algemeen is de informatie correct en relevant, een enkele verspreking daargelaten.

Deze video richt zich vooral op de grote groep vogelaars die overweegt een keer naar Eilat te gaan en zich daarop wil voorbereiden; de nadruk op praktische informatie en de Nederlandse tekst maken de band geschikt voor een breed publiek. Vogelaars die al één of meerdere keren naar Zuid-Israël zijn geweest, zullen op de band waarschijnlijk niet zoveel nieuws aantreffen maar kunnen wel (na)genieten van de opnamen van inmiddels bekende plekjes en de bijbehorende vogelsoorten.

De videocassette is te bestellen door het overmaken van NLG 65.00 (inclusief porto) op rekening 899007287 tnv Plomp Digital Video te Linschoten, onder vermelding van 'Video Israël' en naam en adres. ENNO B EBELS

# Aankondigingen & verzoeken

**Forktail 1 & 5 wanted** The Library of the American Museum of Natural History is lacking volumes 1 & 5 of Forktail which are now out of print. This library is one of the most important natural history libraries in the world and these volumes would be accessible to a very wide audience.

If anyone has spare copies of these volumes that he or she would be willing to donate, sell or trade, please let us know what you are interested in. We have duplicate copies of many books on Asian birds that we might trade for these volumes. Any help in this would be much appreciated.

Please contact: Paul Sweet, Collection Manager, Department of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, 79th Street at Central Park West, New York, NY 10024, USA, telephone +1-2127695780, fax +1-2127695759, e-mail sweet@amnh.org.

***Saxicola* photographs** For a forthcoming book on stonechats, bushchats and Whinchat *Saxicola*, to be published by Pica/Christopher Helm, good quality photographs or transparencies are required of the following species in all plumages: European Stonechat *S rubicola* (including '*hibernans*'); Siberian Stonechat *S maura* (including '*stejnegeri*', *variegata*, *armenica*, *przewalskii* & *indica*); African Stonechat *S torquata* (all races); Whinchat *S rubetra*; Hodgson's Bushchat *S insignis*; Stoliczka's Bushchat *S macrorhyncha*; Pied Bushchat *S caprata* (all races); White-tailed Stonechat *S leucura*; Reunion Stonechat *S tectes*; Canary Islands Stonechat *S dacotiae*; White-bellied Bushchat *S gutturalis*; Grey Bushchat *S ferrea*; Jerdon's Bushchat *S jerdoni*; and Buff-streaked Chat *S bifasciata*.

Also photos showing leading identification characteristics of species, such as for instance white rump, black underwing-coverts of male Siberian Stonechat, etc would be welcome.

Please send any photographs to: Ewan Urquhart, The Old House, Church Street, Kingham, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire OX7 6YA, UK, e-mail chats@themail.co.uk.



[*Dutch Birding 23: 154-155, 2001*]

All photos and transparencies received will be looked after with extreme care and returned. For those photographs used, a commission will be paid. Please mark photographs and slides with your name, place where they were taken and date, species and or subspecies, and age if known.

**Ornithologisch Jaarverslag Texel 2000** Het vierde Ornithologisch Jaarverslag Texel, uitgegeven door de Vogelwerkgroep Texel, is in april verschenen en geeft een systematisch overzicht van de vogelwaarnemingen in 2000 op Texel, Noord-Holland. Niet alleen de gegevens uit het archief van de Vogelwerkgroep Texel zijn opgenomen, maar ook die van de Nederlandse Zeevogelgroep, de wadvogel- en ganzentellingen van SOVON en de verschillende broedvogelinventarisaties van Natuurmonumenten, SOVON en Staatsbosbeheer. Het verslag bevat ook enkele kleurenfoto's van op Texel in 2000 waargenomen vogels. Het verslag kost NLG 15.50 (inclusief verzending) en kan besteld worden door dit bedrag over te maken op girorekening 5312854 tnv Vogelwerkgroep Texel te Den Burg, Texel, ovv 'Jaarverslag 2000'. Ook de verslagen over 1997 en 1999 zijn nog verkrijgbaar (1998 uitverkocht).

Overigens kunnen geïnteresseerden de meest recente waarnemingen op Texel lezen op de internetpagina home.planet.nl/~witte005/home.htm. Via deze pagina kunnen ook eigen waarnemingen worden doorgegeven.

**Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve** The Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in eastern Nepal is one of the finest birding sites in Asia. Species that can be seen there are, for example, Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri*, Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*, Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis*, Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*, Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*, Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*, Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos*, Swamp Francolin *Francolinus gularis*, Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*, Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris* and Bristled Grassbird *Chaetornis striatus*; rarities include Greater Adjutant *L dubius*, Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*, Bengal Florican *Eupodotis bengalensis*, Lesser Florican *E indica*, Indian Courser *Cursorius coromandelicus*, Indian Skimmer *Rynchops albicollis* and Hodgson's Bushchat *Saxicola insignis*.

Koshi Camp, located at the eastern edge of the reserve is a camp run by a group of knowledgeable, enthusiastic field naturalists. The camp operates on the principle of fair trading and strongly supports nature conservation, awareness and social education activities all over Nepal. Besides accommodation, the camp offers walks, boat rides, bicycle trips and 4-wheel safaris in Koshi Tappu, as well as help and guidance elsewhere in the eastern Himalayas.

For more information, please contact: Koshi Camp, PO Box 21016, Lazimpat Kathmandu, Nepal, telephone +977-1-429609, fax +977-1-439331, e-mail birdlife@mos.com.np.

**British Ornithologists' Club** The British Ornithologists' Club (BOC), founded in 1892, publishes the quarterly Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club ('Bull BOC'). With effect from 2001, it is now possible to become a full member of the BOC without being a member of the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU), although BOU members continue to benefit from a reduced subscription to the Bulletin of GBP 12.00 per year. Non-BOU members will pay GBP 18.00 per year.

Anyone with an interest in bird taxonomy and distribution should not be without the Bulletin. Free sample copies can be obtained from: Hon Secretary, British Ornithologists' Club, Dene Cottage, West Harting, Petersfield, Hants GU31 5PA, UK, e-mail mbcasement@aol.com; you can also check the Club's internet website at: www.boc-online.org.

# Corrigendum

In the paper 'Juvenile plumage of Javan Crested Honey Buzzard, with comments on mimicry in south-eastern Asian *Pernis* and *Spizaetus* species' (Dutch Birding 21: 192-198, 1999) it is erroneously reported that there are only two skins of Javan Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus ptilorhyncus* in the collection of the National Museum of Natural History at Leiden, the Netherlands, and that (at least) 12 other skins from the Bartels collection may have gone lost during World War II. After re-checking, the skins (and one egg) appeared to be present in the collection. Furthermore, the name of one of the authors, Reşit Sözer, was misspelled as 'Reflit' Sözer. BAS VAN BALEN

The albino loon *Gavia* in Dutch Birding 23: 98, plate 119, 2001, appeared to be a Great Northern Loon *G immer*, not a Black-throated Loon *G arctica* (see this issue's WP reports). EDITORS

# WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic mainly in **March-April 2001** and focuses on north-western Europe. The reports are largely unchecked and their publication here does not imply future acceptance by the rarities committee of the relevant country. Observers are requested to submit records to each country's rarities committee. Corrections are welcome and will be published.

GEESE TO DUCKS The fourth **Greenland White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons flavirostris* for France was first seen in December 2000 and turned up again on 9 March at Saint-Vio, Finistère. In the Netherlands, an adult female colour-ringed (and misidentified as Siberian White-fronted Goose *A a albifrons*) at Polder Arkemheen, Nijkerk, Gelderland, on 3 January turned up on 7 February at Tienhoven, Utrecht, where it stayed until late March. Another was on Terschelling, Friesland, on 21-22 April. On 1-25 April. Up to nine **'Gray-bellied Brants'** *Branta* (a rare and still unnamed taxon from Melville and Prince Patrick Islands, Canada), including a pair with five young, were in the Tyrella/Dundrum Bay area, Down, Northern Ireland, and an additional two were in Killough Harbour, Down, until at least 29 (for pictures, see Birding World 14: 151-155, 2001). Three **Ruddy Shelducks** *Tadorna ferruginea* turned up in the saltpans of Tavira, Algarve, Portugal, on 26 March. The ninth **Steller's Eider** *Polysticta stelleri* for Iceland was a male first seen in January 1998 and again wintering this year with local Harlequin Ducks *Histrionicus histrionicus* at Borgarfjörður eystri from 15 October 2000 to 21 March. The first-winter female **King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis* at Douarnenez, Finistère, France, stayed from 30 December 2000 to at least late April and the first-winter male at Laxe, A Coruña, Galicia, Spain, from 12 December 2000 to at least 3 March. One of the two males staying since August 2000 on Texel, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, was still seen on 28 April. Two female **Lesser Scaups** *Aythya affinis* stayed at Roquito del Fraile, Tenerife, until at least 5 March. In Spain, a female was at Embalse de Rosadoiro, Arteixo, A Coruña, from 5 April onwards. In France, one was at Saint-Lumine-de-Coutais, Loire-Atlantique, on 11-16 April. In Britain, one stayed at Redes Mere, Cheshire, on 16-24 April. In an account for the BOU Records Committee, Alan Knox presented a review of 16 British records of Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* up to 1950 (Br Birds 94: 61-73, 2001). Most of these records were specimens of which the origins were clouded by fraud or by lack of detail; only a female shot on Tresco, Scilly, on 17 January 1920 was considered acceptable. Furthermore, there are two accepted sight records of males in Buckinghamshire from 28 February to 8 March 1961 and on South Uist, Western Isles, on 14-18 March 1980. The immature female discovered on 16 December 2000 at Santa Cruz, Graciosa, Azores, was still present on 9 March. The third **Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* for Poland, if accepted, was a male Landecko-Ilownickie ponds, near Bielsko-Biala, on 1-2 May. **American Black Ducks** *A rubripes* remained in Britain (eg, Devon), Iceland (Garður), Ireland (eg, Mayo), and Galicia, Spain, but the male in Scilly, England, was found dead on Tresco on 17 March.

