DUTCH BIRDING

VOLUME 24 • NO 3 • 2002

Dutch Birding

Internationaal tijdschrift over Palearctische vogels

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

De volgorde van vogels in Dutch Birding volgt in eerste instantie een klassieke 'Wetmore-indeling'. Binnen dit raamwerk worden voor taxonomie en naamgeving de volgende overzichten aangehouden: *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). Voor afwijkingen van en aanvullingen op bovenstaande overzichten zie Dutch Birding 19: 21-28, 1997; 20: 22-32, 1998; 24: 22-24, 2002.

Een lijst met tarieven voor de vergoeding van auteurs, fotografen en tekenaars is verkrijgbaar bij de redactie.

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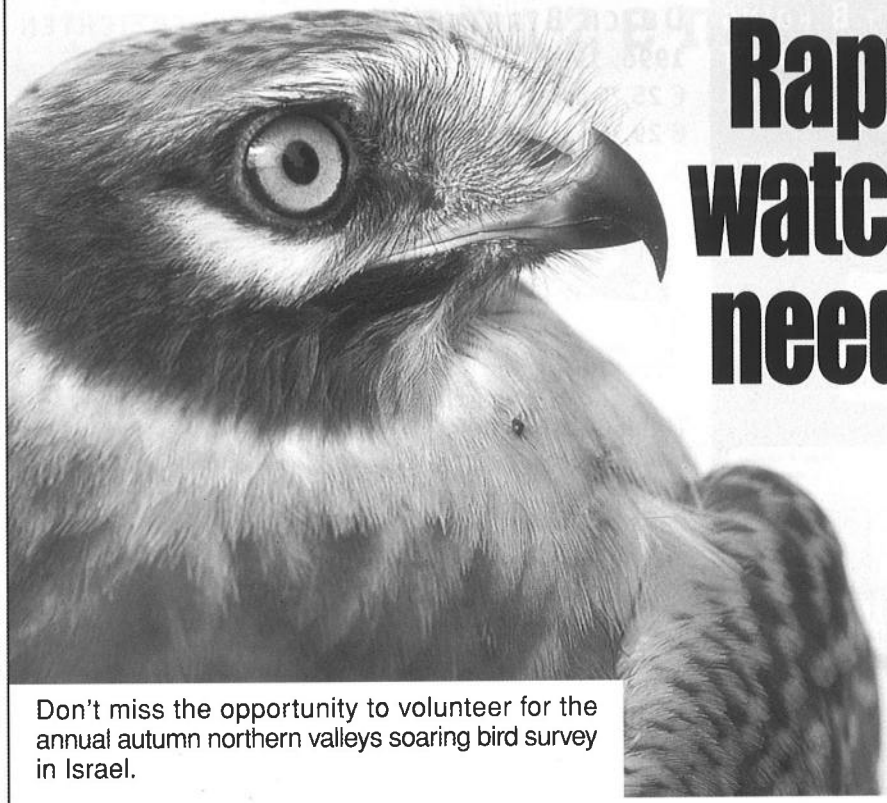

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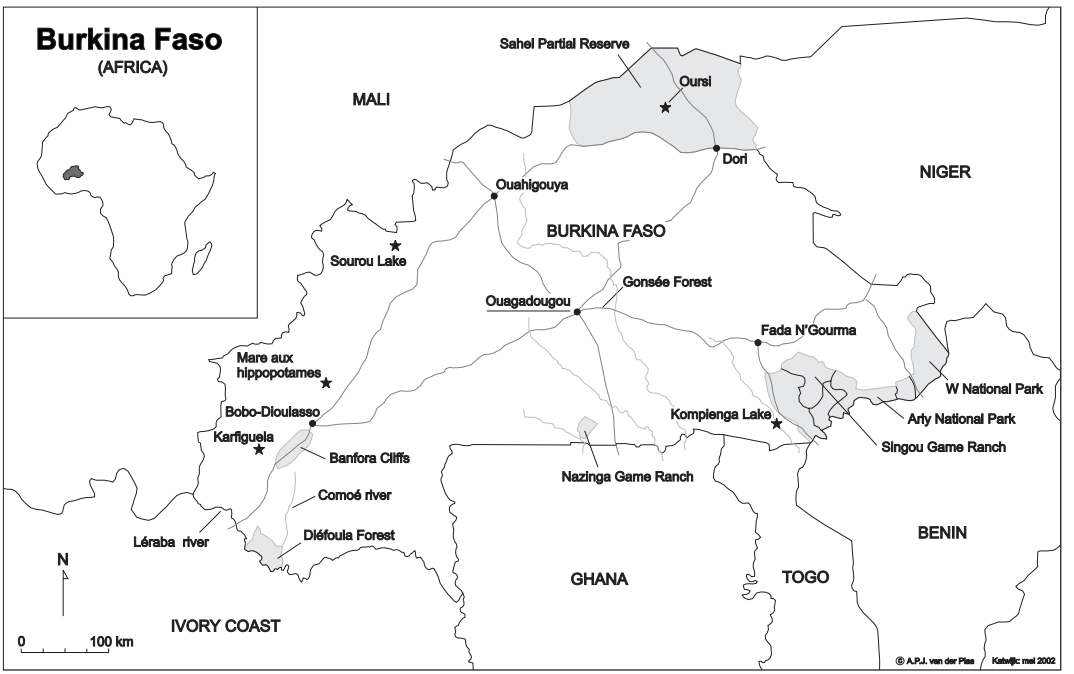
Birding in Burkina Faso, more than just birdwatching

Bruno Portier, Clark Lungren & Georges H Ouéda

Daily flights from Paris, among the friendliest people you are ever likely to meet, a great tourism infrastructure and a very quiet political situation combine to make Burkina Faso (which means the 'honest men's land') one of the easiest and safest countries to visit in western Africa. Coupled with an impressive list of birds – thanks to its location between the Sahel in the north and tropical forest habitats in the south – and a fantastic and well preserved variety of game and mammals make Burkina Faso, formerly called Upper Volta, a must-visit location for pioneer birders. And there is far more to Burkina Faso than just its rich wildlife and eye-catching birdlife. For those who want to get acquainted with African cultures, history, traditional music or craft shopping, the country will offer plenty of satisfactions.

Burkina Faso is a land-locked country in the West African Sahel region located north of Ghana, sandwiched between the Sahara desert and the Gulf of Guinea, and within the loop of the Niger river. It covers 240 000 km², making the country almost six times bigger than the Netherlands. The neighbouring countries are Mali, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Niger. It is located on a plateau that rises gently from an elevation of 250 m in the south-west to 350 m in the north-east. The country is essentially a fairly flat plain dissected by three main branches of the Volta river that drain southwards to Ghana. The drainage system of the largest branch, the Mouhoun (formerly Black Volta), covers half of the country. The country has poor soil with many areas being infertile semi-desert. The climate is

FIGURE 1 Map of Burkina Faso



hot and dry, with average temperatures of 18.1 °C in January and 38.4 °C in April. The average annual rainfall ranges from 650 to 1200 mm but is less than 250 mm in the north. Therefore, water is scarce in many parts of the country and where it is available, infestations of river blindness or sleeping sickness have prevented its agricultural use for centuries. There are three distinct seasons: warm and dry from November to March, very hot and dry from March to May and hot and wet from June to October.

Burkina Faso is home to 60 different ethnic groups but is dominated by the Voltaic group which include the Mossi, who make 52% of the population. Burkina Faso is also one of the more densely populated countries in the Sahel (over 36 inhabitants/km^2) with an estimated population of just over 10 million people, three quarters of whom live in rural areas. Small-scale agricultural and animal husbandry employ 90% of the population and provide 45% of the gross national product (GNP). Main export products are cotton fibre, gold, cattle and small ruminants, and to a lesser degree yams, beans and mangos. There are two major urban areas: Ouagadougou, the capital (1 million inhabitants), and Bobo-Dioulasso (400 000). French is the official language but most of the many tribal languages belong to the Sudanic family.

Travelling information

As birding in Burkina Faso may be considered as pioneering birding, you will have to travel with a slight 'off the beaten tracks' mind. Tourism is developed and game ranches, national parks and wildlife reserves are usual destinations for visitors. You will not have trouble to find 4-WD vehicles and guides but since birding is an unusual activity, you may need to explain your wishes.

Although most parks are open throughout the year (except Arly NP), the rainy season frequently transforms paths and tracks into impracticable muddy swamps, while the green sea of high tropical grasses can further complicate observing wildlife. Therefore, the best period for visiting Burkina Faso is from mid-October or November to June or mid-July. Do not forget to bring along appropriate gear and clothing if you are planning a trekking safari. Clothing should either be neutral or jungle camouflaged to provide low-visibility to the shy animals. Long clothing protects against sunburn, mosquitos and other insects. Sturdy boots, a hat and sunglasses are also essential. A warm pull-over can be useful in early morning in January-February when night temperatures may dramatically crash down to 10 °C, chilling all local people to the bone! It may even freeze on rare occasions in the northern desert.

Burkina Faso can be reached by daily flight from Paris, France (Air France, NAS Air) to Ouagadougou. Corsair and Le Point Afrique have weekly flights in tourist periods. From The Netherlands, indirect flights via Accra, Ghana, may be an interesting solution. The flight time is c six hours from Paris to Ouagadougou.

An international certificate of vaccination against yellow fever is required and will be checked upon entrance of the country. Further vaccinations against typhoid fever, meningitis, hepatitis (A & B) and polio are strongly recommended. A preventing malaria treatment (Savarine) is necessary, overall in the rainy season.

Ornithological importance of Burkina Faso

While much information still needs to be collected or verified, Burkina Faso, for a land-locked country of its size, has a fairly rich avifauna with a total of over 500 species recorded, of which more than one third are of significant conservation interest. Owing to its location on the southern edge of the Sahara desert, it receives many seasonal Palearctic migrants, with a few sites certainly hosting annual congregations of at least 20 000 waterbirds. Its land-locked situation prevents any true seabird records and even the world-wide gulls are uncommon. Although Burkina Faso has no endemic species, many birds of the West African Tropical Region are likely to be seen.

Furthermore, it is notable that a rational conservation system is in place. The legislative framework defines classified forests, total or partial faunal reserves, national parks, game ranches, biosphere reserves and Ramsar sites. And, although most conservation areas have remained without any consequential management or investment until recently, progress into the right direction is now being made. Burkina Faso has signed several international conventions regarding nature conservation, the most important being CITES, Bonn (migratory species), UNESCO World Heritage, Bern, Ramsar Humid Zones, Biodiversity Conservation, African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Organization of African Unity), and Convention on Climatic Change. International cooperation programmes are carried out on natural resource management and biodiversity conservation.

110 Hamerkop / Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso, 20 November 1999 *(Bruno Portier)* **111** White-backed Night Heron / Witrugkwak *Gorsachius leuconotus*, juvenile, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso, 27 May 2000 *(Bruno Portier).* One of the potential highlights. This very elusive and nocturnal species was recently discovered in Burkina Faso

112 Grasshopper Buzzard / Sprinkhaanbuizerd *Butastur rufipennis*, Gonsé Classified Forest, Burkina Faso, 6 May 2000 *(Bruno Portier)*

113 African Hawk Eagle / Afrikaanse Havikarend *Hieraaetus spilogaster*, juvenile, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso, 14 May 2000 *(Bruno Portier)*

Best birding spots

Burkina Faso lies within three bioclimatic zones (Sahelian, Sudanian and Sudano-Guinean) with distinct ecological conditions.

Sahelian sector

This sector, lying in the north of the country, has less than 400 mm of uncertain rainfall per year, and the climate is characterized by a dry season lasting 8-10 months. The vegetation is classified as shrub and wooded steppes dominated by *Acacia* species, with patches of 'tiger bush' alternating with dense thickets of *Balanites*. The grass cover consists of short annuals that generally provide good pasture. The majority of people are transhumant and semi-sedentary Fulani, Touareg and Bella herdsmen. This area has numerous seasonal lakes and several tributaries of the Niger that seasonally receive large numbers of migratory Palearctic birds. Large wild mammals are today reduced to sporadic populations of Red-fronted Gazelle *Gazella rufifrons*, Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*, Patas Monkey *Cercopithecus patas*, Spotted Hyena *Crocuta crocuta*, Common Jackal *Canis aureus* and Side-striped Jackal *C adustus*.

1 Oursi – Darkoye Lakes, Sahel Partial Reserve This site consists of seasonal lakes at the foot of old sand dunes (Oursi) on open steppe (Darkoye, Kouyéra, Yomboli, Kisi, Bangao) or at the foot of hills (Tin Edia) situated in the north-east of the country. The landscape consists of sand dunes, open eroded shields, drainage lines, inselbergs rising out of the plains and a series of hills that usually lie upstream of the lakes. Depending entirely upon the annual rainfall runoff from the rains of July to September, water levels of the lakes vary considerably from year to year. It takes a five-hour drive to get there from Ouagadougou. You will easily find a place to stay in Gorom-gorom or Dori but if you want to camp at the Oursi sand dune, it is better to bring all your camping gear and take a local guide.

The presence of Ostrich *Struthio camelus* has been noted by poachers in the past but it seems to have become extinct now. Large numbers of Palearctic migrants, mainly ducks, herons and waders, occupy the lakes each year from November to March. Species such as Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*, White-faced Whistling Duck *D viduata*, African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus*, Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*, Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*, Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*, many shorebirds, along with three species of harrier, ie, Western Marsh *Circus aeruginosus*, Montagu's *C pygargus* and Pallid Harrier *C macrourus* will be easy to find. Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*, Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* and African Swamp-hen *Porphyrio madagascariensis* will be seen in good numbers. Other species to look for are Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*, Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*, Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*, Black Crowned Crane *Balearica pavonina*, Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus* and Black Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas podobe*. And with a bit of luck, White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus*, Greater Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*, the rare Kordofan Lark *Mirafra cordofanica*, Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti* and Sennar Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus punctifrons* can be found.

2 Béli river, Partial Wildlife Reserve The Béli river site lies in the extreme north of the country. It is a flat scrub steppe at 250-300 m altitude, interspersed with ancient sand dunes covered with short grasses, large eroded flats and shallow thalwegs. Draining out of Mali, the seasonal Béli river is a shallow stream forming clusters of small lakes that progressively dry up after the rains. The most important birding areas are presently considered to be the clusters of shallow ponds located near the nomad camps of Tin Akoff, Fader Fadar and In Tangoum, where a waterbird congregation of over 20 000 birds can be seen from November to March. As in the Oursi area, it is probable to find several species restricted to the Sahel biome. Golden Nightjar *Caprimulgus eximius* and Dunn's Lark *Eremalauda dunni* are more easily found here than in Oursi.

Sudanian sector

This sector is characterized by rainfall of less than 900 mm per year and a dry season of 7-8 months. It mainly occupies the Central Mossi Plateau, including the capital Ouagadougou, and supports the highest human population densities of the country. Heavily influenced by human activities, the vegetation is mainly cultivated.

1 Sourou Lake (unprotected) Near the western edge of the country in the northern Sudanian sector, the Sourou river rises out of Mali and flows south into the Mouhoun river. A stretch of 55 km, called the Sourou Lake, has become permanently flooded after the construction of a dam at the junction of the two rivers. The width of the

114 Spotted Thick-knee / Kaapse Griel *Burhinus capensis maculosus*, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso, 28 November 2000 *(Bruno Portier)*

115 Four-banded Sandgrouse / Vierbandzandhoen *Pterocles quadricinctus*, female, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso, 7 March 2000 *(Bruno Portier)*

116 Standard-winged Nightjar / Viervleugelnachtzwaluw *Macrodipteryx longipennis*, male, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso, 25 May 2000 *(Bruno Portier)*. Probably the most-wanted and enigmatic bird of the area. It will be encountered at night on sandy tracks, except at the very heart of the dry season **117** Long-tailed Nightjar / Mozambikaanse Nachtzwaluw *Caprimulgus climacurus*, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso, 25 May 2000 *(Bruno Portier)*

118 Typical view of tree savanna in mid-July, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso, 12 July 1999 *(Bruno Portier)*

119 Tengrela Marshes, Tengrela, Burkina Faso, 25 February 2001 *(Stéphane Claerebout)*

lake varies from several 100s of metres to 4 km and provides a habitat of vast shallows covered with long perennial grasses. 1000s of waterfowl are present although no other species compared with both previous sites are to be expected. However, a major attraction will undoubtedly be the Hippos *Hippopotamus amphibius*, swimming or walking on the banks.

2 Ouagadougou Classified Forest Situated near the centre of Ouagadougou, just in front of the hotel Sofitel Silmandé, the Ouagadougou Classified Forest (currently designated as 'Parc Urbain de Bangré Weogo'), consists of small patches of scrub and tree savanna, savanna woodland and small riparian forests on hydromorphic soils. The site is currently the focus of considerable efforts by the government to establish it as a recreational nature area. Despite the fact that the site will not offer species that could not be found elsewhere in the country, it is worth a visit for those that only have a short time to spend birding in Burkina Faso. Well over 200 species have been recorded in the area and a few hours birding can already provide many West African specialities: Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*, Shikra *Accipiter badius*, Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra*, African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*, Greater Painted-snipe, Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*, African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*, Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinica*, Red-throated Bee-eater *M bulocki*, Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela pusilla*, African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis*, African Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* (during the rainy season), Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegala*, Common Gonolek *Laniarius barbarus* and Yellow-billed Shrike *Corvinella corvina*. Some uncommon species may be expected such as Long-crested Eagle *Lophoaetus occipitalis*, Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus erlangeri*, Jacobin Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus*, Bearded Barbet *Lybius dubius* or African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus*.

3 Gonsée Classified Forest This suburban forest is managed for the production of utility wood. It is located at just a half-hour drive from Ouagadougou, on the road heading eastward to Fada N'Gourma. If time is limited, one could also spend just half-a-day birding here where you may find Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis*, Senegal Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis*, Savile's Bustard *E savilei* and White-throated Bee-eater *M albicollis*. We strongly recommend a visit after dusk when Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*, Four-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles quadricinctus*, White-faced Scops Owl *Otus leucotis*, Long-tailed Nightjar *C climacurus* or the mythical Standard-winged Nightjar *Macrodipteryx longipennis* may appear in the light beams of your car.

Sudano-Guinean sector

This sector in the western and southern central part of the country has an essentially southern Sudanian climate, characterized by annual rainfall of c 1000 mm with 5-6 months of dry season. The vegetation of the sector is dominated by tree and woodland savannas. Patches of riparian forests are common along the major drainage lines.

1 Nazinga Game Ranch Situated 200 km south of Ouagadougou along the Ghana border, the Nazinga Game Ranch is a 91 300 ha wildlife ecosystem where well-regulated game viewing and safari hunting of large ungulates are on offer. Accommodation is available all year round but it is strongly recommended to book rooms and meals before your arrival (telephone +226-308443 or +226-413617). Lights are switched off at 22:00, enabling guests to get plenty of sleep before rising at the crack of dawn, which is the most favourable moment for observing the local wildlife. Professional trackers will guide you through the ranch, along the 450 km of bush tracks, to discover the great diversity of habitats and variety of wildlife. Since 1979, 11 dams have been constructed in some major seasonal streams to retain water for most of the year. These sites improved the variety of habitats and attract a varied fauna in the dry season. An observatory situated in the campground will allow you to observe a great diversity of wildlife at just few metres from your room.

The dominant landform in the area is flatland plains that slope gently toward drainage channels. The vegetation is typical of south Sudanian and north Guinean savanna, with gallery and riparian forests along rivers, and a patchwork of scrub, tree and woodland savanna on the drier soils.

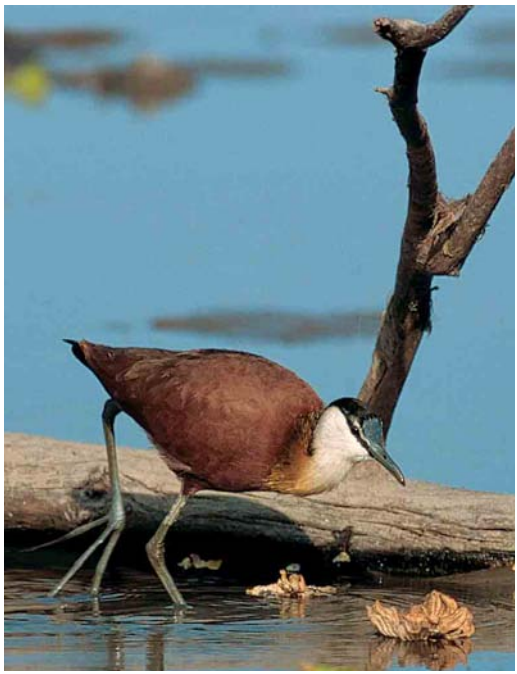
At only a three-hour drive from Ouagadougou, Nazinga is the best spot to see African Elephants *Loxodonta africana*, of which c 500 live in the area, as well as a great diversity of other African mammals: Warthog, West African Buffalo *Syncerus caffer brachyceros*, Roan Antelope *Hippotragus equinus*, Waterbuck *Kobus defassa*,

Buffon's Kob *K kob*, Hartebeest *Alcelaphus buselaphus*, Grimm's Duiker *Sylvicapra grimmia*, Oribi *Ourebia ourebi*, Anubis Baboon *Papio anubis*, Green Monkey *Cercopithecus aethiops* and Patas Monkey.

Up to 330 bird species have been recorded in Nazinga Game Ranch, including seven species of stork, 43 species of diurnal raptor, five species of nightjar, seven species of bee-eater and 14 species of swallow and martin. In the last two years, three new bird species for Burkina Faso were seen in Nazinga. It is interesting to note that a training course organized by BirdLife International in November 2000 produced a list of 185 species observed in only six days of birdwatching. Due to its southerly location, Nazinga is a good place for finding Afrotropical migrants or birds in the northernmost part of their range: White-backed Night Heron *Gorsachius leuconotus*, Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*, Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens*, Verreaux's Eagle Owl *Bubo lacteus*, Violet Turaco *Musophaga violacea*, Mottled Spinetail *Telecanthura ussheri*, Sulphur-breasted Bush Shrike *Telophorus sulfureopectus*, Heuglin's Wheatear *Oenanthe heuglini*, Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus*, Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster* and Nigerian Brown-rumped Bunting *Emberiza affinis nigeriae*. Other interesting species that will probably be observed include Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*, White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus*, Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*, Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia*, Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*, Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*, Black-crowned Tchagra, Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis* and Long-tailed Paradise Whydah *Vidua interjecta*. Many Palearctic migrants, mainly raptors, waders and insectivores, will also be present from October to March.

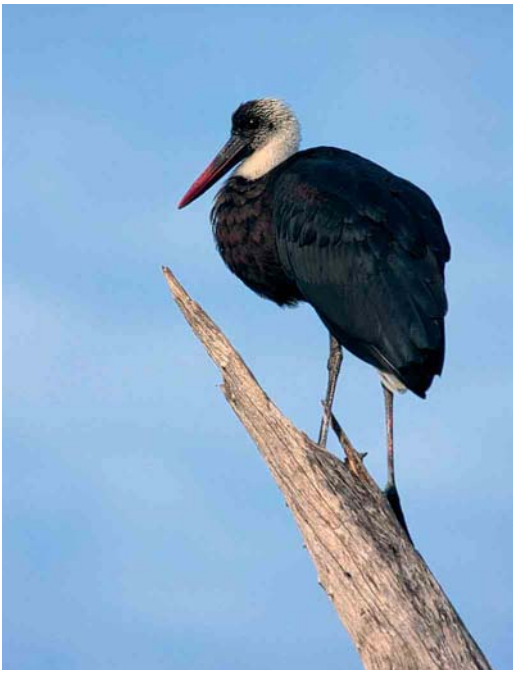
2 Mare aux hippopotames This site is located c 50 km north of the city Bobo-Dioulasso, in the upper Mouhoun valley. There is a 600 ha lake (Ramsar site) lying within a classified forest (World Biosphere Reserve). At the end of the dry season, the lake is reduced to about 120 ha covered with dense aquatic vegetation. The annual cycle progressively exposes a large flood

120 African Jacana / Lelieloper *Actophilornis africanus*, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso, 27 November 1999 *(Bruno Portier)*



121 Bronze-winged Courser / Bronsvleugelrenvogel *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso, 9 February 2001 *(Bruno Portier)*

122 White-backed Night Heron / Witrugkwak *Gorsachius leuconotus*, juvenile, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso, 27 May 2000 *(Bruno Portier)*



123 Woolly-necked Stork / Bisschopsooievaar *Ciconia episcopus*, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso, 29 May 2000 *(Bruno Portier)*

plain that provides food for a Hippo herd which occupies the lake, sometimes sharing the shores with African Elephants from the nearby Maro Reserve.

While 243 species of birds have been identified at the site as a whole, it is mainly large numbers of waterbirds that inhabit the lake and its flood plain. In addition, some species that are difficult to observe elsewhere in Burkina Faso can be found here without too much trouble: Lesser Jacana *Microparra capensis*, Red-headed Lovebird *Agapornis pullarius* and Oriole Warbler *Hypergerus atriceps*. Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* has been seen on several occasions.

3 Kompienga Lake In the southeast of the country, the hydroelectric dam of Kompienga is one of the largest in Burkina Faso, with a capacity of two million m^3 of water. The vegetation surrounding the lake is typical of that of the Pendjari-Mékrou sector of the southern Sudanian savanna, although moist pastures and gallery forests are developing in places along the lake shore.

There is, as yet, little ornithological information available but it is thought that more than 20 000 waterbirds regularly occur, amongst which Long-tailed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus*, Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* and large concentrations of Cattle Egret are common. So far, 11 of the 32 species restricted to the Sudano-Guinean savanna biome that occur in Burkina Faso have been recorded at this site. African Swallow-tailed Kite *Chelictinia riocourii* and Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* may be possible highlights for the area.

African Elephant and the occasional herd of Roan Antelope *Hippotragus equinus*, Bubal Hartebeest *Alcelaphus buselaphus* and Topi *Damaliscus lunatus korrigum* visit the lake during the dry season from the hunting concessions located just to the east. Affordable accommodations will be found in the 'Hotel de brousse de la Kompienga' near Pama (telephone +226-318443).

4 W National – Arly National – Singou complex The W National Park (235 000 ha), Arly National Park (76 000 ha) and the Singou Game Ranch (193 000 ha) are surrounded by classified forests and non-classified lands forming hunting concessions and village hunting zones.

While these different sections form the largest remaining wilderness in Burkina Faso, the area available for wildlife is even twice as large because it extends into Benin and Niger. However, situated at the extreme south-eastern edge of the country, it will cost up to three or four days to visit the area, while W National Park is simply not open to tourists. The Arly Hotel complex (open from 1 December to 30 May, telephone +226-791579 or +226-330983) offers accommodation for guests, a restaurant and a swimming pool. This is the best place to stay when visiting the area. You will need a 4-WD vehicle to get there but Arly NP is worth a visit since it is virtually the only wildlife area where you are allowed to learn the unique experience of 'trekking (foot) safaris' – rather than being confined to convoys of jam-packed jeeps and buses crowding around the star animals, as so often happens in other African wildlife reserves. This results in a first-hand, direct contact with nature, during which visitors will learn the ancestral art of silently tracking animals like traditional hunters do. Nevertheless, to minimize any potential risk, an armed guide perfectly familiar with the park and the habits of its animal population accompanies every trekking safari.

Along the Pendjari and Mékrou rivers, large stands of Borassus palms *Borassus aethiopum* along the drainage lines provide habitat for birds such as Red-necked Falcon *F chicquera* and Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*. In the east of Arly NP, a rocky ridge forms the Gobnangou cliffs that run for 50 km along the north of the park while several buttes, in particular Pagou, tower up into the sky and provide important nesting sites for raptors like Rüppell's Griffon Vulture *Gyps rueppellii* and White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*. Specialities like Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni*, Red-faced *Cisticola erythrops*, Croaking Cisticola *C natalensis*, Lazy Cisticola *C aberrans*, Ashy Alseonax *Muscicapa caerulescens* and Gambaga Flycatcher *M gambagae* can also be found in the area. Saddle-billed Stork and Black Crowned Crane, difficult to find elsewhere in Burkina Faso, are regular here. The occurrence of Pel's Fishing Owl *Scotopelia peli*, observed in the Pendjari NP just on the other side of the Benin border, still needs confirmation in Burkina Faso, despite a recent claim from the upper Mouhoun valley (Henk Van Renterghem pers comm).

Considering the mammalian fauna, the site has roughly the same species as Nazinga Game Ranch, although the threatened Topi and large populations of Hippos and Lions *Panthera leo* are present and the Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca redunca* is quite common.

5 Comoé-Léraba At the south-western edge of the country, along the border with Ivory Coast formed by the Comoé and Léraba rivers, this sector encloses the classified forests of Diéfoula and Logoniégué. They are presently the object of the programme 'Gestion Participative des Ressources Naturelles et de la Faune' (GEPRENAF) which aims to establish village-owned commercial wildlife production. This is the wettest zone of Burkina Faso with c 1300 mm of annual rainfall. The vegetation formations are particular to the area, as characterized by semi-deciduous gallery forests of 30-40 m high and tall dry forests of 15-20 m. Despite the fact that very little is known about the birdlife in the area, the site should produce some interesting sightings. Mammals include Hippo (common), African Elephant, Leopard *P pardus* and Caracal *Felix caracal*.

