DUTCH BIRDING

VOLUME 27 • NO 4 • 2005

Dutch Birding

Internationaal tijdschrift over Palearctische vogels

Redactie
Dutch Birding
Postbus 116
2080 AC Santpoort-Zuid
Nederland
fax 023-5376749
e-mail editors@dutchbirding.nl

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

Abonnementenadministratie
p/a Jeannette Admiraal
Iepenlaan 11
1901 ST Castricum
Nederland
e-mail circulation@dutchbirding.nl

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

Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna
CDNA
Postbus 45
2080 AA Santpoort-Zuid
Nederland
e-mail cdna@dutchbirding.nl

Commissie Systematiek Nederlandse Avifauna
CSNA, p/a George Sangster
Stevenshof 17
2312 GM Leiden
Nederland
e-mail csna@dutchbirding.nl

Telefoonlijnen
0900-BIRDING (= 0900-2473464)
(vogellijn, EUR 0.35/min)
010-4281212 (inspreeklijn)

Internet
www.dutchbirding.nl

Dutch Birding

Hoofdredacteur Arnoud van den Berg (tel 023-5378024, e-mail arnoud.van.den.berg@dutchbirding.nl)

Adjunct hoofdredacteur Enno Ebels (tel 030-2961335, e-mail enno.ebels@dutchbirding.nl)

Uitvoerend redacteur André van Loon (tel / fax 020-6997585, e-mail andre.van.loon@dutchbirding.nl)

Fotografisch redacteur René Pop (tel 0222-316801, fax 0222-316802, e-mail rene.pop@dutchbirding.nl)

Redactieraad Peter Adriaens, Marten van Dijl, Ferdy Hieselaar, Magnus Robb, Roy Slaterus, Roland van der Vliet en Rik Winters

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Advertenties Laurens Steijn, p/a Dutch Birding, Postbus 75611, 1070 AP Amsterdam
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Drukkerij robstolk©, Mauritskade 55, 1092 AD Amsterdam, Nederland

Dutch Birding

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

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

Executive editor André van Loon (tel / fax +31-206997585, e-mail andre.van.loon@dutchbirding.nl)

Photographic editor René Pop (tel +31-222316801, fax +31-222316802, e-mail rene.pop@dutchbirding.nl)

Editorial board Peter Adriaens, Marten van Dijl, Ferdy Hieselaar, Magnus Robb, Roy Slaterus, Roland van der Vliet and Rik Winters

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

The sequence of birds in Dutch Birding basically follows a classic 'Wetmore sequence'. Within this framework, the following lists are used for taxonomy and nomenclature: *Rare birds of the Netherlands* by A B van den Berg & C A W Bosman (2001, Haarlem) (taxonomy and scientific, Dutch and English names of birds recorded in the Netherlands); *Palearctic birds* by M Beaman (1994, Stonyhurst) (English names of remaining Palearctic birds); *Vogels van de wereld – complete checklist* by M Walters (1997, Baarn) (Dutch names of remaining birds of the world); and *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world* (third edition) by E C Dickinson (editor) (2003, London) (taxonomy and scientific and English names of remaining birds of the world). For deviations from and additions to these lists see Dutch Birding 19: 21-28, 1997; 20: 22-32, 1998; 24: 22-24, 2002; 25: 49-50, 2003; 26: 49-51, 2004; 27: 42-43, 2005.

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

Dutch Birding

International journal on Palearctic birds

Editors
Dutch Birding
Postbus 116
2080 AC Santpoort-Zuid
Netherlands
fax +31-235376749
e-mail editors@dutchbirding.nl

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

Subscription administration
c/o Jeannette Admiraal
Iepenlaan 11
1901 ST Castricum
Netherlands
e-mail circulation@dutchbirding.nl

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

Dutch rarities committee
CDNA
Postbus 45
2080 AA Santpoort-Zuid
Netherlands
e-mail cdna@dutchbirding.nl

Dutch committee for avian systematics
CSNA, c/o George Sangster
Stevenshof 17
2312 GM Leiden
Netherlands
e-mail csna@dutchbirding.nl

Internet
www.dutchbirding.nl

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Hybridization between Blue-headed Wagtail and Ashy-headed Wagtail in Switzerland

Manuel Schweizer

The yellow wagtail *Motacilla* complex shows an extraordinary geographical variation. Alström et al (2003) and Alström & Mild (2004) recognized 13 subspecies grouped into eight species, which are mostly or only differentiated in the head pattern of males in breeding plumage. According to Ödeen & Björklund (2003), this morphological diversification is apparently of recent evolutionary origin and due to post-glacial founder-effect mechanisms. The breeding areas of the different species overlap only marginally and in most cases neighbouring taxa hybridize where they meet (Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer 1985, Dubois 2001, Alström et al 2003). For recent proposals on the systematic and taxonomic status of yellow wagtails, see Sangster et al (1998, 1999), Alström et al (2003), Alström & Mild (2004), Barthel & Helbig (2005) and Helbig (2005).

Blue-headed Wagtail *M flava* (hereafter *flava*) breeds in western and central Europe and Ashy-headed Wagtail *M cinereocapilla* (hereafter *cinereocapilla*) in Italy (including Sardinia and Sicily), south-western Slovenia and in north-western Croatia (Alström et al 2003). In France, *flava* and *cinereocapilla* hybridize in the Durance valley, Vaucluse and in northern Bouches-du-Rhône. Birds with intermediate characters have also been observed in Franche-Comté and Rhône-Alpes (Dubois 2001, Alström et al 2003). Hybridization between *flava* and *cinereocapilla* has been recorded in northernmost Italy, southern Austria, western Croatia and possibly in western Bosnia (Alström et al 2003).

The first breeding of yellow wagtail in Switzerland was recorded in 1947 (Thönen 1948). Nowadays, only few areas harbour stable breeding populations (Schmid et al 1998). Initially, most males showed features intermediate between *flava* and *cinereocapilla* or close to *cinereocapilla* (Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer 1985). At present, most birds belong to *flava* while *cinereocapilla* can be found only sporadically (Schmid et al 1998). *Flava* dominates in north-eastern Switzerland (Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer 1985). Alström et al (2003) mention southernmost Switzerland as a possible hybridization zone between *flava* and *cinereocapilla*.

However, when studying a breeding population of c 51 pairs in 2003 in Seeland, Bern/Fribourg, western Switzerland (figure 1), most males could not be assigned to a species, being intermediate between *flava* and *cinereocapilla*. The main aim of this paper is to document the plumage variation of these intermediate birds. It is hoped that it may also contribute to a better

FIGURE 1 Location of population of yellow wagtails *Motacilla* studied in Seeland, Bern/Fribourg, Switzerland, in May-June 2003 (black circle)

FIGURE 2 Schematic head pattern of male yellow wagtail *Motacilla* indicating supercilium length and amount of yellow on throat

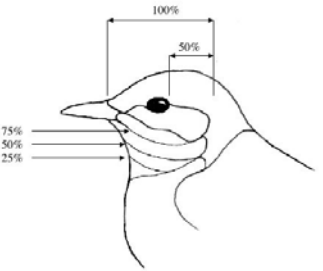

TABLE 1 Head pattern of male yellow wagtails *Motacilla* studied in Seeland, Bern/Fribourg, Switzerland, in May-June 2003

male	date	supercilium	upperhead	ear-coverts	throat	comment
1	29 May	almost 100%, as wide as bill-base behind eye, narrower in front of eye	as *flava*	as upperhead, front end washed-out whitish	c 90% yellow, rest whitish	*flava*
2	28 May	100%, as wide as bill-base behind eye, 50% narrower in front of eye	as *flava*	as upperhead	c 30% washed-out yellow	throat wrong for *flava*
3	30 May	100%, as wide as bill-base behind eye, narrower in front of eye	as *flava*	as upperhead, washed-out whitish spot at lower end	white	throat wrong for *flava*
4	31 May	100%, as wide as bill-base behind eye, very narrow in front of eye	as *flava*	as upperhead, brighter below eye	c 75% yellow	supercilium in front of eye wrong for *flava*
5	31 May	almost 100%, as wide as bill-base behind eye, very narrow in front of eye	as *flava*	as upperhead, brighter below eye	white	supercilium in front of eye and throat wrong for *flava*
6	29 May	75% on right, 90% on left head-side, as wide as bill-base behind eye, narrower in front of eye, some small white spots on dark loral area	as *flava*	as upperhead, two white half-moon spots below eye, larger on right head-side	c 80% yellow	extension of supercilium not symmetrical and wrong for *flava*
7	31 May	a bit more than 50%, just begins at front end of eye, wider than bill-base behind eye	as *flava*, possibly a bit paler	as upperhead	c 50% yellow	supercilium and throat wrong for *flava*
8	31May	100%, as wide as bill-base behind eye, a bit narrower in front of eye	as *flava*	darker than upperhead, especially rear end very dark, white half-moon spot below eye	white	ear-coverts and throat wrong for *flava*
9	31 May	75%, as wide as bill-base behind eye, a bit narrower in front of eye	as *flava*	darker than upperhead	c 80% yellow	ear-coverts and supercilium wrong for *flava*
10	29 May	100%, as wide as bill-base behind eye, narrower in front of eye	a little darker than *flava*	as upperhead	less than 25% yellowish	head too dark and throat wrong for *flava*
11	6 June	100%, a bit narrower than bill-base, tapering towards rear end	darker than *flava*	a bit darker than upperhead	75% buff-yellowish, same colour on upperbreast	head too dark and throat wrong for *flava*
12	31 May	only a bit paler just behind eye	darker than *flava*	as upperhead, no white eye-ring below eye	white, upperbreast whitish as well	*cinereocapilla*
13	29 May	50%, very small white spot in front of eye, larger on right head-side	darker than *flava*	as upperhead	white	close to *cinereocapilla* but supercilium too extensive and not symmetrical
14	29 May	95%, widest above eye, tapering at rear end, very narrow in front of eye, on left head-side with white spot above rear end	a little darker than *flava*	a little darker than upperhead	less than 25% yellowish	supercilium and throat wrong for *cinereocapilla*, head too dark for *flava*
15	31 May	a bit more than 50%, reaches middle of eye, as wide as bill-base behind eye tapering towards rear end	as *flava*	a little darker than upperhead	white	head too pale and supercilium wrong for *cinereocapilla*

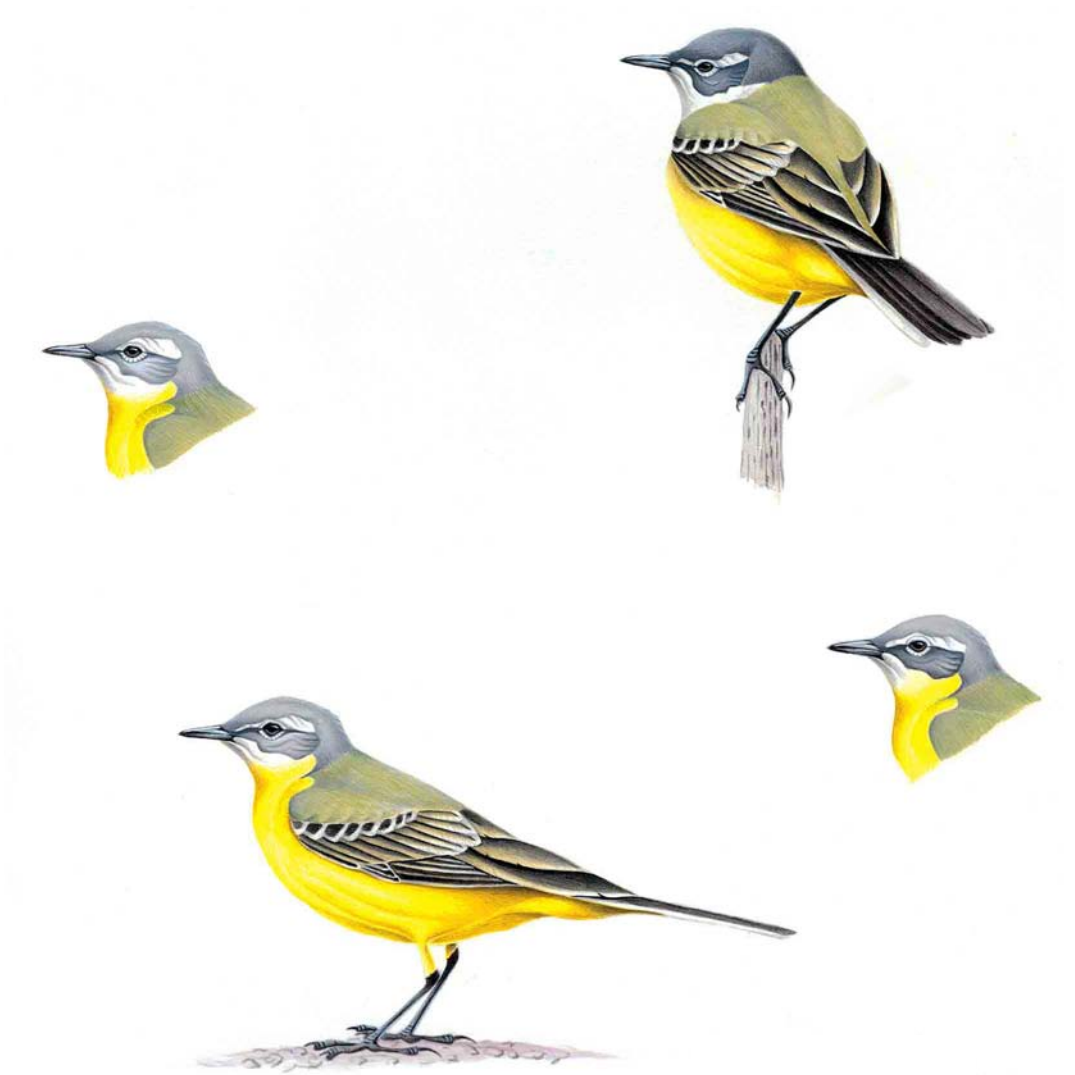

FIGURE 3 Four different intermediate male yellow wagtails *Motacilla (Manuel Schweizer)*. Top left: male 7 (table 1), supercilium a bit more than 50%, head similar to *flava*, yellow on 50% of throat; top right: male 13, supercilium 50% with white spot in front of eye, head darker than in *flava*, throat white; bottom left: male 6, supercilium c 90% on left head-side, yellow on c 80% of throat; bottom right male 9, supercilium 75%, upperhead as in *flava,* ear-coverts darker, yellow on c 80% of throat

understanding of the identification of yellow wagtails, especially of extralimital birds.