LOONS TO IBISES An inland **Great Northern Loon** *Gavia immer* was seen at the Ouarzazate barrage, Morocco, on 18 March. The albino loon photographed at Lauffen, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, on 24-26 December 2000 was found dead and appeared to be a Great Northern Loon, not a Black-throated Loon *G arctica* (cf Dutch Birding 23: 98, plate 119, 2001). At least one adult summer **Yellow-billed Loon** *G adamsii* was swimming off North Ronaldsay, Orkney, Scotland, on 25-28 April. The **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* at Saint-Denis d'Orques, Sarthe, France, remained from 24 June 2000 to at least late April. Another was at Artix, Pyrénées-Atlantiques, on 22 March. A third French individual was an adult summer near Martizay, Brenne, Indre, from 7 April onwards. At Herøysund, Nordland, Norway, the adult first present from 7 May to late September 2000 was rediscovered on 17 March. The first for mainland Spain stayed from 19 February to 13 April at Pantano de La Grajera, Logroño, La Rioja. The first **Black-browed Albatross** *Diomedea melanophris* for Sweden was a subadult close inshore at Hovs Hallar, Skåne, on 19-20 May. The bird was discovered at 13:25 and was still visible at 19:30, when c 400 birders had managed to see it. The previous record, at sea on 10 April 1990, had just been removed from the Swedish list because it had become clear that this bird was not seen in Swedish waters and was most probably present in Norwegian waters. On 11 May, a migrating **Pygmy Cormorant** *Microcarbo pygmeus* was seen by several observers at Zoutekreek, near Oostende, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. One was reported from Switzerland on 13 May. Interesting birds counted at Banc d'Arguin, Mauretania, in early April included c 500 **Long-tailed Cormorants** *M africanus*, a **Common Gull** *Larus canus canus* near Cape Timirist on 9 April, 15 **Grey-headed Gulls** *L cirrocephalus*, a **Mediterranean Gull** *L melanocephalus*, c 1000 **Royal Terns** *Sterna maxima* and a **Roseate Tern** *S dougallii*. A subadult **Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* was present in Pecice near Pruszkow, Poland, on 12-13 April. At Abu Simbel, Egypt, 30 **Pink-backed Pelicans** *P rufescens* and 20 **Yellow-billed Storks** *Mycteria ibis* were seen on 6 April. Three single dark-morph **Western Reef Egrets** *Egretta gularis gularis* were present in northern Italy from late March to mid-April, one south of Venice in the Valle Capitania marsh near Rosolina, one near Pavia, and one at Diaccia Botrona, Toscana. Two singles were seen in northern Italy on 6 and 11 April, respectively. In Sardinia, Italy, 61 **Great Egrets** *Casme-*

**172** Ross's Gull / Ross' Meeuw *Rhodostethia rosea*, adult, Leuchtenbuch, Bayern, Germany, 27 March 2001 *(Markus Roemhild)*

**173** King Eider / Koningseider *Somateria spectabilis*, second-year male, Laxe, A Coruña, Galicia, Spain, 22 December 2000 *(Edmundo Fraga)*

**174** Tawny Eagle / Savannearend *Aquila rapax*, Timirist, Banc d'Arguin, Mauretania, 8 April 2001 *(Kris De Rouck)* **175** Tawny Eagle / Savannearend *Aquila rapax*, Urim, Israel, 23 March 2001 *(Jan Bisschop)* **176** Black-winged Stilts / Steltkluten *Himantopus himantopus*, Lages do Pico, Azores, 8 April 2001 *(Mark Bolton)* **177** Long-billed Dowitcher / Grote Grijze Snip *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, winter plumage, with Ruff / Kemphaan *Philomachus pugnax*, Dhofar Sun Farms, Oman, 10 March 2001 *(Eric Koops)* **178** Lesser Scaups / Kleine Toppers *Aythya affinis*, Roquito del Fraile, Tenerife, Canary Islands, 21 November 2000 *(Harry J Lehto)*

**179** Leucistic Common Crane / leucistische Kraanvogel *Grus grus*, Lac du Der-Chantecoq, Marne, France, 28 December 2000 *(Carl Derks)* **180** Siberian Crane / Siberische Witte Kraanvogel *Grus leucogeranus*, with Hooded Cranes / Monnikskraanvogels *G monacha*, Arasaki, Kyushu, Japan, 7 February 2001 *(Max Berlijn)* **181** Demoiselle Cranes / Jufferkraanvogels *Anthropoides virgo*, K20, Eilat, Israel, 26 March 2001 *(Nils van Duivendijk)* **182** Long-tailed Cormorants / Afrikaanse Dwergaalscholvers *Microcarbo africanus*, Tidra Island, Banc d'Arguin, Mauretania, 8 April 2001 *(Kris De Rouck)*

*rodius albus* and 35 **Eurasian Spoonbills** *Platalea leucorodia* (at Stagno di Cagliari) were counted on 4 February. Up to six **Glossy Ibises** *Plegadis falcinellus* were present in the pond of Molentargius, Cagliari, during February; at least 64 were seen at Oued Massa, Morocco, on 1 March; a flock of 34 was seen at Vendres, Hérault, France, on 15-17 March; and 14 were still at Mas d'Agon, Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, on 31 March. In Donaña, Andalucía, Spain, a record 400 started nesting at the José Antonio Valverde centre.

RAPTORS In Israel, 21 **Crested Honey Buzzards** *Pernis ptilorhyncus* were counted on migration between 24 April and 14 May in the southern Arava area; in addition, a female was seen near Nizzana on 28 April and a male was at Tirat-Tsvi on 2 May. In southern France, two **Black-winged Kites** *Elanus caeruleus* were (still) at Nort-sur-Erdre, Loire-Atlantique, on 18 March. After the last **White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaaetus albicilla* was killed over Shetland, Scotland, more than 80 years ago, a reintroduction scheme was set up 25 years ago. At present, there is a Scottish population of 19 breeding pairs while a total of 100 chicks has been raised since the scheme's start. In 2000, eight pairs successfully raised 12 young. One of the 'founding mothers' of Scotland's population, 'Blondie', disappeared in May 2000 and her body was found later. Analysis proved she died from natural causes. She was at least 21 years old and had raised 15 chicks in 15 years, including the first for more than 70 years to fly from a Scottish nest, in Mull, in 1985. At Banc d'Arguin, a **Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus* and a **Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax* were seen at Cape Timirist on 8 April. In Egypt, 17 **Lappet-faced Vultures** *Torgos tracheliotus* were counted in April along the road between Marsa Alam and Shamatel, c 500 km south of Hurghada; on 4 April, two were seen at Aswan. In southern France, a **Eurasian Black Vulture** *Aegypius monachus* was seen near Treille, Aude (c 80 km from the Spanish border), on 11 May, probably originating from the Spanish population rather than from the reintroduced population in the Cévennes, France. The first **Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrouros* this spring for Italy was at Conera on 17 March and the first this spring for Denmark was an adult male at Tønder, Sønderjylland, on 12 April. On 21 April, an adult male was reported from Breskens, Zeeland, the Netherlands. On 17-18 May, a female lingered at Den Haag, Zuid-Holland. In France, two **Long-legged Buzzards** *Buteo rufinus* were reported at Vinon-sur-Verdon, Var, on 17 March. Several long-staying **Greater Spotted Eagles** *A clanga* in western Europe included second-years wintering in northerly locations such as Salzderhelden near Sülbeck, Niedersachsen, Germany (at least on 18-23 March), and Lauwersmeer, Friesland/Groningen, the Netherlands (from 24 January until at least late April). The 17th **Steppe Eagle** *A nipalensis* for Denmark, first seen on Bornholm on 25 September 2000, was still present on 15 April (cf Dutch Birding 23: 96, plate 112, 2001). In southern Morocco, a **Tawny Eagle** occurred 34 km east of Taroudannt in mid-February. On 27 March, one was seen at Wadi Hagul, Egypt. The long-staying individual of Urim, Israel, was seen near Gvulot, northern Negev, on 30 March. Sadly, 2000 has been the worst year on record for **Golden Eagle** *A chrysaetos* poisoning in Scotland with at least three victims found; apparently, most incidents took place at sporting estates. At Midelt, Morocco, an unseasonal pale-morph **Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus* was seen on 24 February. The first white-morph **Gyr Falcon** *Falco rusticolus* for France since 1979 was a first-winter on Ouessant, Finistère, from 27 December 2000 to 11 April (cf Dutch Birding 23: 98, plate 115, 2000).

CRAKES TO CRANES A **Baillon's Crake** *Porzana pusilla* singing on Terschelling, Friesland, on 27-29 April was the third-earliest ever for the Netherlands. The two **Siberian White Cranes** *Grus leucogeranus* wintering at Bharatpur, India, left in the last week of February (during the 1960s, up to 86 were counted here). The individual wintering at Arasaki, Kyushu, Japan, was presumably the same as the one in the previous winter (which was Japan's ninth for the 20th century). The leucistic **Common Crane** *G grus* at Lac du Der-Chantecoq, Marne, France, this winter was photographed on 28 December 2000; probably, this bird accounted for previous claims of Siberian White Crane in northern France (it remains uncertain whether this was the same albino as the one seen at Nederweert, Limburg, in early December 2000; cf Dutch Birding 23: 47, 2001). On 26 March, four **Demoiselle Cranes** *Anthropoides virgo* were resting at the sewage ponds at K20, Eilat, Israel.

WADERS Four **Black-winged Stilts** *Himantopus himantopus* were photographed at Lajes do Pico, Azores, on 8 April; probably the same four were at Cabo da Praia, Terceira, on 22 April. Three **Cream-coloured Coursers** *Cursorius cursor* were seen in Andalucía, Spain, two at Guadalhorce river mouth, Málaga, on 11 April and one at Sotogrande on 18 April. The fourth (or fifth) for Portugal was an adult at Ludo saltpans on 21-22 April. The first **American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominicus* for Catalunya, Spain, was at Aiguamolls de l'Empordà on 16-22 April. In France, a **Pacific Golden Plover** *P fulva* was at Salses, Pyrénées-Orientales, on 1 May. The 15th **Sociable Lapwing** *Vanellus gregarius* for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) stayed at Al Wathba camel track until 3 March. In France, an adult was at Verdun-sur-le-Doubs, Saône-et-Loire, on 17 March and another stayed at Chabris, Indre, on 4-7 April. In the Netherlands, an adult male at Stompwijk, Zuid-Holland, from 7 to 22 April appeared to be paired with a Northern Lapwing *V vanellus*. In Israel, an adult winter **White-tailed Lapwing** *V leucurus* was present at the En-Yahav dam, northern Arava, from 23 March until at least 3 April; others were at Eilat's sewage ponds on 4 April and at Kinneret lake on 12 April. In the Dobrogea area, Romania, four adults were displaying on 8 April at the same site where the species bred for the first time in Europe last year. On Lesbos, Greece, one was seen on