6 Bérégadougou Hill and Banfora Cliffs Situated in south-western Burkina Faso, north of the town of Banfora, Bérégadougou Hill covers c 15 000 ha, of which 5000 ha is a forest reserve. The hill is actually a chain of hills with peaks formed by weathered sedimentary rocks reaching an altitude of 680 m, rising about 350 m above the valley of the Comoé to the east. The area is the source of several of the country's largest rivers including the Comoé and the Mouhoun. Vegetation along the flanks of the hill may form dense groves. Annual rainfall is 1000-1100 mm. Near the town of Banfora, run-off from the hill results in a considerable number of successive waterfalls, tumbling over and around rock formations (Karfiguela falls). Extending from the base of the hill and running north-east for c 110 km, the Banfora Cliffs terminate near the city of Bobo-Dioulasso, which is the second largest city of Burkina Faso. In many places the cliffs are fissured, forming 100s of rock columns along the edge of the escarpment, with a multitude of nesting and hiding places for many birds – for example Mocking Cliff-Chat *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris* is common in this habitat – as well as reptiles, small mammals and insects. Near Bobo-Dioulasso, you can make a walk in Dafra, a place where you will witness the strange happening of sacrifices to feed huge sacred catfishes and by the same time spend a good bird-

124 Giant Kingfisher / Afrikaanse Reuzenijsvogel *Megaceryle maxima*, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso, 28 May 2000 *(Bruno Portier)*

125 Red-cheeked Cordonbleu / Blauwfazantje *Uraeginthus bengalus*, male, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso, 12 February 2000 *(Bruno Portier)*

ing trip. The 'Guingette', at c 15 km from Bobo, is a patch of dense forest along a freshwater spring where many forest birds will be found easily, including Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus ludwigii*, Oriole Warbler, Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida* and Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*.

Apart from Karfiguela falls, where you will easily find Violet Turaco, Blue-bellied Roller *C cyanogaster*, Green-headed Sunbird *Nectarinia verticalis* and many other interesting species, you can also have a tour on Tengrela Lake to look for Lesser Jacana. You may also see Bronze-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis chalcurus* and Northern Carmine Bee-eater, and approach a small herd of Hippos with a pirogue.

So far, 16 of the 32 species of the Sudano-Guinean savanna biome that occur in Burkina Faso have been recorded at or in the immediate vicinity of this site, including Fox Kestrel *F alopex*, Violet Turaco, Blue-bellied Roller, White-crowned Robin-chat *Cossypha albicapilla*, Blackcap Babbler *Turdoides reinwardtii* and Grey-headed Olive-back *Nesocharis capistrata*. Interestingly, there is a nesting colony of Black-headed Heron and Great Egret *Casmerodius albus* in the centre of the nearby village of Bérégadougou.

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126 Cabanis's Bunting / Cabanis' Gors *Emberiza cabanisi*, female, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso, 12 February 2000 *(Bruno Portier)*

127 Flappet Lark / Ratelleeuwerik *Mirafra rufocinnamomea buckleyi*, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso, 27 May 2000 *(Bruno Portier)*. When the rainy season begins, this species is often located by its particular wing beats

128 Black-winged Bishop / Roodvoorhoofdwever *Euplectes hordeaceus*, female or immature, Nazinga Game Ranch, Burkina Faso, 6 December 2000 *(Bruno Portier)*

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Hutchins' Canadese Ganzen in Nederland

Max Berlijn & CDNA

Canadese ganzen *Branta hutchinsii/canadensis* vormen een complexe groep door de grote diversiteit in taxa en de daarmee samenhangende vraagstukken omtrent taxonomie en determinatie; ten minste 11 verschillende taxa worden onderscheiden (Delacour 1954). De variatie is het meest prominent in formaat – het grootste taxon weegt bijna drie tot vijf keer zoveel als het kleinste taxon (Steele & Scott 1997, Sibley 2000) – maar er zijn ook verschillen in structuur, snavelvorm, kleur van de boven- en onderdelen, aan- of afwezigheid van een lichte halsring en aan- of afwezigheid van een donkere keelstreep. De herkenning van het canadese-ganzencomplex staat in veel opzichten nog in de kinderschoenen en krijgt de laatste tijd meer aandacht onder vogelaars in Europa, waar canadese ganzen als mogelijke dwaalgast worden gezien, dan in Noord-Amerika waar het complex 'thuishoort'. Met name door ringterugmeldingen van bewezen wilde canadese ganzen in Schotland nam in Europa en vooral in Brittannië en Nederland de interesse voor de herkenning en status van canadese ganzen toe. De eerste Europese ringterugmelding betrof een middelgroot exemplaar met een gele halsband (aangebracht in Maryland, VS, op 10 februari 1992) dat vanaf 22 november 1992 samen met een tweede vogel en een grotere canadese gans aanwezig was in Grampian en Tayside, Aberdeenshire, Schotland, en op 24 of 26 januari 1993 werd geschoten in Perthshire, Schotland (Appleton et al 1997, Palmer 2000, van den Berg & Bosman 2001). Een andere interessante ringmelding had betrekking op een vogel die op 1 november 1993 werd geringd te North Slob, Wexford, Ierland, en op 14 januari 1995 werd teruggemeld in Maryland (Appleton et al 1997, van den Berg & Bosman 2001). Het Schotse geval had betrekking op vogels van een lichtborstig type: een Grote Canadese Gans *B canadensis* van het taxon *B c parvipes* (Middelste Canadese Gans), of een Kleine Canadese Gans *B hutchinsii* van het taxon *B h hutchinsii* (Hutchins' Canadese Gans). Volgens Oates (1999) betrof het *B c parvipes*. Voor deze meldingen ging men er vanuit dat de meeste, zo niet alle, canadese ganzen in Europa afkomstig waren van de verwilderde po-

129 Hutchins' Canadese Gans / Hutchins's Canada Goose *Branta hutchinsii hutchinsii*, met Brandganzen / Barnacle Geese *B leucopsis*, Stad aan 't Haringvliet, Zuid-Holland, 2 januari 1998 *(Max Berlijn)*

130 Hutchins' Canadese Gans / Hutchins's Canada Goose *Branta hutchinsii hutchinsii*, met Brandganzen / Barnacle Geese *B leucopsis*, Workumerwaard, Friesland, 18 april 1998 *(Sietze Bernardus)*

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131 Hutchins' Canadese Gans / Hutchins's Canada Goose *Branta hutchinsii hutchinsii*, met Brandganzen / Barnacle Geese *B leucopsis*, Bandpolder, Friesland, 25 april 1998 *(Roef Mulder)* **132** Kleinste Canadese Gans / Cackling Canada Goose *Branta hutchinsii minima*, met hybride canadse gans x Brandgans / hybrid canada goose x Barnacle Goose *B hutchinsii/canadenis* x *leucopsis* en Kolganzen / Greater White-fronted Geese *Anser albifrons*, Anjummerkolken, Friesland, 13 maart 1998 *(Theo Bakker/Cursorius)* **133** Kleinste Canadese Gans / Cackling Canada Goose *Branta hutchinsii minima*, met Brandganzen / Barnacle Geese *B leucopsis*, Anjummerkolken, Friesland, 9 maart 2000 *(Theo Bakker/Cursorius)* **134** Kleinste Canadese Gans / Cackling Canada Goose *Branta hutchinsii minima*, met Brandganzen / Barnacle Geese *B leucopsis*, Anjummerkolken, Friesland, 2 maart 2000 *(Theo Bakker/Cursorius)*

pulaties in met name Brittannië en Scandinavië, of van ontsnapte exemplaren. Er werd bovendien nauwelijks opgelet of men te maken had met een taxon van Kleine Canadese Gans (waartoe *hutchinsii, leucopareia, minima* en *taverneri* worden gerekend) of Grote Canadese Gans (waartoe *canadensis*, *fulva*, *interior*, *maxima*, *moffitti*, *occidentalis* en *parvipes* worden gerekend; indeling conform Sangster et al (1999). Deze taxonomische indeling werd recentelijk ondersteund door moleculair onderzoek waaruit bleek dat Kleine Canadese Gans meer verwant is aan Brandgans *B leucopsis* dan aan Grote Canadese Gans (Praxinos et al 2002)).

De laatste jaren is er meer duidelijkheid ontstaan over de veldherkenning van de verschillende taxa. Het beeld is echter tot op heden verre van compleet. Bij de toenemende interesse voor de herkenning bleek dat veel 'Kleine Canadese Ganzen' die in Nederland gemeld worden in feite betrekking hebben op hybriden Brandgans x canadese gans (cf van den Berg 1996, Randler 2001) en dat zuivere Kleine Canadese Ganzen relatief zeldzaam zijn; dat laatste geldt in ver-

hoogde mate voor Hutchins' Canadese Gans. Dit is het enige taxon van Kleine Canadese Gans dat in Nederland vooralsnog als (potentieel) wild wordt beschouwd vanwege het feit dat verspreidingsgebied en trekgedrag zich goed lenen voor een transatlantische oversteek. De andere taxa van Kleine Canadese Gans lijken tot op heden geen goede kandidaten voor afdwaling naar West-Europa, met als mogelijke uitzondering Kleinste Canadese Gans *B h minima* (cf Lehman 2001). De meeste populaties van verschillende taxa zijn momenteel explosief aan het groeien, zodat in de nabije toekomst een ander beeld over de herkomst van deze taxa in Europa zou kunnen ontstaan.

In dit artikel wordt een overzicht gegeven van de Nederlandse gevallen van Hutchins' Canadese Gans. Er wordt tevens aandacht besteed aan de herkenning van de verschillende taxa van Kleine Canadese Gans. De herkenning en het voorkomen van de verschillende taxa van Grote Canadese Gans worden hier buiten beschouwing gelaten, waarbij moet worden opgemerkt dat de kleinste Grote Canadese Gans (*B c parvipes*) wat formaat betreft Hutchins' Canadese Gans benadert en dus voor determinatieproblemen kan zorgen. Grote Canadese Ganzen van de taxa *B c canadensis* en *B c interior* zijn geen beoordeeltaxa voor de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA). Daarentegen komt *B c parvipes* wel voor beoordeling door de CDNA in aanmerking. Er zijn tot op heden echter geen aanvaarde gevallen van dit taxon op de Nederlandse lijst. De herkenning van de verschillende taxa wordt bemoeilijkt door hybriden tussen verschillende taxa die veelal in verwilderde staat in West-Europa voorkomen. De positie van Grote Canadese Ganzen van de taxa *B c canadensis* en *B c interior* op de Nederlandse lijst valt momenteel te vergelijken met die van Casarca *Tadorna ferruginea*; een wilde herkomst is niet uit te sluiten maar het beeld van het voorkomen wordt sterk 'vertroebeld' door de aanwezigheid van exemplaren van niet-wilde herkomst (cf van den Berg & Bosman 2001).

Als gevolg van het besluit van de Commissie Systematiek Nederlandse Avifauna (CSNA) om het canadese-ganzencomplex te beschouwen als bestaande uit twee soorten, waarbij *hutchinsii* wordt ingedeeld bij Kleine Canadese Gans en *parvipes* bij Grote Canadese Gans (Sangster et al 1999), was het voor de CDNA noodzakelijk om

135 Kleinste Canadese Gans / Cackling Canada Goose *Branta hutchinsii minima*, met Rotganzen / Dark-bellied Brent Geese *B bernicla*, Prunjepolder, Zeeland, februari 1998 *(Jan van Holten)*

136 Mogelijke Taverners Canadese Gans / possible Taverner's Canada Goose *Branta hutchinsii taverneri*, Stevensweert, Limburg, februari 2000 *(Max Berlijn)* **137** Canadese gans / canada goose *Branta hutchinsii/canadensis*, met Kolgans / Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* en Brandganzen / Barnacle Geese *B leucopsis*, Wonneburen, Friesland, januari 1994 *(Paul Knolle)*. Kleur, formaat en snavelvorm duiden op grote *B h hutchinsii* of kleine *B c parvipes*. Formaat en snavellengte mogelijk te groot voor *hutchinsii*. Dit geval is na revisie niet aanvaard door de CDNA

tot een revisie te komen van de aanvaarde Kleine Canadese Ganzen op de Nederlandse lijst. Deze twee taxa kunnen in verenkleed en formaat veel op elkaar lijken zodat de kans bestond dat in bepaalde gevallen *parvipes* niet met voldoende zekerheid was uitgesloten (cf Wiegant et al 1999). In de periode 1992-2001 hebben verschillende gevallen van Hutchins' Canadese Gans op de Nederlandse lijst gestaan (cf van den Berg & Bosman 1999) die na deze revisie van alle gevallen, inclusief eerder afgewezen gevallen, niet langer aanvaardbaar blijken te zijn (cf van den Berg & Bosman 2001). De na de revisie resterende gevallen van Hutchins' Canadese Gans op de Nederlandse lijst zijn:

1 9 maart 1997, Anjum, *Dongeradeel*, Friesland (gefotografeerd)
2 16 november 1997 tot en met 2 januari 1998, Korendijkse Slikken, Korendijk en Stad aan 't Haringvliet/Den Bommel, *Middelharnis/Oostflakkee*, Zuid-Holland (gefotografeerd; foto in van den Berg & Bosman 1999, 2001)
3 9-12 februari 1998, Aalkeetbuitenpolder, *Vlaardingen*, Zuid-Holland (veldschetsen; schets in Vogeljaar 46: 94, 1998)
4 11-18 april 1998, Workumerwaard, *Nijefurd*, Friesland (gefotografeerd)
5 24-26 april 1998, Bandpolder, *Dongeradeel*, Friesland, en 26 april 1998, Lauwersmeer, *De Marne*, Groningen (gefotografeerd; foto's in Dutch Birding 21: 311, plaat 326, 1999, en Grauwe Gors 26: 99, 1998)

De mogelijkheid bestaat dat een aantal van bovengenoemde gevallen betrekking had op één exemplaar dat in 1997-98 met Brandganzen overwinterde en op trek veel bekende rust- en overwinteringgebieden van Brandganzen aandeed. Het feit dat de beide Nederlandse Hutchins' Canadese Ganzen uit april 1998 in het gezelschap van een of meer hybride Brandganzen x canadese ganzen werden gezien kan een aanduiding vormen dat het hier om dezelfde vogel ging. De CDNA besloot echter om alle te aanvaarden als gevallen van verschillende exemplaren.

De aanwezigheid van de hybriden, waarbij een aanzienlijke kans op een herkomst (van de hybride zelf of van een van de ouders) uit gevangenschap bestaat, met name wanneer *B h minima* een van de ouders is, zou opgevat kunnen worden als aanwijzing voor een niet-wilde herkomst van met name de twee Hutchins' Canadese Ganzen uit april 1998. Omdat verwilderde ganzen, waaronder hybriden van verschillende types, zich echter vaak aansluiten bij overwinterende groepen wilde ganzen en omdat hybriden ook goed van wilde herkomst kunnen zijn is dit naar de mening van de CDNA onvoldoende reden om deze twee gevallen af te wijzen.

Gevalsbeschrijvingen

1 Op 9 maart 1997 waren Leon Edelaar, Pim Edelaar en Jan van der Laan ganzen aan het kijken nabij Anjum in de Anjummerkolken, Fries-

land. Omstreeks 14:30 ging hun aandacht uit naar een kleine canadese gans in een grote groep Brandganzen. JvdL dacht meteen te maken te hebben met een Hutchins' Canadese Gans vanwege de geringe grootte van de vogel. De vogel was niet groter maar eerder iets kleiner dan de omringende Brandganzen met een gedrongen structuur, korte nek en kleine snavel. In tegenstelling tot de vele eerder op deze dag waargenomen *minima*-type vogels – vogels van het taxon *B h minima* of daarop lijkende hybriden – had deze een lichte roomwitte borst. Er werd snel een aantal foto's van matige kwaliteit door de telescoop gemaakt en de waarneming werd op de semafoon gezet waardoor vier vogelaars die in de buurt waren de vogel nog konden zien. Toevallig was de bekende Engelse vogelaar Bill Oddie met een aantal personen een 'Goose Bonanza' aan het houden in Friesland; zij kwamen tijdens de waarneming langs en zagen zo ook deze vogel. Omstreeks 16:00 vloog de groep met daarin de Hutchins' Canadese Gans op en verdween in noordelijke richting. Ondanks intensieve zoekpogingen de volgende dagen is de vogel niet meer teruggevonden.

De beschrijving is gebaseerd op aantekeningen en foto's van LE, PE en JvdL.

GROOTTE & BOUW Formaat als Brandgans maar poten iets langer en nek iets dunner. Snavel kort en driehoekig (min of meer gelijkzijdige driehoek, zoals bij Ross' Gans *Anser rossii*). Vleugelpunt net niet tot aan staartpunt reikend.
KOP & HALS Kop zwart met witte keel en wang. Geen donkere keelstreep aanwezig. Hals zwart, scherp contrasterend met lichte borst, geaccentueerd door smalle witte halsband. Halsband aan voorzijde nauwelijks zichtbaar.
BOVENDELEN & VLEUGEL Bruin, lichter dan bij Kolgans *A albifrons* (direct te vergelijken), vergelijkbaar met Grote Canadese Gans van ondersoort *B c canadensis/maxima* (in directe omgeving aanwezig). Stuit wit. Tertials met lichte rand.
ONDERDELEN Lichtbruin, borst licht izabelkleurig, bijna wit. Zijborst iets donkerder. Flank lichter dan bovendelen. Onderstaartdekveren wit.
STAART Zwart.
NAAKTE DELEN Oog donker. Snavel zwart. Poot donkerbruin tot zwart.
SLEET Vleugelpunten gaaf.

2 Op 16 november 1997 fotografeerde Felix Verschoor een lichte kleine canadese gans in een groep Brandganzen nabij de Korendijkse Slikken, Zuid-Holland. Er werd verder weinig ruchtbaarheid aan de waarneming gegeven, mede vanwege het feit dat er ook een aantal *minima*-types in de omgeving aanwezig was waardoor het 'beeld' nogal vertroebeld werd. Op 30 december 1997 ontdekten en fotografeerden Jeroen de Bruijn, Diederik Kok en Erwin Nel dezelfde vogel in een groep Brandganzen nabij de Stad aan 't Haringvliet, Zuid-Holland. Op basis van met name het kleine formaat (iets kleiner dan een Brandgans), de crèmewitte borstkleur en de korte snavel determineerden zij de vogel als Hutchins' Canadese Gans. Na verspreiding van het nieuws per semafoon kon de vogel gedurende de rest van de dag door verscheidene vogelaars worden bekeken. De volgende dagen werd de vogel onregelmatig waargenomen bij Stad aan 't Haringvliet, Den Bommel en de Korendijkse Slikken. De laatste waarneming vond plaats op 2 januari 1998 toen de vogel door een groot aantal mensen werd gezien en gefotografeerd (plaat 129), mede dankzij het feit dat velen deze vogel combineerden met de bij Vlaardingen aanwezige Dikbekfuut *Podilymbus podiceps*. Deze vogel had dezelfde uiterlijke kenmerken als genoemd bij geval 1 (zie beschrijving) met als aanvulling dat de witte halsring wat onregelmatig was met aan de ondergrens enkele vuilbruine vlekjes.

3 Mogelijk dezelfde vogel als van geval 2 werd op 9 februari 1998 gevonden door Fred van der Lans in een grote gemengde groep ganzen in de Aalkeetbuitenpolder nabij Vlaardingen. De vogel was al op 4 februari op deze plek waargenomen door Ellen Sandberg, maar werd vanwege de grote afstand waarop deze zich toen bevond nog niet als zodanig herkend. Deze vogel verbleef hier tot en met 12 februari. Hij vertoonde dezelfde kenmerken als bij de hierboven beschreven vogels (zie beschrijving bij geval 1); de iets opvallende halsring als beschreven bij geval 2 werd ook bij dit exemplaar waargenomen (Teus Luijendijk pers meded).

4 Op zaterdag 11 april 1998 ontdekten Sietse Bernardus, Jan Bisschop en Rutger de Vries een lichte kleine canadese gans in de Workumerwaard, Friesland. De vogel bevond zich in een groep Brandganzen en was waarschijnlijk gepaard met een Brandgans omdat een hybride Brandgans x canadese gans optrok met de vogel. Aanvankelijk was het niet precies duidelijk om welk taxon van Kleine Canadese Gans het ging. Wel was duidelijk dat het door de lichte borst geen *B h minima* kon zijn. Een week later, op 18 april, bevond de vogel zich nog steeds in de Workumerwaard en kon toen door SB worden gefotografeerd (plaat 130). De vogel werd uitein-

delijk aan de hand van de foto's gedetermineerd als Hutchins' Canadese Gans, met name op grond van de roomkleurige borst, de korte en relatief kleine snavel en het met Brandgans vergelijkbare formaat en postuur. De beschrijving komt verder overeen met geval 1.

5 Op 24 en 25 april 1998 werd door Erik Koops, Roef Mulder, Rudy Offereins en Oane Tol een kleine canadese gans gezien en gefotografeerd in een groep van c 50 Brandganzen en vier hybriden Brandgans x canadese gans in de Bandpolder, Friesland (plaat 131). De waarnemers dachten meteen aan de mogelijkheid van een Hutchins' Canadese Gans vanwege de lichte kleur van de borst, met een aanzet van een lichte halsring. De beschrijving komt verder overeen met geval 1. De vogel bleef tot 26 april in deze omgeving aanwezig en werd door vele, vooral lokale, vogelaars waargenomen. Op 26 april zag Enno Ebels de vogel 's ochtends vanuit een groep van enkele 100-en Brandganzen opvliegen met een hybride Brandgans x canadese gans en een Brandgans en verdwijnen tot boven het gebied Achter de Zwarten in het Groningse gedeelte van de Lauwersmeer. Later op de dag keerde de vogel terug naar de Bandpolder.

Afgewezen gevallen
De volgende vijf gevallen (10 exemplaren) bleken na de revisie door de CDNA niet langer aanvaardbaar:

1 12 januari 1992, Oudemirdum, *Gaasterlân-Sleat*, Friesland
2 23-30 januari 1994, Wonneburen en Piaam, *Wûnseradiel*, Friesland (gefotografeerd; plaat 137; andere foto's in Dutch Birding 16: 86, plaat 62, 1994, 18: 107, plaat 104, 1998)
3 22 februari 1996, Aijen, *Bergen*, Limburg (twee), gefotografeerd
4 12-13 mei 1996, Workumerwaard, *Nijefurd*, Friesland
5 28-29 december 1996, *Dirksland*, Zuid-Holland (vijf)

Een waarneming bij Gaast, Wûnseradiel, Friesland, op 25 januari 1995 was al eerder door de waarnemer ingetrokken omdat met name *B h taverneri* niet met zekerheid kon worden uitgesloten en werd daarom afgevoerd (cf Wiegant et al 1998). Het meest bekende afgewezen geval betreft de vogel die in januari 1994 te Wonneburen en Piaam verbleef; dit was de eerste 'kleine' canadese gans die door veel vogelaars werd bezocht. De borstkleur van deze vogel was weliswaar licht maar de snavelvorm en het formaat van de vogel in vergelijking met de aanwezige Brandganzen en Kolganzen was voor de CDNA aanleiding om determinatie als Grote Canadese Gans van het taxon *B c parvipes* (of een hybride tussen taxa) niet uit te sluiten. De andere vier afgewezen gevallen vertoonden (een combinatie van) te donkere borst, te groot formaat en verkeerde snavelvorm of waren onvoldoende gedocumenteerd om als Hutchins' Canadese Gans aanvaard te blijven.

Tot op heden is het moeilijk objectieve te criteria in het veld hanteren voor het bepalen van de bovengrens in formaat van Hutchins' Canadese Gans. Het gevolg is dat alleen vogels die in formaat niet of nauwelijks verschillen van Brandgans 'veilig' als Hutchins' Canadese Gans gedetermineerd kunnen worden en *parvipes* met voldoende zekerheid uitsluiten. Hopelijk zal nader onderzoek, met name in de broedgebieden, in de toekomst meer duidelijkheid over dit determinatieprobleem verschaffen (zie onder).

Determinatie van Kleine Canadese Gans
De determinatie van de verschillende taxa van Kleine Canadese Gans is nog voor een groot deel onontgonnen terrein maar een aantal zaken lijkt langzamerhand duidelijk te worden. Zo zijn de oostelijke taxa lichter van kleur met vooral een lichte borstkleur; naar het westen toe worden de taxa donkerder. De enige uitzondering op deze regel vormt het taxon dat op de Aleoeten, Alaska, voorkomt, *B h leucopareia*, dat een vrij lichte borstkleur heeft. De kleinste hebben de meest noordelijke verspreiding (*hutchinsii*, *leucopareia*, *minima*) en het grootste taxon (*taverneri*) heeft een meer zuidelijke verspreiding. Een 'nieuw' kenmerk voor de westelijke taxa lijkt de donkere keelstreep te zijn, variabel in duidelijkheid, die de lichte wangvlek in tweeën deelt; de oostelijke taxa hebben dit kenmerk blijkbaar niet (Batty & Lowe 2001). Hieronder wordt samengevat wat er tot op heden bekend is aangaande de herkenning van de verschillende taxa (van oost naar west beschreven) van Kleine Canadese Gans, gebaseerd op Madge & Burn (1988), Steele & Scott (1997), Ogilvie & Young (1998), Sibley (2000), Batty & Lowe (2001) en Batty et al (2002).

Hutchins' Canadese Gans B h hutchinsii
Het formaat is ongeveer gelijk aan Brandgans, soms iets kleiner. Voor determinatie in het veld is het belangrijkste vraagstuk in hoeverre het formaat van *B h hutchinsii* dat van *B c parvipes* kan benaderen. *B c parvipes* lijkt wat grootte betreft

meer op een forse Kolgans en heeft een langere, meer Kolgans-achtige snavel. De structuur van *B h hutchnisii* is gedrongen met een korte en vrij dikke nek en een kleine vierkante kopvorm. De snavel is kort en driehoekig, als bij Ross' Gans. De grondkleur van de onderdelen is licht crème-bruin, overeenkomend met de taxa van Grote Canadese Gans die in West-Europa het meest talrijk voorkomen (*B c canadensis* en *B c maxima*). Soms wordt beschreven dat *hutchinsii* een zilverkleurige glans over het verenkleed heeft. De borstkleur is vuilwit met een licht crèmekleurig waas. De bewering dat de borstkleur ook donker crèmekleurig tot bruin kan zijn (Batty & Lowe 2001) is (nog) niet uitvoerig onderbouwd (cf Boon & Berlijn 2001). Soms is een witte halsring aanwezig maar deze is vaak moeilijk te zien door de lichte kleur van de borst.

Taverners Canadese Gans B h taverneri
Het formaat is als dat van Brandgans maar iets hoger op de poten en met een iets dikker lijf, waardoor dit taxon iets groter en zwaarder overkomt; hierdoor is de indruk, inclusief snavelvorm, eerder vergelijkbaar met Kolgans. De structuur is vrij kenmerkend met een dik lijf en een relatief lange nek die slanker is dan bij *B h hutchinsii*. De kleur van de onderdelen is donkerder dan bij *B h hutchinsii* en meer warm melkchocolade-bruin. De borstkleur is eveneens melkchocolade-bruin, vrij egaal ten opzichte van de rest van het lijf. De wangvlek is vaak iets geler wit met een (aanzet tot een) donkere keelstreep. Soms is een smalle witte halsring aanwezig.

Kleinste Canadese Gans B h minima
Dit is het kleinste taxon van alle canadese ganzen, meestal kleiner dan Brandgans. De structuur is zeer gedrongen, met een korte dikke nek, vierkante kop en kleine snavel. De grondkleur van de onderdelen is erg donker, en typisch leverkleurig grijsbruin. Door de zeer donkere borstkleur, tot zelfs paarsbruin, is de borst soms moeilijk te onderscheiden van de zwarte nek en daardoor herinnerend aan hybride Brandgans x canadese gans. De wangvlek is vaak iets geler wit met een (aanzet tot een) donkere keelstreep. Vaak is een smalle witte halsring aanwezig.

Aleoeten Canadese Gans B h leucopareia
Het formaat is vergelijkbaar met *B h hutchinsii*. De structuur is iets minder gedrongen dan bij *B h minima* en *B h hutchinsii*. De grondkleur van de onderdelen is grijzer dan bij de andere taxa, met grijswitte borst en vaak een zeer opvallende brede witte halsring. De variatie in de aanwezigheid van de halsring en in het verenkleed is aanzienlijk (Lehman 2001).

Verspreiding en voorkomen
Hutchins' Canadese Gans is net als alle andere taxa van Kleine Canadese Gans een arctische broedvogel. Hij broedt op de arctische Canadese eilanden oostelijk tot aan Baffin Island en mogelijk ook regelmatig in westelijk Groenland (Ogilvie & Young 1998). Het is hiermee het meest oostelijk broedende taxon van Kleine Canadese Gans. Vogels overwinteren voornamelijk langs de golfkust ten oosten van Mexico en in Louisiana, VS. De populatie werd in 1998 geschat op 250 000 exemplaren (Ogilvie & Young 1998). De vogels volgen de 'Mississippi Flyway' naar hun overwinteringsgebieden. Van Sneeuwganzen *A caerulescens* die dezelfde trekroute volgen is ten minste één geval bekend van een bewezen transatlantische oversteek. Van 18 tot 26 april 1980 bevonden zich 18 Sneeuwganzen bij Andijk, Noord-Holland, waarvan een vogel een ring droeg; deze bleek in 1977 als kuiken Kleine Sneeuwgans *A c caerulescens* te zijn geringd in La Pérouse Bay, Manitoba, Canada (Blankert 1980). In de rest van Europa zijn er behalve uit Brittannië geen zekere gevallen van Hutchins' Canadese Gans bekend. Dit komt mede doordat de interesse voor de herkenning van de verschillende taxa van Kleine Canadese Gans (nog) beperkt is. In Brittannië worden tegenwoordig jaarlijks enkele kleine canadese ganzen gezien tussen overwinterende Kleine Rietganzen *A brachyrhynchus*, Grauwe Ganzen *A anser*, Groenlandse Kolganzen *A a flavirostris* en Brandganzen (Vinicombe & Cottridge 1996). Deze vogels werden tot op heden geregistreerd als 'Lesser Canada Goose' *Branta (canadensis) hutchinsii/parvipes* en dus niet precies op naam gebracht. Foto's van deze vogels laten zien dat hier in ieder geval sprake is van een aantal Hutchins' Canadese Ganzen (cf Batty & Lowe 2001). Er zijn ook minimaal twee waarnemingen van Kleine Canadese Ganzen over het bekende trektelpunt Vyborg op de grens van Rusland en Finland (Kontiokorpi 2000) maar het is niet bekend om welke taxa het hier ging.