Materials and methods

Between 28 May and 6 June 2003, the plumage of as many breeding males as possible was described. Most breeding pairs had already been found between 15 and 24 May 2003 during a monitoring project of the Swiss Ornithological Institute Sempach (P Mosimann-Kampe and S Strebel). All studied males showed territorial behaviour, such as singing, alarming or fighting with neighbouring males; one male was seen flying with food to a possible nest site. This, together with the fact that most territories were already occupied on 15 May, excluded the pos-

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293 Ashy-headed Wagtail / Italiaanse Kwikstaart *M cinereocapilla*, male, Les Grangettes, Noville, Vaud, Switzerland, 17 April 1999 *(Jean-Marc Fivat)*. Typical bird with only hint of supercilium behind eye. Note lack of white eye-ring below eye.
294 Possible hybrid Blue-headed x Ashy-headed Wagtail / mogelijke hybride Gele x Italiaanse Kwikstaart *Motacilla flava x cinereocapilla*, male, Chablais de Cudrefin, Vaud, Switzerland, 1 May 2005 *(Andreas Gygax)*. This bird was photographed close to the location of the studied population. Ear-coverts slightly darker than crown and nape and supercilium rather thin in front of eye and only hardly reaching bill-base. Note completely white throat.
295 Possible hybrid Blue-headed x Ashy-headed Wagtail / mogelijke hybride Gele x Italiaanse Kwikstaart *Motacilla flava x cinereocapilla*, male, Witzwil, Bern, Switzerland, 13 April 2005 *(Andreas Gygax)*. This bird was photographed close to the location of the studied population. Head too dark for typical *flava* and supercilium rather thin. Note green feather-tips in rear crown, which can often be seen in fresh birds.
296 Possible hybrid Iberian x Ashy-headed Wagtail / mogelijke hybride Iberische x Italiaanse Kwikstaart *Motacilla iberiae x cinereocapilla*, male, Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, France, 6 May 2005 *(Reto Burri)*. The supercilium is too extensive for *cinereocapilla* but it would be complete in a typical *iberiae*.

sibility of migrating birds being involved.

The head pattern was described in detail, thereby using a schematic picture (figure 2). The supercilium length (as a percentage of that in a 'standard' *flava*) and the amount of yellow on the throat (as a percentage of the total throat area) were assessed. The colour of the upperhead (forehead, crown and nape) was compared with that of a breeding male *flava* depicted in Svensson et al (1999). This colour was judged to be comparable with a value of 6-7 on the Kodak Grey Scale in (my copy of) Svensson et al (1999). The colour of the ear-coverts and that of the upperhead were compared.

The head pattern was judged using the following descriptions of *flava* and *cinereocapilla* (adapted from Alström et al 2003).

flava

Supercilium white and conspicuous, rather broad

and running from bill-base to rear end of ear-coverts. Ear-coverts concolorous with upperhead, often with diffuse white subocular area or more sharply defined stripe reaching down to lower ear-coverts; uniform ear-coverts in some birds. Usually with white eye-ring broken in front of and behind eye. Throat and lower nape-sides yellow, concolorous with underparts. White stripe of varying length on throat-sides along front end of ear-coverts in many birds. Throat sometimes paler yellow, occasionally whitish, especially in first-summer birds.

cinereocapilla
No supercilium at all or just faint suggestion behind or above eye. Grey of head darker than in *flava*, similar to Grey-headed Wagtail *M thunbergi*. Ear-coverts similarly coloured to upperhead but darker on some birds. Throat white and sharply demarcated from yellow breast. White eye-ring below eye and white subocular area usually lacking.

Results
Only one bird showed all features of *flava* (male 1, table 1). Two birds were very close to *flava* but showed too much white on the throat (males 2-3). They were considered to be just within the variation of *flava* or first-summer birds. Eight more birds were close to *flava* but differed in the following aspects. Two birds showed a complete supercilium that, however, was only very narrow in front of the eye (males 4-5); one of these birds also showed a white throat (male 5). Another bird close to *flava* showed an almost complete supercilium on the left head-side (90% of full length) while on the right head-side the supercilium reached only 75% (male 6, figure 3). In one bird, the supercilium reached only 50% and there was yellow on only 50% of the throat (male 7, figure 3). Two birds had ear-coverts too dark for *flava* and, in addition, one of these birds had a white throat (male 8) while in the other the supercilium reached only c 80% (male 9, figure 3). In two birds, the head was darker than in *flava*; in one of them, the throat was yellowish for 25% (male 10) while the other showed a buff-yellowish tinge on 75% of the throat (male 11). The male of one breeding pair showed all features of *cinereocapilla* (male 12). Two more birds were similar to *cinereocapilla* but showed a too extensive supercilium. In addition, in one of the latter birds, the supercilium length differed between the two head-sides (male 13, figure 3) while the other bird showed yellow on 25% of the throat (male 14). Another bird was also close to *cinereocapilla* but the supercilium was again too extensive (c 50%) and the head was too pale grey (male 15).

Summarizing, 11 of the 15 males were classified as hybrids, with eight closer to *flava* and three closer to *cinereocapilla*.

Discussion
The yellow wagtails of the Seeland breeding population showed strong plumage variation. Most birds (73%) exhibited features intermediate between *flava* and *cinereocapilla* while only a few pure birds (27%) were found (three *flava* and one *cinereocapilla*). The studied population can be considered part of a hybridization zone. *Flava* apparently has a stronger influence than *cinereocapilla*, with three of the pure birds being *flava* and eight of the 11 hybrids being closer to *flava* than to *cinereocapilla*.

In the hybrids, there is a clear tendency of the supercilium to be restricted in front of rather than behind the eye. Of the six *flava*-like hybrids with restricted supercilium, it was restricted before the eye in five birds but only in one bird behind the eye. For the *cinereocapilla*-like hybrids, it was restricted before the eye in all three birds but only in two also behind the eye.

Hybrids between *flava* and *cinereocapilla* in eastern France have dark grey ear-coverts, the supercilium is often present (although usually very fine/narrow and sometimes almost invisible or completely lacking in front of the eye) and the throat is white or often washed-out yellowish (Dubois 2001). This description corresponds with that of some hybrids of the Seeland population, especially males 10, 11 and 14. Moreover, some birds looked similar to hybrids between Iberian Wagtail *M iberiae* (hereafter *iberiae*) and *cinereocapilla* in southern France (males 13 and 15) and between *flava* and *iberiae* in western France (male 8) (Dubois 2001). *Iberiae* breeds from southern France across the Iberian peninsula, the Balearic Islands and the Mediterranean coast of Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco to Western Sahara (Alström et al 2003). It hybridizes with *cinereocapilla* from north-eastern Spain along the Mediterranean coast of France, probably to the Italian border (Dubois 2001, Alström et al 2003).

The Seeland breeding population is probably not influenced by *iberiae*, taking into account the distance to the closest population of *iberiae* and the absence of pure *iberiae* in the Seeland population. Because of the similarity of some of the first breeding yellow wagtails in Switzerland to

birds studied by him in the Camargue, Schwarz (1956) assumed that most of them originated from the western Mediterranean region. Since this region is strongly influenced by *iberiae* (Dubois 2001, Alström et al 2003), it can not be excluded that *iberiae* genes are still present in Swiss populations.

Some birds of the Seeland breeding population looked very similar to *iberiae*. Unlike most intermediates between *flava* and *cinereocapilla*, *iberiae* shows a pure white throat contrasting sharply with the yellow breast, and a supercilium that is narrower than in *flava* and runs from the bill-base to the rear end of the ear-coverts; in some birds, however, the supercilium is lacking in front of the eye. Like *cinereocapilla*, *iberiae* does not show a white eye-ring below the eye (Svensson 1992, Dubois 2001, Alström et al 2003). The white eye-ring below the eye was present in all studied hybrids. Although none of these birds showed all characters of *iberiae*, it is possible that some hybrids can not be safely distinguished from this taxon. Therefore, one has to bear in mind the possibility of a hybrid when observing a putative *iberiae* outside its normal distribution range. In contrast, it should be more straightforward to identify an extralimital *cinereocapilla* as no *cinereocapilla*-like birds have been described from known hybrid populations. Any bird looking like *cinereocapilla* but with one or more odd features, like white in the supercilium area in front of the eye, some yellow on the throat or a white eye-ring below the eye, should be considered as a hybrid rather than a pure *cinereocapilla*.

The breeding populations in western Switzerland can be regarded as hybrid populations between *flava* and *cinereocapilla*, with only a small number of pure birds. The influence of *flava* seems to be stronger than that of *cinereocapilla*. It would be interesting to know if the influence of *cinereocapilla* is stronger in southern Switzerland (Ticino and Valais). In the plain of Magadino, Ticino, both *cinereocapilla* and hybrids can be observed (Raffael Aye in litt). At Leuk, Valais, two out of three possible breeding males observed in June 2004 were hybrids while one was a pure *cinereocapilla* (personal observation).

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Ruedi Aeschlimann, Raffael Aye, Reto Burri, Samuel Ehrenbold, Stephan Lauper, Christian Marti, Paul Mosimann-Kampe, Gerald Oreel, Bertrand Posse, Mathias Ritschard, Tobias Roth, Stephan Strebel and Rik Winters. All have contributed in one or more ways to this paper.

Samenvatting

Hybridisatie tussen Gele Kwikstaart en Italiaanse Kwikstaart in Zwitserland Sinds 1947 broeden gele kwikstaarten *Motacilla* in Zwitserland. In eerste instantie betrof dit vooral Italiaanse Kwikstaart *M cinereocapilla* en enkele vogels met kenmerken van Gele Kwikstaart *M flava*. Tegenwoordig is *flava* de dominante soort. Aangenomen wordt dat alleen in Zuid-Zwitserland een hybridisatiezone tussen *cinereocapilla* en *flava* aanwezig is. Van een populatie van 51 paren in het westen van Zwitserland in Seeland, Bern/Fribourg, bleek het echter bij veel vogels onmogelijk deze te determineren als *flava* of *cinereocapilla* omdat ze intermediaire kenmerken vertoonden.

In mei-juni 2003 zijn van 15 volwassen mannetjes in deze populatie de kenmerken bestudeerd en is de koptekening in detail beschreven (tabel 1). Eén van de beschreven vogels voldeed aan de beschrijving van *flava*. De meeste andere leken op *flava* maar weken af in één of meer van de volgende kenmerken: de keel toonde te veel wit; de wenkbrauwstreep was onvolledig, niet aan weerszijden gelijk, of vooral voor het oog versmald; de oorstreek was te donker; of de bovenkop was te donker. Drie vogels leken meer op *cinereocapilla* maar hadden een te lange wenkbrauwstreep en in één geval te veel geel op de keel.

Een aantal van de hybriden leek sterk op die tussen *flava* en *cinereocapilla* uit Oost-Frankrijk. Andere vogels kwamen beter overeen met hybriden van de genoemde soorten met Spaanse Kwikstaart *M iberiae*. Hoewel een directe invloed van deze soort, gezien de afstand tot de broedgebieden, niet erg waarschijnlijk lijkt, wijst een eerdere studie erop dat bij de kolonisatie van het gebied vogels betrokken waren uit het westelijke Middellandse-Zeegebied, waar de invloed van *iberiae* sterk is. Anderzijds kunnen hybriden tussen twee soorten sterk op een derde soort lijken en sommige hybriden in de bestudeerde populatie lijken sterk op *iberiae*. Veel hybriden hebben echter geen scherp afgetekende witte keel, zoals *iberiae*, en ook de wenkbrauwstreep is doorgaans minder smal maar het is niet uit te sluiten dat het onderscheiden van *iberiae* en hybriden tussen *flava* en *cinereocapilla* in sommige gevallen zeer moeilijk of zelfs onmogelijk is. Omdat er geen hybriden bekend zijn met een *cinereocapilla*-achtig uiterlijk, is het determineren van een Italiaanse Kwikstaart buiten zijn normale verspreidingsgebied minder riskant, hoewel ook daarbij moet worden nagegaan of de vogel kenmerken heeft die duiden op een hybride zoals een te lange wenkbrauwstreep, wit onder het oog of te veel geel op de keel.