8 May. In Poland, one was at Beka reserve near Gdánsk on 14 May. The first for Estonia was found on 18 May. The first **Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius* for Spain was an adult male at Laguna Redondilla, Villacañas, Toledo, on 12 March; the bird was relocated at Laguna Larga de Villacañas on 17 March. At Abu Simbel, Egypt, c 30 individuals with young were found on 6 April. A male and a female **Caspian Plover** *C asiaticus* were observed at Kibbutz Lotan, Israel, from 29 March to 1 April. If accepted, a **Greater Sand Plover** *C leschenaultii* discovered and well-photographed at Stinson Beach, Marin County, California, from late January onwards will be the first for North America. In the Azores, a **Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla* in winter plumage was found at Pedreira, Cabo da Praia, Terceira, on 18 February. On 23 January, c 200 **Spoon-billed Sandpipers** *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* were counted at Chilika lake, India, the second highest count ever at one site. A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis* was reported on 27 April at Pantani di Longarini e Cuba in southern Italy. On 8 May, the second and third for Bulgaria were reported at Atanasovska lake, Bourgas. In the Netherlands, two birds were found: one at Ezumakeeg, Friesland, on 12-16 May and one briefly at Eemshaven, Groningen, on 13 May; both were showing display behaviour. Long-staying **Long-billed Dowitchers** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* remained at Sohar, Oman, until at least 23 March; at Prunjepolder, Schouwen, Zeeland, the Netherlands, into May (from 17 February); at Belfast Lough, Down, Northern Ireland, to at least 18 April (since July 1999); and at Seaforth, Merseyside, England, until at least 22 April (from autumn 2000). In France, one was seen at Hable d'Ault, Somme, on 17 March. A **dowitcher** at Parc du Teich, Gironde, France, from 22 March to at least 25 April was probably also a Long-billed. In Ireland, last year's **Short-billed Dowitcher** *L griseus* was again seen at Swords Estuary, Dublin, in May. After a lack of any serious claims anywhere of **Slender-billed Curlew** *Numenius tenuirostris* in the past two years, one was reported at Apajpuszta, Kikunsag, Hungary, on 15 April; the next day, it could not be relocated. In Spain, the **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* staying at Ría de Ortigueira, A Coruña, Galicia, from 4 November 2000 was still present on at least 7 April. The first-winter **Lesser Yellowlegs** *T flavipes* at Laugharne Marsh, Carmarthenshire, Wales, remained from 12 December 2000 until at least 22 April. On 12 April, one was seen at Oualidia, Morocco. In the Netherlands, an unidentified **yellowlegs** was seen flying past with 15 Red Knots *C canutus* at Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen, Noord-Holland, on 6 May.

GULLS TO TERNS The number of breeding **Mediterranean Gulls** *L melanocephalus* in the south-western part of the Netherlands this spring exceeded a record 930 pairs. The second **Laughing Gull** *L atricilla* for Norway was an adult winter passing south over Utsira, Rogaland, on 10 March. In Loire-Atlantique, France, one was present at Donges from 22 March to 9 April. From 11 April onwards, an adult stayed in the Black-headed Gull *L ridibundus* colony at Zwillbrocker Venn, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, 400 m across the Dutch border near Groenlo, Gelderland. In Britain, a first-summer **Franklin's Gull** *L pipixcan* remained in Devon from 19 January to at least 21 April and an adult was at Boddington Reservoir, Northamptonshire, on 17-20 March. One was at Le Platier d'Oye, Pas-de-Calais, France, on 19 April. The sixth for Spain was a second calendar-year at Llobregat delta, Catalunya, on 11-12 May. An adult **Bonaparte's Gull** *L philadelphia* stayed at Hinckley, Somerset, England, from 3 February until 7 March. On 1 May, one was reported from Dithmarscher Speicherkoog, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, and one was seen inland in France at Jablines, Seine-et-Marne. The fifth and sixth **Brown-headed Gull** *L brunnicephalus* for the UAE were at Fujairah port beach on 7 March and Sharjah rubbish dump on 26-28 March; the previous record was in 1991. In Switzerland, five **Slender-billed Gulls** *L genei* were found on Lake Léman at Préverenges, Switzerland, on 10 May, with another bird at nearby Morges. On the next day, 11 and two birds were seen at Chablais de Cudrefin/Fanel; the 11 birds soon left the area and flew east. In France, a flock of 18 was at Desnes, Jura, on 13 May, with one still present on the next day. If accepted, a second-winter **Audouin's Gull** *L audouinii* near Dresden on 23-24 March would be the second for Germany. The first for Sweden was an adult at Getterön, Varberg, in a large flock of gulls on 24 April. An adult was reported past Cap Gris Nez, Pas-de-Calais, France, in the second week of May. To the amazement of the observer, an entire flock of 56 gulls on a beach at Praia da Vitoria, Terceira, Azores, on 18 February all turned out to be **Ring-billed Gull** *L delawarensis*; on 10 March, four adults and two first-winters were still present here. During March, 33 were seen in Britain, 26 in Ireland, and 14 in France (including six together at Arcachon, Gironde, on 21 March); during April, six were in Spain. As usual in recent years, a few **Common Gulls** were seen at Oued Souss, Agadir, Morocco (eg, a first-winter on 2 March and an adult on 23 March). The 11th for the UAE was at Qurrayah marsh on 6 March. In Cork, Ireland, single first-winter **American Herring Gulls** *L smithsonianus* remained at Ballycotton until 2 March and at Cobh until 17 April. A first-winter was reported at Ría do Burgo, A Coruña, Galicia, on 8 March. In France, a first-winter and a second-winter were seen at Douarnenez, Finistère, on 9 March. During the fifth International Gull Meeting at Porto, Portugal, a second-winter was discovered at Matosinhos on 30 March and a juvenile at the mouth of Douro river on 31 March and 1 April. An adult **Ross's Gull** *Rhodostethia rosea* was at Sandford Bay, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, on 4-5 March. Far away from open sea, the first for Bayern, Germany, was an adult at Leuchtenbuch near Ansbach on 25-29 March. An adult summer was east of Reykjavík, Iceland, on 12 May. Another adult appeared at Dithmarscher Speicherkoog on 14 May. The fourth **Black-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* for the UAE was

**183** Ring-billed Gulls / Ringsnavelmeeuwen *Larus delawarensis*, Praia da Vitoria, Terceira, Azores, 10 March 2001 *(Mark Bolton)*

**184** Laughing Gull / Lachmeeuw *Larus atricilla*, Zwillbrocker Venn, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, 11 April 2001 *(Martin Gottschling)*

**185** American Herring Gull / Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw *Larus smithsonianus*, second-winter, Douro river, Portugal, 30 March 2001 *(Theo Bakker/Cursorius)*

**186** American Herring Gull / Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw *Larus smithsonianus*, juvenile, Matosinhos, Portugal, 1 April 2001 *(Visa Rauste)*

**187** White-throated Robin / Perzische Roodborst *Irania gutturalis*, male, Lesbos, Greece, 11 May 2001 *(René Pop)*

at Khor Kalba on 27 March. On 22 March, an adult **Lesser Crested Tern** *S bengalensis* wearing an Italian ring was seen at Viareggio, Toscana, Italy. On Lesbos, one was seen on 4-6 May. If accepted, an adult **Roseate Tern** reported here on 23 March will be the fourth for Italy. In Israel, up to four **White-cheeked Terns** *S repressa* were seen at North Beach, Eilat, between 3 April and 6 May.

DOVES TO MOCKINGBIRDS An **African Collared Dove** *Streptopelia roseogrisea* was at Abu Simbel, Egypt, on 6 April. In Britain, first-summer **Great Spotted Cuckoos** *Clamator glandarius* were at Sandwich Bay, Kent, on 7 March and at Land's End, Cornwall, on 25 March. On 15 October 2000, a **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* was found freshly dead at the airport of Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. The bird had been ringed near Medemblik, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, on 17 June 2000. According to the ringing report, however, this first transatlantic Barn Owl was most probably 'moved unintentionally by aircraft' and thus not a genuine vagrant. On 13 April, a **Snowy Owl** *Nyctea scandiaca* was briefly present on Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales. If accepted, a **Little Swift** *Apus affinis* at Lies, Terschelling, for a few hours on 17 May will be the first for the Netherlands. Last spring's fourth **Grey-headed Woodpecker** *Picus canus* for the Netherlands at Oosterbeek, Renkum, Gelderland, was displaying from 4 March to late April. The first **Black-crowned Finch Lark** *Eremopterix nigriceps* for the northern Negev and the first for Israel since 1988 was a female near Retamim on 8 April. The first **Dunn's Lark** *Eremalauda dunni* for the northern Negev was seen south-west of Ze'elim on 14 March. Other individuals were at Eilat at K20 on 16 March and at K33 on 3 April. In southern Italy, a **Lesser Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella rufescens* was reported at Capo Murro di Porco on 23 April. The second for France, if accepted, was seen on a private property in the Camargue on 27 April. The third **Pale Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia diluta* for the UAE was at Al Whatba camel track on 1-3 March. In Israel, **Olive-backed Pipits** *Anthus hodgsoni* were seen at Sede-Boquer on 27 March and at Kibbutz Kfar-Ruppin in the Bet-Shean valley on 3 April. On 24 April, one was at Pembroke, Skomer, Wales. In Egypt, four **African Pied Wagtails** *Motacilla aguimp* were seen at Abu Simbel on 6 April. After numbers of **Bohemian Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus* remained comparatively low in France during this winter, many were present near Strasbourg, Bas-Rhin: 168 were counted at Bruch de l'Andlau on 29 April and 100-200 were seen in late April at la Wantzenau and Bisheim. More than 1000 were at Lac de Constance, Bas-Rhin, in late April and early May. In the Netherlands, a **Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos* was reported near Noordwijk, Zuid-Holland, on 13 May.

THRUSHES In Israel, at least five single **Black Scrub Robins** *Cercotrichas podobe* were found between 30 March and 10 May between Eilat and Kibbutz Lotan.

The third for the UAE was on Das on 8 April. On 21 April, a **White-throated Robin** *Irania gutturalis* was trapped at Eilat, Israel. A singing male showed itself well on Lesbos, from 9 May onwards. In Sicily, Italy, 27 **Isabelline Wheatears** *Oenanthe isabellina* were found near Siracusa between 27 March and 19 April. The first **White-crowned Wheatear** *O leucopyga* for Portugal was a first-summer female photographed at Mexilhoeira Grande, Algarve, in the afternoon of 25 March (Birding World 14: 148, 2001). The fourth **White's Thrush** *Zoothera aurea* for Denmark at Skårup, Thisted, Nordjylland, was not seen after 8 March (cf Dutch Birding 23: 100, plate 121-122, 2001). An adult male **Siberian Thrush** *Z sibirica* was reported at Brusand, Rogaland, Norway, on 21 March. A **Dusky Thush** *Turdus naumanni eunomus* was reported at Brzeziny Bugaj near Brzeszcze, Poland, on 16 April. A female **Black-throated Thrush** *T ruficollis atrogularis* stayed on Fair Isle, Shetland, on 14-17 April.