Taverners Canadese Gans broedt in Centraal-Alaska tot in West-Canada en overwintert in Oregon en Washington in het noordwesten van de VS. De populatieschatting in 1998 bedroeg 70 000 exemplaren. De laatste jaren worden er in de winter vogels met kenmerken van dit taxon in Ierland vastgesteld (Batty & Lowe 2001). Ook

in Nederland zijn vogels gefotografeerd met kenmerken die op dit taxon betrekking zouden kunnen hebben (25 januari 1995, Workum, Friesland, en 22 tot 24 februari 2000, Stevensweert, Limburg; Max Berlijn pers obs; plaat 136). Op 3 februari 2002 verbleef een exemplaar met kenmerken van dit taxon, inclusief de donkere keelstreep, in een groep Kolganzen bij Tienhoven, Utrecht (Enno Ebels in litt). Deze vogel was mank aan de linkerpoot en kon op basis hiervan herkend worden als een ontsnapt exemplaar dat al enkele jaren in de buurt van Hilversum, Noord-Holland, niet ver van Tienhoven, verblijft (Hans van Oosterhout in litt).

Kleinste Canadese Gans broedt langs de westkust van Alaska en overwintert voornamelijk in Sacramento Valley, Californië, VS. De populatieschatting in 1998 bedroeg 100 000 exemplaren. Dit taxon wordt de laatste jaren steeds vaker in oostelijke staten van de VS vastgesteld en zou op grond daarvan als potentiële transatlantische dwaalgast kunnen worden aangemerkt (Lehman 2001; Paul Lehman pers meded). In Nederland worden elke winter exemplaren van dit taxon vastgesteld met zelfs kleine (familie)groepjes in grote groepen overwinterende Brandganzen en vaak in gezelschap van hybriden Brandgans x canadese gans (plaat 132-135). De herkomst van deze vogels is vooralsnog niet duidelijk maar gezien het feit dat enkele vogels 'verdachte' ringen droegen is ten minste een aantal niet van wilde herkomst.

Aleoeten Canadese Gans broedde in de tweede helft van de 20e eeuw alleen op Buldir Island in de Aleoeten ten westen van het vasteland van Alaska. Op het dieptepunt in 1967 telde de totale populatie minder dan 800 vogels. Sinds die tijd zijn er verschillende herintroductieprogramma's geweest op andere eilandjes van de Aleoeten en is de populatie weer aangegroeid tot 27 000 exemplaren eind jaren 1990 (Faust & Bailey 1999). Deze vogels overwinteren voornamelijk in Sacramento Valley, Californië.

Status in gevangenschap

In gevangenschap zijn vooral de taxa *B h minima* en *B h taverneri* vrij algemeen. Vooral bij exemplaren van *B h minima* is in het veld in Nederland inderdaad al meerdere malen de aanwezigheid van 'verdachte' ringen vastgesteld. Hutchins' Canadese Gans bleek daarentegen bij navraag door MB in 2000 bij twee grote siervogelhouders in Kamperland, Zeeland, en Roermond, Limburg, in gevangenschap minder algemeen en is moeilijk(er) verkrijgbaar. In Brittannië waren in 1997 vogels met kenmerken van het taxon *B h minima* veruit de meest algemene Kleine Canadese Gans in gevangenschap en werd geschat dat dit taxon in privécollecties 10 keer zo algemeen was als lichte vogels van het type *hutchinsii/parvipes* (Steele & Scott 1997).

Samenvatting

Na herziening van alle eerder aanvaarde gevallen van Hutchins' Canadese Gans blijven vijf gevallen, alle uit 1997-98, staan op de Nederlandse lijst. Het is niet uitgesloten dat minder dan vijf verschillende vogels bij deze vijf gevallen betrokken waren. Hutchins' Canadese Gans is het enige taxon van Kleine Canadese Gans op de Nederlandse lijst – bij andere taxa wordt een mogelijke wilde herkomst (vooralsnog) onwaarschijnlijk geacht. Alleen gevallen die aan de 'klassieke' kenmerken van Hutchins' Canadese Gans voldoen zijn aanvaard: formaat als Brandgans, korte hals, kleine snavel, roomwitte borst en lichte onderdelen, geen donkere keelstreep. Op basis van de revisie kan worden geconcludeerd dat dergelijke vogels daadwerkelijk zeldzaam zijn en dat het vaak lastig is om een Grote Canadese Gans van het taxon *B c parvipes* (Middelste Canadese Gans) of hybriden tussen verschillende taxa met zekerheid uit te sluiten.

Van Grote Canadese Gans staan de (niet beoordeelde) noord-oostelijke taxa *B c canadensis* en *B c interior* op de Nederlandse lijst. Van deze taxa is een wilde herkomst niet uit te sluiten maar is tevens duidelijk dat veel verwilderde exemplaren in Nederland aanwezig zijn (samen met exemplaren van *B c maxima*). Van het taxon *B c parvipes* dat in wilde staat naar Europa zou kunnen afdwalen zijn (nog) geen gevallen voor Nederland bekend.

Dankzegging

De volgende personen worden bedankt voor hun medewerking bij de totstandkoming van dit artikel en hun bijdrage in de hiervoor gevoerde discussie: Theo Bakker, Arnoud van den Berg, Sietze Bernardus, Jan Bisschop, Leo Boon, Enno Ebels, Jan van Holten, Paul Knolle, Diederik Kok, Jan van der Laan, Teus Luijendijk, Roef Mulder en Ellen Sandberg. Nils van Duivendijk en Roland van der Vliet zorgden ervoor dat de gegevens uit het CDNA-archief correct verwerkt en verwoord werden.

Summary

HUTCHINS'S CANADA GEESE IN THE NETHERLANDS A review by the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA) of all records

of Hutchins's (or Richardson's) Canada Goose *Branta hutchinsii hutchinsii* in the Netherlands has resulted in the deletion of five records, concerning 10 individuals. Five records remain, all of single birds in 1997-98 (9 March 1997, Anjum, Dongeradeel, Friesland; 16 November 1997 to 2 January 1998, Korendijkse Slikken, Korendijk and Stad aan 't Haringvliet/Den Bommel, Middelharnis/Oostflakkee, Zuid-Holland; 9-12 February 1998, Aalkeetbuitenpolder, Vlaardingen, Zuid-Holland; 11-18 April 1998, Workumerwaard, Nijefurd, Friesland; and 24-26 April 1998, Bandpolder, Dongeradeel, Friesland, and 26 April 1998, Lauwersmeer, De Marne, Groningen). Some of these records may refer to the same individual. Hutchins's Canada Goose is the only taxon of Lesser Canada Goose *B hutchinsii* currently on the Dutch list; for the other taxa (Aleutian Canada Goose *B h leucopareia,* Cackling Canada Goose *B h minima* and Taverner's Canada Goose *B h taverneri*) a wild origin of birds recorded in Europe is, on current knowledge, considered impossible. The five remaining records all refer to birds showing the combination of 'classic' *hutchinsii* characters: small size (similar to or smaller than Barnacle Goose *B leucopsis*) with relatively short neck and small triangular bill, pale brown underparts with even paler buffish-white breast and absence of dark chin-strap.

In this paper, the identification of taxa of Lesser Canada Goose is summarized; it is stressed that the knowledge is still incomplete and that further research, especially in the North American breeding areas, is needed. Apart from separating other taxa of Lesser Canada Goose as well as hybrids, the main pitfall for identifying Hutchins's Canada Goose is the exclusion of Greater Canada Goose *B canadensis* of the taxon *B c parvipes* (Intermediate Canada Goose) which can be equally pale and is often only slightly larger and with a longer neck and larger bill. Identification of Greater Canada Goose (including the taxa *canadensis, fulva, interior, maxima, moffitti, occidentalis* and *parvipes*) is not discussed in this paper. Greater Canada Goose is on the Dutch list because the north-eastern taxa *B c canadensis* and *B c interior* may occur as genuine vagrants although their occurrence is clouded by the numerous presence of feral birds and wintering birds from introduced populations in Britain and Scandinavia (also including *B c maxima*). There are no records (yet) of *B c parvipes* for the Netherlands.

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Distribution and biology of Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit

The north-eastern Asian subspecies of Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*, Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit *A r japonicus*, occupies an extensive breeding range in north-eastern Russia and northern Mongolia. It is the most numerous pipit and often the commonest bird in the alpine landscape of that vast region. For long, Buff-bellied Pipit was considered a subspecies of Water Pipit *A spinoletta*, a wide-ranging species complex occurring from the high mountains of Europe and Central Asia to North America (and formerly also considered to include Rock Pipit *A petrosus* from the north-western European coasts). Recent taxonomic studies, however, showed that the three North American and the eastern Asian subspecies belonging to the Water Pipit sensu lato group should be combined into one distinct species, now referred to as Buff-bellied Pipit (eg, Stepanyan 1990, Verbeek & Hendricks 1994). The systematics, biology and ecology of the three Nearctic subspecies of Buff-bellied Pipit (American Buff-bellied Pipit, ie, *A r rubescens*, *A r pacificus* and *A r alticola*) are well known (eg, Hall 1961, Verbeek & Hendricks 1994) but only little has been published on the distribution and biology of Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit, mainly scattered through the Russian literature (Portenko 1939, 1973, Kistchinski 1968, 1980, 1988) but see also Shirihai & Colston (1987).

Nowadays, there is no doubt about the species status of Siberian Buff-bellied and Water Pipits (here *A s blakistoni*). Their breeding ranges overlap extensively in the mountains around Lake Baikal, Siberia, Russia, and they show a number of stable morphological differences (Stepanyan & Gusev 1962; cf table 1) although birds of the allopatric populations look less different. In the Siberian part of the species' range, breeding Buff-bellied Pipits can be found in alpine and subalpine habitats from almost the Yenisey (the western side of the Putorana plateau) eastwards to the Pacific Ocean coast; the most eastern breeding points are the Provideniya bay in the southern Chukotsky peninsula, Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands. It also breeds from mountains of north-eastern Mongolia, the Baikalsky range, the Hentey-Chikoy highland, the Khamar-Daban range, perhaps the Stanovoy range and even the central Sikhote-Alin' mountains northwards to almost the Arctic Sea on mountains that penetrate into the tundra zone (figure 1). The area of overlap with Water Pipit includes the Khamar-Daban (Vasilchenko 1987, Durnev et al 1989), Baikalsky (Gusev 1965) and Ulan-Burgacy ranges (Stepanyan 1983) and the Hentey-Chikoy highland (Nazarenko 1978), all in Siberia and the latter also in Northern Mongolia. In the Khamar-Daban range and the Hentey-Chikoy highland, Buff-bellied Pipit is rare while in the Baikalsky range both species are abundant. Presumably, the area of overlap is even wider. However, Gusev (1965) and Stepanyan & Gusev (1962) found only Water Pipit in the Barguzinsky range while in the Kodarsky range (the highest part of the Stanovoy range) also only Water Pipit was found (see map), where it is a common breeding bird in the alpine zone up to 2300 m (Red'kin 2000).

Not only distributional but also ecological differences were found between these two closely related species. In particular, Nazarenko (1978) noted different habitat preferences high in the Kumyksky Goletz mountain (2340 m above sea level) in the Hentey-Chikoy highland. Buff-bellied Pipits were recorded only on stoney peaks and areas where the dark plumage perfectly matches the background with black lichens completely covering stones. Water Pipit, contrary to Buff-bellied Pipit, avoids flat barren fields and stone spills, which is also mentioned by, eg, Dement'ev & Gladkov (1954). Others, however, noted similar breeding habitats in the Hamar-Daban range, with territories adjoining each other and forming a composite mosaic. Buff-bellied Pipit does not only occur at the upper tree-line as Water Pipit (Durnev et al 1989). In low mountain regions of north-eastern Asia, Buff-bellied Pipits, as a rule, are not so directly linked to open stoney looses because they patchily occur there in small areas only (Portenko 1939, 1973, Kistchinski 1968, 1980, 1988, pers obs). In addition, the timing of most life history events on the breeding grounds differs to some extent in these two species (Nazarenko 1978).

In the Schuchy range, upper Anadyr area, where our studies were carried out, Buff-bellied Pipit prefers alpine and subalpine tundra with Siberian Dwarf-Pines *Pinus pumila*, Alder *Alnus fruticosa* shrub and scattered depressed larches *Larix dahurica.* In such habitat, the ground is typically covered with tundra vegetation: *Cassiope tetragona*, Tundra Aven *Dryas punctata*, dwarf willows *Salix*, Blueberries *Vaccinium uliginosum* and other *Vaccinium* species as well as *Rhododendron* species, sedges *Carex*, Tussocky Cotton Grass *Eriophyllium vaginatum*, a number of grasses and various mosses and lichens

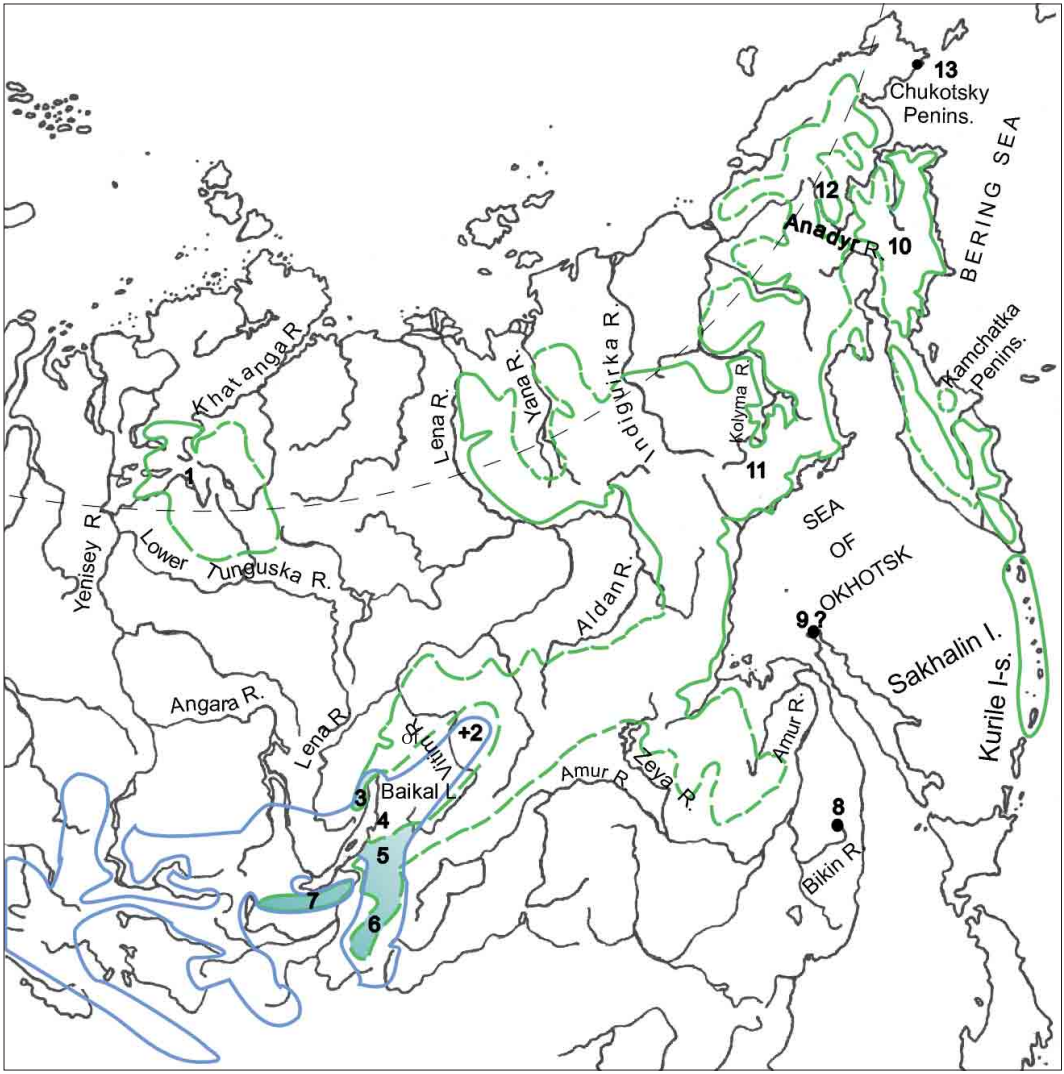

FIGURE 1 Distribution of Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit / Siberische Waterpieper *Anthus rubescens japonicus* and Water Pipit / Waterpieper *Anthus spinoletta blakistoni* in Siberia, Russia

- Breeding range limits of Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit
- Approximate breeding range limits of Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit
- ● Local breeding sites of Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit
- ●? Presumed breeding site of Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit
- Breeding range limits of Water Pipit
- + Local breeding site of Water Pipit
- Overlap of breeding ranges of Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit and Water Pipit

1 Putorana plateau
2 Kodarsky range (highest part of Stanovoy range)
3 Baikalsky range
4 Barguzinsky range
5 Ulan-Burgacy range
6 Hentey-Chikoy highland
7 Khamar-Daban range
8 Sikhote-Alin' mountains
9 Schmidt promontory
10 Koryak highland
11 Kolyma highland
12 Schuchy range (upper Anadyr area)
13 Provideniya bay

138-139 Siberian Buff-bellied Pipits / Siberische Waterpiepers *Anthus rubescens japonicus*, upper Anadyr area, Russia, June 1994 *(Pavel S Tomkovich)*

TABLE 1 Plumage and size characteristics of sympatric populations of Water Pipit / Waterpieper *Anthus spinoletta blakistoni* and Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit / Siberische Waterpieper *A rubescens japonicus* (Stepanyan 1983)

Character	*Anthus spinoletta blakistoni*	*A rubescens japonicus*
Upperparts	Pale, yellowish-grey	Dark, greyish-brown
Upperhead	Pale, with grey shade	Dark, brownish-grey with little, slightly black shade
Breast-markings	Absent, or present as single row of small pale brown mottles	Well developed as dark brown mottles, occurring in more than one row
Size	Slightly smaller	Slightly larger

(eg, *Sphagnum*, *Funaria*, *Cetraria*, *Alectoria*, *Thamnolia* and *Dactylina*) which often form a thick layer. In some areas, scree and rocky fields occupy up to 40-50% of the surface.

The altitudinal breeding range of Buff-bellied Pipit in Russia varies from 400-800 m in Anadyr land and the Koryak highland (Portenko 1939, Kistchinski 1980, pers obs) to 2300-2400 m in Kamchatka and the Hentey-Chikoy highland (Nazarenko 1978, Lobkov 1986). Small numbers may also occur below the subalpine zone even to the zonal tundra near foothills and along sea coasts (Kistchinski 1968, 1980).

In alpine habitat, Buff-bellied Pipit can be found together with other alpine or arcto-alpine birds such as Rock Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus*, Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*, Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*, Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*, Great Knot *C tenuirostris*, Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*, Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* and Asian Rosy Finch *Leucosticte arctoa*. In some mountains neighbouring zonal or coastal tundra, it breeds together with Red-throated Pipit *A cervinus*. At lower altitudes, it sometimes breeds together with widely distributed Palearctic birds or birds typical for boreal areas, for instance, Dusky Thrush *Turdus naumanni eunomus*, Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maura*, Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*, Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator* and Mealy Redpoll *C flammea* (Portenko 1939, 1973, Kistchinski 1968, 1980, 1988, Lobkov 1986, Vasilchenko 1987, Romanov 1996, pers obs).

Buff-bellied Pipits arrive in the southern parts of their breeding range, like the Kuril Islands, in the second five-day period of May but only in the end of May or early June in the mountains of northern Yakutia, the upper Anadyr area and the Koryak and Kolyma highlands (Dement'ev & Gladkov 1954, Gisenko 1955, Kistchinski 1968, 1980, Nechaev 1991, pers obs). In the Hamar-Daban range, Buff-bellied Pipits arrive c 10 days earlier and within a shorter period than Water Pipit, and also start earlier with nest building (Durnev et al 1989). Variation between years for the first arrival date may run to several days. Active singing of males and pair formation starts in mid- to late May and lasts through June, often one or two weeks later in the northern parts of the species' breeding range. Activity of pipits depends on the proceeding spring. During the early breeding season, males actively sing and defend their territory, females collect nest material and the partners copulate. Activity and visibility of birds normally decreases with deteriorating weather conditions as well as with the start of incubation.

In spring time, pipits feed often near the thawing snow patches and near pools of thaw water. Year round, adults chiefly collect arthropods, predominantly insects, but also consume plant seeds in autumn. During summer, animal matter represents almost 100% of the diet in alpine habitat, including spiders (Araneae), flies (Tipulidae, Chironomidae, Muscidae), butterflies (Nymphalidae, Papilonidae, Geometridae, Noctuidae), grasshoppers (Acrididae), sawers (Tenthredinoidea) and ants (Formicidae). Nestlings are provided with larvae of beetles (primarily Carabidae) and of butterflies, as well as spiders, flies and mosquitoes (Culicidae).

Like other pipits, Buff-bellied Pipits build their nest on the ground and often cover it very well under branches of dwarf shrubs, grass leaves and under tussocks. They have only one clutch of eggs each season, which is apparently related to the short favourable nesting period, at least in our study area in the upper Anadyr area, in the first and second decade of June. The incubation period in Russia does not differ from that in the American subspecies and averages 14.5 days (Verbeek & Hendricks 1994; pers obs).

The natal down-feathers are blue-grey; the

nestlings open their eyes 4-7 days after hatching. The young stay in the nest for 13-16 days. Both parents defend the nest and feed the young. During the first days, the female stays in the nest and warms the chicks or shelters them on sunny hot days while the male feeds the female and nestlings. Food is delivered to the gaping nestlings either as a single item or as a multi-item saliva-coated bolus (but which is not regurgitated). The older the young, the more food the parents deliver to them. According to our observations, they visit the young on average six times per hour on the day of hatching but 29 times per hour when the young are 14 days old. As the nestlings grow up, the foraging trips of the adults become shorter.

In 1993-95, almost 90% of the nestlings in the Schuchy range, upper Anadyr area, were infected by larvae of big *Callifora* flies which live under the bird's skin and could be found at any part of chick's body. This certainly influences condition and survival of chicks as well as their fledging age. Another type of nest parasite is Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*. During our study, c 20% of the pipit nests in 1995 contained eggs or chicks of Common Cuckoo but no cuckoo's eggs were found in other years. The egg colour of Common Cuckoo in those nests matched that of Buff-bellied Pipit very well, thus giving grounds to suggest that the north-easternmost mountain population of Common Cuckoo specializes on Buff-bellied Pipit as a nest host. With respect to abiotic factors, the common damage to populations in the breeding period are fires in the subalpine zone (Durnev et al 1989, pers obs).

Adult Buff-bellied Pipits in Russia moult from mid-July to mid-August in the north (Chukotka and Anadyr land, the Koryak and Kolyma highlands, Yakutia and Kamchatka; Portenko 1939, 1973, Kistchinski 1968, 1980, Vorob'ev 1968, pers obs) and from mid-August to late September in the south (the Kuril Islands and the Khamar-Daban range; Gisenko 1955, Vasilchenko 1987, Nechaev 1991). Southward migration starts in late August and the departure period lasts until late September in the north, while further south, on the southern Kuril Islands and in southern Sakhalin, it has been recorded until mid- or even late November (Gisenko 1955, Vasilchenko 1987, Nechaev 1991). In the Hamar-Daban range, autumn migration starts in mid-August and the departure period lasts until mid-October, ending c two weeks later than in Water Pipit (Durnev et al 1989). The winter areas are mainly situated in Japan and southern China and also reach northern Myanmar (Burma), Indo-China and northern India.

Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit is a rare winter visitor to the Western Palearctic, with small numbers recorded in November-March in the Middle East, mainly in Israel (Shirihai & Colston 1987, Shirihai 1996). Elsewhere in the WP, it is a true vagrant with records in Italy in 1960 and, probably, 1951 (Shirihai & Colston 1987, Lewington et al 1991). In February 2002, Per Alström found two specimens of Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit in the Natural History Museum (NNM) at Leiden, the Netherlands, labelled as having been collected in 'Europe' and 'Holland, Europe', respectively (Per Alström pers comm to editors). From the type of labelling and handwriting, it can be deduced that both mounted birds originate from at least before 1850 but without more information on locality (province) and date of collection (month), these records will not qualify for homologation. American Buff-bellied Pipit is a more regular vagrant in the Western Palearctic and shows a more westerly pattern of records, related to its transatlantic provenance. This species has been recorded in Britain (four), Germany (three, all on Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein), Iceland (six), Ireland (two) and Sweden (one) (eg, Lewington et al 1991).

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Spotted Sandpiper at Île de Gorée, Senegal, in February 2001

On 20 February 2001 around 09:00, Cornelie van der Hoop observed and photographed a Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* at Île de Gorée, off Dakar, Senegal. The bird was foraging and resting on the rocky shoreline at the south-eastern side of the island. It foraged among several Ruddy Turnstones *Arenaria interpres*. The following description is based on the single photograph taken with a 80 mm lens and the field observation by CvdH (by memory).

SIZE & SHAPE Small wader resembling Common Sandpiper *A hypoleucos*, obviously smaller than nearby Turnstones. Impression 'heavy' and robust. Steep forehead giving angled shape to head.
HEAD Clear pale white supercilium and darker eye-stripe. Crown, side of head and neck uniform grey.
UPPERPARTS Mantle uniformly brownish grey, edge of scapulars darker.
UNDERPARTS Breast, belly, flank and undertail-coverts white. Sides of breast up to neck with dark patch, clearly not connected on breast (field observation).
TAIL Not visible.
WING Uniform brownish grey.
BARE PARTS Bill clearly bicoloured, with orange-yellow base and dark brown (horn) tip. Leg and toe pale flesh to orange-yellow.
BEHAVIOUR Slowly walking over boulders.

Based on the white underparts, the bird was in winter plumage. The visible characters separating it from Common Sandpiper were the orange-yellow legs, toes and base of the bill, the stocky shape of the bird with a short (not visible) tail, the dark patch on the side of the breast, the clear white supercilium and the angled head (cf Svensson et al 1999).

This record constitutes the first for Senegal and the third for sub-Saharan mainland Africa. Previous sub-Saharan records concerned adults photographed in central Kenya on 4-5 September 1999 and in south-western Cameroon on 21 April 2000 (Bishop & Bishop 2001, Languy & Lambin 2001). In the south-western Western Palearctic, this Nearctic counterpart of Common

140 Spotted Sandpiper / Amerikaanse Oeverloper *Actitis macularia*, Île de Gorée, off Dakar, Senegal, 20 February 2001 *(Cornelie van der Hoop)*

[*Dutch Birding 24: 156-157, 2002*]

Sandpiper is a frequent vagrant (Mitchell & Young 1997). For instance, there are several records for the Cape Verde Islands and the Canary Islands and at least three (in April 1990, May 1995 and April 1999) for Morocco (cf Bergier et al 2000, Languy & Lambin 2001). Most transatlantic records of this species are from Britain and Ireland, particularly in September-October, but also in other months.

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Brown Fish Owl in the Western Palearctic

One of the least-known birds of the Western Palearctic (WP) is Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*. The species occurs widespread and locally common from south-western Iran (status uncertain) and Pakistan throughout South and South-East Asia east to south-eastern China but is extremely rare in the WP. Here, it has been recorded in just a number of countries and its current status is obscure, to say the least (Cramp 1985, Porter et al 1996). The first records in the WP and the first far west of the then known breeding areas in southern Asia were in northern Israel in 1863 and 1879. The last photographically confirmed WP records have been in Israel (1974-75) and Turkey (1990), with unconfirmed reports in Israel in 1976 and 1980 and in Jordan in 1986.

This species and other fish owls are mostly placed in a separate genus, *Ketupa*, but recent DNA-research has shown that the genus might better be included in *Bubo* (cf König et al 1999); the treatment here, however, follows Sibley (1996). Up to four subspecies have been recognized but two (*semenowi* and *orientalis*) are sometimes considered colour morphs of *K z leschenault* and therefore included in this subspecies by some authors. The nominate subspecies *K z zeylonensis* occurs on Sri Lanka only and is slightly smaller, darker and with shorter ear-tufts than the other subspecies. The subspecies *K z semenowi*, which occurs/occurred from Pakistan west to the Middle East, is paler, more buffish and less boldly marked than the other subspecies (König et al 1999).