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Manuel Schweizer, Gartenstrasse 2, CH-3176 Neuenegg, Switzerland (schw@bluewin.ch)

High birding at Kazbegi, Georgia

From at least 1998, and especially since the 'Rose Revolution' in November 2003, travelling to Georgia has been on the increase and more and more birders seize the opportunity to visit the Greater Caucasus. In species' diversity, this high mountain range with four peaks over 5000 m (including Europe's highest mountain peak, mount Elbrus (Gora El-brus) with 5633 m) offers the best alpine birding in the WP with specialities like Caucasian Grouse *Tetrao mlokosiewiczi*, Caucasian Snowcock *Tetraogallus caucasicus*, Güldenstädt's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus* and Caucasian Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilla*, and other much sought-after montane species as Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*, Alpine Accentor *Prunella ocularis*, Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*, Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*, White-winged Snowfinch *Montifringilla nivalis*, Red-fronted Serin *Serinus pusillus* and both choughs *Pyrrhocorax*. In addition, a number of WP species are represented here by subspecies differing so much in plumage and/or vocal repertoire that they are easily recognized like, for instance, Caucasian Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris penicillata*, Caucasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes hyrcanus*, Caucasian Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus amicorum* and Turkish Twite *Carduelis flavirostris brevirostris*. Although some may even be regarded as specifically distinct from taxa further west, they are largely ignored in even the best WP field guides (cf Jonsson 1996, Svensson et al 2000).

Geography and logistics

The village of Kazbegi in the Khevi border province is the best base for a visit to the Greater Caucasus (Benstead 1998, Tucker 2003, Alfrey & Spittle 2004). Although Gavashelishvili et al (2005) mention one or two other Greater Caucasus sites for high mountain species, these are much harder to reach than Kazbegi and, in the case of the Svaneti region, safety is still an issue when travelling without a guide. Kazbegi is situated along the Georgian Military Highway (A301) which runs from the capital, Tbilisi, north to the Russian border between North Ossetia and Ingushetia. Despite its height and problems with winter weather, this highway is an important connection between Georgia and Russia since the alternative north-south road along the Black Sea coast runs through the conflict area of Abkhazia (Abkhazeti).

Most visitors to Georgia, a country almost twice the size of the Netherlands with five million inhabitants, will arrive at the international airport of Tbilisi. Since early 2005, residents of many western countries, including those of the European Union and North America, no longer

297 Caucasian Horned Lark / Kaukasische Strandleeuwerik *Eremophila alpestris penicillata*, Krestovy pass at 2300 m elevation, Khevi, Georgia, 26 June 2005 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*

298 Caucasian Ring Ouzel / Kaukasische Beflijster *Turdus torquatus amicorum*, near Kobi, Khevi, Georgia, 21 June 2005 *(René Pop)*

need visa for a visit, one of many signs of changing policies. Apart from the local currency, Lari (GEL), US dollars are widely accepted. The alphabet is Georgian but Russian is spoken as a second language, as is English by young people. The drive from Tbilisi to Kazbegi takes 3-4 hours. Taxis or minibuses from the Didube bus station in Tbilisi to Kazbegi cost 5-20 USD a person (Burford 2002, Gavashelishvili et al 2005). The road's surface is reasonable until the resort town of Gudauri but its last 40 km from Gudauri up to the border is in a very bad state with numerous potholes and crumbling avalanche tunnels. This latter section, however, offers excellent birding at, eg, the Divari or Krestovy pass at 2379 m, 127 km from Tbilisi and 26 km before Kazbegi. Here, even by early June (Calum Scott in litt), there are chances to see Caucasian Grouse, Alpine Accentor, White-winged Snowfinch and Caucasian Great Rosefinch. From this pass onwards, the highway follows the Terek (Tergi) river downstream towards Kazbegi (1800 m) and the Russian border 6 km further north.

There are only a few hotels, bed-and-breakfasts, and shops at Kazbegi or the adjacent Gergeti village, which is situated on the other (western) side of the Terek river. The new Stepantsminda Hotel at Kazbegi offers comfortable accomodation and a good restaurant for 30 USD including breakfast and dinner, or 20 USD without meals (telephone +99-599182296 or +99-577420210). On 20-26 June 2005, René Pop and I stayed at Kazbegi for The Sound Approach project in order to record on tape the sounds of Caucasian Snowcock and Caucasian Great Rosefinch (the latter has been 'split' from Spotted Great Rosefinch *C (r) severtzovi* which occurs from Afghanistan east through the Himalayas; Rasmussen 2005). The Georgian Center for the Conservation of Wildlife (www.gccw.org) offered us invaluable assistance with information and transport between the Tbilisi airport and Kazbegi. From its office at the Nutsubidze Plateau in Tbilisi, the GCCW is active in several nature conservancy projects and promotes birding and ecotourism (see, eg, Gálvez et al 2005, Gavashelishvili 2005, Gavashelishvili et al 2005, www.birding-georgia.com).

Birding localities and timing

In late April and early May, the snow line is usually below 1900 m which means that altitudinal migrants can still be found in the river valley, especially in the dense bushes of Sea Buckthorn ('duindoorns' in Dutch) *Hippophae rhamnoides* south of Kazbegi. For instance, after heavy snow-

299 Güldenstädt's Redstart / Witkruinroodstaart *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus*, male, mount Kazbeg at 3000 m elevation, Kazbegi, Khevi, Georgia, 24 June 2005 *(René Pop)*

300 Bright-green Warbler / Groene Fitis *Phylloscopus nitidus*, Stepantsminda Hotel, Kazbegi, Khevi, Georgia, 23 June 2005 *(René Pop)*

301 Turkish Twite / Turkse Frater *Carduelis flavirostris brevirostris*, mount Kuro, Kazbegi, Khevi, Georgia, 22 June 2005 *(René Pop)*

fall on 4 May 2005, no less than up to 60 Güldenstädt's Redstarts and a flock of at least 250 Caucasian Great Rosefinches were found here (Birding World 18: 200, 2005). These bushes also form an important shelter for many long-distance migrant passerines in this period (which is why GCCW tries to give full protection to this vegetation). Further along the highway, there are several other gorges and woods for birding and, especially in early May, one may expect 100s of migrating raptors. However, the most tempting birding areas at Kazbegi are the mountain slopes at either side of the village, mount Kuro to the east and mount Kazbeg to the west.

The steep slopes of Kuro form the best site to see Caucasian Grouse and Caucasian Snowcock. The area is easily reached by walking c 2 km east from the Stepantsminda Hotel through the village and an open pine wood until a small chapel is reached with a little pond south of it. In April-May, Caucasian Grouse can be seen displaying on the grassy slopes across the noisy little river running down from Kuro. From the first week of June, when displaying has stopped, they become very hard to find as they hide in low *Rhododendron* vegetation. Caucasian Snowcock remains vocal through spring and summer and can be spotted by telescope on precipitous rocks or when flying. During summer, it gradually moves higher, following the snow line. On hot days in late June, the little pond at the base of Kuro attracts a variety of birds including Caucasian Ring Ouzel, Mistle Thrush *T viscivorus*, Common Linnet *C cannabina*, Turkish Twite and Red-fronted Serin. The adjacent pine wood has, for instance, singing Bright-green Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus*, Caucasian Chiffchaff *P lorenzii*, Coal Tit *Parus ater* and Common Rosefinch *C erythrinus*. From late May or early June, it is necessary to climb to 2600 m to find Caucasian Great Rosefinch and to 3000 m and higher for Güldenstädt's Redstart, so there is no other option at Kuro than to start climbing the steep grassy slopes to the right. After c five hours, the first Caucasian Great Rosefinches can be expected and here are some good vantage points to check rocky outcrops for Caucasian Snowcocks, which are most vocal at dusk and dawn. One should climb even higher to encounter Güldenstädt's Redstart but it may be possible to find it by checking high snow fields by telescope. Other species on these steep slopes include the abundant Caucasian Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta coutellii*, Alpine Accentor, Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush and Asian Crimson-winged Finch *Rhodopechys sanguineus sanguineus*. Further up, it gets (too) difficult to walk as there are some very steep slopes covered by loose rocks instead of grasses. We camped one night up here but it was hard to find a level spot. Instead of spending the night, one may also decide to climb up in the early morning and to return before dusk.

On the western side of Kazbegi, the walk to the 3652 m high metereological station above the c 7 km long glacier of mount Kazbeg is more level than the walk up Kuro and therefore it is easier to do albeit longer in distance. From the Stepantsminda Hotel, which is situated next to a little riverside park with breeding Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* and many passerines, one follows the sign left to Vladikavkaz, Russia, crossing the bridge over the Terek river, and then one immediately turns left up to the Gergeti village. In Gergeti, Caucasian Black Redstart *P ochruros ochruros* and Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* are common amongst the houses. All in all, it is less than a c 60 min walk from Kazbegi to the Tsminda Sameba church (2170 m) which overlooks the Terek valley of Kazbegi-Gergeti. On the way, we passed birch woods with dense ground cover of herbs and flowers where Caucasian Wren, Bright-green Warbler and Caucasian Chiffchaff were abundant while other species included Corn Crake *Crex crex*, Tree Pipit *A trivialis*, Caucasian Ring Ouzel, Common Blackbird, Mistle Thrush, Ehrenberg's Redstart *P phoenicurus samamisicus*, Common Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris caucasica*, Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus major*, Red-fronted Serin, Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* and Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius krynicki*. The nicest and shortest way uphill is a path following a brown metal water pipe which is obvious from above the cemetery. There is also a zig-zagging rocky track to the church and one may opt to shorten the climb by taking a 4WD taxi from the hotel for at most 10 USD per person. Actually, for those with physical problems, there is also the option of renting a helicopter for 1500 USD per hour to pick you up in Kazbegi and to drop you next to the Kazbeg glacier; the machine can take more than 10 persons which can cut the price down considerably and, if it is already in nearby Gudauri, the rental time may be less than an hour. Because of the unpredictable weather the planning of a helicopter flight might be problematical and it seems wise not to count on a return flight but to walk the four hours back to Kazbegi. As soon as one emerges from the birch woods on the walk up, c 200 m before reaching

302-303 Caucasian Great Rosefinch / Grote Roodmus *Carpodacus rubicilla*, male, mount Kazbeg at 2900 m elevation, Kazbegi, Khevi, Georgia, 24 June 2005 *(René Pop)*

304 Caucasian Snowcock / Kaukasisch Berghoen *Tetraogallus caucasicus*, mount Kuro, Kazbegi, Khevi, Georgia, 12 June 2005 *(Calum D Scott)*

305 Güldenstädt's Redstart / Witkruinroodstaart *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus*, male, mount Kazbeg at 3000 m elevation, Kazbegi, Khevi, Georgia, 24 June 2005 *(René Pop)*

the church, it is straightforward to follow trails to mount Kazbeg to the right. The easiest trail is along the southern side of the high grassy ridge while the canyon at the northern side may offer more birding possibilities. After c 11 km from the church, one reaches the edge of the glacier's snout which happened to be the only area where our mobile phones did not work. Parts of the trail were still snow-covered in late June. The glacier area is exceptionally beautiful and it is recommended to stay overnight to experience both the late afternoon and the early morning bird activity. The weather station is situated a few 100 m above the glacier and, by late June, it was still surrounded by snow and too difficult to reach (it is used as a base for mountaineers aiming to reach the 5033 m peak of Kazbeg). We camped in the grassy area aside the glacier's snout at 2950 m, where one has to be prepared for sudden weather changes with snowfall, frost, rain, dense fog and forceful winds, all possible in a single night. Left (south) of the glacier, we checked some scree slopes surrounded by snow and that is where we found two or three male Güldenstädt's Redstarts and several Caucasian Great Rosefinches. As soon as we had learned its song, the latter appeared quite common and was regularly heard throughout the day above 2600 m. Other species we found near the Kazbeg glacier included Lammergeier, Eurasian Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*, Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*, Caucasian Snowcock (only one or two singing), Alpine Swift *Apus melba*, Black-bellied Dipper *Cinclus cinclus caucasicus*, Caucasian Water Pipit, Alpine Accentor, Caucasian Black Redstart and Wallcreeper.

Chris Batty, Phil Benstead, Kris De Rouck, Hugues Dufourny, Ramaz Gokhelashvili, Georges Olioso, Giorgi Rajebashvili, Magnus Robb and Calum Scott helped in supplying information about the birding in Kazbegi. The Georgian Center for the Conservation of Wildlife (GCCW) at Tbilisi, Georgia, offered invaluable assistance (www.gccw.org).

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Arnoud B van den Berg & The Sound Approach, c/o Duinlustparkweg 98, 2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid, Netherlands (arnoud.vandenberg@planet.nl)

White Storks over Alderney, Channel Islands

Alderney is the most northerly of the Channel Islands, 5 by 3 km in extent, located 16 km due west of the northern tip of Cotentin peninsula, Manche, France. Every few years, a White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* is seen on or over Alderney. Occasionally there are two together, exceptionally three and once four. It is probable that a good proportion of the White Storks that occur over Alderney are seen and reported. Usually, birds are flying low enough to be easily identified but occasionally individuals have been seen passing at considerable height.