WARBLERS The first **Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola* in winter for France was trapped at Saint-Serin-d'Uzet, Charente-Maritime, on 25 February. The earliest ever **Aquatic Warbler** *A paludicola* for Belgium was an adult at Gent, Oost-Vlaanderen, on 7 April. The fourth **Dartford Warbler** *Sylvia undata* for the Netherlands was a male at Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, on 24-25 March. In Scilly, one was found on St Martin's on 3 April. Photographs of the first **Spectacled Warbler** *S conspicillata* for Belgium were published in Oriolus 66: 132-138, 2000; it concerned a first-summer male singing at Mechelse Heide, Maasmechelen, Limburg, from 11 June to 24 July 1999. The first **Sardinian Warbler** *S melanocephala* for Poland was photographed at Hel peninsula on 16 April. On the same day, the second for Hungary was reported at Hegyeshalomon. A male was briefly seen on Schiermonnikoog on 2 May. The second **Desert Warbler** *S nana* for the Canary Islands was at Caleta de Fuste, Fuerteventura, on 16 February. In the Netherlands, a **Pallas's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus* kept on singing at Vlaardingen, Zuid-Holland, from 4 March to at least 22 April. A **Yellow-browed Warbler** *P inornatus* wintered at Helston, Cornwall, from 3 January to at least 29 March. A **Hume's Leaf Warbler** *P humei* was at Egmond aan Zee, Noord-Holland, from 28 February to at least 3 April. The **Dusky Warbler** *P fuscatus* at Grouville Marsh, Jersey, Channel Islands, remained from January to 10 March. An **Iberian Chiffchaff** *P brehmii* was present at Dungeness, Kent, England, on 14-17 April and on Bardsey on 30 April. In the Netherlands, a male **Collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicollis* was briefly seen on Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, on 1 May. Another male showed itself well on Terschelling on 5-7 May.

TREECREEPERS TO BUNTINGS On 27-30 March, a **Short-toed Treecreeper** *Certhia brachydactyla* was present at Dungeness. A **Daurian Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus* was at Cape Timirist, Banc d'Arguin, on 8-9 April. The second **Steppe Grey Shrike** *L pallidirostris* for Italy at Penisola Magnisi, Siracusa, Sicily, stayed from 15 December 2000 to late March (the first was in Sicily in 1968). The long-stayer in Israel was still present along the Revivim-Ze'elim road on 28 March. In England, single **Red-billed Choughs** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* were seen at Land's End, Cornwall, on 3 April, at Portland, Dorset, on 3-8 April, and at East Prawle, Devon, on 11-24 April. At Iwik, Banc d'Arguin, 12 **Desert Sparrows** *Passer simplex* were counted on 5 April. In Belgium, a **Citril Finch** *Serinus citrinella* in a flock of European Serins *S serinus* was trapped at Malmédy, Liège, on 8 April; the previous one was at Glaireuse, Libin, Luxembourg, on 23 September 2000. In late February, a female **Eurasian Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* began visiting a feeder in Fairbanks, Alaska, USA. The fifth **White-throated Sparrow** *Zonotrichia albicollis* for the Netherlands was photographed on Rottumerplaat, Groningen, on 30 April; this tiny island is not open to the public. At Filey, North Yorkshire, England, a male **Pine Bunting** *Emberiza leucocephalos* was present on 3 March and a male **Rustic Bunting** *E rustica* from 26 March onwards. On 10 May, a male **Red-headed Bunting** *E bruniceps* was videotaped on Bornholm, Denmark.

For a number of reports, publications in Birding World, Birdwatch, British Birds, Scottish Bird News, Winging It and World Birdwatch were consulted. News from Britain was kindly supplied by Birdline (0891-700-222) and Rare Bird News (0881-888-111). I wish to thank Mashuq Ahmad (UK), Mindy Baha El Din, Sherif Baha El Din, Chris Batty, Max Berlijn, Mark Bolton (Azores), Bert de Bruin, Sybrand de Bruin, Han Buckx, Alain Chappuis, Rolf Christensen, Tony Clarke (Canarian Nature Tours), Gianni Conda, Andrea Corso, Carl Derks, Kris De Rouck, Gunter De Smet, Dhirendra Devarshi, Hugues Dufourny, Enno Ebels, Jaap Eerdmans, Bram Ferdinande, Miel Ferdinande, Annika Forsten, Edmundo Fraga, Peter Fraser (UK), Gerard Gorman (Hungary), Marcello Grussu (Sardinia), Ricard Gutiérrez (Spain), Klaas Haas, Martin Helin, Remco Hofland, Justin Jansen, Erling Jirle, Adrian Jordi, Yves Kayser, Jan Kelchtermans (Romania), Guy Kirwan, Yann Kolbeinsson (Iceland), Eric Koops, Harry Lehto, Henry Lehto, Pierre Le Maréchal (France), Willy Leurs, André van Loon, Anthony McGeehan, Peter Meininger, Richard Millington, Geir Mobakken (Utsira), Lajos Nemeth, Dick Newell, E Occhiato, Mika Ohtonen, Arie Ouwerkerk (Terschelling), Metehan Ozen, Menotti Passarella, Jean-Philippe Paul, Colin Richardson (UAE), Peter de Rouw, Luciano Ruggieri, Nir Sapir (Israel), Holger Schritt, Bob Scott, Thomas Spencer, Tadeusz Stawarczyk, Stefan Tewinkel, Pam Thomson, Pierre Unge, Lieve Vanpraet, William Velmala, Dominique Verbelen and Maxime Zucca for their help in compiling this review.

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# Recente meldingen

Dit overzicht van recente meldingen van zeldzame en interessante vogels in Nederland en België beslaat voornamelijk de periode **maart-april 2001**. De vermelde gevallen zijn merendeels niet geverifieerd en het overzicht is niet volledig. Alle vogelaars die de moeite namen om hun waarnemingen aan ons door te geven worden hartelijk bedankt.

Waarnemers van soorten in Nederland die worden beoordeeld door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna wordt verzocht hun waarnemingen zo spoedig mogelijk toe te zenden aan: CDNA, Postbus 45, 2080 AA Santpoort-Zuid, Nederland, e-mail cdna@dutchbirding.nl. Hiertoe gelieve men gebruik te maken van CDNA-waarnemingsformulieren die eveneens verkrijgbaar zijn bij bovenstaand adres, of via de homepage van de DBA op www.dutchbirding.nl.

## Nederland

GANZEN TOT VALKEN **Ross' Ganzen** *Anser rossii* werden nog gezien tot 27 april in de omgeving van Goedereede, Zuid-Holland, en op 15 en 16 maart in de Lauwersmeer, Groningen. In totaal werden 29 **Dwergganzen** *A erythropus* gemeld, waaronder één geringde tot 23 april in de Prunjepolder, Zeeland, maximaal 15 tot 12 maart bij Petten, Noord-Holland, één van 3 tot 16 maart bij Tienhoven, Utrecht, maximaal vijf van 17 tot 27 maart bij de Anjumer Kolken, Friesland, en maximaal drie van 24 maart tot 28 april bij de Dollard, Groningen. Een van een halsring voorziene **Groenlandse Kolgans** *A albifrons flavirostris* verbleef van 13 tot 30 maart bij Tienhoven en een andere werd op 21 april gezien bij Midsland en Hee op Terschelling, Friesland; de eerste vogel was op 7 februari al bij Tienhoven waargenomen. Het betrof een adult vrouwtje dat op 3 januari 2001 was geringd in Polder Arkemheen bij Nijkerk, Gelderland. In totaal werden 16 **Roodhalsganzen** *Branta ruficollis* gezien, waaronder vier op 4 maart bij de Anjumerkolken en maximaal vijf op 20 en 21 april bij de Dollard. Ongeveer 17 **Witbuikrotganzen** *B hrota* werden opgemerkt, waaronder zeven eind maart op Texel, Noord-Holland, en tot 7 april maximaal drie op de Karrevelden bij Scharendijke, Zeeland. Het aantal **Zwarte Rotganzen** *B nigricans* bedroeg 11, waarvan tot eind april drie op Texel en twee op Wieringen, Noord-Holland. **Witoogeenden** *Aythya nyroca* verbleven op 6 maart in de Rammelwaard bij Voorst, Gelderland, op 15 maart in de Heelderpeel, Limburg, van 18 tot 22 april ten zuiden van Groningen, Groningen, en op 22 april in de Beneden Spiering Polder in de Brabantse Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant. De jongste van de twee **Koningseiders** *Somateria spectabilis* van Texel bleef daar de gehele periode. **Amerikaanse Smienten** *Mareca americana* werden nog gezien tot 17 maart op de Ouderkerker Plas, Noord-Holland, tot 22 maart in de Kapelsche Moer, Zeeland, op 1 en 2 april bij Spaarnwoude, Noord-Holland, op 2 april ook bij de Steenwaard, Utrecht, en op 14 april op de Reeuwijkse Plassen, Zuid-Holland. **Amerikaanse Wintertalingen** *Anas carolinensis* werden aangetroffen van 3 tot 5 maart in de Hilversumsche Bovenmeent, Noord-Holland, en van 1 tot 3 april bij Tienhoven. De Brouwersdam, Zuid-Holland/Zeeland, was weer eens de beste plek om veel **Roodkeelduikers** *Gavia stellata* te zien, getuige het aantal van 119 dat daar op 5 maart geteld werd. Hier verbleef ook nog steeds een **IJsduiker** *G immer* tot 22 maart. Andere IJsduikers werden gezien op 8 en 22 april vliegend langs Den Helder, Noord-Holland, en vanaf 18 april tot in mei op de Mokerplas, Limburg. **Kuifaalscholvers** *Stictocarbo aristotelis* waren de gehele periode aanwezig bij Huisduinen, Noord-Holland, met een maximum van drie op 24 maart en er werden exemplaren opgemerkt op 21 maart bij de Philipsdam, Zeeland, op 24 maart bij de vuurtoren op Texel, op 25 maart (één) en 19 april (twee) bij Lauwersoog, Groningen, op 1 april langs Camperduin, Noord-Holland, en op 13 april bij de Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland. **Kwakken** *Nycticorax nycticorax* werden waargenomen op 25 maart vliegend over Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland, op 21 april langs Breskens, Zeeland, en op 28 april bij de visvijvers van Valkenswaard, Noord-Brabant. Er werden 17 **Kleine Zilverreigers** *Egretta garzetta* ter plaatse gemeld en vanaf 2 april 11 op doortrek, waarvan 10 langs Breskens en één over de Eemshaven, Groningen. Minimaal 70 **Grote Zilverreigers** *Casmerodius albus* waren aanwezig in deze periode, waarvan alleen al op 3 maart 24 langs de Oostvaardersdijk, Flevoland, 11 bij het Drontermeer, Flevoland, en 12 ten zuiden van Woerdense Verlaat, Zuid-Holland. Overvliegende **Zwarte Ooievaars** *Ciconia nigra* werden gemeld op 31 maart bij Heesch, Noord-Brabant, op 1 april bij Rhenen, Utrecht, op 21 april in de Ooypolder, Gelderland, op 28 april bij de Eemshaven en op 29 april bij Nederweert, Limburg. De **Zwarte Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* bij Petten bleef de gehele periode aanwezig. Ook in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, Zeeland, dook er weer een op en wel van 1 tot 11 april in de Baarzandsche Kreek bij Groede. In totaal 30 **Zwarte Wouwen** *Milvus migrans* werden gemeld, waarvan twee in maart, één begin april en de rest vanaf 21 april. **Rode Wouwen** *M milvus* werden de gehele periode gezien, met in totaal 38 gemelde exemplaren. Onvolwassen **Zeearenden** *Haliaeetus albicilla* waren er op 17 maart en 27 april langs de Oostvaardersdijk, en op 20 maart over Leidschendam, Zuid-Holland. Een adulte werd gezien in de Lauwersmeer op 28 maart. Een gelukkige vogelaar zag op 21 april een adult mannetje **Steppekiekendief** *Circus macrourus* langsvliegen ten oosten van Breskens. Zoals gewoonlijk blijkt de **Grauwe Kiekendief** *C pygargus* een schaarse doortrekker, met in totaal 14 vanaf 23 april, waarvan op 30 april negen over de Eemshaven. Op 8 april werd een **Arendbuizerd** *Buteo rufinus* gemeld, vliegend bij 't Harde, Gelder-