Survey of WP records

Israel

Brown Fish Owl is a former breeding bird in northern Israel. The first record was of a bird collected on 8 December 1863 at Nahal Keziv (Wadi Quarn) in north-western Galilee. Another was collected in 1879 at Wadi Hamam, near the Sea of Galilee and four more were collected in following decades (Shirihai 1996). Based on these specimens it is assumed that, until the beginning of the 20th century, there was a population of a few 10s of birds in the Sea of Galilee depression and perennial rivers of the Golan and Galilee. Only two specimens were obtained in the 20th century, one on 9 November 1946 near Ginosar in Wadi Hamam and one on 26 October 1950 at Tabigha. Ever since, intensive human activities in the area, agricultural developments, pesticide use, war activities, draining of swamps, pollution of rivers by sewage water and diversion of rivers have led to an almost complete disappearance. From 1950 to the early 1970s, there are just two reliable observations, one on the banks of the Jordan river in the Bet Zera area and one photographed in the Hammat Gader area in 1974-75 (plate 141-142; a colour photograph of this bird by Giora Ilany was published on the cover of Torgos 6, 2 (13), autumn 1987). This bird was seen until at least August 1975. It was present along small streams in a hillside area. Several claims in the same period turned out to refer to Eurasian Eagle Owls *B bubo* (Arend Wassink in litt). Hovel (1987) reports three later observations, of two seen at Nahal Samakh on 16 April 1976, three at the same site on 26 September 1976 and

141-142 Brown Fish Owl / Bruine Visuil *Ketupa zeylonensis*, Hammat Gader area, Israel, August 1975 *(Giora Ilany)*

one photographed near the Sea of Galilee in spring 1980. These observations, however, were not listed in Shirihai (1996) and must be considered unsubstantiated (Nir Sapir in litt). Special surveys to find this species in 1983-84 were unsuccessful and the species is now considered extinct (Schlütter 1987, 1988, Shirihai 1996). The chances that undiscovered birds still remain in this relatively small and rather densely populated area must be nil.

Iraq
The species is a possible (former?) breeding bird. There is only one confirmed record: a pair collected in the hills east of Ali Gharbi in southern Iraq in the early 20th century (Ticehurst et al 1926, Alouse 1953, Cramp 1985). Hüe & Etchécopar (1970) state that the species breeds 'in the southern hills of Zagros in Iraq and south-western Iran'. König et al (1999) state that the species is 'locally distributed from SW Asia Minor, Iraq and adjacent parts of Iran …' but give no further details.

Jordan
The most recent information can be found in Andrews (1995): 'Possibly still a very rare resident along the Yarmuk Valley, and possibly also in the northern Jordan Valley, but both areas are difficult to search for security reasons. There is photographic evidence that one occurred on the Israeli-occupied side of the Yarmuk River at Hammat Gader in 1974-75 [see above], and one was reported in Jordan north of Al Znebneh village in 1986.' There is one specimen from Jordan in the collection of the museum of the American University of Beirut (Benson 1970).

Lebanon
In Cramp (1985) and Porter et al (1996), the species is listed as 'accidental' but no further details are known.

Syria
Two birds were collected at Kebir river, northern Syria, in 1879; the species is considered a possible former breeding bird (Cramp 1985). Old records from the Golan area (see 'Israel') may also come from within the current boundaries of Syria.

Turkey
Brown Fish Owl is considered a (former?) breeding bird in southern Turkey. Three birds were collected near Mersin and one near Aydin in the late 19th century (Cramp 1985). The only 20th-

century record – and the most recent record for the WP – is of a bird accidentally caught alive by a fisherman and released in the Adana region in late April 1990 (Magnin 1991). Pellets containing remains of freshwater crabs *Potamoin fluviatile* found in natural forest between Haruniye and Dumanlı in June 1953 may have been of Brown Fish Owl but can also be attributed to Eurasian Eagle Owl, which also eats crabs (cf Magnin 1991). Reported sightings in 1965 and 1967 (Kumerloeve 1970) refer to sight records of large flying owls in assumed Brown Fish Owl habitat and do not meet today's standards for acceptable records. Another unsubstantiated report is from the same fisherman who caught the 1990 bird and who claimed to have shot a bird of the same species at almost the same location c 20 years before (Magnin 1991). Gernant Magnin, then working for Bird Life International in co-operation with the bird section of DHKD (Turkish society for the protection of nature), visited the site of the April 1990 record on 22-23 June of the same year and interviewed the fisherman. The 1990 bird appeared to have been taken on a fishing line with baited hooks put out at night at 22:00 and checked the following morning. The owl had swallowed a fish hooked on the line and was found perched in a nearby tree with the line dangling from its bill. The bird was caught and the line was cut (the hook could not be removed). The owl was kept in captivity for one week – when it did not eat – and was released, after being photographed (plate 143-144), c 20 km from the capture site along the same river. The location where it was caught is at 170 m above sea level along one of the large rivers in the Adana region in southern Turkey (the exact location is not revealed). The steep escarpments immediately adjacent to the river do not allow to follow it upstream for more than c 3 km; along these 3 km, several smaller streams join the river. The area is characterized by natural pine *Pinus* forest with little or no riparian vegetation. Two nights and early mornings of searching, both up- and downstream from where the fish owl had been caught, were unsuccessful (Magnin 1991).

Based on the recent record described above, it may well be possible that a small population of Brown Fish Owl still survives in southern Turkey. However, plans for construction of dams in the region may (further) threaten the survival of this species (Magnin 1991).

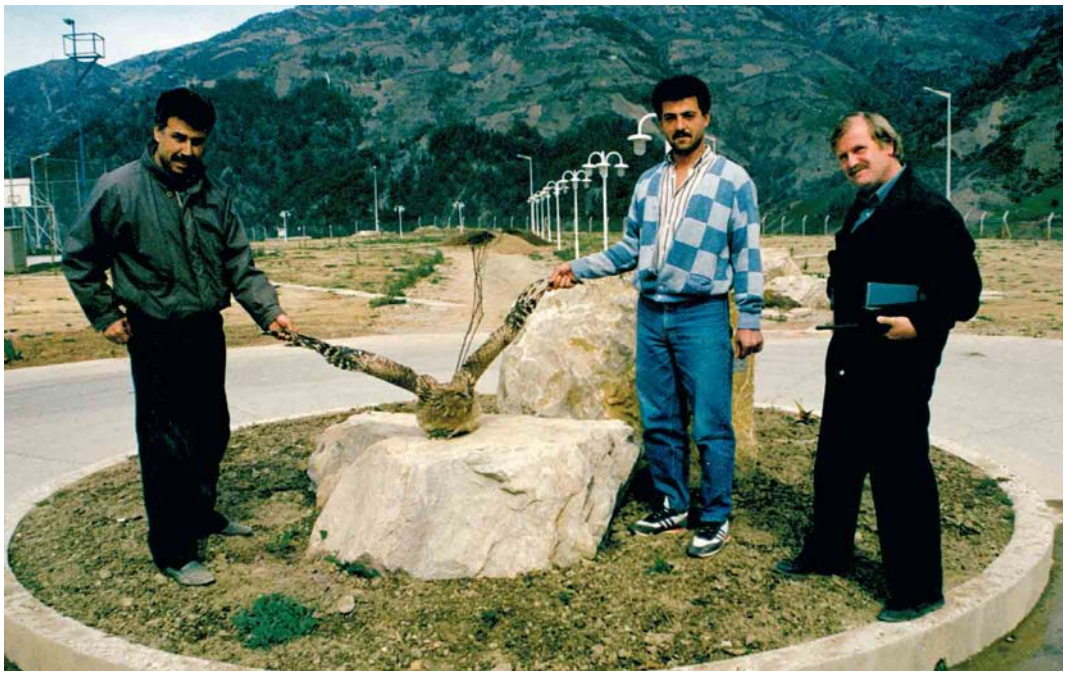
Identification

In a WP context – and under favourable conditions – identification of Brown Fish Owl should not pose too many problems. In the Middle East, the only true confusion species is Eurasian Eagle Owl (including Pharaoh Eagle Owl *B (b) ascalaphus*). Brown Fish Owl is markedly smaller (length 48-56 cm) than Eurasian Eagle Owl (58-71 cm, with southern birds being largest). The long, shaggy and outward-facing (often drooping) ear-tufts differ from the shorter and more upright tufts of Eurasian Eagle Owl. Other differences are the flatter head, ill-defined facial disk and uniform dark streaks on the underparts (broader streaks on breast in Eurasian Eagle Owl). The plumage of Eurasian Eagle Owl is more reddish-brown but southern birds are generally paler and more sandy coloured, thus approaching Brown Fish Owl. The eyes of Brown Fish Owl are golden-yellow to yellowish-orange (deep orange in Eurasian Eagle Owl) and the yellow-grey tarsi and claws are unfeathered in Brown Fish Owl (feathered in Eurasian Eagle Owl). There are strong differences in vocalizations, with the male's song of Brown Fish Owl being a deep tri-syllabic *tu-whoo-hu*, rising in the end (König et al 1999). Other characteristic sounds are also known (cf Porter et al 1996, König et al 1999). In Arabia, Spotted Eagle Owl *B africanus* could lead to confusion and escaped species such as Great Horned Owl *B virginianus* and other species of fish owl, though perhaps unlikely to turn up in suitable Brown Fish Owl habitat, should always be kept in mind. Both Tawny Fish Owl *K flavipes* and Buffy Fish Owl *K ketupu* (see, for instance, Dutch Birding 16: 26, plate 17, 1994) lack the faint fine barring on the breast present in Brown Fish Owl. For other differences between these species and Brown Fish Owl, see König et al (1999).

Habitats, ecology and threats

Brown Fish Owls always occur in the neighbourhood of water, generally in fairly thick lowland forest and open but well-wooded country. Overgrown eroded ravines and steep riverbanks with densely foliaged trees are favourite hunting spots. In large parts of its range it is commonly found near human habitation, including in old plantations and occasionally even roadside and canal side avenues, but this relationship has not been described for the few WP records. In the west of its range, it occurs in more arid habitats although water still has to be present. It mainly occurs from (almost) sea level to c 1400 m, locally up to 2000 m, being most common in lowland areas. Roosting occurs during daytime but birds

143-144 Brown Fish Owl / Bruine Visuil *Ketupa zeylonensis*, Adana region, Turkey, late April 1990 *(Haşim Kılıç/DHKD)*



are frequently active and even hunting in daylight, especially in cloudy weather. Birds are fond of bathing and will waddle into shallow water to clean their feathers, followed by drying and preening. Food (mainly fish, frogs and crabs but also rodents, birds, large beetles and reptiles) is watched from a perch in or above the water. It nests in holes in cliffs, dead trees and ruins of old buildings or in abandoned stick nests. No information has ever been gathered on breeding in the WP; in northern India, breeding takes place in November-March, chiefly in January-February. Further south, the breeding season ranges from December to April (König et al 1999).

One of the reasons for the decline of the species are without doubt the modification schemes that take place in its prefered habitat throughout its range. As documented for the Turkish range, its habitat of steep river cliffs and gorges and intact riparian forests, sadly seems to overlap greatly with the optimum localities for dams and the associated reservoirs that often flood 100s of kilometres of riverbed. Other alterations, such as diverting streams for irrigation schemes, have further destroyed suitable habitat (cf Magnin & Yarar 1997). A result of the scarcity of water, alteration and loss of the sensitive Brown Fish Owl habitat continues unabatedly in the known range within the WP and it may be that the species is lost here forever.

How to find your own WP fish owl?

The chances to add Brown Fish Owl to your WP list have always been extremely small, and may have become zero since its extinction in Israel. However, if you want to give it a chance, two options seem worth exploring for those who have the drive and the opportunity. Your best bet must be to search the difficult-to-access river gorges in the Adana region of southern Turkey. This area is strongly underwatched and many parts are, from an ornithological viewpoint, still largely unexplored. The late 19th century specimens and the 1990 record indicate that the species has been present in this region for at least the last century and it would be highly coincidental that the bird accidentally caught in 1990 was the only remaining bird in the area.

A second and even more adventurous option would be to travel to Iraq and search suitable habitat there. Ornithological explorations have been scanty in the recent past and have come to a total stand-still since the Gulf War in 1991. However, the political situation most likely prevents any expeditions to this country, and if any Brown Fish Owls survive here, it is likely that few people will ever know of it – at least for some time to come.

Acknowledgments

I thank Gernant Magnin for his help and for permission to publish the photographs. Nir Sapir, Eyal Schochat and James Smith (all from the Israel Rarities & Distribution Committee) helped me to obtain information from Israel. NS took great effort to arrange photographs of the Israeli bird and Giora Ilany kindly permitted to publish his photographs. Arend Wassink, who was lucky to be one of the observers of probably the last Israeli bird, gave me additional information on that bird.

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Masters of Mystery

SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

Solutions of second round 2002

The solutions of mystery photographs III and IV (Dutch Birding 24: 100, 2002) appear below.

III Mystery photograph III obviously shows a large raptor. Although the size of the flying bird is difficult to judge, the bird's structure with proportionally long broad wings and heavy belly suggests an *Aquila* eagle or a fish eagle *Haliaeetus*. Ageing of the bird is not too difficult. All visible secondaries are of the same length and have the same form which is more or less pointed, forming a serrated trailing edge. The secondaries can, therefore, be safely assumed to be of the same age. Active wing moult seems to be visible in especially the right wing but this is in the inner primaries only. The serrated trailing edge and the moult pattern reveal that the bird is in its second calendar-year and has just started the first moult, indicating that the bird is still mainly in juvenile plumage. Assuming that the bird is in its second calendar-year, all *Aquila* eagles are ruled out easily. No species in this genus has such extensive white on the axillaries and underwing-coverts in juvenile or second calendar-year plumages. So we are left with one of the fish eagles.

Four species of fish eagles have been reliably recorded in the Western Palearctic. These are African Fish *H vocifer* (vagrant in Egypt from sub-Saharan Africa), Pallas's Fish *H leucoryphus* (vagrant from Central Asia), White-tailed *H albicilla* (the only one occurring regularly in the Western Palearctic) and Bald Eagle *H leucocephalus* (vagrant from the Nearctic). The identification of juvenile fish eagles can be rather complex (see also mystery bird X (Pallas's Fish Eagle) of last year's fifth round, Dutch Birding 23: 293, 349, 2001). The most important identification features are found on the underwing and these characters can be seen very well on the left wing of the mystery bird. In African Fish, a large white patch on the underside of the primaries should be visible and the upperwing is also contrastingly patterned with white compared with the other fish eagles. Furthermore, African Fish has a very conspicuous light belly, whereas all other juvenile fish eagles have almost wholly dark underparts. In Pallas's Fish, an obvious pale brownish area on the inner primaries and a much more prominent pale bar should be visible on the underwing. This species is, therefore, also quite easily excluded. So, we are left with White-tailed and Bald Eagle.

In juvenile White-tailed, the remiges are uniformly dark. The axillaries are pale and form a conspicuous pale area on the armpit. Furthermore, a few rows of coverts have paler bases, forming characteristic spotted wing-bars on the underwing. These characters are all present on the mystery bird. So, it is no surprise that White-tailed Eagle was the most frequently mentioned solution. However, the mentioned characters for juvenile White-tailed do also match juvenile Bald Eagle. A more careful look is, therefore, needed, especially because of the large variation in plumage characters in juvenile fish eagles. The diagonal white bands on the underwing are quite extensive and consist of one broad row on the median coverts and a narrower row on the primary coverts. This character favours Bald Eagle, because in White-tailed the white wing-bands are normally much less prominent and in most cases only present across the median coverts. In addition, in the mystery bird the lesser underwing-coverts are mostly whitish, forming a more or less uniformly whitish patch. This character also suits Bald better than White-tailed. In White-tailed, the lesser coverts are normally dark brown and only slightly mottled whitish. Furthermore, the extensive white armpit also fits Bald better than White-tailed. Occasionally, White-tailed can show extensive white axillaries. However, in most birds the white armpit is restricted to a small patch located at the front of the underwing only. In the mystery bird, a large white area over the whole width of the wing can be seen. A final discriminating character is a structural one. In the right wing of the mystery bird six primary fingers can be seen, which matches the wing structure of Bald. White-tailed nearly always show seven fingers as do for instance all large vultures in the Western Palearctic.

In summary, the extensive white diagonal bands, the white patch of lesser coverts, the large white armpit and the six visible fingers are all strong pointers towards Bald Eagle. This species is on the Western Palearctic list based on two Irish records, an immature shot at Garrison, Fermanagh, on 11 January 1973 and a juvenile at Castle Island, Kerry, from 17 to 25 November 1987 (taken into care and later returned to the

[*Dutch Birding 24: 162-165, 2002*]

USA). An adult at Llyn Coron, Anglesey, Gwynedd, Wales, on 17 October 1978 is the only observation in Britain and this record has been placed in Category D of the British list (a specimen reportedly collected on 17 January 1865 in North Yorkshire is considered of doubtful origin). As in White-tailed, immatures are more prone to wandering than adults and thus are more likely to occur as genuine vagrants in Europe. In recent decades, the species has shown a dramatic increase in North America after severe declines reaching an all-time low in the 1960s.

This first-year Bald Eagle was photographed at Salmon Arm, British Columbia, Canada, on 7 June 2000 by Arnoud van den Berg. A minority of the entrants (12%) identified this bird as one of the *Aquila* eagles or large vultures. The remaining entrants hesitated between White-tailed Eagle (60%) and the correct answer Bald Eagle (24%).

IV The bird in mystery photograph IV is easily recognizable as a wader. The long green legs, the dark upperparts with light spots and the tertial pattern are all features which only fit the *Tringa* sandpipers. The only other genus with similar dark tertials with pale notches are the *Pluvialis* plovers, but none of the species belonging to this genus shows such long green legs. The combination of a *Tringa* sandpiper with green legs leaves us with Common Greenshank *T nebularia* and Marsh *T stagnatilis*, Wood *T glareola*, Green *T ochropus* and Solitary Sandpiper *T solitaria* as the possibilities.

Common Greenshank and Marsh Sandpiper both show tertial patterns different from the mystery bird. In these species the tertials are much more sharply patterned than shown by the mystery bird. In addition, both species would show longer legs. As the photograph was taken in May, the bird is at least in its first summer plumage, which is (nearly) identical to adult summer plumage. Adult summer Wood Sandpiper shows greenish-yellow legs, dark patterning on its underparts (flanks) and more boldly speckled upperparts. This is not the case in the mystery bird, which seems to show clean white underparts (as far as visible) and very dark finely speckled upperparts, as well as greenish rather than greenish-yellow legs.

145 Solitary Sandpiper / Amerikaanse Bosruiter *Tringa solitaria solitaria*, Key West, Florida, USA, May 1998 *(Peter van Rij)*. Note barred outer tail-feathers, hint of barring on rear flank, bold white eye-ring tapering to a point at rear end and attenuated rear end

Mystery photograph V (May)

So, now we are left with Green and Solitary Sandpiper. The easiest character to separate these two species is the dark rump of Solitary, which is white in Green. This character, however, cannot be seen on the mystery photograph because the rump is covered by the wings. Another feature of adult summer Solitary are the streaked fore flanks. In this photograph, this feature cannot be judged safely but any streaking seems to be missing. A more subtle character of Solitary Sandpiper can be found on the outermost tail-feathers, which can be seen on the mystery photograph. In Green, the two outermost tail-feathers (t5-6) are white, frequently with a small subterminal dark spot on the outer web. In Solitary, the barring on the tail reaches the outermost tail-feather with one or two dark brown lines. In addition, the tail-bars are somewhat broader in Green than in Solitary. As can be seen on the photograph, the mystery bird shows at least two dark bars on its outer tail-feather, thus fitting Solitary. Loss of its outer tail-feathers is not very likely as the bird is photographed in May and Solitary renews its tail-feathers in a complete moult after breeding, mostly in their wintering quarters. Occasionally, the central tail-feathers

Mystery photograph VI (August)

are moulted in spring but this will, if at all, take place in March.

Another character supporting the identification of the mystery bird as Solitary Sandpiper are the more prominent off-white rather than whitish-buff (as in Green) speckles on the hindneck, mantle and scapulars. Especially the eastern nominate subspecies *T s solitaria*, which is most likely to occur in north-western Europe, has white spots on the upperparts, while the western subspecies *T s cinnamomea* tends to show warmer brownish-buff spotting, sometimes almost cinnamon coloured (in adults, juveniles of both subspecies show buffish spotting). This Solitary Sandpiper was photographed by Arnoud van den Berg in northern New Jersey, USA, on 8 May 1996. This location more or less confirms the subspecific identification of the bird as belonging to the nominate subspecies. Plate 145 of a bird photographed in Florida, USA, shows the main characters to separate Solitary from Green Sandpiper. This Solitary Sandpiper was identified correctly by 54% of the entrants. As expected, the most frequently mentioned wrong answer was Green Sandpiper, with 38%.

This round was clearly more difficult than the previous one, since only twelve fully correct answers were received. From the entrants with two correct identifications Bart Bos (Netherlands) was drawn as the winner of a copy of the two-volume video set *Gulls: the gulls of Europe, Asia & North America*, filmed by Paul Doherty and narrated by Bill Oddie, donated by Bird Images Video Guides.

After two rounds, there are two entrants which identified all four mystery birds correctly. These are Martin Gottschling and Daniel Kratzer (both from Germany). They are closely followed by 18 entrants with three and 24 entrants with two correct answers. The names of all these can be viewed at www.dutchbirding.nl.

Third round 2002

Photographs V and VI represent the third round of the 2002 competition. Please, study the rules (Dutch Birding 24: 39, 2002) carefully and identify the birds in the photographs. 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 second round have to arrive by **20 July 2002**. From those entrants having identified both mystery birds correctly, one person will be drawn who will receive a copy of *Trushes* by Peter Clement and Ren Hathway, donated by A&C Black (Publishers) Ltd. Swarovski Benelux will award a Swarovski AT80 telescope with a 20-60x zoom eyepiece to the overall winner after six rounds.

Rob S A van Bemmelen, Gouwzee 20, 1423 DV Uithoorn, Netherlands (masters@dutchbriding.nl)
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Corrigendum

Bij de foto van de Steenarend *Aquila chrysaetos* te Norg, Drenthe (Dutch Birding 24: 123, plaat 109, 2002), werd per ongeluk de verkeerde maand genoemd; de juiste datum moet zijn 11 maart 2002 (niet februari). REDACTIE

In the caption of the plate of the Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* at Norg, Drenthe (Dutch Birding 24: 123, plate 109, 2002), the wrong month was mentioned by mistake; the correct date should be 11 March 2002 (not February). EDITORS

Recensies

JOEP KRUIJSEN 2001. *Woordenboek van de Limburgse dialecten, Deel III, Aflevering 1: Vogels*. Koninklijke Van Gorcum, Assen. 270 (+50) pp. ISBN 90-232-3753-6. EUR 38.57.
JOS SWANENBERG 2001. *Woordenboek van de Brabantse dialecten, Deel III, Aflevering 1: Vogels*. Koninklijke Van Gorcum, Assen. 272 pp. ISBN 90-232-3755-2. EUR 34.00.

De Woordenboeken van de Vlaamse dialecten (WVD), van de Brabantse dialecten (WBD) en van de Limburgse dialecten (WLD) zijn de output van een gigantisch project, gestart in 1960, ter inventarisatie van de woordenschat van de zuidelijk-Nederlandse dialecten. Alleen al voor het totale *Woordenboek van de Limburgse dialecten* zijn 6000 bladzijden voorzien. De rangschikking van de voornamelijk door enquête verkregen woorden is niet alfabetisch, maar systematisch geordend naar gebruiksdomein. Zo is er de hoofdindeling in drie delen (I Agrarische terminologie, II Niet-agrarische vakterminologieën en III Algemene Woordenschat) en een onderverdeling in secties (in deel III de secties 1 tot en met 4: *1* De mens als individu, *2* Het huiselijk leven, *3* Het gemeenschapsleven en *4* De wereld tegenover de mens). Van laatstgenoemde sectie zijn nu (2001) de afleveringen 'Vogels' gepubliceerd; een aflevering 'Vogels' in het kader van het WVD was er al in 1996.

Wat de beschouwer van vogels en de taal opvalt is dat de zuidelijk-Nederlandse dialecten ontzettend rijk aan vogelnamen zijn. Dit kan niet anders verklaard worden dan uit een grote betrokkenheid van de mensen met de vogelwereld. En dit weer is begrijpelijk tegen de achtergrond dat veel mensen in de Zuidelijke Nederlanden altijd in de agrarische sector werkzaam zijn geweest, en dit deels nóg zijn. Maar aangezien daar geleidelijk verandering in komt en het land steeds meer verstedelijkt, wordt de betrokkenheid met vogels, en met de natuur in het algemeen, steeds minder. Het gebruik van dialectische vogelnamen neemt daarmee ook af en dus is het goed dat de dialectische woordenschat nu vastgelegd wordt. Een andere belangrijke factor, speciaal met betrekking tot de vogelnamen, is de toegenomen communicatie tussen de mensen. Vogelliefhebbers zijn tegenwoordig in het bezit van illustratieve vogelgidsen waarin de namen van de meer dan 400 soorten inlandse vogels maar op één manier vermeld zijn: in het officiële Nederlands. De tijd dat ieder dorp voor elke bekende vogel zijn eigen naam had gaat daarmee meer en meer tot het verleden behoren.

De afleveringen 'Vogels' van het WVD, WBD en WLD zijn praktisch geheel verzorgd door taalkundigen van beroep. Het basismateriaal is voortgekomen uit bevraging van een groot aantal particulieren, die natuurlijk in het overgrote deel van de gevallen niet gespecialiseerd waren in de ornithologie. Dit maakt dat er soms dubieuze namen voor vogels in deze afleveringen te vinden zijn; als voorbeeld de in Sittard opgegeven naam 'Blauwspecht' voor Zwarte Specht *Dryocopus martius*. Zelfs de wetenschap dat het Oudnoordse woord *blar* (etymologisch verwant met *blauw*) zowel 'blauw' als 'zwart' kon betekenen en dat Blaustirns de officiële Friese naam voor *Zwarte* Stern *Chlidonias niger* is, mag ons niet ál te enthousiast maken: de geënquêteerde is waarschijnlijk gewoon in de war geweest ... met Boomklever *Sitta europaea*.

Misschien was ook de presentatie aan de geënquêteerden niet in orde; bij de omschrijving van het vrouwtje Ringmus *Passer montanus* wordt bijvoorbeeld een beschamende fout gemaakt ('geheel bruin als het vrouwtje van de Huismus').

De besproken boekjes zijn geïllustreerd met dezelfde tekeningen als die in de *Atlas van de Nederlandse broedvogels* (Teixeira 1979). Bij veel van de behandelde vogelsoorten (daaronder bijvoorbeeld niet Visarend *Pandion haliaetus* en Grote Trap *Otis tarda*) is een kaartje gegeven met daarop de geografische verspreiding van de namen. Voor de dialect-sprekende vogelaar lijkt het me erg aardig het boekje dat zijn woonplaats omvat, te bezitten. KLAAS J EIGENHUIS

LEO J R BOON 2002. *Birds of the Macaronesian Islands. Part 1: the Canary Islands & Madeira*. Videocassette. Available from Cursorius Photo & Video Library, van de Beltstraat 42, 2035 TH Haarlem, Netherlands, website www.cursorius.com. EUR 34.50 (excluding p&p).

The Macaronesian Islands comprise a number of islands groups in the Atlantic Ocean: the Azores, the Canary Islands, the Cape Verde Islands and Madeira (and outlying islands). All are situated within the boundaries of the Western Palearctic (the Cape Verde Islands forming the extreme south-westerly and the Azores the most westerly part of the WP). Especially the Canary Islands and Madeira are popular birding destinations. The main attractions of these islands (and of the Cape Verde Islands as well) are the large number of endemic species. In addition, many seabirds occur and are relatively easy to see. Migrants and vagrants from many directions (including the Nearctic region) add extra flavour. Combined with impressive natural scenery (away from the well-known tourist resorts) and a well-developed tourist infrastructure, making travel to and from as well as between the islands easy, this explains the popularity of these destinations for many birders. For avid WP-listers, the islands are simply a must.

Leo Boon has taken up the challenge to document the avifauna of the Macaronesian Islands on video; the results of his first mission, to the Canary Islands and Madeira, are presented on this 145 min long video, showing 70 species in total (part 2, covering the Azores and Cape Verde Islands, is due to appear in 2003).

[*Dutch Birding 24: 166-169, 2002*]

These 70 species include all endemics, such as Trocaz *Columba trocaz*, Bolle's *C bollii* and Laurel Pigeon *C junoniae*, Plain Swift *Apus unicolor*, Berthelot's Pipit *Anthus berthelotii*, Canary Islands Stonechat *Saxicola dacotiae*, Tenerife Robin *Erithacus superbus*, Canary Islands Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus canariensis*, Canary Islands Kinglet *Regulus teneriffae*, Madeira Firecrest *R madeirensis*, Blue Chaffinch *Fringilla teydea teydea* and Atlantic Canary *Serinus canaria*. In addition, most endemic subspecies – some of them possibly deserving specific status – are treated, including four subspecies of Common Chaffinch *F coelebs* (three on Canary Islands and one on Madeira) and all four Canarian subspecies of African Blue Tit *Parus teneriffae*. The endangered (sub?)species of Blue Chaffinch *F (t) polatzeki* from Gran Canaria (less than 200 birds remaining at one vulnerable breeding site), however, is not included. Also absent is the critically endangered nominate subspecies of Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens rufescens*, of which only three pairs were found in 2001 at the only known breeding site at Los Rodeos on Tenerife. Seabirds shown include Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*, Fea's *Pterodroma feae* (stills, and video from a bird off Scilly, England, in August 2001) and Zino's Petrel *P madeira* (stills of mounted specimen and recordings of nightly calls at the breeding site on Madeira) and Cory's *Calonectris borealis*, Great *Puffinus gravis* and Little Shearwater *P assimilis baroli*, as well as various plumages of Atlantic Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis atlantis*. Nearly all footage comes from the islands or interconnecting ferry's. Sometimes, additional footage from elsewhere is added for better views (Fea's Petrel and Little Shearwater); in these cases, this is clearly acknowledged in the comments. Apart from these additions, all species have been filmed by Leo Boon and, generally, the recordings are of good to excellent quality. The seabirds are sometimes a bit small and the views somewhat shaky (as in real life!) but nevertheless show enough plumage detail and flight action to be of considerable help to visiting birders. The recordings of perched individuals of all three laurel pigeons are quite an achievement; anyone who has seen these species knows how secretive they can be and how most observations are restricted to flight-only views. Over 15 min of the video are devoted to regular migrant waders which can be encountered almost anywhere else along the Atlantic seaboard in Europe and which are treated more fully in other (identification) videos. Apart from completing the picture of birds most likely to be seen in the Canary Islands and Madeira, the inclusion of these waders does not have much additional value.