The earliest documented record is from 1973; there appear to be no earlier records. White Storks were recorded in five of the 17 years in 1973-89, one or more times in every year in 1990-95, once in 1999, three times in 2000 and once in 2005. Usually they have been seen in April or May, less frequently in June, and there is one March record. Together, these total 16 spring/early summer records. Additionally there are two autumn records, one from September and one from November (table 1).

Days on which White Storks have been recorded have been predominantly sunny, warm, with clear visibility and, usually, a south-easterly wind. Most observers fail to mention in which direction birds were flying, if they were flying in any particular direction at all. However, there are five records with specific flight directions: on 1 May 1986, a single bird was flying south-west towards Guernsey, Channel Islands, 26 km away; on 24 June 1992, four birds together were flying north, ie, out over the open sea in the direction of England, 87 km away; on 15 June 1993, one was seen flying eastwards towards France, 16 km away; and on 16 April 1999, three birds, which were initially seen circling rather low over the western end of the island, set off eastwards and continued eastwards in the direction of France until out of sight.

On 4 June 1991, two birds were watched from the airport, flying westwards at quite a height from the direction of Fort Essex (at the eastern end of the island), soaring in a thermal and then gliding in a westerly direction across the island, passing out over the western coast and continuing over the sea in the direction of the Casquets, which is a small, isolated islet, only 210 m wide, located 13 km to the west of Alderney. Beyond the Casquets there is no land, only the open Atlantic Ocean. Having crossed most of the way towards the Casquets, and being only just visible through binoculars, the two birds turned and flew back, partly thermaling and partly gliding, retracing their original route back in the direction of Fort Essex and continuing eastwards towards France until out of sight, still at some height. This small journey was accomplished between noon and 13:00. The weather, true to form, was warm, sunny, with good visibility and a south-easterly wind.

Origin

White Storks breed in Europe and most spend the winter in Africa, south of the Sahara. They thus have a long migration route between their European nesting areas and their African wintering areas. European White Storks divide into two populations (Cramp & Simmons 1977). Those in northern, central and eastern Europe migrate to and from Africa via an easterly route, across the Bosporus, through Turkey, Israel and Egypt. Most of those breeding in western Europe migrate to and from Africa via a westerly route, over the Straits of Gibraltar. White Storks that reach Alderney probably belong to the latter population.

In France, the White Stork was practically extinct in 1977, with only a few pairs in the extreme east, along the Rhine valley. Numbers recovered in south-western France, reaching 12 pairs in 1980 and 140 pairs in 1998 (Sériot et al 1999). The Rhine valley population also recovered strongly. Regarding the part of France adjacent to Alderney, ie, Normandie east to the Seine, White Storks became extinct in the 1960s, recovered to nine nests in 1981, slumped to one pair in 1987, and recovered to 40 pairs in 1999 (Chartier 2000).

The only part of the western European population that migrates via the Straits of Gibraltar and is located further north than Alderney is found in the Netherlands, Belgium and northern Germany.

By 1975, White Stork had almost disappeared as a breeding bird in the Netherlands and Belgium and restocking, reintroduction and conservation programmes were started to reverse this negative trend. In 1984-95, the population in the Netherlands increased from five to 266 nesting pairs (van der Have et al 1999). By 1998, there were almost 320 pairs nesting in the Netherlands. There was a similar reintroduction programme in south-western Germany.

Until the early 1970s, a large proportion of White Storks breeding in the Netherlands and the

TABLE 1 Records of White Storks *Ciconia ciconia* on or over Alderney, Channel Islands / gevallen van Ooievaar *Ciconia ciconia* op of over Alderney, Kanaaleilanden

22 May 1973, one near Clonque
9-10 March 1977, one on airport runway
13 April 1979, three flying east over airport
1 May 1986, one flying south-west over west end
21 May 1988, one
4 May 1990, one at Platte Saline
22 May 1991, one on airport
4 June 1991, two soaring from east end west out towards Casquets and back to east end again
16 April 1992, one over golf course
20 April 1992, three together over La Vallee
24 June 1992, four flying north over Mannez
15 June 1993, one circling over south coast, then flying off towards French coast
29 April 1994, three flying over west end
6 November 1995, one over east end
16 April 1999, three soaring low over west end, then setting off east till out of sight
23-24 April 2000, one soaring
28 April 2000, three over airport
13 September 2000, one over town
late April 2005, two over Rose Farm

majority in northern Germany used to migrate eastwards, crossing to Africa via the Bosporus, but the majority of birds from the re-established populations fly south-west (Schulz 1998). This appears to be because reintroduced birds were taken from the western population and their offspring instinctively migrate south-west, even after being hand-reared (Fiedler 1998). They fly through France and Spain, are joined by French and Iberian White Storks, cross the Mediterranean Sea at the Straits of Gibraltar and fly to their wintering areas in the western and central Sahel (van den Bossche 2002). In spring, they return by the same route. Some birds of reintroduced stock from the south-western German population do now migrate south-west, via the Straits of Gibraltar, but the majority of German birds still migrates eastwards. This has been demonstrated through White Storks being tagged with radio transmitters and monitored along their migration routes (van den Bossche 2002).

Timing

In spring, first arrivals are back on the upper Rhine in late February (Cramp & Simmons 1977), and in the Netherlands and Belgium by mid-March. By late March, most adults are already nesting. The birds that appear over Alderney have, however, almost all been recorded between mid-April and late June, with only one March record. Most White Storks normally breed for the first time when they are four years old, sometimes two or five to seven years old (Cramp & Simmons 1977). Immature birds arrive later than the breeding population, and reach the summer areas during April and May, the two months in which the majority of the Alderney records have occurred. It thus seems likely that the birds recorded here were immature birds making their way northwards.

Migration

White Storks are long-distance migrants, using long-term soaring flight to cover large distances with low expenditures of energy. The fact that White Storks over Alderney arrive during warm days with a south-easterly wind suggests that they began by soaring as high as possible over the French coast before gliding out towards Alderney. It would presumably be more difficult for them to glide back, even with a following wind, as the small land surface of Alderney does not produce thermals as powerful as those originating over the large land mass of the Cotentin peninsula.

Additionally, it might be that an easterly wind drifts migrating White Storks westward of their intended flight direction, and thus brings them towards the western coast of the Cotentin peninsula, from which a logical progression might be to drift out towards the next stepping stone, in the form of Alderney. This type of phenomenon has been observed in Israel. In conditions with an easterly wind and high temperature, White Storks on spring migration were consistently observed migrating northwards along the Mediterranean coast but on days without an easterly wind were not observed migrating along this coast (van den Bossche 2002).

In conclusion, the increase in the restocked and reintroduced westerly-migrating population of White Storks in the Netherlands, Belgium and northern Germany from the mid-1980s is mirrored by observations of White Storks over Alderney, and by a greater frequency of observations from 1990 onwards. On the other hand, there has been only one sighting since September 2000.

I would like to thank the following observers for sending me their sightings: Alderney Bird Recorders, J Atkinson, Philip Barbadello, David

Cary, Peter Condor, David Duplain, Tim Earl, Pauline Gladwell, Caroline Jean, Marie Mendham, Mick McCormick, Steve Roberts, G Rowe, Ken Rowe, Jeremy Sanders, Ann Scotcher, Bob Smith, John Smith, Jill Watson, Dee Williams and Gary Williams.

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Jeremy Sanders, 4 La Vallee Clos, Alderney GY9 3AP, Channel Islands, UK (jerry.sanders@cwgsy.net)

Ivory-billed Woodpecker's rediscovery and next steps

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus principalis* of the south-eastern USA and Cuba is the 'holy grail' for birders from around the world, and particularly from the USA (Gallagher 2005). It deserves its status of most desired bird on several grounds. Firstly, it is of awe-inspiring size: with a body mass of 450-550 g it is one of the three largest woodpeckers in the world, and approximately double the weight of the second largest North American woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus*. Secondly, Ivory-billed Woodpecker is of spectacular appearance: mostly ebony black, with bold black-and-white wings and a stylish single white stripe running down both sides of the neck. Its toes and claws are impressively large and so is the massive, broad bill of ivory colour. The third and foremost reason why this bird is much sought after is its rarity and its iconic relationship with virgin forests. It has been teetering on the brink of extinction for at least half a century. The last generally accepted records were in Cuba in 1987 and in the USA in 1944. In Cuba, the status of its habitat is so poor that there is little hope for continuing survival (Lammertink 1992, Lammertink & Estrada 1995). In the USA, on the other hand, many refuges have been established during the past 50 years and the maturing forests there make up increasingly suitable habitat for this species. The presence of potential habitat, much of it little visited by birders, and the steady flow of unconfirmed records from around its former range in the USA fed hopes that it might still be holding on (Jackson 2004, Gallagher 2005).

Hope of continued survival of Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the USA proved justified with the recent rediscovery of the species in the Big Woods of eastern Arkansas (Fitzpatrick et al 2005). Following a first sighting by kayaker Gene Sparling in a stretch of the Bayou de View river on 11 February 2004, five more sightings of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker were made at the same site in February-April 2004. Four seconds of poor but diagnostic video were obtained there by David Luneau Jr on 25 April 2004 (Fitzpatrick et al 2005). The 2004 sightings were made by people volunteering for short field periods besides their regular jobs. The 'Cornell Lab of Ornithology' from Ithaca, New York, USA, decided that for the winter and spring of 2004/05 a larger and more dedicated search was needed of Bayou de View and other areas in the 220 000 ha Cache River/White River ecosystem, Arkansas. To that end, 20 people with good field credentials were hired for five months of full time Ivory-billed Woodpecker searching, and another 50 people rotated for one or two weeks of volunteer work. I was hired as project biologist to provide a search strategy and to participate in the fieldwork. In order to avoid a large influx of birders and press in the study area during this stage of the project all team members were asked to sign confidentiality agreements and we were

306 Lauren Morgens and Julie Hart (left) install an Automatic Recording Unit (ARU) in Bayou de View, Arkansas, USA, 19 December 2004 *(Martjan Lammertink)*

307 David Luneau (left) and Robert Henderson canoeing with a constantly running video camera around Bayou de View, Arkansas, USA, 20 November 2004 *(Martjan Lammertink)*. In this way, they captured a 4-sec shot of a fleeing Ivory-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus principalis*.

not allowed to tell friends and family about our work.

The search crew was divided between two areas: Bayou de View and the adjacent Dagmar Wildlife Management Area, where much of the searching was in cypress-tupelo swamp using canoes and waders, and the White River National Wildlife Refuge further south, where more searching could be done on foot during periods of low water, in bottomland hardwood forests. In order to be able to study Ivory-billed Woodpecker and obtain first rate documentation it is paramount to find a roost hole to which an individual bird returns every night from far ranging foraging wanderings (Tanner 1942). In the area surrounding the site of the sightings we searched 4100 ha of forest for roost holes using GPS guided transects spaced 50 m apart, and an additional 11 000 ha was similarly searched in the White River NWR. Potential roost cavities were watched for 90 min at the end of the day by camouflaged searchers, who at the same time listened for vocalizations and double rap drum signals. We found and watched 12 cavities of perfect shape and size for Ivory-billed Woodpecker (Tanner 1942), and several dozen additional cavities of interest, but did not find an active roost cavity. We used camera traps at bark-scaled trees but captured no foraging Ivorybills. We employed 20 Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs), made up of a hard disk, omni-directional microphone and battery, strapped to a tree trunk and left for two weeks at a time. The ARUs recorded 4 h of sound in the morning and 4 h in the afternoon during their deployment. The recordings were then scanned by computer for Ivory-billed Woodpecker sounds. We recorded very close approximations of both Ivory-billed Woodpecker *kent* calls and double rap drums, but context or lack of repetition mean that we can not rule out occasional calls by Blue Jays *Cyanocitta cristata* or random knocks between branches as source for these sounds. The bulk of ARU recordings has not been analyzed yet. We kept observers present daily in the area of the 2004 sightings and this finally paid off on 14 February 2005, when Casey Taylor first heard a series of double raps and then saw an Ivory-billed Woodpecker in flight chased by American Crows *Corvus brachyrhynchos*.

From the 2004-05 fieldwork we conclude that Ivory-billed Woodpecker is not roosting in the area of the sightings but instead only occasionally visits that area from a distant locality. Although the presence of at least one individual indicates the existence of a breeding population in recent years, and makes us hopeful that more individuals exist, the very low encounter rates we experienced mean that it is distributed very thinly in the Cache River/White River ecosystem; individuals may range over areas of 10 000 ha or more. This in turn implies that conditions are not optimal for Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the region.

Problems that Ivory-billed Woodpeckers are conceivably faced with in the Cache River/White River area include a lack of old-growth forest, although patches of mature forest exist; a too infrequent occurrence of events of massive tree die off (such as caused by tornados, ice storms, or fire) in the limited forest area; and risk of accidentally being shot at by duck hunters. East Arkansas is the prime spot for duck hunting in the USA with 1.3 million ducks harvested annually by 80 000 hunters in the forested swamps, resulting in a significant source of income in the

308 Possible foraging sign of Ivory-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus principalis* in a dead Persimmon *Diospyros virginiana* in Dagmar Wildlife Management area, Arkansas, USA, 7 February 2005 *(Martjan Lammertink)*. Note that only the bark layer has been removed with lateral bill movements as evidenced by the near-horizontal scars in the wood layer.

region. Similarity between Ivory-billed Woodpecker and Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* in flight was noted by Tanner (1942) but Northern Pintail is found and hunted at inundated fields where woodpeckers rarely venture. Ducks that are hunted in wooded swamps and might be confused with Ivory-billed Woodpecker in flight include the dark Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* and the black-and-white Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus* and Common Merganser *Mergus merganser americanus* that have slender wings and fast wing beats similar to Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Wood Duck and mergansers make up only 7% of harvested ducks in Arkansas, and a reduction of the hunt of these ducks in some areas would conceivably be acceptable to outfitters of duck hunting in the region, who can now start catering birdwatchers with boats and lodging.