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**188** Provençaalse Grasmus / Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, 25 maart 2001
*(Jan van Holten)*

**189** Provençaalse Grasmus / Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, 24 maart 2001
*(Harm Niesen)*

**190** Steppekievit / Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*, adult, Stompwijk, Zuid-Holland, 10 april 2001 *(Marten van Dijl)* **191** Steppekievit / Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*, adult, Stompwijk, Zuid-Holland, 22 april 2001 *(René van Rossum)* **192** Citroenkwikstaart / Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, mannetje, Tienhoven, Utrecht, 29 april 2001 *(Marten van Dijl)* **193** Humes Bladkoning / Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*, Egmond aan Zee, Noord-Holland, 4 maart 2001 *(Jan Stok)*

land. De juveniele **Bastaardarend** *Aquila clanga* van de Lauwersmeer werd daar nog tot 24 april gezien. Een adulte **Schreeuwarend** *A pomarina* trok op 24 april over de Eemshaven. De vogel kwam uit het westen, was korte tijd ter plaatse en verdween naar het zuidoosten. Er werden reeds 18 **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus* gezien. Na een zeer vroege op 3 maart bij de Brouwersdam volgden er nog vijf in de tweede helft van maart en de rest vanaf 22 april. **Roodpootvalken** *Falco vespertinus* werden al gezien op 23 april bij Itteren, Limburg, op 25 april bij Wageningen, Gelderland, en op 29 april bij Noordwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland.

RALLEN TOT ALKEN Uitzonderlijk was een roepend **Kleinst Waterhoen** *Porzana pusilla* van 27 tot 29 april op Terschelling. Een onvolwassen **Kraanvogel** *Grus grus* bleef tot 18 maart aanwezig langs de Praamweg, Flevoland. De doortrek die eind februari begon ging door tot 22 maart met een totaal van ruim 1000. Daarna werden er nog slechts zes op trek gezien. De eerste **Steltkluut** *Himantopus himantopus* werd op 22 april waargenomen in de Brabantse Biesbosch. Andere volgden vanaf 23 april bij Strijen, Zuid-Holland (maximaal vier), en op 29 april twee bij het Dwingelder Veld, Drenthe. Op 8 en 9 april verbleef een **Griel** *Burhinus oedicnemus* op Neeltje Jans, Zeeland. **Morinelplevieren** *Charadrius morinellus* lieten zich zien op 13 april in de Prunjepolder en op 24 april bij de Bandpolder, Friesland. Een adulte **Steppekievit** *Vanellus gregarius* kon van 7 tot 22 april bekeken worden bij Stompwijk, Zuid-Holland. De **Grote Grijze Snip** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* van de Prunjepolder bleef de gehele periode aanwezig en was rond half april in bijna volledig zomerkleed. **IJslandse Grutto's** *Limosa limosa islandica* werden weer op diverse loca-

ties opgemerkt vanaf eind maart. De grootste groep telde 247 op 21 april in polder Demmerik bij Vinkeveen, Utrecht. De overwinterende **Poelruiter** *Tringa stagnatilis* van de Putten van Camperduin bleef daar tot 12 maart. Een andere verscheen op 7 april in de Hilversumsche Bovenmeent. **Middelste Jagers** *Stercorarius pomarinus* vlogen boven zee op 31 maart bij Camperduin en op 25 april bij Huisduinen. De eerste dag met flinke aantallen doortrekkende **Zwartkopmeeuwen** *Larus melanocephalus* was 23 april met 32 langs Breskens. Een groep van 24 pleisterde op 24 april langs de A58 ten oosten van Bergen op Zoom, Noord-Brabant. Weliswaar niet in Nederland gezien, maar misschien wel ongemerkt op bezoek geweest, was de **Lachmeeuw** *L atricilla* die van 11 tot 22 april in het Zwillbrocker Venn in Duitsland verbleef, op enkele 100en m afstand van de grens. **Grote Burgemeesters** *L hyperboreus* verschenen op 18 maart op Texel en op 25 maart bij de VAM in Wijster, Drenthe. Een **Lachstern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* vloog op 22 april langs de Eemshaven. De eerste twee **Reuzensterns** *Sterna caspia* verbleven op 14 april bij de Makkumerzuidwaard, Friesland. Verder werd deze soort gezien op 22 april in de Prunjepolder en op 24 april langs Breskens. Opmerkelijk waren de binnenlandwaarnemingen van **Noordse Sterns** *S paradisaea* dit voorjaar: vanaf 28 april één bij Vinkeveen, op 28 april zeven (!) bij Budel-Dorplein, Noord-Brabant, en op 30 april één op de Pietersplas bij Oost-Maarland, Limburg. Niet minder dan vier **Papegaaiduikers** *Fratercula arctica* in zomerkleed vlogen op 1 april langs Camperduin.

GIERZWALUWEN TOT GORZEN Bijzonder vroeg was de **Gierzwaluw** *Apus apus* die op 30 en 31 maart op Texel werd gezien. **Hoppen** *Upupa epops* werden opgemerkt op 6 april bij de Deurnsche Peel, Noord-Brabant, op 6 en 7 april bij Paterswolde, Drenthe, en op 27 april langs Breskens. Een erg vroege **Draaihals** *Jynx torquilla* werd 11 maart gemeld bij Apeldoorn, Gelderland. Na nog een waarneming op 8 april volgden al weer 15 exemplaren vanaf 21 april. De **Grijskopspecht** *Picus canus* werd vanaf 2 maart wederom waargenomen op zijn favoriete boom bij Oosterbeek, Gelderland. Op 14 april was een **Kortteenleeuwerik** *Calandrella brachydactyla* kort ter plaatse bij Katwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland. Een **Roodstuitzwaluw** *Hirundo daurica* werd op 30 april gemeld bij de Sliedrechtse Biesbosch, Zuid-Holland. **Grote Piepers** *Anthus richardi* worden steeds algemener in het voorjaar getuige de waarnemingen op 10 maart bij Scheveningen, op 1 april over het Westduinpark, Zuid-Holland, op 2 april langs Camperduin, op 21 april langs Katwijk aan Zee en op 29 en 30 april één ter plaatse en op beide dagen ook één overvliegend over de Eemshaven. Vanaf 24 april werden slechts acht **Duinpiepers** *A campestris* op trek gezien. Op 30 april werd een mogelijke **Balkankwikstaart** *Motacilla feldegg* gefotografeerd bij Lauwersoog maar zoals zo vaak is het de vraag of een donkerkoppige Noordse Kwikstaart *M thunbergi* kan worden uitgesloten. Een andere leuke kwikstaart was het mannetje **Citroenkwikstaart** *M citreola* dat zich op 29 april de gehele dag door vele 10-tallen vogelaars liet bekijken bij Tienhoven. De influx van **Pestvogels** *Bombycilla garrulus* eindigde als volgt: tot 11 april verbleven er maximaal acht in Houten, Utrecht, op 5 maart 19 in Almere-Stad, Flevoland, van 7 tot 20 maart 18 in Apeldoorn, op 10 en 11 maart 21 in Heerhugowaard, Noord-Holland, op 20 maart nog steeds vijf in Zeewolde, Flevoland, op 22 maart twee in Wageningen, op 28 maart twee over de Prunjepolder, van 2 tot 16 april maximaal vijf in Groningen, op 6 en 7 april twee in Steenwijk, Overijssel, en op 17 april één in IJsselmuiden, Overijssel. Een **Waterspreeuw** *Cinclus cinclus* werd op 22 april gezien bij de Staatsbossen op Texel. Intrigerend was de melding van een **Alpenheggenmus** *Prunella collaris* op 31 maart door een Engelse vogelaar (en bollenliefhebber?) in de Keukenhof bij Lisse, Zuid-Holland. De overwinterende **Beflijster** *Turdus torquatus* in Apeldoorn werd daar op 7 maart nog gezien. De **Cetti's Zanger** *Cettia cetti* van het Oostvoornse Meer, Zuid-Holland, werd daar weer waargenomen op 10 en 11 maart. De vierde **Provençaalse Grasmus** *Sylvia undata* voor Nederland was op 24 en 25 maart aanwezig op de Maasvlakte. De **Humes Bladkoning** *Phylloscopus humei* die op 28 februari in Egmond aan Zee, Noord-Holland, werd ontdekt zat daar nog tot ten minste 3 april. Een andere werd kortstondig waargenomen op 3 maart in een tuin van een vogelaar in de wijk Ambacht in Vlaardingen, Zuid-Holland. In deze zelfde tuin dook op 4 maart een **Pallas' Boszanger** *P proregulus* op die zich tot ten minste 22 april in deze omgeving ophield en vanaf 1 april zelfs regelmatig luid zat te zingen. De enige **Buidelmezen** *Remiz pendulinus* zaten op 20 maart in de Aalkeetbuitenpolder, Zuid-Holland, en op 6 april ten zuiden van Groningen. Het aantal **Huiskraaien** *Corvus splendens* in Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland, is inmiddels aangegroeid tot zes. De gehele periode verbleef ook weer een vogel bij Renesse, Zeeland. De vijfde **Witkeelgors** *Zonotrichia albicollis* voor Nederland verbleef op 30 april de gehele dag op het voor publiek niet toegankelijke Rottumerplaat, Groningen; de vogel werd zingend gehoord en kon worden gefotografeerd. De eerste **Ortolanen** *Emberiza hortulana* werden gezien op 21 april op de Maasvlakte, op 23 april langs Breskens en op 30 april bij de Eemshaven. Een adult mannetje **Bosgors** *E rustica* werd op 10 april gemeld bij de Sliedrechtse Biesbosch. Een **Dwerggors** *E pusilla* werd op 27 april gezien bij Breezanddijk, Noord-Holland.