An introduction by resident Tenerife birder Tony Clarke describes the avifauna of the islands and guides you along the different islands, habitats and characteristic bird species. All other comments on the video are spoken by Scottish-born Magnus Robb. His somewhat soft-spoken but clear comments add valuable information to what is shown on the screen. Well-chosen freeze-frames are included to illustrate details that can be hard to observe on a fast moving bird (eg, the wedge-shaped tail of Bulwer's Petrel). A small frame indicates when calls or song can be heard and when plumage or sex of the depicted species changes; this is especially helpful when winding or rewinding to find a certain piece of footage.

It may be a matter of personal taste whether one prefers a (field) guide which can be taken around the islands or a video which adds the advantage of moving images and sounds but is less likely to be of any direct help in the field – probably, the combination of both is best. Those who can (still) afford to keep in pace with the rapidly growing number of (WP) bird books and videos should not leave this one out. For those planning a visit to either the Canary Islands or Madeira, this video is of great help to prepare yourself, not only because you can learn the birds beforehand but also because the video adds sounds and habitat images to help you find the most-wanted species more easily.
ENNO B EBELS

NIK BORROW & RON DEMEY 2001. *Birds of Western Africa*. Christopher Helm/A&C Black, 37 Soho Square, London W1D 3QZ, UK; e-mail ornithology@acblack.com. 832 pp. ISBN 0-7136-3959-8. GBP 55.00.

Back in 1977, the first guide on the birds of West Africa was published (*Birds of West Africa* by W Serle, G J Morel & W Hartwig, Collins, 1977). In that guide, c 500 species are illustrated and described and 200 'allied' species are dealt with briefly. Over 370 species ended up in a checklist (I always wondered how to use that, no description or plates, just names and distribution). All in all, it had its disadvantages but it was all there was. It took 25 years before the next guide to the region's birds was published

This new *Birds of Western Africa* by Nik Borrow and Ron Demey is quite different. It covers all 1285 species occurring in the western countries of Africa. There are 147 colour plates, all painted by Nik Borrow, comprising over 3000 paintings and depicting almost all the species described. The drawings are very good and accurate. Some birds though, are drawn to a rather large scale (weavers, widowbirds) while in other plates, there are large white areas (kingfishers, bee-eaters, greenbuls). I think that the authors should have been able to use less plates but it adds to the luxurious feel of the book. The detailed species accounts cover all identification criteria, including differences between similar species, voice, habits, habitat, breeding, distribution and status. I especially like the feature 'habits', in my view indispensible for identification but in some recent field guides not or sparsely included. Also useful is the feature 'other names' included in the species accounts, especially if you have been using the Collins guide (a lot of English bird names differ). The text features large coloured distribution maps for over 1100 species and line drawings illustrate particular aspects of behaviour and identification.The countries covered are Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra

Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Rio Muni, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic, Chad, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, part of Mauritania and the islands of São Tomé, Principe and Bioko (Fernando Po). It also includes the Cape Verde Islands, part of the Western Palearctic and therefore interesting for WP birders. In fact, it is the only field guide available which covers the region's birds in detail and provides colour illustrations of all the species described.

Not only is this guide much more complete than the Collins guide, it differs in weight and size as well. It is a heavy (2.1 kg) and large (25 x 18 x 5 cm) book and therefore more a handbook than a field guide. I do not find it designed to take along in the field but do you have an option?

Birds of Western Africa is a beautiful and complete book and it is clear that both authors have extensive experience in the region: Ron Demey as a freelance ornithologist who has been living and working in several West African countries and Nik Borrow as an acclaimed tour leader for many years. Their knowledge and expertise shines through in this outstanding guide.
LAURENS STEIJN

A V ANDREEV, S CHAN, N J COLLAR, M J CROSBY, S SUBRAMANYA & J A TOBIAS (EDITORS) 2001. *Threatened birds of Asia: The BirdLife International Red Data Book*. BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, UK. 3038 pp. ISBN 0-946888-42-6 (Part A), 0-946888-43-4 (Part B), 0-946888-44-2 (Set). GBP 55.00.

These two meaty volumes (Part A and Part B) with Ferrari-red dust covers stand out like a sore thumb on the bookshelf. Their bright colour and combined width of 15 cm serve as a constant reminder of the fact that one in eight of all bird species in the Asian region are globally threatened and 323 of these are thought to face extinction. *Threatened birds of Asia* represents a colossal cooperative effort by 134 compilers and data contributors from 22 countries, from Pakistan to Japan and Indonesia, published to coincide with World Environment Day (5 June 2001). Nigel Collar, the editor-in-chief , is to be commended for managing a project of such massive geographic scope, which originated in Japan.

The first 29 pages comprise letters of support, foreword and acknowledgements, followed by a 32-page introduction, which discusses – amongst others – the geographic area covered, history and organizational aspects of the project (in particular the data-gathering process and sources of data), taxonomy (based on the world list of Sibley & Monroe 1990, 1993) and the limits of red-listing. This section also includes the all-important explanation of the IUCN Red List categories and criteria: Critically Endangered (41 – including eight which could already be extinct), Endangered (65), Vulnerable (217), Lower Risk (with three subcategories: Conservation Dependent, Near Threatened (317) and Least Concern), plus Data Deficient and Not Evaluated. Careful study of this section is needed to fully appreciate the jargon employed by conservationists nowadays.

The next chapter, analysis and overview (12 pages), includes photographs and useful diagrams, which show that Indonesia has the highest number of species at risk in all categories, with a total of 320 species of conservation concern, among which 44 in the categories Critical and Endangered. The chapter concludes with an enumeration of the 106 species most at risk (41 and 65 species in the categories Critical and Endangered respectively).

The bulk of the two volumes (2376 pages) is made up of lengthy accounts of the 323 species in the three categories of highest threat. These are headed by the species' English and scientific names, categories of threat (Critical, Endangered or Vulnerable, keyed with codes – explained in the introduction – to one or more of these categories) and a small black-and-white drawing of the species. The first section of the species account (distribution) is devoted to the geographical distribution of the species, with a detailed account of all historical record with literature references, enumerated per country and the respective geographic subdivisions. These records are keyed by number to an overall map, which is further subdivided into more detailed regional sections where necessary. This is followed by a section (population) which discusses population numbers and status. Further sections (ecology) describe habitat, food, breeding and migration (where appropriate). Next are sections (threats, measures taken, measures proposed) discussing the practicalities of the species' conservation status, with discussions of such diverse topics as habitat loss, hunting, egg collection, disturbance, pollution, fire, predators, climatic conditions, human exploitation, legislation, protected areas and habitat management, habitat protection, land use, captive breeding, research, international co-operation and conservation education. The species accounts are concluded by remarks of varying length.

The main section is followed by one-page accounts of threatened species which are marginal to the region (24, mostly from New Guinea and off-lying islands), accounts – in an abbreviated format – of data deficient species (11), data deficient species which are marginal to the region (12, from New Guinea). Next is a section with brief descriptions (again in an abbreviated format, in the style of the earlier *Birds to watch* and *Birds to watch 2* (1988, 1992) of the 317 Near Threatened Species. Separate gazetteers are given for each of the 22 countries (including Macau and Hong Kong as separate entities), which list all localities mentioned in the species accounts. Next are lists of species by territory, subdivided by threat category, with boxes showing totals per category. A single appendix presents a detailed analysis of *Threatened birds of the Philippines* (1999). Finally, the list of references (264 pp) serves as a very useful bibliography of Asian ornithology.

The uninitiated reader may at feel overwhelmed by the bureaucracy of bird conservation and the amount

of data presented in these two volumes. In particular, one may argue about the practicality of including such excruciating detail in the section on the geographical distribution. It is evident that *Threatened birds of Asia* will be the bible of Asian bird conservation for many years to come. In the absence of an Asian handbook of birds, it doubles as a useful work of reference containing vital information on the geographical distribution and certain aspects of the ecology of 664 Asian bird species (c 25% of all Asian birds). It is this section of the Asian avifauna which arguably appeals most to readers of Dutch Birding, but *Threatened birds of Asia* can be recommended without reservation to anybody (amateur and professional alike) with a serious interest in Asian birds. FRANK G ROZENDAAL

GEOFF J CAREY, MICHAEL L CHALMERS, DAVID A DISKIN, PETER R KENNERLEY, PAUL J LEADER, MICHAEL R LEVEN, RICHARD W LEWTHWAITE, DAVID S MELVILLE, MICHAEL TURNBULL & LEW YOUNG 2001. *The Avifauna of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS), GPO Box 12460, Hong Kong, China. 564 pp. ISBN 962-7508-02-0. GBP 34.50 (including p&p; GBP 26.50 for HKBWS members).

Due to its particular history as a former British colony and overseas British territory up to 1 July 1997, Hong Kong is no ordinary part of China. Not only is its bird life abundant compared with many parts of China due to its position along important migration routes following the shores of the South China Sea but also has its avifauna been covered in much more detail than any part of China thanks to the numerous overseas residents and visitors ever since the second half of the 19th century. If every part of China would be covered in as much detail as the c 1100 km^2 of Hong Kong in this 4 cm thick *Avifauna of Hong Kong*, the pile of all local avifaunas for the whole of China's 9 561 000 km^2 would be almost 350 m high! Despite covering only c 0.01% of China's huge landmass, the avifauna of Hong Kong reflects that of larger parts of southern China and this book is therefore much more than a tiny spot on China's ornithological map.

Hong Kong's written ornithological history started in 1861 when Robert Swinhoe published his observations of the previous year in *Ibis*. After him, several British ornithologists added to the knowledge of Hong Kong's bird life. In 1957, the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society was founded and started publishing the annual *Hong Kong Bird Report*. From the late 1960s, a growing group of dedicated resident birders took up the challenge to monitor the local bird life in detail and started to publish checklists. In the early 1980s, Hong Kong became a popular destination for birdwatchers from all over the globe, mainly to see the spectacular variety of hard-to-see eastern Palearctic waders, and this further boosted the knowledge of species occurring in the area. As a result, many new species were added to the Hong Kong list. All this activity has now resulted in the publication of the *Avifauna of Hong Kong*, written and compiled by members of the group that has been so prominently involved in putting Hong Kong on the ornithological map in the 1980s and 1990s.

The book follows the format of almost any avifauna. The first chapters add up to over 100 pages and comprise an introduction on the history of ornithology in Hong Kong, the physical characteristics, the climate, plates of characteristic habitats, plates of birds, the list of species recorded in Hong Kong, the results of the breeding bird survey and the winter waterbird counts, a description of bird ringing activities and ringing recoveries, and a discussion of trade in wild birds and the categorization of species on the Hong Kong list. Being a hotspot of legal and illegal bird trade, there is probably no place on earth where it is more difficult to asses the status of so many bird species and the 'escape problem' is a constant factor in birding in Hong Kong. Almost 400 pages are dedicated to the species accounts, discussing the 448 species in Category A to D forming the Hong Kong bird list, and additional species in Category E (escapes) and F (identification questionable). These accounts are illustrated by figures showing the presence throughout the year and/or throughout recent decades. A few line-drawings of birds are inserted to enliven the pages but these are exceptions to the rule that every page is dedicated to well-presented 'facts and figures'.

Given the reputation of the *Hong Kong Bird Reports*, the high standard of this avifauna is hardly surprising; nevertheless, it is still a major achievement. I found it hard to discover any flaws but one thing that disappointed me was the choice of bird photographs. Of course, these photographs have a minor role in an avifauna like this (there are, for instance, no photographs to substantiate records of vagrants) but the selection is nevertheless remarkable. Only one wader (Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*) is included and such 'crowd-pullers' as Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer*, Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus* and Saunders's Gull *Larus saundersi* as well as enigmatic rare visitors such as Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana* and Aleutian Tern *Sterna aleutica* – which have all been well photographed in Hong Kong – are not featured. One may argue that these species have received enough photographic treatment in the *Hong Kong Bird Reports* of recent years but, personally, I still think that an avifauna with the quality standard as this one should have included them. After all, these species have made Hong Kong famous among birdwatchers, being icons of the need for preservation of the remaining habitats (especially wetlands and mudflats) in Hong Kong which are continuously threatened by ongoing reclamation and urban sprawl. Despite this minor point, this is simply a great avifauna and a new milestone in the ornithological history of Hong Kong. ENNO B EBELS

Total birding

by Anthony McGeehan

Caution – humans ahead

Saint Patrick is credited with banishing snakes from Ireland. What he did for reptiles Sharon, the reserve's cleaning lady, is doing for spiders. She hates them. I don't get to see the carnage but I read campaign reports about it in note form. Sharon works two nights a week, yet the two of us haven't actually met since the last millennium. We communicate by yellow post-its, which keep everything from toilet crises to Christmas greetings down to size. The onset of spring and the season's plant growth ushered in the following exchange of communiqués.

'Anthony, the Big Daddy of all spiders is holed up in the jungle growing again at the front door. Please leave pruners. Sharon.'

'Sharon, that's my favourite honeysuckle. Please don't prune it as severely as you did last year. Anthony.'

'Anthony, what honeysuckle? Sharon.'

'Sharon, that's what I mean. Anthony.'

Keeping Sharon's hands off the natural world can be a problem. But not always. Take foxes, that prowl the place at night.

'Anthony, there is a fox mess in the car-park. My employment contract covers only humans. I'll leave the wildlife to you. Sharon.'

Now that the evenings are bright she recently met her first birders who visit the area after work. Her first impressions were incisive and possibly revolutionary.

'Anthony, a bloke with a face resembling a melted candle and dressed like an unmade bed demanded to be let into the main observation room. I told him it was closed for cleaning. He said he was a twitcher and a friend of yours but I called the police anyway. If this is what birdwatchers are like then I think Darwin should have looked for the missing link right here in Belfast instead of wasting his time in the Galapagos. Sharon.'

I like Sharon. She is a housewife by day and cleans to pay off debt. 'I lost everything in the post-natal depression,' she says. In her job she can afford to be as blunt as a French lorry-driver. Sometimes I wonder what she would make of mine. Especially having to deal with the public and be nice all the time. The customer is always right, remember? Maybe I flatter myself that people might think I can help with basic bird identification. Such as when a woman fumbles through *Birds of Europe* trying to put a name to the female Reed Bunting perched just a few meters away. I ask, 'Would you like to know what bird that is?' She replies, 'Oh, it's all right. I've found it on page 498. It's only a Rock Sparrow.' Now what? There was a time when I would have gently explained that her misidentification was a plausible and understandable slip. However, this approach can go down like a lead balloon when indignant novices feel patronised and stick to their guns. These days I tend to smile sweetly and say, 'You may well be right.'

Women generally pester you with lots of questions. 'Excuse me, is that a kind of duck?' 'Yes madam, that is a female Teal.' 'And what about this one?' 'Actually, that is a female Teal too.' 'Okay, I think I've got the hang of Teal. So what about the different one over there with the bright green on its wing?' At this finale of an ignominious hat trick it is best to sugar the pill. 'The bad news is that it is another female Teal. The good news is that you are in good company because Saint Peter also denied Jesus three times and for God to create bright colours on the wings of female waterfowl and confuse beginners is both unchristian and downright silly.'

Men, on the other hand, seldom ask for help. For example, a sleeping Pectoral Sandpiper could be tucked in the middle of 100 snoozing Dunlins and a bloke who desperately wants to see it will clam up and not enquire about its whereabouts. Is this manly reticence genetic? A midwife once commented that male babies take longer to deliver than female babies. Could this bear out the theory that, even at birth, men are reluctant to ask directions anywhere? Exceptions occur, chiefly when machismo is at stake. A dreaded situation can develop when a family group inadvertently mingles with a line of telescope-peering gull enthusiasts. If someone watches gulls for more than 20 minutes without moving, I hold a mirror under their nose to check if they are still breathing or can be pronounced clinically dead. With a jolt, a figure in the silent row of anglepoise lamp look-alikes exclaims 'Ring-billed Gull!' and I am left to field questions from an audience of puzzled onlookers. The husband asks, 'Why the excitement?' I tell him that the species has flown here from North America. A rare sight indeed. His curiosity is aroused. Not only does the head of

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146 'Eureka!' the visitor said, matching the Black-tailed Godwit to an illustration in the book. 'Brick-red throat and chest, heavily patterned upperparts and a yellow bill base. Have a look dear – it's a Red-throated Pipit.' *(Anthony McGeehan)*

the household now wish to see the star bird himself, but he also wants to show it to his four kids, one of whom is sucking a dummy and has been clattering into tripod legs since arriving.

The alleged Ring-billed Gull is half-buried in a great swarm of Common Gulls and can scarcely be distinguished by the narrow white fringes to its tertials and the fact that these are fluttering in the wind. Fear not. I begin the painstaking process of directing the parent and unruly offspring to the quarry. Seeing a rarity could launch them on a new journey in life, particularly the youngest once he gets past the nappy stage. The burden of responsibility rests heavily on my conscience. First I orientate the dad. I say, 'Can you see the tall block of flats in the distance?' He can. Good man. Next I fan his ego and let him line up the gull on the shoreline with the flats behind. Has he got it – the really big one with the jet-black back, pink legs and bit of a red 'ring' on a yellow beak? He has. Congratulations and smiles all around.

Health warning

'It's been a pleasure listening to you.' I seem to say this a lot. Of course, most of the time I don't mean a word of it. The biggest bores deliver monologues that last longer than most marriages. Taking birdwatching as a cue, subjects range from the price of food in Kazakhstan (peanuts) to recommending the best mini-digital camcorder to buy, costing a mere king's ransom. One insufferable gargoyle is impossible to avoid. To be cornered by him all you have to do is have a pair of binoculars draped around your neck in public. Now you are in for it. The ritual begins when he innocently borrows your binoculars for a casual perusal. Dismissively, he compares them unfavourably with his own, and then proceeds to quote ad nauseam from an encyclopaedic knowledge of optics that he has rattling around inside his head. The android will know everything from what the letters B/GAT stand for on Zeiss, to how to spell 'Swarovski'.

There was a time when I concerned myself with weighty issues such as whether green armoured Leicas resolved a sharper image than black armoured Leicas. I have since discovered that the capacity of every human brain is limited. Cramming your skull with technical comparisons between various makes of binoculars uses up finite space and overloads the system. So I have deleted all files containing optical data. It is wise to do this on a regular basis, which ensures that only those facts crucial for survival and longevity are stored safely and are neither lost nor corrupted. When you get right down to it, there are only three things worth remembering – your wedding anniversary, the date of your wife's birthday and, in the event of one of those being forgotten, your blood group.

WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic mainly in **March-May 2002** and focuses on north-western Europe. Some March reports were already included in the previous review. More May reports will be published in the next review. 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.

SWANS TO DUCKS From 28 April to at least late May, an unringed **Whistling Swan** *Cygnus columbianus* with a suspcious appetite for bread stayed in Strathclyde, Scotland. For Hungary, it may have been the best winter ever for **Whooper Swan** *C cygnus*, with seven adults and an immature at four sites during March. In Denmark, a group of 11 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** *Anser albifrons flavirostris* was present at Thorsminde, Vestjylland, from 28 March to 1 April. In Germany, two adults and a first-winter were seen at Beltringharder Koog, Schleswig-Holstein, on 13 April. There were also other reports for northern Germany (three in Brandenburg on 6 March) and the Netherlands (the last being one at Gaast, Friesland, on 2 March, two first-winters at Tienhoven, Utrecht, and Loosdrecht, Noord-Holland, on 8 and 12 March and one at Workumerwaard, Friesland, in late April). An exceptional eight **Barnacle Geese** *Branta leucopsis* for Hungary were in the Hortobágy on 13 March. Up to four adult **Gray-bellied Brants** *Branta* were seen in Down, Northern Ireland, on 12-20 April (cf Dutch Birding 23: 156, 220, 2001). Through March-April, a **Dark-bellied Brent Goose** *B bernicla* remained at Fertö lake, Hungary. The seventh **Black Brant** *B nigricans* for Iceland was at Alftanes from 8 to at least 17 May. In Malta, a record 500-600 **Ferruginous Ducks** *Aythya nyroca* were seen during 23-28 March (the highest day total ever was 220 on 28 March). A male was discovered at Kallaksjoen, Trogstad, Ostfold, Norway, on 12 April. In France, six **Ring-necked Ducks** *A collaris* were reported from five sites between 18 and 30 March. The fourth **Lesser Scaup** *A affinis* for the Netherlands was seen at Groningen, Groningen, on 24-27 May. A large flock of 160 **White-headed Ducks** *Oxyura leucocephala* were counted at the Dulce laguna, Málaga, Spain, on 17 March. An immature male **King Eider** *Somateria*

147 Bourne's Herons / Kaapverdische Puperreigers *Ardea (purpurea) bournei*, Banana, Santiago, Cape Verde Islands, March 2002 *(Leo J R Boon/Cursorius)*

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spectabilis stayed at Dunany Point, Louth, Ireland, from 19 April onwards. The long-staying male **Black Scoter** *Melanitta americana* remained off Llanfairfechan, North Wales, from 18 January to at least 8 April. The first **Hooded Merganser** *Lophodytes cucullatus* for the Canary Islands (and Spain) was a female or first-winter on Tenerife from 11 December 2001 to 11 March. The fifth for Iceland was a female or first-winter discovered at Borgarfjörður on 17 February. Another stayed near Newbiggin, Northumberland, England, on 7-25 March. A female was photographed at Lagoa Bronca, Flores, Azores, on 4 April; reportedly, it had been present here for several weeks. At only 30 km distance from Flores, a male was displaying at Caldeirão lake on Corvo on 8 April. If accepted, a male **American Wigeon** *Mareca americana* at Zywiecki on 12 March will be the first for Poland. A flock of 180 **Eurasian Wigeons** *M penelope* was present at Vancouver, British Colombia, Canada, in March. In the same period, a male **Falcated Duck** *M falcata* was found north of Seattle, Washington, USA, in the company of a large flock of wigeon which included 50 Eurasians. In the Azores, a breeding pair of **American Black Duck** *Anas rubripes* was still present at Lagoa Branca, Flores, in April; moreover, at least four pure individuals and eight possible hybrids were seen at Caldeirão lake on Corvo on 8 April (reportedly, 27 Black Ducks were present here during 2001). On 24 March, a female was identified at the Cávado estuary, Portugal. The long-staying males in Garður, Iceland, and Devon, England, remained the entire period while another was again seen at Stithians, Cornwall, England, until 2 April. In Shetland, Scotland, one was seen at Loch of Hillwell on 22 May. Seven **Green-winged Teals** *A carolinensis* were seen in Iceland this spring. A male **Baikal Teal** *A formosa* was present at Saint-Denis-du-Payre, Vendée, France, from 2 February to 19 March. The origin of a **Marbled Duck** *Marmaronetta angustirostris* near Ribe, Sudjylland, Denmark, from 16 April onwards has been the subject of discussion.

LOONS TO IBISES In Scotland, an adult **Yellow-billed Loon** *Gavia adamsii* was at Loch Gairloch, Highland, on 3-18 March and others were seen off North Ronaldsay, Orkney, on 17 April and off Kirkabister, Shetland, on 28 April. The long-staying **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* discovered at Ebro delta, Logroño, Spain, on 28 January (presumably the same bird as the long-stayer at La Grajera reservoir in 2001) was still present near Isla-Soto on 9 March. The second for Norway stayed at Tornesvannet, Haugesund, Rogaland, from 5 to at least 20 May (the first was at Herøy, Nordland, from May 2000 to April 2001). In late May, a **Black-capped Petrel** *Pterodroma hasitata* was reported from the ferry between the Azores and Portsmouth, England. On 18 April, 22 **Scopoli's Shearwaters** *Calonectris diomedea* were counted off Ma'agan Michael, Israel. Two were seen at Ain Sukhna, Egypt, on 16 April. 211 **Cory's/Scopoli's Shearwaters** *C borealis/diomedea* off Haifa on 14 May account for the highest-ever count for the Mediterranean coast of Israel. In Egypt, a **Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus* flew off Nuweiba on 18 April. In England, **Red-billed Tropicbirds** *Phaethon aethereus* were seen 7 km east off St Mary's, Scilly, on 29 March and 11 km off Falmouth, Cornwall, on 21 April. A **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* was identified on Corvo, Azores, on 5-8 April. The last Mediterranean colony on rocky sea coast north of Oristano, Sardinia, Italy, appears to be exterminated after years of persecution of 100s wintering in the Gulf of Oristano. **European Shags** *Stictocarbo aristotelis* photographed in the Netherlands on Texel, Noord-Holland, on 29 January and at Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland, from 31 March to 1 April appeared to have been ringed as chick on Isle of May, Firth of Forth, Scotland, respectively in 2000 and on 2 July 2001 (in 1998-2001, six other colour-ringed individuals from Isle of May were seen in the Netherlands, two in Belgium and two on Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany). In Germany, a **Pygmy Cormorant** *Microcarbo pygmeus* was present at Steinsee near Neuwied, Rheinland-Pfalz, from 17 February to 24 March and another at Mettnau, Bodensee, Baden-Württemberg, on 12-13 April was probably the same bird seen here from November 2001. An adult was at Buda Stalowska, Poland, on 4 May. Two **Great White Pelicans** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* present in the Gulf of Oristano, Sardinia, Italy, from January were still seen in April. Another was at Valle Santa, Emilia-Romagna, Italy, in February-April. The first for the Cape Verde Islands appeared to have been photographed at Sal Rei, Boavista, in July or August 2000. A **Striated Heron** *Butorides striatus* at Sapir park, northern Negev, on 16-19 May was the first for Israel away from Eilat. Only the second **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* for Sweden was an elusive individual at various locations in southern Sweden in late May. Different **Western Reef Egrets** *Egretta gularis gularis* (or hybrids) were reported from Málaga, Spain, on 1 April and 28 April. The sixth **Little Egret** *E garzetta* for Iceland was at Nesjar on 10-11 May. On 4 April, the first **Snowy Egret** *E thula* for Britain and Scotland (discovered on 29 October 2001) had returned from the Isle of Arran, Ayrshire, to its original location at Balvicar, Seil Island, Argyll. An **Intermediate Egret** *E intermedia* was reported for Mindelo sewage ponds on Sao Vicente, Cape Verde Islands, on 1-2 March. The second (European) **Great Egret** *Casmerodius albus albus* for Iceland was at Lón from 5 to at least 13 April. An immature **Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* was reported at Rabil lagoon, Boa Vista, Cape Verde Islands, on 5 March. At least 13 **Bourne's Herons** *A (purpurea) bournei* were present at the breeding site at Banana, Santiago, Cape Verde Islands, on 2 March (nine occupied nests were reported here on 23 February). At Abu Simbel, Egypt, 20 **Yellow-billed Storks** *Mycteria ibis* were seen on 1 May. The third **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* for the Cape Verde Islands concerned an individual photographed in March 2001 (possibly, this was one of a group of five constituting the second record in October 2000). During April, a large influx of more than 300 Glossy Ibises occurred in Italy, with largest flocks of 81 and 64.