The need for management measures that may facilitate population increase of Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the Arkasas Big Woods prompted us to publish our findings (Fitzpatrick et al 2005). With the existence of Ivory-billed Woodpecker now documented and announced, we hope to implement the yearly creation of tree kill plots at rotating localities in the landscape to increase the availability of foraging habitat, reduce the risk of accidental shooting by duck hunters through regulations and establish long-term management for more mature forest and larger forested areas.

Our fieldwork in the Arkansas Big Woods will continue in the autumn of 2005. We invite volunteers with appropriate field skills to participate in the search. Volunteers should be available for at least three weeks to offset time required for training and orientation. Birders interested in visiting the Big Woods region of Arkansas as project volunteers or independently should be aware that the chances of seeing an Ivory-billed Woodpecker are slim. Our encounter rates in Bayou de View were one sighting per 111 person days in spring 2004, and one sighting in 1013 person days in the winter and spring of 2004/05. The area of the sightings was closed in May 2005 by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Regulated access may be allowed in the autumn of 2005. Use of playback and imitation of Ivory-billed Woodpecker sounds is prohibited. We encourage visitors to come prepared with a video camera to document sightings. Most of all, we encourage birdwatchers to explore other potential areas in the south-eastern USA for Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. The rediscovery of the species in the Arkansas Big Woods has demonstrated the potential for its existence in other states. Jackson (2004) lists several areas where it may occur.

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Martjan Lammertink, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York, USA & Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Mauritskade 61, 1092 AD Amsterdam, Netherlands (jml243@cornell.edu)

Steltstrandloper in Ezumakeeg in mei en juni-juli 2004

De start van mei 2004 was wat stil in de kop van Noord-Holland, mijn vaste omgeving voor vogeltripjes. Daarom besloot ik (Pierre van der Wielen) om op 9 mei mijn geluk elders te gaan beproeven, en wel in de Lauwersmeer. Na het bewonderen van de daar al langer aanwezige Morinelplevier *Charadrius morinellus* en Grote Karekiet *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* bij Zoutkamp, Groningen, belandde ik rond 14:30 in de Ezumakeeg, Friesland, aan de westzijde van de Lauwersmeer. Rond 16:00 ontdekte ik in het zuidelijke deel van het gebied naast de nieuwe vogelkijkhut een slapende steltloper in een groepje Kemphanen *Philomachus pugnax*. Hij week nogal af van het gebruikelijke assortiment steltlopers door zijn formaat (slechts iets kleiner dan de gemiddelde Kemphaan) en de egaal grijze bovendelen. In eerste instantie dacht ik aan een 'grijze snip' *Limnodromus*. Na c 15 min wachten kwam de kop uit de veren en vrijwel direct daarna vloog de vogel op. De lange, licht gebogen snavel en de opvallende witte stuit sloten 'grijze snippen' uit en wezen direct op een Steltstrandloper *Calidris himantopus*. Ik kende deze soort redelijk van de twee voorgaande gevallen in Nederland en uit Peru maar ik had er nog nooit een in winterkleed gezien. Ook had ik nauwelijks aanvullende kenmerken gezien – dus vlug de hut uit en verder zoeken. Gelukkig vond ik de vogel c 100 m verderop terug en konden ditmaal de lange gele poten en de opvallend lange wenkbrauwstreep met daarboven het donkere petje worden gezien. Hoewel deze kenmerken eigenlijk alleen op een Steltstrandloper in winterkleed passen, piepte ik de waarneming voorzichtigheidshalve eerst als 'vrij zeker' door. De soort is immers erg zeldzaam op het vasteland van Europa en ik was mij op dat moment niet bewust van eerdere Europese gevallen in het voorjaar of in winterkleed. Binnen 10 min arriveerden Rommert Cazemier en David Hoekstra die beiden de determinatie bevestigden. De vogel werd daarna als 'zeker' doorgepiept.

De daaropvolgende dagen werd de Steltstrandloper onregelmatig in de Ezumakeeg waargenomen, met de laatste waarneming op 17 mei. Later werd bekend dat de vogel mogelijk al op 6 mei aan de Groninger zijde van de Lauwersmeer werd waargenomen maar toen niet als zodanig werd herkend. De beschrijving is gebaseerd op eigen aantekeningen, foto's en videostills van onder anderen Max Berlijn, Martijn Bot, RC, Bart-Jan Prak en Oane Tol (cf Dutch Birding 26: 276, plaat 409, 2004) en video-opnamen van Marc Plomp (Plomp et al 2005).

GROOTTE & BOUW Vrijwel even groot als Krombekstrandloper *C ferruginea* maar langgerekter met opvallend lange nek, snavel en poten. Ook vleugels vrij lang, in zit tot net voorbij staart reikend. Poten in vlucht ruim voorbij staart stekend. Snavel lang en geleidelijk zeer licht gekromd. Poten opvallend lang, met name tibia. Oog relatief klein lijkend.
KOP Opvallend getekend met donkere grijsbruine pet, vrij opvallende witte wenkbrauwstreep, breedst boven en achter oog, en donkere teugel, achter oog overgaand in brede, oranjebruine oorstreek. Nek grijs, overgaand in grijze mantel.
BOVENDELEN Overwegend egaal grijs. Slechts enkele schouderveren donkerder. Stuit en bovenstaartdekveren wit.
ONDERDELEN Hals en bovenborst dicht bruingrijs gestreept, geleidelijk overgaand in witte buik. Flank over gehele lengte gestreept, licht ter hoogte van vleugelboeg, dichter wordend richting staart, daar soms op aanzet tot bandering lijkend. Onderstaartdekveren licht, vrij zwaar donker gevlekt.
VLEUGEL Bovenvleugel overwegend egaal grijs. Tertials iets donkerder. Slagpennen donkerbruin.
STAART Bovenstaart grijs.
NAAKTE DELEN Oog donker. Snavel zwart. Poot groengeel.

Na een afwezigheid van zes weken werd op 26 juni 2004 naar wordt aangenomen dezelfde vogel opnieuw gezien in de Ezumakeeg. Hij was nu grotendeels in zomerkleed. De vogel bleek vanaf die datum wat gemakkelijker waar te nemen en trok dan ook voor de tweede keer veel belangstellenden naar het gebied. De laatste waarneming was op 12 juli. De beschrijving is gebaseerd op foto's van Martijn Bot, RC en Dirk Vogt. Alleen verschillen ten opzichte van de waarneming in mei worden beschreven.

KOP Pet donkerder dan in mei met enige lichte lengtestreping. Oorstreek warm roestrood. Teugel zwart en meer contrasterend.
BOVENDELEN Mantel grotendeels en bovenste schouderveren voor c 50% geruid en bestaande uit veren met zwart centrum en brede witte zoom.
ONDERDELEN Hals met zwarte lengtestreping op borst overgaand in zwarte bandering op grootste deel van onderdelen. Bandering niet volledig: op zijborst slechts rommelige vlekking en ook anaalstreek en onderstaartdekveren meer gevlekt dan gebandeerd.
VLEUGEL Aantal tertials geruid. Nieuwe veren zwart met brede witte zoom. Rest van vleugel nog niet geruid en vaal bruin ogend.

De determinatie bleek uiteindelijk niet moeilijk.

309 Steltstrandloper / Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*, met Kemphaan / Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Ezumakeeg, Friesland, 16 mei 2004 *(Bart-Jan Prak)*

310 Steltstrandloper / Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*, Ezumakeeg, Friesland, 7 juli 2004 *(Martijn Bot)*

De combinatie van bouw, grootte, lange lichtgebogen snavel, lange geelgroene poten en uniform grijs verenkleed past alleen op Steltstrandloper. In juni, toen de vogel voor een groot deel in zomerkleed was, was de determinatie uiteraard nog eenvoudiger (cf Sibley 2000, Svensson et al 2000). De leeftijdsbepaling is lastiger. Gezien het onvolledige zomerkleed (minder zwaar gebandeerd en met minder roodbruine tekening dan in volledig zomerkleed) en de niet geruide vleugelveren lijkt een eerste-zomer vogel het meest voor de hand te liggen omdat steltlopers soms in hun eerste zomer niet het volledig uitgekleurde adulte kleed bereiken. Het is echter lastig om een niet geheel doorgeruide adulte vogel uit te sluiten.

Deze waarneming is aanvaard door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) en betreft het derde geval voor Nederland. Er wordt daarbij van uitgegaan dat de waarnemingen in mei en juni-juli dezelfde vogel betreffen. In de tussenliggende periode is de vogel vrijwel zeker afwezig geweest; in de Ezumakeeg komen in het voorjaar en de zomer (vrijwel) dagelijks vogelaars en zo lang kan hij niet onopgemerkt zijn gebleven. Het is mogelijk dat de vogel enkele weken relatief dichtbij, bijvoorbeeld in een minder overzichtelijk gedeelte van de Lauwersmeer, heeft gepleisterd maar het is ook voorstelbaar dat hij verder naar het noorden is getrokken en als niet-broeder vroeg in het trekseizoen is teruggekeerd in de Ezumakeeg. Vanaf eind juni vindt immers dergelijke 'najaarstrek' plaats van steltlopers die niet tot broeden zijn gekomen. Eerdere gevallen in Nederland waren op 24 juli 1998 in de Blauwe Kamer te Rhenen, Utrecht (Vink et al 1999), en van 22 tot 24 juli 2000 op twee locaties in Noord-Holland (Wierda 2001). De twee eerste vogels waren niet makkelijk te zien waardoor deze derde lang verblijvende vogel ervoor zorgde dat veel vogelaars alsnog deze soort op hun lijst konden bijschrijven.

Steltstrandloper broedt in Noord-Amerika en is een zeldzame dwaalgast in Europa, met de meeste gevallen in Brittannië en Ierland. Vergeleken met andere Nearctische steltlopers zijn er relatief veel gevallen in het voorjaar (april-mei) en aan de oostkust van Engeland, hetgeen erop wijst dat het vaak vogels betreft die niet rechtstreeks over de Atlantische Oceaan kwamen (van den Berg & Bosman 2001).

Summary

STILT SANDPIPER AT EZUMAKEEG IN MAY AND JUNE-JULY 2004 On 9-17 May and again from 26 June to 12 July 2004, a Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* stayed at Ezumakeeg, Lauwersmeer, Friesland, the Netherlands. During the first period of its stay, the bird was largely in winter plumage. During the second period, it was largely in summer plumage but it was not in full adult-summer plumage. This indicates that it was probably a first-summer. The bird was not seen during the six weeks between 17 May and 26 June and it is unlikely that it was overlooked in this well-watched area; possibly, it stayed in another, less accessible part of the Lauwersmeer area or migrated north and returned early as a 'failed breeder'. The bird mainly associated with Ruffs *Philomachus pugnax*.

This is the third record for the Netherlands within just a few years; the first two were on 24 July 1998 and on 22-24 July 2000.

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Pierre van der Wielen, Rosmolen 67, 1703 NE Heerhugowaard, Nederland (pvd.wielen@planet.nl)

Morphology of Atlas Horned Lark

Two closely related *Eremophila* larks occur in Morocco: Atlas Horned Lark *E alpestris atlas* and Temminck's Lark *E bilopha*. Atlas Horned breeds above 1900 m and Temminck's below 1600 m (cf Thévenot et al 2003). In winter, when Atlas Horned is found as low as 1400 m altitude, both species can be seen at the same place, eg, at Tagdilt track at c 1600 m altitude, east of Boumalne de Dadès, Morocco (Patrick Bergier in litt). There do not seem to be specimens showing intermediate characters in collections and the two species seem to be reproductively isolated. However, one may wonder what caused a Temminck's at Tagdilt track on 10 April 1997 to have a little yellowish instead of white on the supercilium (plate 313). Considered sympatric, it is not surprising that Temminck's is a separate (monotypic) species while Atlas Horned is regarded as one of at least 42 Horned Lark subspecies in five continents. Of these, 26 occur in North America and Mexico and 14 in Eurasia (cf Dickinson 2003). In addition, two isolated taxa occur in confined mountain areas of Africa and South America: Atlas Horned Lark is restricted to the Middle and High Atlas and central part of Anti-Atlas, Morocco, and Andean Horned Lark *E a peregrina* to grasslands above 2000 m near Bogotá, Colombia. Like Andean Horned, Atlas Horned has diagnostic plumage characteristics and it is surprising how little attention this taxon has received in field guides and the birding literature. Therefore, it seems useful to present a number of photographs from its breeding range in the High Atlas at Oukaimeden (above 2600 m elevation), east of Marrakech, Morocco.