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**194** Pallas' Boszanger / Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*, Vlaardingen, Zuid-Holland, 2 april 2001 *(Marten van Dijl)*

## België

GANZEN TOT OOIEVAARS Op 7 en 8 maart verbleef net als vorig jaar een adulte **Dwerggans** *Anser erythropus* van onbekende origine bij Denderleeuw, Oost-Vlaanderen, en op 30 maart was er één te Bree, Limburg. Een groepje van vier witte **Sneeuwganzen** *A caerulescens* trok op 30 april over Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen. Op 4 en 5 maart was nog een **Roodhalsgans** *Branta ruficollis* aanwezig in de Uitkerkse Polders, West-Vlaanderen. Vrouwtjes **Witoogeend** *Aythya nyroca* werden gezien te Waasmunster, Oost-Vlaanderen, van 3 tot 6 maart; te Mechelen, Antwerpen, op 4 maart; te Zingem, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 9 maart; en te Gent, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 19 maart. Op 30 maart pleisterde een mannetje te Oud-Heverlee, Vlaams-Brabant. Het adulte mannetje **Ringsnaveleend** *A collaris* bleef nog in het Antwerpse havengebied, Antwerpen, tot ten minste 26 april. Er was een waarneming van een nieuw mannetje te Moerbrugge, West-Vlaanderen, op 7 en 8 april. Tot 15 april verbleef een adult paar **Rosse Stekelstaarten** *Oxyura jamaicensis* te Mechelen. Op 12 maart werd weer een paar adulte **Brilzee-eenden** *Melanitta perspicillata* waargenomen op zee voor Oostduinkerke, West-Vlaanderen, waar vorig jaar ook een paar aanwezig was. Op 12 maart vloog een **IJseend** *Clangula hyemalis* langs Oostduinkerke en op 5 april één langs Koksijde, West-Vlaanderen. Het adulte mannetje **Amerikaanse Smient** *Mareca americana* van Roksem, West-Vlaanderen, bleef daar tot 29 maart. Van 1 tot 3 maart zwom er één bij Testelt, Vlaams-Brabant, en van 14 tot 17 april verbleef een vrouwtje te Gent. Bij Roksem werd op 23 maart een mannetje **Blauwvleugeltaling** *Anas discors* opgemerkt. Voor velen was het opduiken van een mannetje **Amerikaanse Wintertaling** *A carolinensis* te Zeebrugge op 22 april een welkome gebeurtenis; deze vogel bleef tot in mei aanwezig. Een **Parelduiker** *Gavia arctica* trok op 30 maart langs Oostende, West-Vlaanderen, en op 5 april vloog er één langs Koksijde. Van 6 tot 12 april pleisterde een eerste-zomer bij De Panne. De laatste **IJsduiker** *G immer* werd op 17 maart gezien op het Lac de la Plate-Taille, Hainaut. Op 25 maart trok een **Vaal Stormvogeltje** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* langs Oostende. De juveniele, gekleurringde **Kuifaalscholver** *Stictocarbo aristotelis* bleef de hele periode aanwezig te Denderleeuw en van 12 tot 14 maart was er één aanwezig in de haven van Oostende. Tot ten minste 9 maart vertoefden twee **Kwakken** *Nycticorax nycticorax* bij Geel, Antwerpen, en op 31 maart werden er twee gezien te Oeselgem, West-Vlaanderen. In Het Zwin te Knokke, West-Vlaanderen, werden in april nog twee broedparen **Koereigers** *Bubulcus ibis* vastgesteld. Een adulte in zomerkleed die werd geringd te Muizen, Vlaams-Brabant, werd op 8 april losgelaten bij Willebroek, Antwerpen. Vermoedelijk deze vogel verbleef op 9 en 10 april bij Niel, Antwerpen. Op 24 april pleisterde er één bij Oud-Heverlee en vanaf 30 april één bij Kieldrecht, Oost-Vlaanderen. In de periode maart-april werden 49 **Kleine Zilverreigers** *E garzetta* waargenomen, waarvan 28 op de slaapplaats te Lissewege, West-Vlaanderen, op 10 maart. De periode was ook goed voor 25 **Grote Zilverreigers** *Casmerodius albus*. De grootste concentratie telde zeven vogels te Zonhoven, Limburg, op 10 maart. Op 15 maart trok de eerste **Purperreiger** *Ardea purpurea* over Wuustwezel, Antwerpen; op 31 maart werd er één gezien bij Antwerpen; op 15 april één bij Gent; en op 24 april één

bij Willebroek. Vanaf 14 maart keerden **Zwarte Ooievaars** *Ciconia nigra* terug op de Ardense broedplaatsen. April was goed voor zeven extra waarnemingen. In maart werden 64 **Ooievaars** *C ciconia* opgemerkt en in april nog 37.

WOUWEN TOT STERNS De eerste **Zwarte Wouwen** *Milvus migrans* vlogen op 1 maart over Damme, West-Vlaanderen, en op 27 en 28 maart over Bertem en Tienen, Vlaams-Brabant. In april werden er in totaal 47 gemeld. De periode was ook goed voor 42 **Rode Wouwen** *M milvus*. Op 15 april trok een onvolwassen **Zeearend** *Haliaeetus albicilla* over Brecht, Antwerpen. Op 8 april vloog daar de eerste **Grauwe Kiekendief** *Circus pygargus* over. Vanaf 25 april volgden nog drie waarnemingen. Half maart kwam de trek van **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus* op gang; tijdens de hele periode werden er 24 waargenomen. Op 17 maart werd bij Eindhout, Antwerpen, een verzwakte **Kwartel** *Coturnix coturnix* opgeraapt. Vooral tussen 17 en 20 maart was er een trekpiek van **Kraanvogels** *Grus grus*; in totaal werden er in maart 421 geteld. Op 1 april trokken er twee over Brecht, op 7 april vier over Eupen, Liège, en op 14 april twee over Ethe, Luxembourg. Bij De Panne werden op 24 april twee **Steltkluten** *Himantopus himantopus* opgemerkt en op 29 april verbleven er drie te Zeebrugge. Op 24 april pleisterde een **Griel** *Burhinus oedicnemus* op ontoegankelijk terrein in De Panne. Een ontsnapte **Smidsplevier** *Vanellus armatus* werd op 29 april aangetroffen te Dilsen-Stokkem, Limburg. De eerste **Temmincks Strandloper** *Calidris temminckii* werd op 29 april gezien in Zeebrugge. Met in totaal 41 exemplaren brachten **IJslandse Grutto's** *Limosa limosa islandica* dit jaar een vrij zwakke vertoning. Van 17 tot 19 april dook de eerste **Poelruiter** *Tringa stagnatilis* op te Genappe, Brabant-Wallon, onmiddellijk gevolgd door exemplaren te Longchamps, Namur, van 18 tot 22 april en te Pottes, Hainaut, van 21 tot 23 april. Op 2 april werd op het strand van Oostduinkerke een adulte **Ringsnavelmeeuw** *Larus delawarensis* gefotografeerd. De adulte **Grote Burgemeester** *L hyperboreus* van Oostende werd op 23 maart voor het laatst gezien. Verder waren er waarnemingen te Koksijde op 12 maart (eerste-winter); te Nieuwpoort, West-Vlaanderen, op 17 april (adult); te Oostende van 12 tot 15 april (tweede-zomer) en op 24 april (adult); en te Zeebrugge op 9 maart (eerste-winter) en 29 april (eerste-zomer). Op 8 april pleisterden kortstondig vier **Reuzensterns** *Sterna caspia* bij Sluis-Mol, Antwerpen.

HOPPEN TOT GORZEN Op 17 april verbleef een **Hop** *Upupa epops* op Blokkersdijk, Antwerpen, en op 27 april werd er één opgemerkt bij De Panne. De eerste **Draaihals** *Jynx torquilla* werd op 28 april gezien bij Antwerpen. **Duinpiepers** *Anthus campestris* werden

**195** Poelruiter / Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*, Longchamps, Namur, 22 april 2001 *(Antoine Joris)*

waargenomen te Knokke op 22 april; te De Panne op 25 april (twee); te Oostduinkerke op 22 april; te Nieuwpoort op 27 april; en te Zeebrugge op 28 april. Op deze laatste datum vloog ook een **Roodkeelpieper** *A cervinus* over Zeebrugge. De eerste **Beflijster** *Turdus torquatus* verscheen op 24 maart te Oudenaarde, Oost-Vlaanderen. In april werden er in totaal 73 waargenomen. Intrigerend was de korte waarneming door een betrouwbare waarnemer van een zeer waarschijnlijke **Roodkeellijster** *T ruficollis ruficollis* in een tuin te Bellefontaine, Luxembourg, op 5 maart. In het Zeebrugse Havengebied waren ten minste zes territoria van **Graszangers** *Cisticola juncidis*. Bij Gent dook er één op van 24 maart tot 9 april. De vroegste **Waterrietzanger** *Acrocephalus paludicola* ooit liet zich van 7 tot 9 april behoorlijk bekijken bij Gent. Op 29 april zong de eerste **Grote Karekiet** *A arundinaceus* te Harchies, Hainaut. Op 30 maart waren vier **Buidelmezen** *Remiz pendulinus* aanwezig te Harelbeke, West-Vlaanderen; op 31 maart en 3 april telkens één te Lier, Antwerpen; op 5 april één te Mechelen; en op 7 april twee te Zingem, Oost-Vlaanderen. Op 8 april werd in een groepje Europese Kanaries *Serinus serinus* een **Citroenkanarie** *S citrinella* gevangen en geringd te Malédy, Liège. Een ringvangst van een mannetje **Cirlgors** *Emberiza cirlus* gebeurde te Awirs, Liège, op 2 april. **Ortolanen** *E hortulana* werden opgemerkt op 24 april bij De Panne; op 27 april te Tienen; en op 29 april bij Antwerpen.