148 Ross's Gull / Ross' Meeuw *Rhodostethia rosea*, adult, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, England, March 2002 *(Iain H Leach)*

RAPTORS A **Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* stayed south of Landskrona, Sweden, from 6 May (for previous sightings in Europe, see Dutch Birding 20: 45, 1998; 22: 113-114, 164, 233, 2000). A record 21 migrating **Crested Honey Buzzards** *Pernis ptilorhyncus* were counted near Eilat, Israel, on 30 April; 17 were seen at Lotan on 1 May and eight on 2 May. By 23 May, this spring's total for Israel had risen to 98. Four **Cape Verde Kites** '*Milvus fasciicauda*' were reported from Boavista in July-August 2001 (one being documented by photographs); moreover, two individuals and six Black Kites *M migrans* with two possible hybrids were claimed from Maio in 2001. Possibly the second **Yellow-billed Kite** *M (m) aegyptius* for Israel was reported over the Eilat mountains on 7 May. In the Netherlands, a **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* reportedly flew past Ventjagersplaten, Zuid-Holland, on 8 May. An adult was found at Aiguamolls, Girona, Spain, on 15 May. Presumably the first **Lammergeier** *Gypaetus barbatus* to be accepted as a wild bird in the Netherlands was an unmarked and unringed immature over Flevoland and Noord-Holland on 2 June and then on Texel, Noord-Holland, later that day and staying to 4 June. Also in the Netherlands, five sightings of **Eurasian Griffon Vultures** *Gyps fulvus* on 16-20 May concerned one flying south over the Noord-Holland dunes on 16 May, one over Breskens, Zeeland, on 17 May, two over Veendam, Groningen, on 17 May, one over Marnewaard, Lauwersmeer, on 18 May, and one over Gelderland on 20 May. On 31 May, a group of 15 (!) was reported over Kaatsheuvel, Noord-Brabant, the Netherlands, and the next two days, presumably the same group of 15 was seen over Groningen, Groningen, and then increased to 17, seen at various places in Friesland. On 4-8 June, at least 16 at Nokere, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium, probably concerned the same group. In Poland, one was near Darlowo on 27 April. In Egypt, 11 **Lappet-faced Vultures** *Torgos tracheliotus* were seen at Shalatein on 19 March. A **Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus* at Bet Kama, northern Negev, Israel, on 2 May was probably the same bird as one seen at Bet-Guvrin in February-March 2002. In Italy, already 50 **Pallid Harriers** *Circus macrourus* were counted for the Straits of Messina by 27 April and c 70 were seen later in the spring; c 100 individuals were seen elsewhere in Italy this spring, turning 2002 into another good year for this species. In Malta, singles were seen on 12 March (Luqa), 30 March (Comino), 2 and 3 April (Gozo), 16 April (two, Gozo) and 24 April (male, Marsalforn). After the sighting of possibly the ninth for Spain in Girona on 27 March, another male was seen at Albufereta on Mallorca on 8 April. After one in the Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, on 21 March, eight were seen in France between 30 March and 27 April. There was also a small influx in Hungary during April. In Switzerland, one was seen at Gampel, Valais Canton, on 13 April. There were a record five adult males and one first-summer in Denmark on

19-23 April. In the Netherlands, singles were reported from Groningen on 21 April and 20 May. In Germany, an adult female occurred at Meissendorfer Teiche, Niedersachsen, on 1 May. In France, a **Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus* in the Camargue remained from 16 January to 21 March; another was present here at La Bomborinette on 10-25 April. On 21 April, an adult reportedly flew past the Rieselfelder Münster, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany. A second-year at the Straits of Messina on 21 April was identified as the first North African *B r cirtensis* for Italy (there was a second sighting of this subspecies here as well). Another Long-legged Buzzard was reported at Margherita di Savoia, Puglia, Italy, on 22 April. In Hungary, **Greater Spotted Eagles** *Aquila clanga* were still seen in early March at Kis-Balaton (third-year, 2 March), Fertö lake (adult, 6 March), Kiskore (adult, 7 March), and Hortobágy (14 March). In Switzerland, the species was seen at Oltingen on 3 March. In southern France, one of the winterers in the Camargue remained until at least 21 March. In north-western Italy, a late individual was seen at Fiume Stura on 14 April. On 21 April, a second-year was reported from Ostenholzer Moor, Niedersachsen, Germany. The **Golden Eagle** *A chrysaetos* flying over Zetel, Niedersachsen, Germany, on 22 April may have been the same bird that wintered until 7 April in northern Drenthe, the Netherlands. A **Verraux's Eagle** *A verrauxii* was seen in Eilat mountains on 30 April. Early **Booted Eagles** *Hieraaetus pennatus* were seen over Le Hucel, Thollon, Haute Savoie, France, on 23 March and 6 April. On 17 April, a pale-morph flew past Meissendorfer Teiche, Niedersachen, Germany. The 18th **Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni* for Britain was a first-summer male at Peninnis on St Mary's, Scilly, from 14 May onwards. During May, larger than usual numbers of **Red-footed Falcons** *F vespertinus* were seen in Corsica, south-eastern France and Spain. For instance, in Spain, three were present between Alcoi and Benifallim, Alacant, on 17 May. In France, 260 were seen until late May, including 17 in three flocks in the Crau, Bouches-du-Rhône, on 10 May, a flock of 14 at Etang de Biguglia, Bastia, Corsica, on 12 May, 17 at Plaine de Passy, Haute Savoie, on 18 May, a maximum of 22 at La Verdière, Var, on 22 May and 27 at Vinon-sur-Verdon, Var, on 24-25 May. The seventh **Amur Falcon** *F amurensis* (of which three were accepted) for the Straits of Messina, Sicily, Italy, was a second-year male on 11 May (also, a total of 1400 Red-footed Falcons were seen at this site this spring). A pale-morph **Eleonora's Falcon** *F eleonorae* was found at Goczalkowice, Poland, on 12 May. In March-April, white-morph **Gyr Falcons** *F rusticolus* were present, for example, on Anglesey, Wales; on Islay, Argyll; at Killybegs and on Tory Island, Donegal, Ireland; and on St Kilda and Orkney, Scotland. On 3 May, one was seen on Unst, Shetland, Scotland. The southernmost ever and anywhere in the world was at Lubbock, Texas, USA, from 21 January to at least 23 March.

149 Lappet-faced Vultures / Oorgieren *Torgos tracheliotus*, Shalatein, Egypt, 19 March 2002 *(Eric Didner)*

GALLINULES TO PHALAROPES In February, a **Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrula martinica* found exhausted on a trawler 930 km east off Flemish Cap, Newfoundland, Canada, reached the Faeroes alive. A **Common Crane** *Grus grus* was present at Borgarfjörður, Iceland, from 3 April onwards (there were 27 previous records of this species). An adult **Demoiselle Crane** *Anthropoides virgo* stayed at Hula, Israel, on 22 March. In Italy, three individuals flew over the Straits of Messina, Sicily, on 12 May (there was no previous record for this area). A **Little Bustard** *Tetrax tetrax* found on St Agnes, Scilly, on 22 March flew off the same day. A female was found at Kitee, Finland, on 29 May. A **Great Bustard** *Otis tarda* was reported at Nastazin near Goleniow, Poland, on 12 May. In Egypt, 15 **Greater Painted-snipes** *Rostratula benghalensis* were present at Bilbeis on 22 April and five on Crocodile Island, Luxor, on 28 April. In southern Spain, a group of five **Cream-coloured Coursers** *Cursorius cursor* were seen at the Guadalhorce river mouth, Málaga, on 28 April (in 2001, the species was present here on 11 April; last year's breeding occurred in Almería). In Cyprus, one was at Latsi beach on 24-30 March. In Egypt, single **Black-winged Pratincoles** *Glareola nordmanni* were at Safaga, Qena, on 27 April and at Abu Simbel on 30 April. The second **Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus* for Britain was a male at Rimac, Lincolnshire, England, on 11-15 May (the first was in West Sussex in 1997; both were first misidentified as Greater Sand Plover *C leschenaultii*). Unidentified sand plovers were reported from the southern tip of Spain at Tarifa on 26 April and from the Camargue on 15 May. A **Caspian Plover** *C asiaticus* occurred at Nizzana, Israel, on 3 April and one was at K20 on 10 May. On 14-15 May, one was present at Kalloni, Lesvos, Greece. Presumably, the adult **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* on South Uist, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, in early April concerned the same individual as the one seen here in October 2001. The first for April-June in the Netherlands was present near Petten, Noord-Holland, on 14-16 April. On 16 May, one was seen at K20 near Eilat. Possibly, the 19th **Sociable Lapwing** *Vanellus gregarius* for Spain was a first-summer photographed at Aiguamolls de l'Empordà, Girona, on 25 March. Another was in Brenne, Indre, France, on 29 March. The sixth for Hungary was an adult summer at Nyékiszállás, Fertö lake, near the Austrian border, on 1-2 April. A **White-tailed Lapwing** *V leucurus* turned up at Ashdod, Israel, on 7 April. The first this spring for Romania was an adult near Constanta on 19 April. The first **Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris* for South Africa was discovered 100 km north of Cape Town in the West Coast National Park on 30 March; presumably, it was the second for sub-Saharan Africa (as there is one record for Kenya). If accepted, a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** *C pusilla* at Kondas, Hortobágy, on 4-5 May will be the first for Hungary. In England, an inland **Least Sandpiper** *C minutilla* was in the border area of Staffordshire and Warwickshire on 23-25 May. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** *C fuscicollis* in summer plumage turned up at Marshside, Merseyside, England, on 20 May. Reports of **Baird's Sandpipers** *C bairdii* came from Doñana, Huelva, Spain, on 22 April and from Nyékiszállás, Hungary, on 25 April. A **Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus* at Terneuzen, Zeeland, on 21 April was the earliest ever for the Netherlands. In the Azores, several **Common Snipes** *Gallinago gallinago* were displaying at various locations on Flores on 15-17 April. A **Great Snipe** *G media* showing itself remarkably well at Maassluis, Zuid-Holland, on 16 May was only the second in May for the Netherlands since 1977. The long-staying **Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* at Belfast Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland, remained until at least 14 April. In the Netherlands, the long-stayer at Prunjepolder, Schouwen, Zeeland, was infrequently seen until at least 12 April; possably another adult was at Hoorn, Noord-Holland, on 2-11 April. A **Slender-billed Curlew** *Numenius tenuirostris* was claimed at Al Ansab lagoons, Oman, on 6 April. A **Hudsonian Whimbrel** *N hudsonicus* was present in Gwent, Wales, from 3 to at least 5 May (it is considered to be the same bird at the same site in 2000). A possible record 44 **Marsh Sandpipers** *Tringa stagnatilis* were reported from Spain during April. In Scotland, a **Greater Yellowlegs** *T melanoleuca* on St Kilda, Outer Hebrides, on 28-29 April may have been the same as the one on Islay from 11 May. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** *T flavipes* was seen on Sal, Cape Verde Islands, on 6 March. Another stayed at Frodsham, Cheshire, England, from 9 March to 4 April. In Ireland, adults were at Kinsale Marsh, Cork, on 7 April and at Washington, Durham, from 20 May. In Britain, singles stayed in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire in the last week of May. A Lesser Yellowlegs and a **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularia* were at Mindelo sewage ponds on Sao Vicente in March. A female **Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* was discovered at Bredene, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, on 22 April.

JAEGERS TO GUILLEMOTS On 22 April, an unprecedented eastward passage of 8316 **Pomarine Jaegers** *Stercorarius pomarinus* was witnessed in the northern tip of Norway from the Slettnes lighthouse, Gamvik, Finnmark. A **Long-tailed Jaeger** *S longicaudus* was at Hurghada, Egypt, on 18 March. In Hungary, an adult and a third-winter **Pallas's Gull** *Larus ichthyaetus* were reported during March. Two were seen in Poland in April-May. If accepted, the second for France was a second-summer seen in flight at Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, on 22 May. From 13 April to at least mid-May, the adult **Laughing Gull** *L atricilla* first present from 11 April into July 2001 was again in the Black-headed Gull *L ridibundus* colony at Zwillbrocker Venn, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, 400 m across the Dutch border (it had been colour-ringed here on 1 June 2001). This bird or other individuals were seen at Oberzell, Ravenburg, Baden-Württemberg, on 29 March and flying past Beuven, Noord-Brabant, the Netherlands, on 7 April. On 17 January, an adult **Franklin's Gull** *L pipixcan* was photographed at Banjul, The Gambia. A first-winter **Bonaparte's Gull** *L phi-*

150 Pacific Golden Plover / Aziatische Goudplevier *Pluvialis fulva*, Harger- en Pettemerpolder, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 14 April 2002 *(Nils van Duivendijk)* **151** Great Snipe / Poelsnip *Gallinago media*, Maassluis, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 16 May 2002 *(Leo J R Boon/Cursorius)* **152-153** Lesser Sand Plover / Mongoolse Plevier *Charadrius mongolus*, Rimac, Lincolnshire, England, May 2002 *(Michael J Tarrant)*

ladelphia was seen at Le Croisic, Loire-Atlantique, France, on 13 March. In England, the adult staying until 9 March at Millbrook, Cornwall, turned up at Pagham, West Sussex, on 16 March where it remained until at least 25 March. In Scotland, an adult was found on South Uist, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, on 28 April. In Spain, the first **Audouin's Gull** *L audouinii* for Cantabria was a third-summer at Somo in Santander bay from 5 May. In France, singles were seen at Lapalme, Aude, on 24 April (second-summer), at Portiraques, Hérault, on 1 May and at the Camargue on 16 May. In Sardinia, up to 4000 **Slender-billed Gulls** *L genei* were counted at Molentargius on 14 April. On 15 May, one was reported at Wollmatinger Ried, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. On Flores, Azores, not only four first-winter **Ring-billed Gulls** *L delawarensis* but also a first-winter **American Herring Gull** *L smithsonianus* was observed at Lagoa Rasa on 16 April. Another **Ring-billed Gull** in the Azores was a first-winter at Horta on Faial on 15 April. The fourth for Catalunya, Spain, was a first-summer at the Besós river mouth, Barcelona, from 21 April. In February-March, up to six were present at Xixón, Asturies, Spain. In March and April, respectively, 28 and 24 were reported from Britain and 15 and nine from Ireland. Presumably, the adult **Common Gull** *L canus canus* at Oued Souss, Agadir, Morocco, during March-April was the same individual as in previous years. In Finistère, France, an **American Herring Gull** stayed on Ouessant and Molène from 27 February to 22 April. Another well-watched individual was at Corfe Mullen and Lytchett Bay, Dorset, England, between 4 March and 13 April. In the Netherlands, a **Baltic Gull** *L fuscus* seen alive on Vlieland, Friesland, on 18 December 2001 appeared to have been colour-ringed at Mikkeli, Finland, on 7 July 1995; another individual wearing a Finnish ring was

154 Subalpine Warbler / Baardgrasmus *Sylvia cantillans*, male, Hargen, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 13 May 2002 *(Harm Niesen)* **155** Pied Stonechat / Zwarte Roodborsttapuit *Saxicola caprata*, Eilat, Israel, 29 March 2002 *(Mark Thomas)* **156** Franklin's Gull / Franklins Meeuw *Larus pipixcan*, adult, Banjul, Gambia, 17 January 2002 *(Oane Tol)* **157** African Pied Wagtail / Afrikaanse Bonte Kwikstaart *Motacilla aguimp*, Abu Simbel, Egypt, 24 March 2002 *(Eric Didner)*

reported from Beilen, Drenthe, on 20 April. An adult at Oldenburg, Niedersachsen, Germany, on 11 April also wore a Finnish colour-ring. A first-winter **Iceland Gull** *L glaucoides* was (still) at Santa Cruz das Flores, Azores, on 5 April. A second-winter or adult **Ross's Gull** *Rhodostethia rosea* stayed at Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, on 9-11 March. In England, adults were seen in Cornwall and Devon until 5 March; at Scarborough, North Yorkshire, from 16 March to 4 April; and at Blacktoft Sands, East Yorkshire, on 31 March; and a first-winter was found in Gloucestershire on 16 April. In the Netherlands, an immature was reported from Grote Vlak, Texel, Noord-Holland, on 23 April. In Shetland, Scotland, a first-winter was present at Mainland from 10 May onwards. An adult was seen in Hrutafjörður, Iceland, on 22 May. Seven **Lesser Crested Terns** *Sterna bengalensis* at Tarifa beach on 7 May may have constituted one of the largest flocks ever for Spain; high numbers of at least five were also seen on 16 May. In north-eastern Italy, a pair was photographed near a colony of more than 3000 pairs of Mediterranean Gulls *L melanocephalus* at Cervia salt-pans, Po delta, on 17 May. An **Elegant Tern** *S elegans* (first identified as Lesser Crested Tern) was photographed at Dawlish Warren, Devon, England, on 18 May. The first 'orange-billed tern' for the Netherlands was a presumed Elegant Tern at Wassenaarse Slag, Zuid-Holland, on 9 June. In Florida, USA, one nested at Tampa paired with a Sandwich Tern *S sandvicensis*. If accepted, two **Roseate Terns** *S dougallii* on Mallorca on 27 April will constitute the fourth record for the Balearic Islands. A **Sooty Tern** *S fuscata* was sound-recorded at night on Ilhéu da Vila off Sta Maria, Azores, on 12 April (up to four birds have been

present here in recent years). In the first half of May, 66 **White-winged Terns** *Chlidonias leucopterus* were seen in France. The third **Black Guillemot** *Cepphus grylle* for Spain was watched from Punta das Olas, Caion, Laracha, A Coruña, Galicia, on 9 April.

DOVES TO WAGTAILS In Israel, an unconfirmed **African Collared Dove** *Streptopelia roseogrisea* was claimed at Eilat in March. In Egypt, one was seen at Abu Simbel on 30 April. If accepted as a wild bird, a juvenile **Spotted Dove** *S chinensis* at the Eilat sewage ponds from 30 March to 15 April would be the first for Israel. Possibly, the first **Oriental Turtle Dove** *S orientalis orientalis* for Poland was photographed at Wyspa Sobieszewska near Gdansk on 11-19 April. The first twitchable **Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius* for Ireland since 1975 stayed at Carnsore Point, Wexford, on 3-14 April (the last record was a tideline corpse in March 1983). A **European Scops Owl** *Otus scops* was present at a car park at Porthgwarra, Cornwall, on 25-26 March. On 21 May, one was reported from Ula, Larvik, Vestfold, Norway. In the central USA, a high number of **Snowy Owls** *Nyctea scandiaca* were seen in the past winter; most turned up in North Dakota (one birder tallied 77 until early March) and two immatures were exceptionally far south in Colorado. The ship-assisted bird that stayed until 16 April at Veurne, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, turned up in the Netherlands on the church of Hippolytushoef, Noord-Holland, on 19 April and probably the same bird was seen on Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, on 22 April and in Denmark on 8 May. If accepted, a pair of **Tengmalm's Owls** *Aegolius funereus* calling at Bukk from 15 March to mid-April will constitute the 10th record for Hungary. A pair of **Eurasian Pygmy Owls** *Glaucidium passerinum* at Josvafo, Aggtelek, during March-April might constitute the first breeding record for Hungary. A **Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus* flew over Bryher, Scilly, on 25-26 March. In the last 10 days of March, 16 **Alpine Swifts** *A melba* were seen in Britain and nine in Ireland (including five over Cork City of which two were roosting on the Metropole Hotel). In April, at least eight were seen in England and three in Ireland. On 16 May, a **Little Swift** *A affinis* was claimed on Saltee Islands, Wexford, Ireland. On 17 May, one was seen on St Mary's, Scilly, England. The first well-documented **Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla* for Sri Lanka was trapped in Yala on 5 April. The fourth **Grey-headed Woodpecker** *Picus canus* for the Netherlands appeared present for the third consecutive year at Oosterbeek, Renkum, Gelderland, from 23 May. In northern Italy, an unseasonal bird was seen at Bologna, Emilia-Romagna, on 2 February. The 11th **Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra* for Britain was at Sangar, North Ronaldsay, Orkney, Scotland, on 10-12 May. In Jordan, during bad weather, a flock of 900 **Bimaculated Larks** *M bimaculata* was found near Shaumari wildlife reserve at Azraq on 3 April. Two **Pale Sand Martins** *Riparia riparia diluta* were discovered at Mushrif Palace Gardens, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), on 12 May. In Asturies, Spain, up to 14 **Richard's Pipits** *Anthus richardi* were counted in February and six were still present on 20 March. In Spain, **Black-headed Wagtails** *Motacilla feldegg* were identified at Aiguamolls de l'Empordà, Girona, on 9, 13 and 14 April and at Besós, Barcelona, on 13 April. Six were seen in south-western France between 16 April and 5 May. At Abu Simbel, six **African Pied Wagtails** *M aguimp* were seen on 24 March and eight on 1 May.

ACCENTORS TO FLYCATCHERS An **Alpine Accentor** *Prunella collaris* stayed at Minsmere, Suffolk, England, on 16-19 March. A **Black Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas podobe* was seen at Yotvata, Israel, on 17-18 April. In the Siracusa area, Sicily, Italy, up to 20 **Isabelline Wheatears** *Oenanthe isabellina* were counted during March (which is less than usual). In Malta, however, no less than seven were seen during 2-11 March at Ghadira, Cirkewwa, San Lucjan, Dingli, and Migra Ferha. A black-throated male **Western Black-eared Wheatear** *O hispanica* stayed at Nanquidno, Cornwall, from 23 March to 1 April. On 11 May, a first-summer male **black-eared wheatear** *O hispanica/melanoleuca* was present at Lochristi, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium, and tentatively identified as a Western. A male **Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus ruficollis atrogularis* remained at Hagge, Sweden, on 12-27 March. The second **Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* for the Channel Islands was at St Ouens Pond, Jersey, from 12 March to 4 April. One wintering (into April) at IJmuiden, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, may have been the northernmost this winter for Europe. If accepted, a **River Warbler** *Locustella fluviatilis* singing at Valle Canalnovo a Marano Lagunare, Udine, on 20 April will be the third for Italy. A **Moustached Warbler** *Acrocephalus melanopogon* was singing at Chiemsee, Bavaria, on 6-8 April. Singing **Blyth's Reed Warblers** *A dumetorum* were reported at Bialystok, Poland, on 7 May and at Katinger Watt, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, on 12 May. A **Basra Reed Warbler** *A griseldis* was ringed at Nir David, Bet She'an valley, Israel, on 5 May. If accepted, a singing male **Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans* at Hor-volgy, Bukk, on 20 May will be the first for Hungary; three were found in the Netherlands between 3 and 19 May. In Jordan, **Ménétries's Warblers** *S mystacea* were seen at Wadi al Butm on 2 April, 10 km east of As Safawi on 4 April and at Azraq on 5 April. In Scilly, a singing male **Sardinian Warbler** *S melanocephala* was stayed on St Agnes from 29 March to 1 April; another was on St Martin's on 21-25 April. In Malta, single **Rüppell's Warblers** *S rueppellii* occurred on 4 and 9 April. The first **Asian Desert Warbler** *S nana* for Helgoland (and the second for Germany) was present from 24 May onwards together with a **Sardinian Warbler** (sometimes in the same bush!). In the Czech Republic, a **Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* was reportedly singing on Mount Boubin, Sumava national park, South Bohemia, on 15 April. A small influx started in Sweden in late May, with four birds on Ottenby on 29 May. A **Hume's Leaf Warbler** *P humei* at Newbiggin,

Northumberland, England, from 20 January remained until 4 April. A **Northern Chiffchaff** *P collybita* was singing at Hamningberg, Båtsfjord, Finnmark, Norway, on 28 May. An **Iberian Chiffchaff** *P brehmii* (or *P ibericus*) singing at Tane Sø, Vestjylland, was (only) the third for Denmark; in Belgium, one was singing at Mol-Wezel, Antwerpen, on 7-9 April and, in the Netherlands, singles held territory at Harkema, Friesland, from at least 23 to 26 April and at Lage Vuursche, Utrecht, on 18-20 May. A male **Semi-collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula semitorquata* was reported from Salina, Malta, on 13 April.

TITS TO BUNTINGS A photographed hybrid **Blue x Azure Tit** *Parus caeruleus x cyaneus* first seen on 24 December 2001 at Kummersbruck, Bavaria, southern Germany, remained to late February. In mainland Spain, the second **Balearic Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator badius* for the Ebro delta, Tarragone, Catalunya, was a bird trapped at Canal Vell on 22 April. The first **Red-billed Choughs** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* to breed successfully in England for 50 years raised four young in Cornwall. In the Netherlands, a record 11 **House Crows** *Corvus splendens* were counted at a roost in Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland, in early May (the first two birds were seen here in April 1994); at least two nests were found. The first for Poland was at Palczowice near Zator on 29 April. An apparent **Spotless Starling** *Sturnus unicolor* was singing at Tane Sø, Vestjylland, Denmark from 18 April onwards (if accepted, it would be the first for north-western Europe). The third **Rose-coloured Starling** *S roseus* for Asturies, Spain, was at Medal from 11 March. The first arrivals for Hungary dated from 23 May; in the last week of May and first days of June, small numbers were reported in southern France, north-eastern Italy, the Netherlands (at least nine), Poland and Sweden and at least 2000 were seen in Romania. A **Chestnut-shouldered Petronia** *Petronia xanthocollis* at Lotan, Israel, on 26-31 March was probably the same individual as the one in November 2001. A **Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus* was singing near Krampenes, Vadsø, Finnmark, Norway, on 27 and 30 May. About the ninth to 11th **Hawfinches** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* for Iceland were seen on 1-4 April, on at least 8-13 April and on at least 16-22 April. A **White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys* caught and released at Reykjavik harbour, Iceland, on 28 May was strongly suspected of being a ship-assisted arrival. The fifth **Lapland Longspur** *Calcarius lapponicus* for Asturies, Spain, was found at Viyadún, on 12 March. In the Netherlands, a first-summer male **Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica* was singing at Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland, on 5-8 April. On 10-11 May, a male stayed at West Hove, East Sussex, England. On 17 May, the first **Black-headed Buntings** *E melanocephala* had returned to their breeding sites in France near Cipières, Alpes-Maritimes.

For a number of reports, publications in Birding World, Birdwatch, British Birds, Bulletin British Ornithologists' Club, Ornithos, Sandgrouse, Sovon-nieuws, 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, Morten Bentzon Hansen, Max Berlijn, Christoph Bock, Mark Bolton (Azores), Leo Boon, Andreas Bruun Kristensen, Vegard Bunes, Geoff Carey, Alain Chappuis, Tony Clarke (Canarian Nature Tours), Andrea Corso, Ian Darling, Eric Dempsey, Gunter De Smet, Jochen Dierschke (Germany), Eric Didner, Pedro Domingos, Hugues Dufourny (Jordan), Enno Ebels, Roy Erling Wrånes, Paolo Faria, Anthony Floyd, Alain Fossé, Tommy Frandsen, Raymond Galea (Malta), Daniel Gelbart, Jeff Gordon (Cyprus), Gerard Gorman (eastern Europe), Marcello Grussu (Sardinia), Ricard Gutiérrez (Spain), Klaas Haas, Frank Hamilton, Trinus Haitjema, Trevor Hardaker, Mike Harris, Cornelis Hazevoet, Martin Helin, Gaukur Hjartarson (Iceland), Remco Hofland, Niklas Holmstrom, Jon Hornbuckle, Harry Hussey, Justin Jansen, John Jennings, Erling Jirle, Adrian Jordi, Yves Kayser, Guy Kirwan, Yann Kolbeinsson (Iceland), Szabolcs Kókay, Pierre Le Maréchal, James Lidster, André van Loon, Pedro Lopez Suarez, Anthony McGeehan, Peter Meininger, Richard Millington, Geir Mobakken, Nial Moores, Killian Mullarney, Lajos Németh, Daniele Occhiato, Mika Ohtonen, Gerald Oreel, Arie Ouwerkerk, Menotti Passarella, Yoav Perlman (IRDC), Gunnlaugur Pétursson, Colin Richardson (UAE), Magnus Robb (Azores), Luciano Ruggieri, Hans Russer, Colin Ryall, Michael Sammut (Malta), Nir Sapir (Israel), Holger Schritt, Gabriel Schuler, Bob Scott (Bulgaria), Brian Small, Vincent van der Spek, Thomas Spencer, Frank Stühmer, Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne (SLWeN), Laszlo Szabo, Pam Thomson, Magnus Ullman (AviFauna), Pierre Unge, Martin Vavrik, William Velmala, Roland van der Vliet, Lieuwe van Welie, Rik Winters, Maxime Zucca and Carl Zuhorn 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 2002**. 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 De ene **Ross' Gans** *Anser rossii* verbleef tot 8 maart bij de Plaat van Scheelhoek, Zuid-Holland, en de andere van 1 maart tot 13 april in de omgeving van de Lauwersmeer, beginnend aan de Friese en eindigend aan de Groningse kant. **Dwergganzen** *A erythropus* verbleven tot 17 maart (13) ten zuiden van Anjum, Friesland, tot 21 maart (21) op de Korendijkse Slikken, Zuid-Holland, op 2 maart (negen) bij Camperduin, Noord-Holland, en 24 maart (één) bij Petten, Noord-Holland, tussen 29 maart en 10 april (twee) in de Prunjepolder, Zeeland, en van 31 maart tot 28 april (maximaal twee) in de Workumerwaard, Friesland. Er werden nog **Groenlandse Kolganzen** *A albifrons flavirostris* gezien op 2 maart bij Gaast, Friesland, op 8 maart bij Tienhoven, Utrecht (twee), op 16 en 17 maart bij Zurich, Friesland, en op 27 en 28 april in de Workumerwaard, waardoor het totaal voor het winterhalfjaar nog verder opliep. In de periode werd nog een 15-tal **Roodhalsganzen** *Branta ruficollis* gemeld waaronder op 2 maart alleen al zes aan de westkant van de Lauwersmeer, Friesland, en op 13 april vier in de Dollard, Groningen. Een canadese gans in de Lauwersmeer in begin maart vertoonde kenmerken van **Hutchins' Canadese Gans** *B hutchinsii hutchinsii* maar overtuigde kritische waarnemers niet van zijn raszuiverheid. Er werden tot 1 april nog slechts 11 **Witbuikrotganzen** *B hrota* doorgegeven en niet minder dan 20 **Zwarte Rotganzen** *B nigricans*, waarvan verreweg de meeste in het Waddengebied en de overige in Delta, Zuid-Holland/Zeeland. **Witoogeenden** *Aythya nyroca* werden gezien van 10 maart tot 16 april in het gebied Diependal, Drenthe, op 12 maart in de Hilversumse Bovenmeent, Noord-Holland, op 28 maart bij Slie-

158 Grote Grijze Snip / Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, met Grutto's / Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa*, Hoorn, Noord-Holland, 7 april 2002 *(Marten van Dijl)*

159 Alpengierzwaluw / Alpine Swift *Apus melba*, Lauwersmeer, Groningen, 1 april 2002 *(Eric Koops)* **160** Steenarend / Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, tweede-kalenderjaar, Amen, Drenthe, 6 maart 2002 *(Roef Mulder)* **161** Grote Zilverreigers / Great Egrets *Casmerodius albus*, Veenhuizerstukken, Groningen, 13 maart 2002 *(Eric Koops)*