Atlas Horned Lark has never been recorded outside Morocco although it would not be surprising if it turned up across the Algerian border in winter (Isenmann & Moali 2000). On the other hand, it is unlikely that other Horned Lark taxa will ever reach the coasts of Morocco, let alone the Atlas mountains. The population geographically closest to Atlas Horned is found in the Balkan countries (Albania, Greece, former Yugoslavia). Eurasian Horned Lark *E a flava* is a vagrant in Spain with (only) two records (the second in Asturias from 3 February to 16 March 2005; Ricard Gutiérrez in litt). Equally, Morocco has so far been out of reach for the Nearctic nominate *E a alpestris*, which appears to have turned up as a vagrant in Britain, Iceland and Ireland (Small 2002).

The 42 Horned Lark taxa can be sorted in different ways. Kees (C S) Roselaar in Cramp (1988) discerns two main groups (*alpestris* of northern Eurasia and the Americas, including Atlas Horned Lark, and *penicillata* of south-eastern Europe, the Middle East and central Asia). The 42 taxa have also been sorted into an eastern, central and western group both for North America and Eurasia (Small 2002). In Eurasia, according to the latter division, there is a variable eastern group in Central Asia characterized by, eg, a lack of any trace of yellow on face and throat and a black mask not connected with the black breast band. The central *penicillata* group of five resident subspecies in mountains of south-eastern Europe and the Middle East is characterized by white or at most very pale yellow facial feathering and a broad mask across eye and cheek broadly connected with the black breast band. The migratory Eurasian Horned Lark breeding in (sub)arctic Europe and Siberia and wintering, for instance, along coasts of North Sea countries is often considered to form the western group together with Atlas Horned. The latter two taxa differ from other Palearctic taxa and Temminck's Lark by obvious yellow instead of white or pale yellow facial feathering and throat; they are also characterized by long 'horns' (the elongated black feathers above the yellow supercilium) and the absence of a broad connection between the black mask and breast band. However, notably in spring, Atlas Horned differs considerably from

311-312 Atlas Horned Lark / Atlasstrandleeuwerik *Eremophila alpestris atlas*, Oukaimeden, High Atlas, Morocco, 5 April 2002 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*

313 Temminck's Lark / Temmincks Strandleeuwerik *Eremophila bilopha*, Boumalne de Dadès, Morocco, 10 April 1997 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*

Eurasian Horned by having, for instance, on average even longer horns, a wider black mask across the eye and down the cheek, a broader black breast band pointing upwards at the centre, paler grey upperparts, plainer, less streaky flanks suffused with grey, and a quite contrasting reddish-cinnamon crown, nape and uppermantle merging into the grey of the mantle. Below the cheek, the black mask narrows into a black line almost completely encircling the yellow throat by connecting with the pointed centre of the black breast band.

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Arnoud B van den Berg, Duinlustparkweg 98, 2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid, Netherlands (arnoud.vandenberg@planet.nl)

White-crowned Wheatear on La Palma, Canary Islands, in January 2005

On 10 January 2005, during a short stay on La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain, my girlfriend and I (Ruben Smit) decided to take a short walk along the crater of the San Antonio volcano and the nearby situated Teneguia volcano in the south-western part of the island. The place was full of visitors and therefore we headed towards the more western slopes of the San Antonio, where the most recently active volcano, the Teneguia, is located. In this 'moonscape', vegetation is sparse and rocks dominate the environment. On the return of our short walk, at c 13:30, a wheatear *Oenanthe* drew my attention. It was flying from rock to rock or to the odd Canary Pine *Pinus canariensis* and sometimes tried to catch insects. I took two photographs of what I thought at that time was a 'mourning wheatear' *O lugens/halophila* and I did not take further notice. I tried to find a fitting description in Svensson et al (2000) but I could not make a final identification due to a lack of time.

Back home, I sent my report to Robert Keizer, who was gathering information on the birds of the Canary Islands for a birding trip. He was surprised by my observation of the wheatear and asked me to send him the photographs. Having seen these, RK was pretty sure that the bird was a first-year White-crowned Wheatear *O leucopyga* because of the mostly black plumage, small white 'crown', brown wings and blackish spots at the end of the tail.

[*Dutch Birding 27: 258-260, 2005*]

The description is based on the field observation and photographs by RS.

SIZE & STRUCTURE Large wheatear. On first impression considered larger than Northern Wheatear *O oenanthe*, although no direct size comparison possible, but tending to appear more plump.
PLUMAGE Head, upperparts and underparts to lower belly black. Irregular band (spot) of white above eye on crown, with no sharp borders. Wings and central tail-feathers dull, dark brown, contrasting with black colour of body. Lower back, rump, lower belly, undertail-coverts and outer tail-feathers white. Some dark, elongated spotting towards tips of white outer tail-feathers, on both upperside and underside.
BARE PARTS Eye, bill, leg and claws black or blackish.

The identification turned out to be straightforward. No other wheatear shows a predominantly black plumage with white undertail-coverts and lower belly, white on the crown (irregular and sometimes almost absent in first-year birds) and mostly white tail without a dark terminal band (only the central tail-feathers being black). Confusion is possible with Black Wheatear *O leucura*, dark-morph Eastern Mourning Wheatear *O lugens lugens* ('Basalt Wheatear') and dark-morph Variable Wheatear *O picata opistholeuca* but all show an all-black head in every plumage and a different tail pattern with a black terminal band (the classic *Oenanthe* 'T' pattern) (Clement 1987, Svensson et al 2000, Boon 2004). The brown coloration in the wing and tail-feathers indicate that the bird was a first-year (cf Tipper & Beale 2002).

If accepted by the Spanish rarities committee, this is the first record for the Canary Islands and the first for Spain. An old record of two birds (an immature and an adult male) at Sabinar del Marquez, Reserva Biológica de Doñana, Huelva, on 28 May 1977 (Soriquer 1978) has recently been reviewed and will not appear in the next version of the Spanish avifaunal list (Ricard Gutiérrez in litt). In western Europe, there have been just three previous records, in England (June 1982), Germany (May 1986, Category D) and Portugal (March 2001) (Tipper & Beale 2002). Other records in Europe are from Cyprus, Greece and Malta. Remarkably, the first for the Cape Verde Islands was reported near Fort Real on Santiago on 16 January 2005 (van den Berg 2005). White-crowned Wheatear breeds in rocky areas in deserts in North Africa and the Middle

314 White-crowned Wheatear / Witkruintapuit *Oenanthe leucopyga*, first-year, La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain, 10 January 2005 *(Ruben Smit/Outdoor Vision)*

East and is largely sedentary. It comprises two subspecies, nominate *O l leucopyga*, which breeds in North Africa, and *O l ernesti* from the Middle East.

Samenvatting

WITKRUINTAPUIT OP LA PALMA, CANARISCHE EILANDEN, IN JANUARI 2005 Op 10 januari 2005 zagen Ruben Smit en zijn vriendin tijdens een korte vakantie op La Palma, Canarische Eilanden, Spanje, een vreemde tapuit *Oenanthe* op de westelijke helling van de San Antonio/Teneguia-vulkaan. RS maakte twee foto's maar wegens tijdgebrek werd de vogel aanvankelijk afgedaan als 'rouwtapuit' *O lugens/halophila*. Uiteindelijk was het Robert Keizer die de vogel mede op basis van de foto's als Witkruintapuit *O leucopyga* determineerde. De foto's gaven aan dat het een eerstejaars betrof. Indien aanvaard is dit het eerste geval voor de Canarische Eilanden en voor Spanje. Een oud geval van twee vogels op 28 mei 1977 te Sabinar del Marquez, Huelva, is recentelijk door de Spaanse zeldzaamhedencommissie herzien en van de Spaanse lijst verwijderd. In West-Europa zijn drie gevallen bekend, in Engeland (juni 1982), Duitsland (mei 1986, categorie D) en Portugal (maart 2001).

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Ruben Smit, Floralaan 41, 6707 HN Wageningen, Netherlands (rubensmit@planet.nl)
Robert Keizer, Thorbeckestraat 80, 6702 BS, Wageningen, Netherlands (robertkeizer@hotmail.com)

Brieven

Middle Spotted Woodpecker: range and subspecies in Turkey

The near-simultaneous discovery of Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius* in northwestern Syria, less than 50 km from the border with Turkey, by Peter Kaestner and David Murdoch in April 2005 (Kaestner 2005) is, in fact, less surprising than suggested. Middle Spotted Woodpecker is probably resident at low densities in suitable habitat throughout the Hatay, Turkey's southernmost province (Kirwan et al in prep), and thus immediately adjacent to the Syrian border, rather than c 200 km distant, as roughly indicated by the map in Winkler et al (1995).

Variation across the entire range of Middle Spotted Woodpecker is apparently almost wholly clinal both north to south and east to west (Vaurie 1959, 1965). Cramp (1985) and Winkler et al (1995) consider *D m anatoliae* to be a very poorly marked subspecies, whilst Winkler & Christie in del Hoyo et al (2002) acknowledge only *D m caucasicus* (restricted to northern Turkey) which has brighter underparts than the nominate, with deeper but less extensive red undertail-coverts, a golden-yellow belly and more extensively streaked flanks, and *anatoliae* (endemic to western and southern Turkey) which is very similar to *caucasicus* but slightly smaller, with a paler ventral region and slightly heavier underparts streaking. In contrast, Roselaar (1995) also admits nominate *medius* in European Turkey and, possibly, Iranian *D m sanctijohannis* in the extreme south-east (some of C G Danford's specimens from the Taurus, held in Tring and Manchester, England, are labelled as being this subspecies, but are clearly not). Between the Balkans and Iran, there is apparently a general cline towards reduced and posteriorly more restricted red and yellow-buff on the underparts, reduced black streaking on the upper flanks, and overall whiter appearance to the underparts. *Sanctijohannis* represents the extreme in the obvious paleness of the underparts. *Caucasicus*, of which I have examined very few specimens (none from Turkey), is obviously larger than *anatoliae*, and in plumage is unsurprisingly most close to *sanctijohannis*, but my field observations in northern Turkey suggest that *caucasicus* is variable in its morphology and can approach *anatoliae* or nominate *medius*. It is difficult to see

much justification for recognizing *anatoliae* or the even more doubtful *splendidior* (for which quite a number of specimens from western Turkey are available), both of which apparently reflect weakly defined clinal variation from nominate *medius*. The position regarding *caucasicus* and *sanctijohannis* is more interesting but both clearly represent reasonably well-marked extremes within a cline, and *caucasicus* proof of Bergmann's rule. As so often the case when considering the taxonomy of Palearctic birds, it is advisable to return to the writings of Vaurie, who in this case (1965 and note in Natural History Museum, Tring) considered *anatoliae* to be a synonym of *caucasicus*.

I am grateful to staff members at the Natural History Museum (NHM) in Tring, England, and Manchester Museum, England, for access to relevant specimen material.

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Guy M Kirwan, 74 Waddington Street, Norwich NR2 4JS, UK (biatas@bol.com.br)

Recensies

Michel Thévenot, Rae Vernon & Patrick Bergier 2003. *The birds of Morocco. An annotated checklist*. BOU checklist series 20. British Ornithologists' Union & British Ornithologists' Club, The Natural History Museum, Akeman Street, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 6AP, UK; e-mail bou.admin@bou.org.uk, website www.bou.org.uk. 594 pp. ISBN 0907446-25-6. GBP 45.00.

This is a truly monumental book on the birds of Morocco and arguably one of the best books for birders published in recent years. It is invaluable when preparing a visit to this country, which is often considered as the best and most intriguing birding destination of the WP. The book's remarkably detailed information is just what a birder needs when confronted with an unexpected sighting or when searching for one of the country's elusive taxa. Just a pity that the book is a bit oversized and hard-cover, making it hard to carry in the field, but supposedly the format was required to put it in line with previous publications in BOU's wonderful checklist series. The book's contents, though, are exemplary for any country's avifauna. The heart of the book is formed by 416 pages of species accounts presenting an extensive, detailed and fully referenced text on breeding and winter distribution, habitat, nesting data, movements and migration, and ringing recoveries. All available information on rarity records is presented as well. Furthermore, the book offers, in a concise and readible way, introductory chapters on subjects like ornithological history, vegetation, geography, geology, climate and endemism. There is a substantial gazetteer of 20 pages and a list of references of 66 pages. One of the appendices presents in 21 pages all ringing recoveries. In the centre of the book, 74 well-chosen colour photographs are grouped together to offer a representative overview of the country's habitats and some of its bird specialities. Arnoud B van den Berg

Paul Isenmann, Thierry Gaultier, Ali El Hili, Hichem Azafzaf, Habib Dlensi & Michael Smart 2005. *Oiseaux de Tunisie / Birds of Tunisia*. Société d'Etudes Ornithologiques de France, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, 55 rue Buffon, 75005 Paris, France; website www.mnhn.fr/assoc/seof/accueil.htm. 432 pp. ISBN 2-9506548-9-4. EUR 38.00.