Deze waarnemingsrubriek kwam tot stand met medewerking van Luk Bekaert (Oost-Vlaanderen), Peter Collaerts (Vlaams-Brabant), Frank De Scheemaeker (Mergus), Koen Leysen (Limburg) en Willy Verschueren (Groenlink). Ook de hulp van al diegenen die (hun) waarnemingen inspraken op de Wielewaal-vogellijn (03-4880194) was hier onontbeerlijk.

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# DB Actueel

**New species of sage grouse** In the late 1970s, wings of Sage Grouse *Centrocercus urophasianus* from the Gunnison Basin, Colorado, USA, were noted to be smaller than wings obtained elsewhere in Colorado. Subsequent studies have shown that the Gunnison population also differs from other Sage Grouse in biometrics, courtship display and plumage. Recent studies of both mitochondrial and nuclear DNA revealed additional differences. The scientists who discovered these differences have proposed that the Gunnison population represents a new species: Gunnison Sage Grouse *Centrocercus minimus* (Young, J R, Braun C E, Oyler-Chance, S J, Hupp, J W & Quinn, T W 2000. A new species of sage-grouse (Phasianidae: *Centrocercus*) from southwestern Colorado. Wilson Bull 112: 445-453). The species is limited to just eight isolated populations in south-western Colorado and San Juan County, Utah. The total estimated spring breeding population is fewer than 5000 individuals. Some populations of Gunnison Sage Grouse are very small and several former populations are known to have become extirpated since 1980, so special conservation measures are clearly warranted to ensure its continued survival. GEORGE SANGSTER

**New species of antwren** Antbirds are a prominent part of the South American fauna but many species are poorly known and even new species are regularly discovered. During the 1980s, two new species of antwren were discovered in north-eastern Brazil. Further field work in this region and detailed museum studies have revealed a third new species which was recently named as Caatinga Antwren *Herpsilochmus sellowi* (Whitney, B M, Pacheco, J F, Buzzetti, D R C & Parrini, R 2000. Systematic revision and biogeography of the *Herpsilochmus pileatus* complex, with description of a new species from northeastern Brazil. Auk 117: 869-891). The new species was previously confused with Bahia Antwren *H pileatus*, but these species are now known to be different in several structural, plumage and vocal characteristics. Caatinga Antwren occurs patchily in caatinga woodland in several states in north-eastern Brazil. The 'true' Bahia Antwren is confined to southern coastal Bahia where it is restricted to a narrow band of restinga woodland and coastal forest. Both species are considered to be rare or vulnerable. Another Brazilian endemic, Black-capped Antwren *H atricapillus*, consists of two morphs which show weak differences in plumage and vocal characters. The authors suggest that these forms may be in the process of speciation but hesitate to describe one morph as a new form. GEORGE SANGSTER

**New species of laughingthrush** After the description of Golden-winged Laughingthrush *Garrulax ngoclinhensis* from the Western (= Central) Highlands of Vietnam (cf Dutch Birding 21: 128, 1999), Jonathan Eames and his colleagues recently described yet another new laughingthrush from the Central Highlands: Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush *G konkakinhensis*, named after its type locality, Mount Kon Ka Kinh, Gia Lai province, Vietnam (Eames, J C & Eames, C 2001. A new species of Laughingthrush (Passeriformes: Garrulacinae) from the Central Highlands of Vietnam. Bull BOC 121: 10-23). This new species appears to belong to a species group together with Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush *G rufogularis* (and two other species). Although the new species resembles the western subspecies of *rufogularis*, it shows several unique plumage features warranting its separation as a species. It occurs from 1600 m to the top of Mount Kon Ka Kinh at 1748 m. Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush is currently only known from Mount Kon Ka Kinh but it seems likely to occur also in the adjacent province of Kon Tum and, since its habitat (primary upper montane evergreen forests) at this particular altitudinal range also extends across the border, it may also be found in Laos.

The three sites where the holotype and paratypes have been collected are included in the recently established Mount Kon Ka Kinh Nature Reserve so it seems that the future of this population can be secured. ANDRÉ J VAN LOON

**Withalsvliegenvangers op Terschelling en Schiermonnikoog** In de ochtend van 5 mei 2001 waren Roeland Bon en Ruben Terlou aan het vogelen op de Boschplaat, Terschelling, Friesland. Ze kwamen Arie Ouwerkerk tegen die een excursie aan het leiden was; hij vertelde dat hij gehoord had dat er een Withalsvliegenvanger *Ficedula albicollis* op het eiland gezien zou zijn aan de rand van het bos bij Lies. RB en RT gingen snel naar de plek en kwamen daar om c 09:15 Niek Oosterveen tegen, die de vogel ontdekt had; even later konden ze gedrieën de vogel bekijken. Het bleek inderdaad om een mannetje Withalsvliegenvanger te gaan. Via RT werd het nieuws verder verspreid en gedurende de dag kwamen 15-20 vogelaars van de vastewal een kijkje nemen. De vliegenvanger liet zich het merendeel van de tijd erg goed bekijken, vaak tot op minder dan 10 m. Soms vloog hij even het bos in maar verscheen dan korte tijd later weer in zijn favoriete bomenhaag. De volgende ochtend werd hij al vroeg teruggevonden door Arnoud Linckens en Jan Bisschop die dicht bij de plek hadden overnacht. Het gevolg was dat verspreid over de zondag nog eens c 30 vogelaars naar het eiland kwamen. Maandagochtend 7 mei kon AO melden dat de vogel nog steeds ter plaatse was; op dinsdag werd hij niet meer aangetroffen.

De bruine handpennen gaven aan dat het om een eerste-zomer ging. De vogel vertoonde alle klassieke Withals-kenmerken, zoals een brede witte halsband (zonder grijs in de nek), een grote witte voorhoofdsvlek, een brede witte stuitvlek en veel wit in de vleugel. Hoewel de determinatie daardoor eenvoudig was,

**196** Withalsvliegenvanger / Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*, eerste-zomer mannetje, Lies, Terschelling, Friesland, 6 mei 2001 *(Johan van der Louw)*

is het van belang om verdacht te zijn op hybriden met Bonte Vliegenvanger *F hypoleuca* (die zich bijvoorbeeld 'verraden' door een onderbroken halsband en een minder duidelijke stuitvlek) en Bonte Vliegenvangers van de ondersoorten *F h iberiae* en *F h speculigera* uit respectievelijk Centraal-Spanje en Noordwest-Afrika die in veel kenmerken meer overkomst vertonen met Withalsvliegenvanger dan met Bonte. Zo hebben deze ondersoorten – misschien gaat het ook wel om een aparte soort – een grote witte handpenvlek, een grote witte voorhoofdsvlek, een lichtere stuitvlek en soms een vrijwel volledige witte halsband! De vogel van Terschelling vertoonde – net als die van Vlieland, Friesland, in mei 1996 – enig wit op de buitenste staartpen. Meestal is de staart bij Withalsvliegenvanger helemaal zwart, terwijl Bonte en met name Balkanvliegenvanger *F semitorquata* (veel) meer wit in de buitenste staartpen(nen) vertonen. Enig wit op de buitenvlag van de buitenste staartpen of zelfs op meer pennen is echter bij Withalsvliegenvanger niet ongebruikelijk.

Deze waarneming betrof de 30e Withalsvliegenvanger voor Nederland. Nummer 29 werd een paar dagen voor de ontdekking op Terschelling waargenomen op Schiermonnikoog, Friesland. Op 1 mei ontdekte Jan Boshuizen rond 10:30 een eerste-zomer mannetje in een nat bosgebiedje langs het Berkenpad. Hij waarschuwde zijn zeven metgezellen die verderop liepen te vogelen en na enig zoeken konden ze de vliegenvanger uitgebreid bestuderen. Om c 12:00 werd de vogel alleen gelaten; later op de dag werd hij niet meer gezien. Ook dit exemplaar werd uitstekend gedocumenteerd (zie de foto's van Hans Kruitwagen op www.dutchbirding.nl). Op deze foto's is te zien dat deze vogel wel volledig zwarte staartzijden had. In tegenstelling tot de meeste dwaalgasten was deze soort vroeger 'algemener'; 23 gevallen dateren uit de periode 1800-1976. Van de zeven gevallen sinds 1977 ging het hier om de derde voor Terschelling. Het merendeel van de gevallen dateert uit mei (24, waarvan vier in begin mei 1929); drie vogels werden eind april ontdekt en verder zijn er gevallen van 30 juli 1918, 27 augustus 1966 en 12-14 oktober 1996. Doordat najaarsvogels moeilijker te herkennen zijn is er wellicht sprake van een vertekend beeld voor wat betreft het werkelijke voorkomen. De enige echte 'long-stayer' was een zingend mannetje bij Doorn, Utrecht, van 28 april tot 17 mei 1998 dat vanwege territoriaal gedrag niet verder bekend gemaakt werd. Alle andere werden meestal slechts één dag gezien of, bij uitzondering, drie tot vier dagen achtereen. Ruben Terlou & Enno B Ebels

Collared Flycatchers On 5-7 May 2001, a first-summer male Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis* was present on Terschelling, Friesland, the Netherlands, and was seen by several 10s of birders. Another first-summer male was seen by eight birders a few days earlier on Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, on 1 May. These are the 29th and 30th records for the Netherlands.

**Baltsende Blonde Ruiters in Noord-Nederland** Vanaf 12 mei 2001 hadden veel mensen de mogelijkheid om één of zelfs twee Blonde Ruiters *Tryngites subruficollis* baltsend in Nederland waar nemen. De balts van deze mondiaal gezien zeldzame soort (met een geschatte wereldpopulatie van slechts 15 000 vogels) is normaal gesproken alleen te aanschouwen in Noord-Alaska, VS, en Canada en op de voorjaarstrek in de VS.

De eerste vogel werd op zaterdag 12 mei om c 10:00 gevonden door Wietze Janse voor de vogelkijkhut van de Ezumakeeg, Friesland. De vogel verbleef een deel van de tijd hier maar ook in het afgesloten gedeelte van de Ezumakeeg en was daardoor slechts delen van de dag zichtbaar. Voor de hut was de Blonde Ruiter vaak in gezelschap van Kemphanen *Philomachus pugnax* en in het afgesloten deel meestal solitair. Deze vogel kon verscheidene malen mooi baltsend worden waargenomen worden. Dit exemplaar bleef nog aanwezig tot 16 mei.

De tweede vogel werd op 13 mei door de Engelse vogelaar Peter Soper gevonden om c 15:05 in de grote bak op het oostelijke Eemshaventerrein, Groningen. Na 10 min waarschuwde hij de tellers op de telpost in het terrein. Deze konden snel bevestigen dat het om een adulte Blonde Ruiter ging. Na door 17 mensen kort maar goed gezien te zijn tezamen met 11 Kemphanen verdween de vogel om 15:20 hoog in oostelijke richting langs de telpost (en werd daarmee natuurlijk een nieuwe telpostsoort). Als troostprijs voor de laatkomers vond Willem-Jan Fontijn enkele seconden na het wegvliegen van de Blonde Ruiter een Breedbekstrandloper *Limicola falcinellus* op exact dezelfde plek.