162 Sneeuwuil / Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca*, eerste-winter mannetje, Hippolytushoef, Noord-Holland, 19 april 2002 *(Harm Niesen)*

163 Grote Burgemeester / Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*, eerste-winter, Schiedam, Zuid-Holland, 23 maart 2002 *(Jan van Holten)*

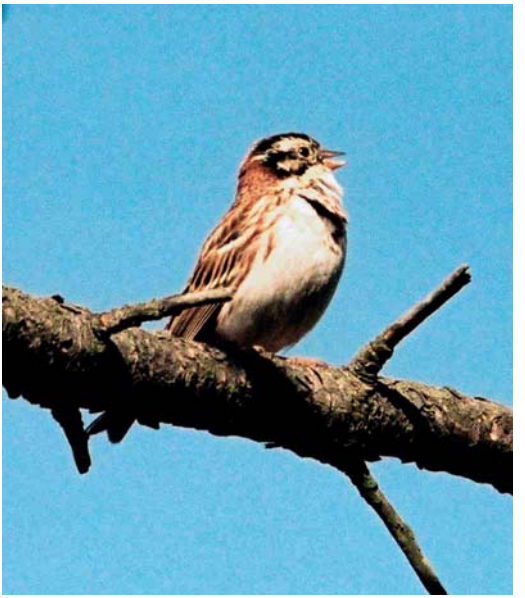
drecht, Zuid-Holland, op 30 maart in de Eijsder Beemden, Limburg, en op 27 april een paartje bij Windesheim, Overijssel. Mannetjes **Amerikaanse Smient** *Mareca americana* werden opgemerkt van 17 tot 24 maart in de Steenwaard, Utrecht, van 29 maart tot 16 april aan de zuidwestkant van de Lauwersmeer en op 31 maart en 1 april in de Blikken bij Groede, Zeeland. **Amerikaanse Wintertalingen** *Anas carolinensis* verschenen van 2 tot 22 maart in de Prunjepolder, op 4 april bij Tienhoven, op 6 april in de Ezumakeeg, Friesland, op 19 april in Diependal en op 20 april bij de Oostvaardersplassen, Flevoland. **Kaneeltalingen** *A cyanoptera* van (per definitie) dubieuze herkomst zwommen begin april in de Steenwaard en van 23 tot 26 april bij Nederweert, Limburg. Op 17 april zwom een **IJsduiker** *Gavia immer* half in zomerkleed bij de Brouwersdam, Zuid-Holland. Op een winderige 27 april werden enkele **Noordse Pijlstormvogels** *Puffinus puffinus* waargenomen bij Camperduin en eentje langs Westkapelle, Zeeland. Op deze dag werden langs de kust ook 10-tallen **Noordse Stormvogels** *Fulmarus glacialis* en **Kleine Jagers** *Stercorarius parasiticus* gezien. **Kuifaalscholvers** *Stictocarbo aristotelis* waren aanwezig op 1 maart maximaal zes op Neeltje Jans, Zeeland, op 2 maart op Schouwen, Zeeland, en in Den Oever, Noord-Holland, op 4 maart drie op de Waddenzee net buiten het NIOZ-haventje op Texel, op 30 maart zeven ter plaatse bij Huisduinen, Noord-Holland, van 31 maart tot 20 april regelmatig één tot twee exemplaren bij Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland. Van een van de vogels op deze plek werd de herkomst aan de hand van de kleurring herleid tot Isle of May, Schotland (geringd als nestjong op 2 juli 2001). Ten slotte werden op 22 april vijf Kuifaalscholvers gezien in de veerhaven van Den Helder, Noord-Holland. Eind april werd weer een **Kwak** *Nycticorax nycticorax* gezien bij Kollumerpomp in de Lauwersmeer, Friesland. **Koereigers** *Bubulcus ibis* werden gezien op 22 maart bij Kesteren, Gelderland, op 31 maart en 1 april bij Colijnsplaat, Zeeland, op 13 april bij Zwolle, Overijssel, en op 28 april bij Horst, Limburg. Er werden slechts 24 **Kleine Zilverreigers** *Egretta garzetta* doorgegeven. Een eenmalige melding van 14 exemplaren op 29 maart in de Prunjepolder doet echter vermoeden dat er veel meer in ons land verbleven. In de Oostvaardersplassen werden bovendien zes broedparen gemeld. In dezelfde kolonie werden maar liefst 45 broedparen **Grote Zilverreigers** *Casmerodius albus* aangetroffen. Daarnaast werden in deze periode nog 40 andere gemeld. Een vroege **Purperreiger** *Ardea purpurea* vloog op 3 april over Voorburg, Zuid-Holland. De enige **Zwarte Ooievaar** *Ciconia nigra* vloog op 29 maart over de Veenhuizerstukken, Groningen. De **Zwarte Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* van Petten werd daar gemeld tot 1 april en op 22 april foerageerde er een (of dezelfde?) bij Den Oever. Vanaf 10 maart werden 15 **Zwarte Wouwen** *Milvus migrans* gemeld. Er werden iets meer (23) **Rode Wouwen** *M milvus* doorgegeven, verspreid over de periode. In de Oostvaardersplassen werden nog maximaal twee **Zeearenden** *Haliaeetus albicilla* gezien tot 29 maart, en één op 13 april. Verder vlogen er Zeearenden op 3 maart over de A4 bij Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, over de Hilversumse Bovenmeent en over de Strabrechtse Heide, Noord-Brabant, en op 8 april over de Kollumerwaard bij de Lauwersmeer. Een **Slangenarend** *Circaetus gallicus* werd op 30 maart over Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, gemeld. Een mannetje **Steppekiekendief** *Circus macrourus* vloog op 12 april over bij Kollumerpomp en een vrouwtje werd op 21 april gemeld over de stad Groningen, Groningen. Tot 17 maart werd de eerste-winter **Steenarend** *Aquila chrysaetos* van Drenthe nog gezien; de vogel bestreek het gebied tussen Roden en Westerbork. Daarna waren er nog meldingen van mogelijk dezelfde vogel op 1 april in Diependal en op 7 april bij Haulerwijk, Friesland. De doortrek van **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus* begon op 1 april, met in totaal 28 exemplaren, voornamelijk in de eerste week van april. Bijzonder is het dagtotaal van zeven op 6 april over de Strabrechtse Heide. Op 16 en 17 maart werd een **Lannervalk** *Falco biarmicus* van onbekende origine aangetroffen in de Lauwersmeer.

KRAANVOGELS TOT STERNS Ruim 300 **Kraanvogels** *Grus grus* werden op trek gezien, met een opvallende piek

164 Groenlandse Kolgans / Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, Gaast, Friesland, 2 maart 2002 *(Petra van der Heide)*

165 Amerikaanse Wintertaling / Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*, mannetje, Tienhoven, Utrecht, 4 april 2002 *(Phil Koken)*

midden-maart. In de omgeving van het Fochtelooerveen, Drenthe/Friesland, verbleven maximaal acht exemplaren in maart; naar verluidt zouden er dit jaar zelfs drie paar tot broeden zijn gekomen. Ten oosten van Sluis, Zeeland, pleisterden er vier op 29 maart, bij de Slikken van Flakkee, Zeeland, zes op 4 april, in de Oostvaardersplassen maximaal drie vanaf 7 april, bij Hellum, Groningen, zes op 11 april en in de Lauwersmeer twee vanaf 20 april. Op 1 en 2 maart was een **Jufferkraanvogel** *Anthropoides virgo* aanwezig op Wieringen, Noord-Holland. In eerste instantie werd door meerdere waarnemers vastgesteld dat deze ongeringd was maar later bleek er toch een klein ringetje aanwezig te zijn, duidend op een niet-wilde herkomst. Dit bewijst maar weer eens hoe lastig het is om de aan- of afwezigheid van een ring met zekerheid vast te stellen. Eind april werden al weer **Steltkluten** *Himantopus himantopus* vastgesteld: op 19 en 20 april twee bij Papendrecht, Zuid-Holland, vanaf 20 april maximaal vier in de omgeving van het Rammegors, Zeeland, op 27 april bij Amerongen, Utrecht, vanaf 28 april maximaal drie in de Ezumakeeg, op 29 april aan de zuidkant van de Oostvaardersplassen en op 30 april twee in de Prunjepolder. Een **Griel** *Burhinus oedicnemus* werd langsvliegend waargenomen op 19 april bij Hargen, Noord-Holland. Een ander exemplaar foerageerde op 30 april op een akker bij Nederweert. **Morinelplevieren** *Charadrius morinellus* waren er al op 13 april bij IJmuiden, Noord-Holland, en van 14 tot 16 april tussen Petten en Camperduin. Op deze laatste locatie werd op 14 april ook een **Aziatische Goudplevier** *Pluvialis fulva* ontdekt en deze bleef eveneens tot 16 april. Dit was het eerste voorjaarsgeval (april-juni) voor Nederland; er is één maart-geval en de rest stamt uit de periode juli-februari. Op 29 april dook een **Gestreepte Strandloper** *Calidris melanotos* op in een plas ten westen van Eemdijk, Utrecht. Een vroege **Breedbekstrandloper** *Limicola falcinellus* werd op 21 april ontdekt bij Nummer Eén, Zeeland. De **Grote Grijze Snip** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* van de Prunjepolder werd daar gezien tot 9 maart en weer vanaf 13 april tot in mei. Van 3 tot 11 april werd (nog?) een Grote Grijze Snip gezien bij Hoorn, Noord-Holland. Uitzonderlijk waren de meldingen van 1350 en 1590 **IJslandse Grutto's** *Limosa limosa islandica* op respectievelijk 16 maart en 2 april in polder Demmerik bij Vinkeveen, Utrecht. Een telling op Texel op 25 maart leverde 589 exemplaren op, voornamelijk in de Mokbaai en Waal en Burg. Zeer vroeg was de **Poelruiter** *Tringa stagnatilis* op 9 maart in de Prunjepolder. Andere verschenen pas veel later, en wel op 7 april bij Harlingen, Friesland, op 13 april bij Doesburg, Gelderland, op 21 april aan de zuidkant van de Oostvaardersplassen, op 27 april twee bij Tienhoven, en op 28 en 29 april bij Thorn, Limburg. **Rosse Franjepoten** *Phalaropus fulicaria* waren ter plaatse op 2 en 3 maart in de Ezumakeeg, op 21 april in de kwelplasjes langs de Oostvaardersdijk en op 29 en 30 april in Waal en Burg op Texel, Noord-Holland. Voorjaarswaarnemingen van **Middelste Jagers** *Stercorarius pomarinus* waren er op 29 april langs Camperduin en op 30 april kort ter plaatse bij Huisduinen. Een adulte



166 Bosgors / Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*, tweede-kalenderjaar mannetje, De Kennemerduinen, Noord-Holland, 6 april 2002 *(Jan den Hertog)*

Lachmeeuw *Larus atricilla* cirkelde op 7 april 10 min boven de Strabrechtse Heide. Vanaf 14 april was de adulte gekleurringde vogel weer aanwezig in het Zwillbrocker Venn in Duitsland, net over de Nederlandse grens. Een in Finland gekleurringde **Baltische Mantelmeeuw** *L fuscus* werd op 21 april gezien bij Beilen, Drenthe. Onvolwassen **Kleine Burgemeesters** *L glaucoides* waren er de gehele periode in Scheveningen, op 20 en 30 maart bij Katwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland, van 7 tot 13 april bij Beilen en op 26 april bij Midden-Eierland op Texel. Ook werden 11 **Grote Burgemeesters** *L hyperboreus* gemeld, waarvan vier langsvliegend. De twee adulte exemplaren van Den Helder werden niet meer gemeld maar wel was een adulte aanwezig op 20 april op Texel. Een **Drieteenmeeuw** *Rissa tridactyla* werd op 1 april gezien vliegend langs de Lek bij Lopik, Utrecht. **Reuzensterns** *Sterna caspia* werden gemeld op 30 maart twee over Kinderdijk, Zuid-Holland, op 22 april bij Breskens, Zeeland, op 23 april op de Strabrechtse Heide en op 28 april in de Makkumerzuidwaard, Friesland.

UILEN TOT GORZEN De eerst-winter **Sneeuwuil** *Nyctea scandiaca* die op 19 april op de kerk in Hippolytushoef, Noord-Holland, verbleef bleek na vergelijking van de foto's dezelfde als het exemplaar dat vele maanden in West-Vlaanderen, België, verbleef en waarvan wordt aangenomen dat deze per schip in Europa is aangekomen. Het is onduidelijk of het exemplaar dat op 22 april op Schiermonnikoog werd gemeld ook dezelfde was. Een **Laplanduil** *Strix nebulosa* die op 2 maart aan-

167 Bosgors / Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*, tweede-kalenderjaar mannetje, De Kennemerduinen, Noord-Holland, 6 april 2002 *(Marten van Dijl)*

getroffen werd in Bleskensgraaf, Zuid-Holland, was zeker ontsnapt. Op 1 april was een **Alpengierzwaluw** *Apus melba* c 30 min ter plaatse boven de Zoute Kwel in de Lauwersmeer, Groningen. Op 27 april vloog een **Bijeneter** *Merops apiaster* rond aan bij het Nieuwe Robbengat aan de oostkant van de Lauwersmeer. **Hoppen** *Upupa epops* werden ontdekt op 19 april bij het Soerendonks Goor, Noord-Brabant, en op 21 april in langs telpost Parnassia in De Kennemerduinen, Noord-Holland. Een **Kortteenleeuwerik** *Calandrella brachydactyla* vloog op 22 april roepend over ten noordoosten van Bergen, Noord-Holland. Een **Grote Pieper** *Anthus richardi* was van 10 tot 31 maart (weer) aanwezig op de Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland. Het aantal van 44 **Rouwkwikstaarten** *Motacilla yarrellii* op 16 maart bij Rioolwaterzuivering Everstekoog op Texel is het vermelden waard. Een late **Pestvogel** *Bombycilla garrulus* was op 10 maart aanwezig in Heerhugowaard, Noord-Holland. De **Waterspreeuwen** *Cinclus cinclus* waren nog aanwezig tot 8 maart in de AW-duinen, Noord-Holland, en tot 9 maart bij de Ketelbrug, Flevoland. Roodborsttapuiten met kenmerken van **Aziatische Roodborsttapuit** *Saxicola maura* werden gezien van 25 tot 31 maart op de Brielsegatdam bij Oostvoorne, Zuid-Holland, en op 13 april op de Dwingelose Heide, Drenthe. De **Graszanger** *Cisticola juncidis* van het Kennemermeer bij IJmuiden bleef daar in ieder geval tot 2 april. Een andere vloog op 21 april over de Ackerdijkse Plassen, Zuid-Holland. Eind april waren weer enkele vogels aanwezig in het Verdronken Land van Saeftinge, Zeeland. Een **Iberische Tjiftjaf** *Phylloscopus brehmii* werd van 26 tot 29 april gezien en gehoord bij Harkema, Friesland. De vogel zou daar mogelijk al twee weken hebben gezeten. Een **Taigaboomkruiper** *Certhia familiaris* werd op 1 april gezien in Schoorl, Noord-Holland. **Huiskraaien** *Corvus splendens* blijven zich uitbreiden met waarnemingen op 23 maart in Utrecht, Utrecht, op 24 maart bij Den Haag, Zuid-Holland, en op 2 april bij Camperduin. Een nieuw record van 11 exemplaren werd begin mei geteld op een slaapplaats in Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland. **Raven** *C corax* buiten de bekende broedgebieden werden opgemerkt op 16 maart langs de Praamweg, Flevoland, medio april in de Kale Duinen bij Appelscha, Friesland, op 30 maart bij het Soerendonks Goor en dezelfde vogel op de Strabrechtse Heide en op 6 en 24 april over Groningen. Opvallend waren twee waarnemingen van **Witstuitbarmsijzen** *Carduelis hornemanni* op 31 maart, één in de Eemshaven en één in de Westerduinen op Texel. Leuk was de waarneming van een zingende **IJsgors** *Calcarius lapponicus* op 31 maart bij de Pampushaven, Flevoland. De enige **Ortolaan** *Emberiza hortulana* die werd doorgegeven zat kort ter plaatse op de dijk bij Hornhuizen, Groningen. Veel bekijks trok het zingende mannetje **Bosgors** *E rustica* dat van 5 tot 8 april in De Kennemerduinen verbleef. Een **Grauwe Gors** *Miliaria calandra* verbleef van 10 tot 16 maart bij Den Oever.

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België

GANZEN TOT VALKEN De **Roodhalsgans** *Branta ruficollis* die op 13 april in de Achterhaven van Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, werd waargenomen vertoefde vanaf 17 april in Het Zwin te Knokke, West-Vlaanderen, en was meer dan waarschijnlijk ontsnapt. Op 28 maart dook de eerste **Casarca** *Tadorna ferruginea* op te Zonhoven, Limburg; daarna waren er waarnemingen te Pepingen, Vlaams-Brabant, op 3 april; te Lennik, Vlaams-Brabant, op 4 april; te Edingen, West-Vlaanderen, op 5 april (twee); en te Kessel, Antwerpen, op 8 april. Gedurende de periode werden er nog acht **Krooneenden** *Netta rufina* waargenomen. Het mannetje **Ringsnaveleend** *Aythya collaris* bleef tot 21 april op Blokkersdijk, Antwerpen. **Witoogeenden** *A nyroca* waren er nog te Kessel-Berlaar, Antwerpen, van 3 tot 14 maart; te Barrage de Falemprise, Hainaut, op 7 maart; te Haasdonk, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 10 en 11 maart; te Kallo-Melsele, Oost-Vlaanderen, van 24 maart tot in mei; te Sint-Lenaarts, Antwerpen, op 24 maart; te Zonhoven van 26 maart tot 9 april; en te Longchamps, Namur, van 12 tot 26 april. Het betroffen alle mannetjes. Op 6 april zwom een vrouwtje **Rosse Stekelstaart** *Oxyura jamaicensis* te Neerijse, Vlaams-Brabant, en vanaf 15 april een mannetje bij Mechelen, Antwerpen. Van 7 tot 12 april verbleef een eerste-winter mannetje **Amerikaanse Smient** *Mareca americana* in de Achterhaven van Zeebrugge. Van 30 maart tot 13 april was daar ook een hybride **Amerikaanse Smient x Smient** *M penelope* aanwezig en van 29 maart tot 24 april een mannetje **Amerikaanse Wintertaling** *Anas carolinensis*. Een mannetje **Blauwvleugeltaling** *A discors* zwom van 15 tot 18 april op een plasje bij Zevenkerke, West-Vlaanderen. Een hybride **Blauwvleugeltaling x Slobeend** *A clypeata* werd op 17 april gezien te Harchies, Hainaut. Vermoedelijk dezelfde **Roodkeelduiker** *Gavia stellata* zwom op 7 maart op Blokkersdijk en op 10 maart bij Kruibeke, Oost-Vlaanderen, en op 14 april verbleef een exemplaar bij Ittre, Brabant Wallon. Op 27 april dobberde een **Parelduiker** *G arctica* op het grindgat te Stokkem, Limburg; misschien wel hetzelfde exemplaar zwom vanaf 29 april in het Mechels Broek bij Mechelen. Van 3 tot 26 maart verbleef een juveniele **IJsduiker** *G immer* in de Achterhaven van Zeebrugge. Er werden vijf **Roodhalsfuten** *Podiceps grisegena* en slechts twee **Kuifduikers** *P auritus* opgemerkt. Te Geel, Antwerpen, pleisterden op 18 maart twee **Kwakken** *Nycticorax nycticorax* en op 14 april zat er een eerste-zomer te Kallo-Melsele. De eerste **Koereiger** *Bubulcus ibis* voor 2002 werd op 1 maart gezien in De Gavers te Harelbeke, West-Vlaanderen. Op 29 april vloog er één over de Nieuwpoortse Vaart bij Oudenburg, West-Vlaanderen, en verbleven er drie te Harelbeke. Maximaal 17 **Kleine Zilverreigers** *Egretta garzetta* werden op 30 maart in Het Zwin te Knokke waargenomen. Verder waren er waarnemingen te Blokkersdijk; Bredene, West-Vlaanderen; Corroy-le-Grand, Brabant Wallon; Destelbergen, Oost-Vlaanderen; Gent, Oost-Vlaanderen; Heist, West-Vlaanderen (twee); Kallo-Doel, Oost-Vlaanderen (drie); Knesselare, Oost-Vlaanderen; Lissewege, West-Vlaanderen; Rijkevorsel, Antwerpen; Terhagen (Rumst), Antwerpen; en Zeebrugge (vier). **Grote Zilverreigers** *Casmerodius albus* deden deze periode niet onder voor hun kleinere naamgenoot: er waren waarnemingen te Bredene (twee); in de Dijlevallei, Vlaams-Brabant; Gent; Harchies (maximaal acht); Huldenberg, Vlaams-Brabant; Pottes, Hainaut; Schulen, Limburg (zeven); Willebroek, Antwerpen (twee); Woumen, West-Vlaanderen; en Zonhoven (zeven). Na de eerste **Purperreiger** *Ardea purpurea* te Lier, Antwerpen, op 30 maart volgden er nog 16 aprilwaarnemingen. Naast de klassieke vroege aankomst van **Zwarte Ooievaars** *Ciconia nigra* op de Ardense broedplaatsen, waren er waarnemingen te Genk, Limburg, op 23 maart, en te Brecht, Antwerpen, op 3 april. Met 141 exemplaren zetten **Ooievaars** *C ciconia* vanaf half maart de lente op massale wijze in. Net als in 2001 was er weer een broedgeval in Horion-Hozémont, Liège. De **Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus* van Blokkersdijk bleef daar nog de hele periode aanwezig. De eerste **Zwarte Wouwen** *Milvus migrans* vlogen op 3 maart over Diksmuide, West-Vlaanderen, en op 9 maart over Pessoux, Namur. De aankomstdatum in de Gaume, Luxembourg, was 13 maart. In totaal waren maart en april goed voor 32 waarnemingen. Er werden 42 **Rode Wouwen** *M milvus* opgemerkt, waaronder een concentratie van 10 te Remouchamps, Liège, op 15 maart; nog eens 18 vlogen op dezelfde dag naar noordoost over Douzy bij Sedan, net over de grens in Frankrijk. Op de Kalmthoutse Heide, Antwerpen, pleisterde op 2 maart kortstondig een juveniele **Zeearend** *Haliaeetus albicilla*. Op 27 april vloog een exemplaar eerst over Harchies, Hainaut, en later over Freyr, Namur. Op 14 april vloog een vroege **Grauwe Kiekendief** *Circus pygargus* over Kluisbergen-Berchem, Oost-Vlaanderen. Daarna was er nog een waarneming te Dudzele, West-Vlaanderen, en te Zandvoorde, West-Vlaanderen, op 21 april. Een (ondertussen erg zeldzame) **Ruigpootbuizerd** *Buteo lagopus* was op 20 maart aanwezig bij Antwerpen, Antwerpen. Een lichte vorm **Dwergarend** *Hieraetus pennatus* vloog op 22 april laag over Wuustwezel-Gooreind, Antwerpen. Na de eerste waarneming te Genk op 16 maart, vlogen er tot eind april 53 **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus* over België. Een Lannervalk *Falco biarmicus*-achtige hybride **grote valk** zorgde in de eerste helft van maart weer voor de nodige verwarring te Sint-Kruis-Winkel, Oost-Vlaanderen. Op 2 maart werd bij Eupen, Liège, een makke **Sakervalk** *F cherrug* ontdekt. Het totaal aantal broedparen van **Slechtvalk** *F peregrinus* in geheel België betrof dit voorjaar 25.

RALLEN TOT GORZEN **Porseleinhoenders** *Porzana porzana* waren weinig talrijk met slechts drie waarnemingen. Een gespreide trekgolf van **Kraanvogels** *Grus grus* bracht het totaal voor maart op bijna 1600 en in april werden er nog eens 56 waargenomen. Het leukst was de pleisterende groep van 12 – soms baltsende – vogels te Berlaar van 8 tot 18 april; twee onvolwassen vogels bleven ter plaatste tot in mei. De eerste **Steltkluut** *Himantopus himantopus* liet zich op 5 en 6 april bekijken te Bredene. Vanaf 19 april verbleven er twee bij

168 Grote Franjepoot / Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*, vrouwtje, Bredene, West-Vlaanderen, 24 april 2002 *(Koen Verbanck)*

Verrebroek, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 21 en 22 april een te Bredene en eveneens op 22 april twee bij Frasnes-Lez-Buissenal, Hainaut. De eerste drie **Temmincks Strandlopers** *Calidris temminckii* zaten vanaf 30 april te Mechelen. Een vroege adulte **Gestreepte Strandloper** *C melanotos* pleisterde van 28 tot 31 maart bij Pottes, Hainaut. De enige **Poelsnip** *Gallinago media* voor het voorjaar was tevens weggelegd voor Wallonië, op 10 en 12 april te Focant, Namur. Er werden 37 **IJslandse Grutto's** *Limosa limosa islandica* waargenomen. Op 13 april foerageerde een **Poelruiter** *Tringa stagnatilis* te Pecq, Hainaut. Een adult vrouwtje **Grote Franjepoot** *Phalaropus tricolor* in zomerkleed liet zich op 22 en 24 april zeer goed bekijken te Bredene. De eerste-winter **Rosse Franjepoot** *P fulicaria* te Oelegem, Antwerpen, werd daar op 4 maart voor het laatst gezien. Op 5 april werden bij Wuustwezel 269 adulte **Zwartkopmeeuwen** *Larus melanocephalus* geteld. Tot 2 maart verbleef een onvolwassen **Grote Burgemeester** *L hyperboreus* bij Gent; mogelijk dezelfde vogel werd op 11 maart gezien op de spaarbekkens van Kluizen, Oost-Vlaanderen. Het adulte exemplaar van Oostende, West-Vlaanderen, was daar tot zeker 10 maart aanwezig. Op 17 april vloog een adulte **Reuzenstern** *Sterna caspia* over Oudenaarde, Oost-Vlaanderen, en op 21 april langs Heist. Een (wellicht ontsnapte) **Oehoe** *Bubo bubo* was op 12 april aanwezig te Wechelderzande, Antwerpen, en werd overgebracht naar een vogelasiel. Het eerste-winter mannetje **Sneeuwuil** *Nyctea scandiaca* dat maandenlang eerst in Leffinge, West-Vlaanderen, en daarna op de kerk in Veurne, West-Vlaanderen, verbleef, werd op 19 april teruggevonden in Hippolytushoef, Noord-Holland, Nederland – zo bleek na grondige vergelijking van de foto's. Ook in Nederland bleek de vogel een trouwe kerkganger. Op 15 april was er nog een melding in Nieuwpoort, West-Vlaanderen. Er werden nog acht **Velduilen** *Asio flammeus* waargenomen. Op 13 april verbleef een **Hop** *Upupa epops* te Amougies, Hainaut. In de week erna volgden exemplaren bij Drongen, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 14 april; te Vlessart, Luxembourg, op 17 april; te Ukkel, Brussel, op 18 april; en te Wibrin, Luxembourg, op 20 april. Twee zeer vroege **Draaihalzen** *Jynx torquilla* zaten van 20 maart tot 1 april in een tuin in Rijmenam, Antwerpen. Op 4 april werd er een gezien in Turnhout, Antwerpen, op 18 april een te Brecht en op 21 april een te Geel. Op 22 april werd een exemplaar gemeld te Mariembourg, Namur. Op dezelfde datum vloog er een tegen een raam in Ezemaal, Vlaams-Brabant, en op 30 april deed een hetzelfde in Tongeren, Limburg. In totaal vier **Duinpiepers** *Anthus campestris* werden gemeld in de provincie Luxembourg: bij Lagland op 3 april, bij Jamoigne op 11 april, bij Termes op 12 april en in de streek Moyenne Semois op 21 april. Pleisterende exemplaren waren er te Tienen, Vlaams-Brabant, op 21 en 22 april en te Zeebrugge op 21 april. Verassend was de aanwezigheid van een druk foeragerende **Zwarte Buulbuul** *Hypsipetes madagascariensis* in de Haag van Heist. Een **Rode Rotslijster** *Monticola saxatilis* werd gemeld in de Haute-Fagnes, Liège, op 25 april maar bleef onbevestigd. Vanaf 27 maart werden in totaal 143 **Beflijsters** *Turdus torquatus* opgemerkt. In de Achterhaven van Zeebrugge blijft een zestal **Graszangers** *Cisticola juncidis* aanwezig. Een nieuwe zangpost werd op 22 april ontdekt in Bredene. Een **Iberische Tjiftjaf** *Phylloscopus brehmii* zong van 7 tot 9 april bij Mol-Wezel, Antwerpen. Een **Pallas' Boszanger** *P proregulus* zou gezien zijn te Gembloux, Namur, op 27 maart. Vanaf half maart werden de eerste **Buidelmezen** *Remiz pendulinus* waargenomen en met 38 exemplaren kunnen we eindelijk weer van een beter voorjaar voor de soort spreken. In maart en april werden in Vlaanderen 12 **Klapeksters** *Lanius excubitor* gezien, wat een behoorlijk aantal is. Het familiegroepje van vier kruisbekken *Loxia* op de Kalmthoutse Heide vertoonde na veel studie uiteindelijk toch meer kenmerken van **Kruisbek** *L curvirostra* dan van Grote Kruisbek *L pytyopsittacus*. De uitlopers van de invasie van **Goudvinken** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* en **Appelvinken** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* resulteerden in respectievelijk nog 25 en zes exemplaren in maart. Van 2 tot 5 maart pleisterden tot twee makke **IJsgorzen** *Calcarius lapponicus* te Kallo-Melsele en op 8 maart werd er één gezien bij Soignies, Hainaut. Een mannetje **Witkopgors** *Emberiza leucocephalos* op 9 maart te Roisin, Hainaut, was door het korte verblijf voor slechts één waarnemer weggelegd en hetzelfde geldt voor het mannetje **Grijze Gors** *E cia* dat op 5 april te Boeur, Luxembourg, werd gezien. Een **Dwerggors** *E pusilla* werd op 2 maart geringd te Hulste, West-Vlaanderen.