Together with recently published books on the birds of Algeria by Isenmann & Moali in 2000 and Morocco by Thévenot et al in 2003 (cf Dutch Birding 23: 153, 2001, 27: 261, 2005), this book completes the coverage for birds of the Maghreb region. Given the fact that Paul Isenmann is one of the authors, it is not surprising that it resembles the Algeria book by being a colourful paperback with all texts both in English and French. Unlike Algeria and Morocco, Tunisia has an active and knowledgeable birding community, Association *Les amis des oiseaux*, founded by Ali El Hili in 1975

(aao.bird@planet.tn). The three Tunisian co-authors are members of this group which implies that, despite the fact that there is no Arabic edition, the book will serve as a work of reference not only for visiting birders but also for Tunisian field-workers and personnel of national parks. Given the activities of this Tunisian birding association, it is not surprising that 46 Important Bird Areas are protected and that raptors and other birds passing over the famous Cap Bon migration hotspot are fully protected before they may crash in Malta or Italy. Essentially, the book is an annotated checklist for the 395 species recorded up to 2004, of which 193 are breeding. It contains 150 distribution maps and more than 130 colour photographs, many by Hichem Azafzaf. The text offers details on what is known about each species' status, phenology, distribution, habitat and nesting and, for instance, there is information on landscapes, a list of references and a gazetteer. Much of the book's contents has an anecdotal character, citing observations by visiting birders. As is the case with the other two Maghreb books, it is invaluable for a visit to Tunisia, where one can find taxa absent or difficult in the more popular birding destination of Morocco, such as Desert Red-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus ruficollis desertorum*, Numidian Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major numidus*, Saharan Olivaceous Warbler *Acrocephalus pallidus reiseri*, Tunisian Coal Tit *Parus ater ledouci* and Tunisian Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs spodiogenys*. ARNOUD B VAN DEN BERG

DAAN SCHOONHOVEN (EINDREDACTIE) 2005. *Birdpix.nl, de beste foto's van 2004*. Uitgegeven door Birdpix.nl (www.birdpix.nl) en PS Items (www.psitems.nl). 115 pp. ISBN 90-77204-18-0. EUR 49.90, bij online bestellen via www.birdpix.nl EUR 39.90 (excl EUR 3.00 verzendkosten, EUR 5.50 vanaf twee boeken).

De laatste 10 jaren zijn veel vogeltijdschriften, vogelorganisaties, vogelwerkgroepen en uitgevers die actief zijn op het gebied van vogelstudie een 'filiaal' gestart op internet, als aanvulling op hun reguliere papieren publicaties. Bij sommige wetenschappelijke tijdschriften (buiten de ornithologie) heeft deze trend al geleid tot het volledig opheffen van de gedrukte versie en het uitsluitend aanbieden van digitale publicaties. Birdpix.nl kiest voor de omgekeerde weg: in 2003 opgezet als website voor het publiceren van digitale vogelfoto's en andere natuurfoto's op internet, heeft Daan Schoonhoven, oprichter en samen met zijn broer Jan Willem (die de website heeft opgebouwd en beheert) drijvende kracht achter Birdpix.nl, ervoor gekozen een selectie van het beste materiaal op 'ouderwetse' wijze in boekvorm te publiceren. Het resultaat is een fraai en zorgvuldig vormgegeven boekwerk met bijna 70 kleurenfoto's, bijna allemaal van vogels maar ook een paar van libellen, vlinders en zoogdieren. Op 6 april 2005 werden de eerste twee exemplaren aangeboden aan Adri de Gelder, directeur van Vogelbescherming Nederland, en Jan Rodts van Vogelbescherming Vlaanderen; deze organisaties steunden samen met IVN Nederland en enkele particulieren de uitgave van dit boek. De formule van het boek is simpel; na twee korte inleidingen worden de foto's per maand gepresenteerd, beginnend met de winter (januari). Iedere foto (meestal op één pagina, soms over twee pagina's afgedrukt) is voorzien van informatie over de soort, datum, locatie, fotograaf en technische details over de gebruikte apparatuur. Daarnaast geeft de fotograaf een korte toelichting op de omstandigheden waaronder de foto gemaakt is of andere bijzonderheden. Het merendeel van de foto's is uit Nederland of België maar er zijn ook enkele foto's uit andere landen. Hoewel de opkomst van de digiscopie stormachtig is, blijkt de kwaliteit van de foto's die gemaakt zijn met een (digitale) spiegelreflexcamera toch zichtbaar beter. Daardoor is slechts c 10% van de geselecteerde foto's met digiscopie gemaakt. Sommige daarvan doen naar mijn mening echter absoluut niet onder voor de andere foto's. Nadat het kalenderjaar is afgerond met de wintermaanden november en december volgt een hoofdstuk met de biografieën van de betrokken fotografen (27 uit Nederland en drie uit België), bestaande uit een kort levensverhaaltje en een toelichting op de door hen gebruikte apparatuur. De meeste namen zullen de trouwe lezers van Dutch Birding bekend voorkomen maar enkele namen zijn (nog) niet zo vertrouwd.

De lay-out en productiekwaliteit van het boek is uitstekend en de meeste foto's komen mede dankzij de chique zwarte achtergrond goed tot hun recht. Bij foto's die over twee pagina's zijn afgedrukt is bijna altijd gezorgd dat de vogel zelf niet 'verminkt' wordt door de vouw; alleen bij de Pestvogel *Bombycilla garrulus* en het mannetje Haakbek *Pinicola enucleator* is dat helaas niet gelukt en dat is één van mijn weinige kritiekpunten op het boek. De kwaliteit van de foto's is – zoals te verwachten – hoog en de verhaaltjes bij de foto's geven een aardig beeld van de moeite die de fotografen zich in veel gevallen moesten getroosten om de foto's te maken, met als mooi voorbeeld de Kerkuil *Tyto alba* van Chris van Rijswijk (gemaakt met een draadontspanner van c 25 m lang!). Birdpix.nl heeft in januari 2005 een competitie voor de mooiste vogelfoto van de c 10 000 foto's die in 2004 werden ingezonden opgezet; de winnende foto's (in verschillende categorieën) zijn opgenomen in het boek en als zodanig vermeld in de toelichting.

Het boek geeft een aardig beeld van het niveau waarop de vogel- en natuurfotografie in de Lage Landen zich momenteel bevindt – ondanks het feit dat het werk van een aantal vooraanstaande vogelfotografen ontbreekt, zoals Arnoud van den Berg, Bas van den Boogaard, Marten van Dijl en René Pop (ik neem aan omdat deze fotografen (nog) geen foto's op Birdpix.nl hebben geplaatst). De opzet is aantrekkelijk en de mix van gewone, schaarse en soms zeer zeldzame vogelsoorten biedt voor elk wat wils. Naast alle lof blijft bij mij alleen de vraag hangen of een dergelijk boek ieder jaar uitgegeven zou moeten worden (iets wat de titel in ieder geval suggereert). Het voordeel van internet is dat

er bijna onbeperkt (in omvang en tijd) foto's bewaard en toegankelijk gemaakt kunnen worden. Een fraai afgedrukte foto op papier overtreft in mijn ogen weliswaar nog altijd de kwaliteit van een foto op het beeldscherm maar elk jaar een Birdpix-boek lijkt me – zeker gezien de forse prijs – wat veel van het goede voor een relatief beperkte markt waar het aanbod aan fraaie fotoboeken al groot is. Maar wie weet…

O ja, mijn favoriete foto? De Orpheusspotvogel *Hippolais polyglotta* bij St-Geertruid, Limburg, van Ran Schols. ENNO B EBELS

BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL 2004. *Birds in Europe: population estimates, trends and conservation status*. BirdLife Conservation Series 12. BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, UK; e-mail birdlife@birdlife.org, website www. birdlife.org. Available from Natural History Book Service Ltd, 2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN, UK; e-mail nhbs@nhbs.co.uk, website www.nhbs.com. 374 pp. ISBN 0-946888-53-1, GBP 30.00.

This book is the successor of *Birds in Europe: their conservation status* which appeared in 1994. In this fully updated version, the conservation status of all bird species of the whole European continent is dealt with, now also including Balkan and Caucasus countries for which no data could be collected in 1994 due to political instability at the time.

For all 526 species regularly occurring in Europe, full breeding and/or wintering numbers are given for each country. The information presented also includes a map (with symbols indicating decline, increase or stability of numbers for each country), population trends, conservation status, a summary of the status across Europe and relevant references. A summary of the overall results of the survey is available in 10 European languages.

The main conclusions are as clear and sombre as in the 1994 report: birds in Europe continue to be threatened by widespread environmental change and, more seriously, many populations are in deeper trouble than a decade ago.

This book is first of all *the* reference work for European and national conservationists and policy makers but obviously any birdwatcher interested in the developments in the conservation of European birds will find this book a valuable source of information. ANDRÉ J VAN LOON

KLAUS MALLING OLSEN & HANS LARSSON 2004. *Gulls of Europe, Asia and North America*. Christopher Helm/A&C Black Publishers Ltd, 37 Soho Square, London W1D 3QZ, UK; e-mail ornithology@acblack.com, website www.acblack.com. 608 pp. ISBN 0-7136-7087-8. GBP 45.00.

Anyone even remotely interested in gulls has had a tough time for many years. Since Peter Grant's pioneering gull book, back in 1986, no new books were published on the subject, yet the knowledge of gull identification and taxonomy was constantly evolving and rapidly increasing. The vast amount of newly acquired information found its way to all kinds of journals, magazines or even the internet, and was therefore scattered and sometimes limitedly accessible (eg, the only detailed paper on Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini* was published in German). General field guides, even the most state-of-the-art ones, failed to include the newly described gull taxa, as they could not keep up with the ever more rapidly evolving identification criteria and taxonomic changes.

It was about time gull enthusiasts had their own, brand new identification guide, and the long wait seemed to have come to an end in 2003, when *Gulls of Europe, Asia and North America* was published. An ever growing army of gull addicts had been eagerly looking forward to this release, and had high expectations of it – maybe even a little too high. It was therefore very unfortunate that the first edition of the book had to be withdrawn from the market because it contained too many mistakes. One year later, a revised edition was published, and that is reviewed here.

The authors seem to have had high ambitions, namely writing and fully illustrating a comprehensive and up-to-date guide on all of the gull taxa in the entire Northern Hemisphere, including some 'obscure' ones like Baraba Gull *L barabensis*, Taimyr Gull *L h taimyrensis*, Vega Gull *L vegae vegae*, Kumlien's Gull *L glaucoides kumlieni* etc. This is undoubtedly the major merit of this book: it describes and illustrates all gull taxa from the Northern Hemisphere, not only with colour plates depicting each age but also with many colour photographs. Finally, all of the current information on gulls can be found in one place and is accompanied by numerous photographs (over 820 in total), some of which are truly stunning, such as, from back to front, the adult-summer Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* on p 564, the Ivory Gulls *Pagophila eburnea* in a frozen landscape with icicles on p 554, the adult-summer Pallas's Gull *L ichthyaetus* on p 416, the juvenile Thayer's Gull *L thayeri* on p 235, and so on. The colour plates too are beautiful (and accurate), making it a pleasure to browse through the book and simply enjoy the illustrations. It is the first time I have seen drawings of immature *barabensis*, Mew Gull *L canus* of the subspecies *kamtschatschensis*, immature Mongolian Gull *L v mongolicus*, and a few others. The many plates and photographs are in themselves enough reason to buy this book.

Each taxon is treated thoroughly; a species chapter is headed by information on where the type specimen was taken, when and by whom (eg, 'Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* [Linnaeus, 1758, Gotland, Sweden]'). First, general identification criteria are described (for each plumage), with reference to similar species; then, sections on voice and moult are included, followed by detailed plumage descriptions, sections on aberrant birds and/or hybrids (if any), geographical variation, distribution and migration,

quite a few measurements, and weight. In addition, each species' chapter also includes several colour plates (depicting all of the ages, both at rest and in flight, and often subspecies as well), which are accompanied by extensive comments, a colour distribution map, an identification summary, and many colour photographs (eg, there are 39 photographs of Iceland Gull *L glaucoides*, including *kumlieni*, 48 photographs of Yellow-legged Gull *L michahellis*, 10 of which are of first-year birds, and 47 of European Herring Gull *L argentatus*).

The book does not focus much on gull taxonomy, probably because this is still developing, but the authors had to make some taxonomic decisions anyhow, in order to group the taxa for the descriptions. It is perhaps unfortunate that these decisions seem to have been a matter of personal preference rather than being based on recent studies. For instance, *barabensis* is treated as a subspecies of Pontic Gull *L cachinnans*, yet the authors acknowledge that it may, in fact, be more closely related to Heuglin's Gull. No reason is given as to why they have included it in Pontic. The same remark goes for Mongolian Gull, treated as another subspecies of Pontic in the book, yet the authors state: 'Here treated as a subspecies of Caspian [= Pontic], but more closely related to Vega Gull.' The authors seem to be aware of the most recent studies, but have made their own decisions anyway. This is unfortunate, since gull taxonomy is confusing enough as it is.

In general, the species chapters are thorough and accurate, and especially the section on general identification criteria will enable most readers, including the less avid gull enthusiasts, to sort out many of those immature European Herring, Lesser Black-backed *L fuscus*, Yellow-legged and Pontic Gulls, to name but a few.

However, when attentively reading the text, I had the impression that as much information as possible had been crammed into the available, limited space, resulting in a sort of telegram style littered with buzzwords and jargon (Kodak Grey Scales, measurements of mirrors, percentages, etc). Who honestly understands a sentence like 'P10 with 13-47mm (in 5-10% covering tip of p10, which covers max. 62mm of tip) and 5-25mm black subterminal bar behind tip' (p 324), let alone is able to apply this information in the field? Another example can be found on p 157: 'Shows no or very inconspicuous white tongues between black and white on p5-6'; how can there be a white division between a black and a white pattern?