De vogel van de Eemshaven baltste enkele malen volop tegenover enkele Kemphennen. Hierbij werd de staart compleet gespreid waarbij de vogel rechtop ging staan, zijn nek introk en de vleugels als sikkels langs zijn lichaam hield zodat ze boven zijn kop bij elkaar kwamen. Door deze houding werden de opvallende

donkere halve manen op de grote handdekveren van de ondervleugel extra benadrukt. Soms baltste de vogel met maar één opgeheven vleugel of alleen met de staart gespreid. De vogel paradeerde zo langs enkele Kemphennen. Ondanks alle moeite bleef een reactie echter uit. De Blonde Ruiter van de Ezumakeeg toonde hetzelfde gedrag als de vogel van de Eemshaven maar vocht ook regelmatig met de grotere Kemphanen, waarbij hij als 'winnaar' uit de bus kwam. Ook deze vogel kreeg echter geen reactie van de Kemphennen. Eenmaal eerder werd in Nederland een baltsende Blonde Ruiter gezien en wel door Ruud Foppen op 19-20 mei 1986 in het Groningse deel van de Lauwersmeer. Bij de twee andere Nederlandse voorjaarswaarnemingen is dit gedrag niet vastgesteld. Deze twee vogels betekenden de 15e en 16e voor Nederland. JUSTIN J F J JANSEN

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS From 12 May, two Buff-breasted Sandpipers *Tryngites subruficollis* were seen in the north of the Netherlands, one at Ezumakeeg, Friesland, on 12-16 May and one at Eemshaven, Groningen, briefly on 13 May. Both birds were displaying towards Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*. There are 14 previous records for the Netherlands, of which three in spring.

**Nieuw big-day record** Op 12 mei 2001 heeft het team van Roy de Haas, Leo Heemskerk, Jan van der Laan en Wil Leurs een nieuw nationaal big-day record neergezet door 183 soorten binnen 24 uur in Nederland waar te nemen. Hoogtepunten van het etmaal waren van vroeg tot laat onder andere Nachtzwaluw *Caprimulgus europaeus*, Kwartel *Coturnix coturnix*, Kuifleeuwerik *Galerida cristata,* Visarend *Pandion haliaetus*, Slechtvalk *Falco peregrinus*, Draaihals *Jynx torquilla*, Parelduiker *Gavia arctica*, Roodkeelduiker *G stellata*, Morinelplevier *Charadrius morinellus*, Roodhalsfuut *Podiceps griseigena*, Steltkluut *Himantopus himantopus*, Engelse Gele Kwikstaart *Motacilla flavissima* en Krooneend *Netta rufina*. Belangrijkste missers waren Matkop *Parus montanus* en Spotvogel *Hippolais icterina*; ook de eerder op de dag ontdekte Blonde Ruiter *Tryngites subruficollis* van de Ezumakeeg, Friesland, liet zich even niet zien tijdens het korte bezoek. Soorten als Duinpieper *Anthus campestris* en Grauwe Klauwier *Lanius collurio* werden gemist door de MKZ-afsluiting van het grootste deel van de Veluwe, Gelderland. Het record kan nog oplopen tot 184 wanneer het mannetje Steppekiekendief *Circus macrourus* dat 's avonds vanaf de Knardijk, Flevoland, werd gezien door de CDNA wordt aanvaard. Dankzij de daags tevoren opgeheven MKZ-afsluiting van de Ezumakeeg, Friesland, het mooie weer en de ondertussen jarenlange ervaring (het was de 10e achtereenvolgende big-day van dit team) kon voor het eerst de magische 180-soorten grens worden doorbroken. Het oude record uit 1998 – van hetzelfde team – stond op 179 soorten. ROY DE HAAS, LEO HEEMSKERK, JAN VAN DER LAAN & WIL LEURS

NEW BIG-DAY RECORD On 12 May 2001, a new big-day record was set for the Netherlands with 183 species recorded (heard and/or seen) by a team of four birders. The previous record (from 1998) by the same team was 179. These totals do not include introduced species ('category C').

**Huisgierzwaluw op Terschelling** Op donderdag 17 mei 2001 zag Arie Ouwerkerk rond 14:00 een Huisgierzwaluw *Apus affinis* vliegen in een groep Huiszwaluwen *Delichon urbica* en Boerenzwaluwen *Hirundo rustica* bij Lies op Terschelling, Friesland. De zwaluwen vlogen door de harde wind laag boven de weilanden en de Huisgierzwaluw liet zich goed bekijken en ook fotograferen; AO gaf het nieuws door en een aantal vogelaars op het eiland kon de vogel eveneens bekijken. Na enige tijd probeerde de vogel hoogte te winnen en werden de waarnemingen onregelmatiger; na 15:10 bleek hij te zijn verdwenen. Voor de gespannen en veelal overhaast afgereisde vogelaars op de vastewal werd daarmee duidelijk dat ze achter het net zouden vissen.

Indien aanvaard betreft het hier een nieuwe soort voor Nederland. In een aantal Noordwest-Europese landen was deze soort reeds als dwaalgast vastgesteld (Ierland, Groot-Brittannië en Zweden). De broedgebieden bevinden zich voornamelijk in Afrika ten zuiden van de Sahara en in Zuid-Azië maar ook in Noord-Afrika en, sinds kort, in Zuid-Europa (Spanje). ENNO B EBELS

LITTLE SWIFT The first Little Swift *Apus affinis* for the Netherlands, if accepted, was seen and photographed on Terschelling, Friesland, 17 May 2001. The bird was present for just over an hour.

# DBA-nieuws

**Rob Stolk overleden** Op 31 maart 2001 overleed op 55-jarige leeftijd Rob Stolk, oprichter en directeur van Drukkerij Rob Stolk te Amsterdam, waar het tijdschrift Dutch Birding gedurende vele jaren werd en wordt gedrukt.

Na de eerste vijf elders gedrukte zwart-witjaargangen van het tijdschrift, benaderde in 1983 de toenmalige eindredacteur van Dutch Birding, de eveneens in Amsterdam woonachtige Kees Hazevoet, zijn oude kameraad Rob Stolk met de vraag of Dutch Birding voortaan bij diens drukkerij kon worden gedrukt. Kees kende Rob uit de 'roemruchte jaren zestig'. Rob Stolk heeft vanaf dat moment de redactie van Dutch Birding met raad en daad bijgestaan, niet in de laatste plaats bij de wens van de redactie om foto's in kleur te kunnen afdrukken. Na een eerste begin (een nog elders gedrukt kleurenkatern in nummer 8-1, 1986), werd vanaf nummer 8-4 in ieder nummer een aantal foto's in kleur afgedrukt. De jaargangen 6 tot 11 (1984-89) werden door Drukkerij Rob Stolk gedrukt.

Om louter praktische redenen werd met ingang van jaargang 12 (1990) overgestapt naar een andere drukkerij, maar in de loop van jaargang 20 (1998) keerde Dutch Birding weer terug bij Drukkerij Rob Stolk, waarmee het contact overigens nooit helemaal was verbroken. Aan het eind van datzelfde jaar 1998 was ook de eindfase van de productie van *Zeldzame vogels in Nederland (Avifauna van Nederland 1)* in volle gang. Ook daarbij heeft Rob Stolk waardevolle adviezen gegeven en de films voor dat boek zijn, op grond van kwaliteitsoverwegingen, bij Drukkerij Rob Stolk geproduceerd.

Dutch Birding heeft veel te danken aan Rob Stolk. Namens de Dutch Birding Association en de redactie van Dutch Birding wensen wij zijn familie en zijn collega's van de drukkerij veel sterkte in deze moeilijke periode. We zullen hem missen en gedenken hem met grote waardering. André J van Loon, René Pop & Cornelis J Hazevoet

**DBA-website in nieuw jasje gestoken** Met ingang van 1 mei 2001 heeft de DBA-website (www.dutchbirding.nl) een gedaanteverwisseling ondergaan. De layout is totaal vernieuwd en de indeling van menu en pagina's is vereenvoudigd zodat de grote hoeveelheid aan onderwerpen makkelijker te vinden is. Omdat de website gebruik maakt van moderne technieken is het raadzaam een recente webbrowser te gebruiken. Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 of hoger geeft de beste resultaten, maar ook met andere of oudere browsers is de website te bekijken. Op de helppagina is hierover meer informatie te vinden.

Voor bezoekers van de website is het nu voor het eerst mogelijk de inhoudsopgaven van alle nog leverbare uitgaven van Dutch Birding te raadplegen. Tevens kunnen beheerders van andere vogel-websites zelf een link (met een korte omschrijving) naar hun eigen website aan onze linkpagina toevoegen. Ook is er nu de mogelijkheid DBA-artikelen via de website te bestellen.

In de nabije toekomst zal de DBA-website nog meer nieuwe diensten voor de bezoekers gaan leveren, dus hou www.dutchbirding.nl in de gaten. Rob Olivier

**DBA website totally renewed** Starting from 1 May 2001, our website (www.dutchbirding.nl) has undergone a metamorphosis. The lay out is totally renewed and the division of the menu and web pages is simplified to ensure that the large amount of information can be found easily. Because the website uses modern techniques, it is advisable to use a recent web browser. Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 or higher gives the best results but also other and older browsers can be used to look at the website. On the help page, further information on this topic is available.

A new possibility for visitors of the website is to consult the contents of all available back issues of Dutch Birding. Also the webmasters of other bird-related websites can add a link with a short description of their own website to our link page. Another new possibility is to order DBA merchandise directly through the website. In the near future, there will be other new services on the DBA website, so keep an eye on www.dutchbirding.nl. Rob Olivier

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

The sequence of birds in Dutch Birding basically follows a classic 'Wetmore sequence'. Within this framework, the following lists are used for taxonomy and nomenclature: Rare birds of the Netherlands by A B van den Berg & C A W Bosman (2001, Haarlem) (taxonomy and scientific, Dutch and English names of birds recorded in the Netherlands); Palearctic birds by M Beaman (1994, Stonyhurst) (English names of remaining Palearctic birds); Vogels van de wereld - complete checklist by M Walters (1997, Baarn) (Dutch names of remaining birds of the world); and Birds of the world by C G Sibley (1996, Version 2.0, Cincinnati) (taxonomy and scientific and English names of remaining birds of the world). Deviations from and additions to these lists are based on CSNA decisions (cf Dutch Birding 19: 21-28, 1997; 20: 22-32, 1998).

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