Deze waarnemingsrubriek kwam tot stand met medewerking van Luc Bekaert (Oost-Vlaanderen), Peter Collaerts (Vlaams-Brabant), Frank De Scheemaeker (Mergus), Hugues Dufourny (Hainaut), 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

Relationships of Dodo, Solitaire and Pink Pigeon Bizarre, flightless and extinct, the Dodo *Raphus cucullatus* of Mauritius is probably the most widely known and popular extinct bird. However, like many other island birds that became flightless and gained gigantic proportions, its relationships remained unresolved. A molecular study of 37 species of pigeons and doves, including the Dodo and the extinct Solitaire *Pezophaps solitaria* of Rodrigues, now appears to have resolved their relationships (Shapiro, B, Sibthorpe, D, Rambaut, A, Austin, J, Wragg, G M, Bininda-Emonds, O R P, Lee, P L M & Cooper, A 2002. Flight of the Dodo. Science 295: 1683). The study indicates that the Dodo and Solitaire are each other's closest relatives and that, despite the substantial differences in appearance between the Dodo, Solitaire and pigeons, the Dodo and Solitaire have their origins within the pigeon group. More specifically, the study suggests that Nicobar Pigeon *Caloenas nicobarica*, a South-East Asian species, is the closest relative of Dodo and Solitaire and that the crowned pigeons *Goura* of New Guinea are their next closest relatives. The Samoan Tooth-billed Pigeon *Didunculus strigirostris* is the most basal member of this group. From the molecular data, the authors calculated that Dodo/Solitaire and Nicobar Pigeon diverged about 42 million years ago and that the Dodo and the Solitaire separated about 25 million years ago. The latter date is interesting because it is much older than the islands of Mauritius (6.8-7.8 million years ago) and Rodrigues (1.5 million years ago) although it coincides with the first appearance of land in the area. The authors suggested that the two species have evolved elsewhere in the Mascarenes before they eventually found their way to Mauritius and Rodrigues. It is not known whether Dodo and Solitaire became flightless before or after they colonized these islands.

The relationships of another pigeon endemic to the Mascarenes, the Pink Pigeon *Nesoenas mayeri* of Mauritius, now also appear to be resolved. Pink Pigeon is often placed in the monotypic genus *Nesoenas* to emphasize its distinctive appearance or alternatively is placed in *Columba*. A new molecular study designed to determine the relationships of *Streptopelia* doves and *Columba* pigeons strongly indicates that the Pink Pigeon is a *Streptopelia* (Johnson, K P, de Kort, S, Dinwoodey, K, Mateman, A C, ten Cate, C, Lessells, C M & Clayton, D H 2001. A molecular phylogeny of the dove genera *Streptopelia* and *Columba*. Auk 118: 874-887). The study determined that Madagascar Turtle Dove *Streptopelia picturata* is the closest relative of Pink Pigeon. Although this result is not surprising given the geographic proximity of Madagascar and Mauritius, there are substantial morphological differences (size, neck pattern, plumage colour, bill colour). However, the close relationship of these two species is supported by their vocalizations. The perch coos of Madagascar Turtle Dove and Pink Pigeon are very similar (much more similar than other species pairs of *Streptopelia*) but differ strongly from other *Streptopelia* doves. The authors offered two possible explanations for the great similarity between the vocalizations of Madagascar Turtle Dove and Pink Pigeon. First, both species live in areas where no other species of *Streptopelia* occur; therefore there was no 'need' to evolve divergent vocalizations. Second, both species inhabit dense forests in which low-pitched vocalizations such as those of Madagascar Turtle Dove and Pink Pigeon propagate further. GEORGE SANGSTER

New species of antbird Explorations of certain sandy soil habitats in the drainages of the Ríos Tigre and Corrientes in north-eastern Peru have yielded four previously undescribed bird species. Two of these, Ancient Antwren *Herpsilochmus gentryi* and Mishana Tyrannulet *Zimmerius villarejoi* have already been named (cf Dutch Birding 20: 142-143, 1998; 24: 71-72, 2002). A third new species, Allpahuayo Antbird *Percnostola arenarum*, was recently added (Isler, M L, Alvarez Alonso, J, Isler, P R & Whitney, B M 2002. A new species of *Percnostola* antbird (Passeriformes: Thamnophilidae) from Amazonian Peru, and an analysis of species limits within *Percnostola rufifrons*. Wilson Bull 113: 164-176). (Please note that although the paper was published in the 'June 2001' issue of Wilson Bulletin, this issue was actually published in February 2002.) The new antbird is probably most closely related to Black-headed Antbird *P rufifrons*. Seven morphological differences, three vocal and two behavioural characteristics distinguish Allpahuayo Antbird from Black-headed Antbird. As with many other antbirds, the morphological differences are more pronounced in females than in males. Although present data suggest that the Río Napo separates the ranges of Allpahuayo and Black-headed Antbird, this requires substantiation. The authors conclude that Allpahuayo Antbird 'may occupy one of the most specialized habitat niches in the smallest geographic range of any thamnophilid antbird' (although they point out that the recently described Marsh Antbird *Stymphalornis acutirostris* of south-eastern Brazil may be another candidate for this distinction). GEORGE SANGSTER

Karel Voous 1920-2002 Op 31 januari 2002 overleed op 81-jarige leeftijd in zijn woonplaats Huizen, Noord-Holland, Karel H Voous, oud-hoogleraar Dierkunde aan de Vrije Universiteit te Amsterdam (1955-1975) en internationaal vermaard vogelkundige. Karel Voous werd geboren op 23 juni 1920 in Amsterdam. De eerste kennismaking met de vogelstudie vond plaats in de Nederlandse Jeugdbond voor Natuurstudie (NJN), District Amsterdam. Al op 15-jarige leeftijd publiceerde hij zijn eerste artikelen over vogels in *De Levende Natuur* en in *De Inktzwam* en *Amoeba* (respectievelijk

het plaatselijke en landelijke NJN-orgaan). Hij studeerde biologie aan de Gemeente-Universiteit van Amsterdam (1938-1945); in 1940 werd hij assistent van professor De Beaufort en werkte hij aan het ordenen en uitbreiden van de ornithologische collectie, wat na de Tweede Wereldoorlog geleidelijk tot een aanzienlijke verbetering van de balgenverzameling leidde. Vanaf 1947 tot 1963 was hij conservator vogels van het Zoölogisch Museum Amsterdam (ZMA). In die functie ontwikkelde hij zijn interesse voor de zoögeografie en in het bijzonder de geografische verspreiding van vogels. Op dit terrein schreef hij diverse boeken waaronder zijn proefschrift over de historische verspreiding van het genus *Dendrocopos* (1947), een boek over de vogels van de Nederlandse Antillen (1955) en het fraai geïllustreerde standaardwerk *Atlas van de Europese vogels* (1960). Gezondheidsproblemen beperkten reeds in die periode de tijd en energie die voor de ornithologie beschikbaar waren en zouden tot op de laatste dag een stempel drukken op zijn leven; zijn vroegtijdige pensionering als hoogleraar in 1975 was een direct gevolg van zijn teruglopende gezondheid.

Karel Voous speelde een belangrijke rol in de nationale en internationale natuur- en vogelbescherming en vervulde op dat terrein tal van bestuurlijke functies. Zo bracht hij een fusie tot stand van de sinds 1911 gescheiden optrekkende Nederlandse Ornithologische Vereniging en de Club van Nederlandse Vogelkundigen, tot Nederlandse Ornithologische Unie (1957). Hij was lid van de Natuurbeschermingsraad en medeorganisator van het Natuurbeschermingsjaar 1970 en het 15e Internationale Ornithologische Congres in Den Haag in hetzelfde jaar. Vanaf de jaren 1960 kwam hij in het bijzonder op voor de bescherming van roofvogels, weidevogels en ganzen. Voor zijn werk ontving hij verscheidene erelidmaatschappen, onder meer van Vogelbescherming Nederland en van de Britse (BOU) en de Nederlandse Ornithologische Unie (NOU). Karel Voous was verder een stuwende kracht achter de oprichting op 13 april 1957 van de eerste Europese dwaalgastencommissie, de Commissie Nederlandse Avifauana (CNA).

Zijn bijzondere wetenschappelijke belangstelling gold de diersystematiek, in het bijzonder de taxonomische ordening van vogels naar genus, soort en ondersoort. Op dit vlak stelde hij een internationaal gezaghebbende lijst samen (*List of recent Holarctic bird species*, 1977). Als 'klassieker' heeft deze lijst decennialang houvast geboden in de systematiek van de vogels van het Noordelijk Halfrond; pas sinds enkele jaren leidden nieuwe taxonomische inzichten gebaseerd op bijvoorbeeld studies naar geluiden en op DNA-onderzoek tot voorstellen voor aanpassingen van de lijst. Naast zijn meer dan 300 wetenschappelijke publicaties op ornitho-geografisch terrein schreef hij gedurende 15 jaren artikelenreeksen voor een groter publiek in het blad van Vogelbescherming over roofvogels en moerasvogels, die later gebundeld werden in de boeken *Roofvogels en uilen van Europa* (1986) en *Moerasvogels van Europa* (1992). In 1983 verscheen de Engelse editie van het 28 jaar eerder uitgegeven boek over vogels van de Nederlandse Antillen. Zijn boek *Owls of the Northern Hemisphere* werd in 1989 door de redactie van British Birds uitgeroepen tot 'Best Bird Book of the Year'. Vanaf de tweede helft van de jaren 1980 werkte hij aan een biografisch naslagwerk over de ontwikkeling van de Nederlandse ornithologie, in de vorm van levensbeschrijvingen van c 550 Nederlandse beroepsornithologen en vogelaars (*In de ban van vogels*, 1995). Vanaf het eerste begin tot en met de publicatie van het laatste deel in 1993 was hij ook nauw betrokken bij de uitgave van de negen delen van *The Birds of the Western Palearctic* (BWP).

De opkomst van de Dutch Birding Association (DBA) en *Dutch Birding* en de toenemende interesse voor het waarnemen van zeldzame vogels bezag Karel Voous aanvankelijk met een flinke dosis scepsis. In latere jaren herkende hij de gedrevenheid van de nieuwe generatie vogelaars die in feite nauw aansloot bij zijn eigen drang naar het verzamelen én verspreiden van kennis. Zijn aanbod om het voorwoord te schrijven in *Zeldzame vogels van Nederland – Rare birds of the Netherlands. Avifauna van Nederland 1* (1999, 2001) kan als een vorm van erkenning worden gezien voor de inspanningen van de DBA en *Dutch Birding* om de kennis over herkenning, voorkomen en systematiek van (zeldzame) vogels naar een hoger niveau te brengen. Tekenend voor de betrokkenheid van Karel Voous is dat hij in dit voorwoord niet na kon laten om zijn twijfels te uiten over de 'moderne' systematiek die in de *Avifauna* gehanteerd wordt. Zijn overlijden betekent een groot verlies voor de Nederlandse en internationale ornithologie. RUUD J J VLEK & ENNO B EBELS

KAREL VOOUS 1920-2002 On 31 January 2002, Karel H Voous died at the age of 81. Karel Voous was one of the most prominent Dutch ornithologists and published numerous papers and several books on various ornithological subjects and was active in many aspects of bird conservation. He is well known for his *List of recent Holarctic bird species* (1977) (the 'Voous list') and his involvement with *The Birds of the Western Palearctic* (BWP).

Alpengierzwaluw in Lauwersmeer – geen 1-aprilgrap

Op maandag 1 april 2002 reed ik rond 13:30 met mijn vriendin langs de dijk ten oosten van Lauwersoog, Groningen. Aangekomen bij het zogeheten Zoute-Kwelgebied checkte ik de grote groep Rotganzen *Branta bernicla* en steltlopers. Na een paar minuten keek ik met het blote oog over het gebied en tot mijn grote verbazing zag ik op enkele meters afstand een Alpengierzwaluw *Apus melba* langsvliegen. Ik hoorde op dat moment mijn vriendin roepen: 'He, een zwaluw!'. Ze had net de vriendin van Roef Mulder aan de telefoon en nadat ik duidelijk maakte dat het hier ging om een zekere Alpengierzwaluw riep zij naar Roef dat hij direct naar het Zoute-Kwelgebied moest rijden. De waarneming werd zo snel mogelijk doorgepiept; Justin Jansen en Wim Nap, die net twee koppen koffie in Lauwersoog hadden gedronken, konden de plek binnen enkele minuten bereiken. De vogel vloog nog

steeds boven het gebied en verdween regelmatig buitendijks om daarna toch weer binnendijks terug te keren, zodat ik een flink aantal foto's kon maken. Het leek erop dat de vogel nog wel een tijdje zou blijven hangen maar niets bleek minder waar. Nadat JJ, RM en WN de vogel enkele minuten boven de kustlijn in oostelijke richting hadden zien vliegen, verdween deze rond 14:00 langzaam uit beeld. De overige toegesnelde vogelaars probeerden op verschillende plekken langs de Groningse kust de vogel alsnog op te pikken maar dit leverde helaas niets meer op.

Deze waarneming betreft ten minste het 36e geval en de vroegste ooit voor Nederland – enkele waarnemingen uit 2001 zijn nog niet ingediend of nog in roulatie bij de CDNA. De vroegste Alpengierzwaluw tot dusver was op 16 april 1984 te Schoonrewoerd, Utrecht. Slechts één geval had betrekking op meer dan één vogel (twee bij Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland, op 3 oktober 1981) en slechts één geval op een vogel die meer dan één dag in het veld werd gezien (bij Zaandam, Noord-Holland, op 28 en 29 oktober 1987). In Brittannië en Ierland werden dit voorjaar in de laatste week van maart en eerste week van april meer dan 25 Alpengierzwaluwen gezien. ERIC KOOPS

ALPINE SWIFT On 1 April 2002, an Alpine Swift *Apus melba* was seen for c 30 min at Lauwersmeer, Groningen, the Netherlands. This is at least the 36th record (and 37th individual) and the earliest bird ever by more than two weeks.

Kleine Topper op vloeivelden van Groningen Op vrijdag 24 mei 2002 besloot ik om 's avonds nog even naar de vloeivelden van Hoogkerk in de stad Groningen, Groningen, te gaan. Het is privé-terrein van de Suikerunie Groningen maar ik heb al enkele jaren een vergunning om het gebied te bezoeken. Het was er vrij rustig: geen steltlopers en weinig zwaluwen maar de broedende Geoorde Futen *Podiceps nigricollis*, Kokmeeuwen *Larus ridibundus* en Visdieven *Sterna hirundo* zorgden dat er toch genoeg te beleven was. Omdat de bakken met water erg voedselrijk zijn foerageren er het hele jaar door veel eenden. Ik hoopte de Krooneend *Netta rufina* te vinden die er al enige tijd verbleef en die mogelijk in het gebied broedt. Tijdens het scannen van de laatste cascadevijver zag ik een topper *Aythya* die mij wat postuur betreft sterk deed denken aan een Kleine Topper *A affinis*. De vogel zwom tussen c 60 Kuifeenden *A fuligula*. Beducht voor een eventuele hybride besloot ik dichterbij te sluipen. Ondertussen waarschuwde ik enkele Groningse vogelaars. Na ruim anderhalf uur zorgvuldige bestudering van alle kenmerken – zoals de tweekleurige (grijs-witte) vleugelstreep, de smalle zwarte nagel aan de snavel, de overwegend paarsblauwe gloed op de kop en de karakteristieke schubtekening op de bovendelen – was ik om 20:45 zeker van mijn zaak. Ik had toen al gezien dat de vogel ongeringd was. Ruim 15 vogelaars konden de vogel nog voor het donker zien. De vogel trok op met een paartje Kuifeenden en baltste af en toe; het mannetje Kuifeend kon dit niet echt waarderen en joeg de Kleine Topper regelmatig weg. De volgende ochtend was de vogel niet aanwezig maar rond 18:00 vond ik hem weer terug op de vloeivelden. Die avond konden c 50 vogelaars de vogel zien en documenteren, met dank aan de directie van de Suikerunie die toestond dat vogelaars het terrein onder begeleiding van vergunninghouders betraden. Gelukkig vond Dušan Brinkhuizen de vogel op zondag 26 mei al iets na 15:00 terug zodat iedereen die dat graag wilde de vogel kon zien, dankzij de 'bezoekregeling' die getroffen was: c 60 mensen maakten gebruik van de pendeldiensten tussen de hoofdingang van de Suikerunie en de plek waar de vogel zich bevond. Op 27 mei zag ik de vogel – voor het laatst – nog kort aan het begin van de avond.

Het betreft de vierde Kleine Topper voor Nederland. Eerdere gevallen waren van 21 november 1994 tot 21 juni 1995 op verschillende locaties in Zeeland, op 13 januari 1996 bij Lelystad-Haven, Flevoland, en van 20 december 1999 tot 15 januari 2000 op het Haringvliet en bij Spuimond, Zuid-Holland (alleen twitchbaar op de laatste datum). In Brittannië zijn Kleine Toppers tegenwoordig een 'gewone' verschijning met waarnemingen gedurende het hele jaar en van meerdere exemplaren per jaar.

Dank gaat allereerst uit naar de directie van de Suikerunie en verder naar Dick en Dušan Brinkhuizen voor het belangeloos opofferen van het weekend om te zoeken en later te pendelen en ten slotte de vogelaars voor het nette gedrag door zich aan de afspraken te houden. MARTIN P OLTHOFF

LESSER SCAUP On 24-27 May 2002, a male Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* was present in Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands. This is the fourth record; earlier records were in 1994/95, 1996 and 1999/2000.

Lammergier bekroont giereninflux Het afdwalen van gieren naar Nederland in voorjaar en zomer is sinds enkele jaren een 'normaal' verschijnsel aan het worden. In mei 2002 waren er verschillende meldingen van Vale Gieren *Gyps fulvus* in een- of tweetallen die maar weinig ophef veroorzaakten. Dat veranderde pas toen een vogelende zweefvlieger op 31 mei 's middags verzeild raakte in een groep van 15 Vale Gieren boven Kaatsheuvel, Noord-Brabant. Een groep van vergelijkbare omvang was slechts één keer eerder in Nederland gezien (18 exemplaren in Zuid-Holland en Zeeland in juli 2001). Die avond rond 19:40 zag Frank Wissing een groep van 20 Vale Gieren boven Ellewicker Wiesen bij het Zwillbrocker Venn in Duitsland, net over de grens van Overijssel. Op 1 juni ontdekte Bert de Bruin rond 13:30 met het blote oog een aantal zeer grote vogels boven de stad Groningen, Groningen. Hij belde Eric Koops die vanuit zijn huis de groep kon oppikken en determineren als 15 Vale Gieren. Eén Vale Gier werd even later gezien bij Mensingeweer, Groningen. Weer een dag later, op 2 juni, werden ten minste 20 Vale Gieren geteld in Noord-Nederland. Twee exemplaren vlogen om 12:15 over Wijster, Drenthe. Een groep van maximaal 17 exemplaren (ver-

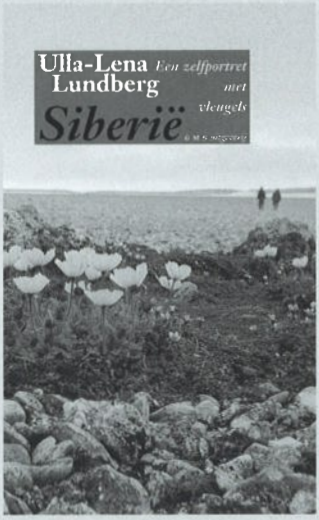
moedelijk de 'aangegroeide' groep van 15) werd om c 13:00 boven Leeuwarden, Friesland, gezien en kon bijna drie uur lang door enkele 10-tallen waarnemers worden gevolgd tijdens hun tocht door Friesland, van Leeuwarden via Bergum, Drachten en Beetsterzwaag naar Gorredijk. Hier verdwenen de vogels (inmiddels gesplitst in groepen van zeven en 10) om c 15:45 uit het zicht, hoog afglijdend in zuidwestelijke richting. Om 15:30 werd één vale Gier ontdekt bij paal 26 op Terschelling, Friesland. Deze vogel was daar op 3 juni nog aanwezig. Van 4-8 juni verbleven minimaal 16 vogels bij Nokere, Oost-Vlaanderen, België; waarschijnlijk ging het om dezelfde groep.

Op zondag 2 juni bleek er nog een veel zeldzamere gierensoort door Nederland te zwerven. Om 10:45 werd een onvolwassen Lammergier *Gypaetus barbatus* gemeld over de Lepelaarsplassen, Flevoland. Om c 12:00 ontdekte Reinoud Vermoolen vermoedelijk hetzelfde exemplaar dat hoogte won boven het infiltratiegebied Castricum, Noord-Holland, en in noordelijke richting verdween; hij meldde zijn waarneming via het semafoonsysteem. Vroeg in de middag werd deze vogel met meer of minder grote zekerheid gemeld boven Hargen, Noord-Holland, en over de Mokbaai op Texel, Noord-Holland. Pas laat in de avond kwam de bevestiging dat de vogel in de loop van de middag op Texel geland was en in de Slufter verbleef. Daar konden c 20 Texelse vogelaars de gier vanaf 21:00 tot donker bekijken. Zij stelden vast dat de vogel geen gebleekte pennen of andere verdachte kenmerken had. Daarom stonden de volgende ochtend in Den Helder c 60 vogelaars bij de eerste boot naar Texel. Om 06:00 kon Erik Menkveld hen al verblijden met de melding dat de vogel nog aanwezig en weer zichtbaar was. In de loop van de dag werd de Lammergier op verschillende plekken op de noordpunt van Texel gezien door een constante stroom vogelaars. Later op de dag keerde hij terug naar de Slufter – waar een met dank aan Staatsbosbeheer georganiseerde excursie nog net voor een hoosbui succesvol was. Op 4 juni werd de vogel rond 07:30 weer gemeld en tot c 11:30 gezien; toen verdween de vogel in zuidoostelijke richting. Om 21:40 zou de vogel gezien zijn boven het station van Haarlem, Noord-Holland. Op grond van de donkere kop en gevlekte bovendelen was hij niet meer dan drie jaar oud. Op basis van het ruipatroon betrof het waarschijnlijk een twee jaar oude vogel (derde kalenderjaar). Gedurende de twee dagen op Texel werd een aantal malen met zekerheid vastgesteld dat de vogel ongeringd was. Eventuele gebleekte pennen kunnen na twee jaar geruid zijn; voor zover bekend zijn alle gemarkeerde vogels echter ook voorzien van (kleur)ringen. Daarmee lijkt niets de aanvaarding als eerste wilde Lammergier voor Nederland in de weg te staan.

Eerdere gevallen van in gevangenschap geboren en in het kader van herintroductieprogramma's uitgezette Lammergieren hadden al aangetoond dat ook deze gierensoort ver naar het noorden kan afdwalen; in Nederland werden gemerkte vogels waargenomen in mei 1997 (twee; Dutch Birding 19: 121-123, 1997) en mei 1998 (tenminste één; Dutch Birding 21: 327-328, 1999, Vogelaar 47: 277-278, 1999). In mei 2001 werd een ongeringd en ongemarkeerd exemplaar gezien op Rügen, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Duitsland (Dutch Birding 23: 221, plaat 240, 2001). Enno B Ebels

169 Lammergier / Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*, onvolwassen, Texel, Noord-Holland, 3 juni 2002 *(Marten van Dijl)*

Lammergeier and Eurasian Griffon Vultures On 31 May and 1-2 June 2002, several Eurasian Griffon Vultures *Gyps fulvus* were seen in the Netherlands: a group of 15 over Kaatsheuvel, Noord-Brabant, on 31 May and over Groningen, Groningen, on 1 June. Probably the same group, increased to 17, was seen on 2 June at various places in Friesland. On the same day, two were seen over Wijster, Drenthe, and one stayed overnight on Terschelling, Friesland. On 4-8 June, at least 16 were at Nokere, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Also on 2 June, an immature Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus* was first seen over Flevoland and mainland Noord-Holland before making landfall on Texel, Noord-Holland. This bird was seen until 4 June; since it was unmarked and unringed, it was visited by numerous birders and is likely to become accepted as the first wild Lammergeier for the Netherlands. There are previous records in 1997 (two) and 1998 (at least one) of released captive-bred birds from reintroduction schemes. These birds have not been admitted to the Dutch list.



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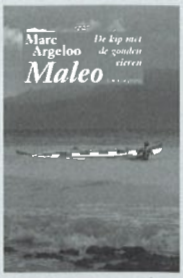

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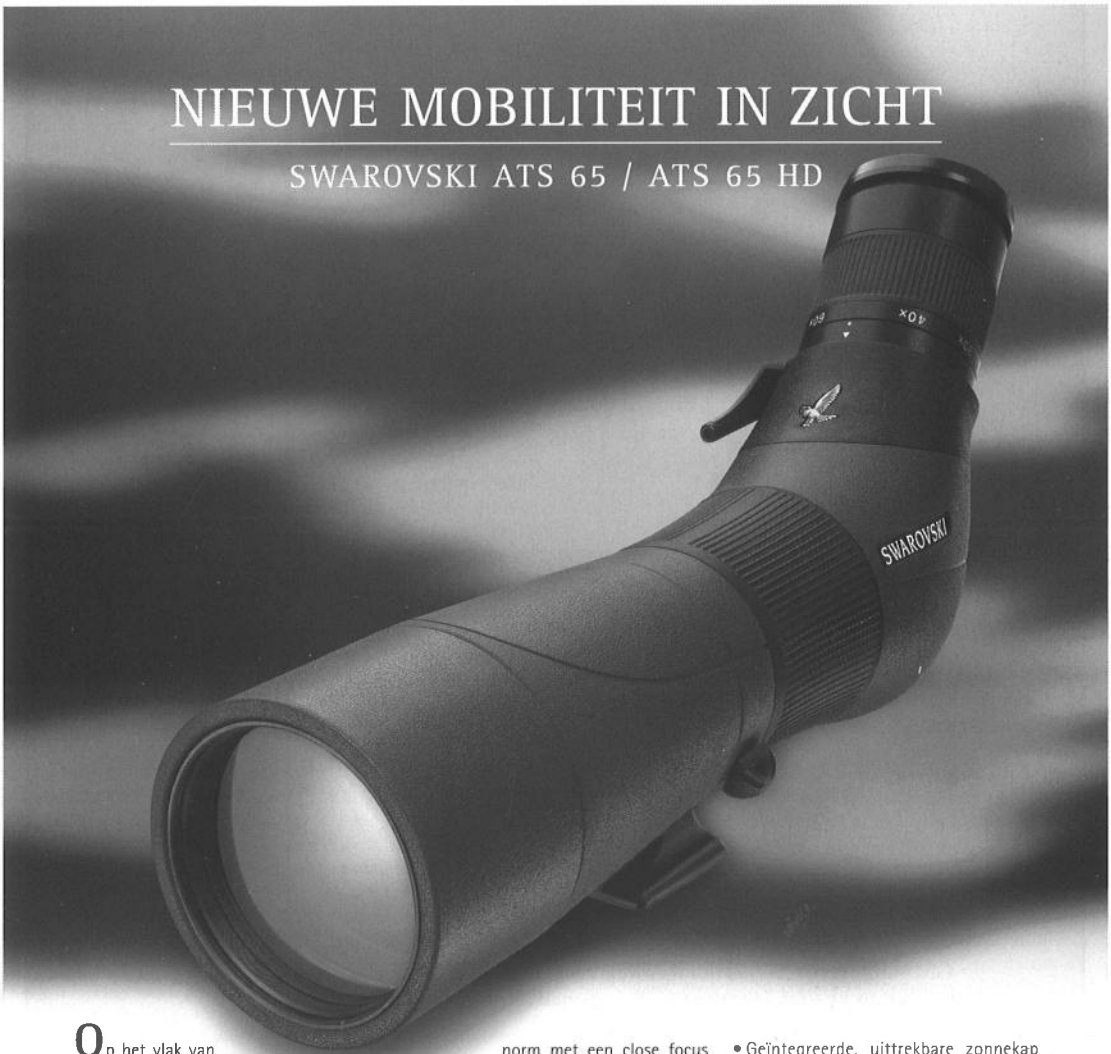

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Production and lay-out André van Loon and René Pop

Advertising Laurens Steijn, c/o Dutch Birding, Postbus 75611, 1070 AP Amsterdam e-mail advertising@dutchbirding.nl

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Printed by Drukkerij Rob Stolk bv, Mauritskade 55, 1092 AD Amsterdam, Netherlands

Dutch Birding

International journal on Palearctic birds

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Ruigpootbuizerd / Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus,* Indigirkadelta, Chukotka, Rusland, juli 1999 *(Chris Schenk)*

Abstracted & indexed in

Ecological Abstracts, GEOBASE (Geo Abstracts Database), Ornithologische Schriftenschau, Recent Ornithological Literature, Wildlife Review, Zoological Record