At times, I found the text rather vague, too concise or even contradictory. For instance, throughout the book the authors use the term 'white tip' for different things: sometimes they use it to describe a large white mirror (especially on primary 10) that grades into the white apical spot (which could mean there is no black mark between the mirror and the apical spot, or is it used to refer to a broken black mark between the mirror and apical spot as well?), but sometimes also to refer to the white apical spot itself (on any primary). It is up to the reader to catch the right meaning… A precise definition of this 'white tip' is not given in the book. The illustration on p 21 shows that the word 'moons' refers to the tongue-tips in the primaries. Throughout the book, however, it is equally used to describe the pale primary edges on resting immature large gulls, and on p 262 the term 'new moon' is introduced to describe the bill pattern of fourth-winter European Herring Gull. To make things worse, the whitish tongue-tips on p5-7 of adult *taimyrensis* are erroneously referred to as 'mirrors' on p 397, instead of 'moons'. Sometimes, poor grammar also adds to the confusion; eg, the word 'few' is used even in those cases when 'a few' is meant. As an example of several conflicting statements in the book, the black tailbar of second-winter Pontic Gull is described as 'narrow, sometimes reduced to dark markings' on p 320, while in the caption to photograph 442 on p 330 we learn: 'Tailbar often broader than in first-years...' Similarly, the white trailing edge to the wings of adult Kelp Gull *L dominicanus* is described as 'broader than in Great Black-backed Gull [*L marinus*]' (p 128 and 148), but also 'as broad as in Great Black-backed Gull' (p 142, caption 7), and the upperparts of adult Mongolian Gull are said to be 'similar to Vega Gull' on p 338, yet 'often paler than Vega Gull' on p 340. A strong contradiction is found in the chapter on Heuglin's Gull; on p 392, we read that first-spring/summer *heuglini* 'also renews some flight feathers (esp. inner primaries)'. On the opposite plate, first-summer *heuglini* is indeed shown with arrested moult: four inner primaries are new (second generation), while the others are still juvenile. However, this is very misleading information, as in fact only a small minority shows any moulted, new primaries in spring/summer. This important character is printed correctly on p 395, in the section on moult to first-winter: 'Most do not moult any primaries; 5-10% some inner primaries…' Drawings are meant to illustrate typical field characters and it is therefore misleading that the depicted first-summer Heuglin's Gull has a number of renewed primaries. Occasionally, the text becomes almost lyrical, which is nice, though the comparison between a flying first-winter American Herring Gull *L smithsonianus* and a winter Sanderling *Calidris alba* (p 239) seems a bit far-fetched.

When the first edition of this book was taken off the market, many people mailed their suggestions to the authors, who took about one year to process them. The number of mistakes in the second edition is therefore much reduced but, alas, quite a few minor errors still remain. This is disappointing, especially as this book was probably intended as the new standard reference guide for many years to come. For the sake of brevity, I will not go into further detail on these errors here but I have included a list of some of those that I came across at the end of this review. In any case, they should not discourage gull enthusiasts from buying this book, which holds such a large amount of information and images.

The distribution maps are interesting as they show, in colour, the breeding and wintering ranges of each species and subspecies for the whole Northern Hemisphere. However, they are not always correct or

up-to-date (see list at the end of this review).

Some problems with the lay-out of the pages seem to have gone unsolved or unnoticed. The paintings are not always logically numbered; this is the case in, for instance, Saunders's Gull *L saundersi* (p 477) and Mediterranean Gull *L melanocephalus* (p 483), the various plumages of which are scattered across the page. Incorrect numbering is occasionally also found in the photograph sections; eg, photograph 23 is followed by photograph 27 (while the caption to the latter is on the next page, and the caption to photograph 24 is one page too early). All captions to the photographs include the name of the taxon, age, locality, date, name of photographer, and some comments. Sometimes, the comments do not correspond entirely with the characters visible in the photograph; as an example, the caption to photograph 543 (p 385) states that 'pale tertial edges do not reach greater coverts' (in first-year Lesser Black-backed Gull), yet in the photograph they do. In photograph 314 (p 251), a flying American Herring Gull is supposed to show 'tertials with extensive dark markings', while we are actually looking at the lower scapulars in the photograph. Once airborne, the lower scapulars overlap the tertials (making them invisible) on all flying gulls (Anthony McGeehan in litt). In addition, comments that would have been instructive and useful are sometimes left out. This seems to be the case in photographs 286, 288 (both on p 235), 294 (p 236), 424 (p 306), 433 (p 328), 445 (p 331) and 501 to 510 (p 357–359). According to some USA West Coast birders, photographs 286, 288 and 294 look more like hybrids of Glaucous-winged *L glaucescens* x American Herring Gull, rather than actual Thayer's Gulls, but the captions do not even mention this similarity (Ph Pickering pers comm). Photograph 424 shows an adult winter Armenian Gull *L armenicus* that has a large white mirror on the underside of the outermost primary (merging with the white apical spot), and rather dull-coloured legs. A brief explanation on why this bird is not a Pontic Gull would have been welcome. Photograph 433, taken in the middle of October, includes a first-winter Pontic on the left and a first-winter European Herring on the right. The bird on the right, however, seems to have moulted at least a few inner median coverts (something a first-year Herring Gull is not supposed to do before April), and has rather long wings and a bit of a paler head set off against sharp neck streaking. These characters recall Yellow-legged Gull to a certain extent; a little more information on this bird might have been interesting. Photograph 448 depicts a third-winter Pontic that lacks a white mirror on p10, has a rather square head, dark grey upperparts, and a fairly large amount of black at the bill tip. It therefore bears some resemblance to Armenian (compare, eg, with photograph 428), but this similarity is not dealt with in the caption. Photographs 500–510 show first- and second-year Slaty-backed Gulls *L schistisagus*, mostly from Hokkaido, Japan. The problem is that such birds can be nearly impossible to tell apart from darker Glaucous-winged, hybrids (involving Glaucous-winged as one parent species, and American Herring, Vega or Slaty-backed Gull as the other), and paler Vega (Paul Lehman in litt). It would have been good to see more comments on this in the captions.

The species chapters also include voice descriptions but these are generally very succinct and of no practical use. The calls of *mongolicus* are not described, even though these have been published in Krister Mild's *Soviet Bird Songs* recording (Antero Lindholm & Annika Forsten in litt).

Age terminology and the sections on moult in the book are modern and up-to-date, as they follow the recent studies by Steve Howell (who concluded that many large gull species do not have a real 'first-summer' plumage but moult rather continuously from juvenile into second-winter plumage, instead).

A drawback of the texts is the referencing style: references are often bundled together in a long list at the end of a section or paragraph, rather than placed near the statements they pertain to. This makes it quite difficult or even impossible to know which reference refers to what exactly.

To conclude, this book is interesting because it holds a large collection of photographs, presents good, colourful drawings of nearly all taxa and ages, and has collected most of the current knowledge on gulls in one single place. It is the only modern gull book on the market now, and it can therefore be considered the new 'gull bible' for the time being. However, as is also the case with the real Bible, it is dangerous to interpret the texts literally. PETER ADRIAENS

APPENDIX: Specific comments

p 21 The 'ear-spot' is not shown in the illustration at the bottom left. Instead, a full summer hood is painted.

p 27 The caption to figure 14 (Pontic Gull) should mention a broad white mirror on p9, not a 'broad white tip'.

p 28-29 [figure 7-9 American Herring Gull] The statement 'generally broken, often indistinct black markings on p5' is incorrect. In fact, only a minority of North American East Coast birds shows this (eg, 27-35% of Newfoundland birds; further south the percentage is even lower). The term 'bayonets' has been misinterpreted; it refers to the protruding, thin and needle-like shape at the base of the black markings and the distinct step this creates on the outer web of a primary, and has nothing to do with the pale tongue (which is located on the inner web). This 'bayonet pattern' is well shown in figure 7-9, where it can be seen on the outer web of p8. [figure 13 Thayer's Gull] The caption refers to figure 6 as an example of the 'least well-marked American Herring Gulls'. Figure 6, however, shows a western bird, and should therefore probably read '8' or '9'. The least marked American Herring Gulls are eastern birds, not western. Figure 13 is not really similar to figure 6, as it shows much longer and broader pale tongues on p9-10. [Figure 18 Kumlien's (Iceland) Gull] Figure 18 does not 'show maximum amount of dark', as adult Kumlien's Gull can have dark markings on p5 as well

(see, eg, plate 2 in Alula 9: 4, 2003), exceptionally even reaching onto the inner web (photo 19 in Alula 9: 9, 2003). The authors refer to figure 4 (p 30) as a Kumlien's Gull showing 'minimal amount of dark' but figure 4 shows a hybrid Glaucous-winged x Western Gull; figure 3 is meant instead.

p 42 The captions to figure 5 and 6 need to be switched. The caption to figure 5 mentions that Heermann's Gull *L heermanni* wears its second-winter plumage from September to March while the caption to figure 6 states that this plumage is seen from October to May. Which one is correct? The caption to figure 8 gives the wrong period (December to August) for third-winter plumage. This period should be either September to March (according to caption 7) or August to February (according to the text on p 41).

p 48 The caption to figure 4 gives the wrong period (January to August, ie, approximately the same period as adult-summer!) for adult-winter White-eyed Gull *L leucophthalmus*. It should be 'August to February'.

p 76 Vagrancy of Kamchatka Gull *L c kamtschatschensis* is not mentioned, yet records of vagrants have been published for Alaska, USA (Sibley 2001).

p 83 The introduction to the species chapter mentions that Mew Gulls of the subspecies *kamtschatschensis* 'often have a thinner bill than Mew [= Short-billed] Gull *L* [*c*] *brachyrhynchus*', yet the opposite seems to be true: Short-billed Gulls often seem to have a very delicate, fine bill, while Kamchatka Gulls may look more robust, almost approaching the large gulls. The section on first-winter birds states that 'some (Short-billed Gulls) moult parts of upperwing-coverts in autumn, unlike… Ring-billed Gull [*L delawarensis*]'. This is incorrect, as many first-winter Ring-billed show this too; see, eg, photograph 99 on p 113, which shows a first-winter Ring-billed with a few moulted inner greater coverts in October.

p 94 The caption to figure 3 gives the wrong period (March to October) for first-winter Audouin's Gull *L audouinii*; it should be 'September to April'. In the caption to figure 7, 'adult summer' should be replaced by 'adult winter'.

p 93-99 The section on second-winter Audouin's Gull does not mention that the inner primaries are variable at this age. The text states that the inner five primaries (p1-5) are grey, while in fact sometimes fewer or even no primaries may be grey in this plumage. Figure 4 on p 97 illustrates a second-winter bird with zero grey primaries, so it is strange that this is not mentioned anywhere (not even in the caption to this figure). Photograph 90 (p 101) shows a second-winter bird with only one grey primary (p1, and a grey inner web on p2). The second-winter bird in photograph 91 has three grey inner primaries, and grey inner webs of p4-5.

p 99 The Turkish and Portuguese breeding sites of Audouin's Gull are not indicated on the map.

p 124 California Gull *L californicus* is rare but regular in several eastern provinces and states in North America not mentioned here, such as Ontario, Canada, and New York, USA. Ottavio Janni is incorrectly cited for a statement that he did not make (Ottavio Janni in litt).

p 130 Caption 4 gives the wrong period (April to September) for second-winter Great Black-backed Gull; this should be 'August to March'.

p 136 The Dutch and German breeding sites of Great Black-backed Gull are not shown on the map.

p 144 The top left section (on second-winter Kelp Gull) states that 'a blackish saddle against brown wings is not seen in Northern Hemisphere gulls of similar age, but only in May-July'. This seems an odd statement, as at least a greyish-black saddle against brown wings is commonly seen in second-winter Lesser Black-backed Gulls, also in November to January.

p 147 The section on distribution and migration of Kelp Gull starts with the statement that there are '1,085 million pairs' worldwide. Throughout the book, a comma is consistently used as a separator for the number thousand (as it normally is in the English language), and the population of Kelp Gulls could therefore be read as over one thousand million (or one billion) pairs! Of course, a point should have been used here (1.085), to indicate a decimal figure.

p 161 Photograph 164 is labelled a 'second-winter' Glaucous-winged Gull but the boldly marked upper- and undertail-coverts and wing-coverts, the rather pointed outer primaries, all-dark bill and overall brown body colour indicate that this is, in fact, a first-winter bird. The bird in photograph 165 is aged as a 'second or third-winter (difficult to age with certainty)'. However, the absence of any blue-grey, adult-like inner primaries indicates that this is a second-winter bird.

p 163 The bird in photograph 175 is not a 'first-winter' but is actually moulting into second-winter, as is evident from its growing outer primaries, among other characters.

p 166 The period given for adult-winter Western Gull *L occidentalis* of the subspecies *wymani* ('February to September') is incorrect. It should be 'September to February'.

p 195 The name '*Larus hyperboreus 'leucerectes"* is incorrect; the form is named '*leuceretes*', a name first introduced by Schleep in 1819, who used it to refer to Glaucous Gull in general ('*Larus leuceretes*').

p 212-215 Second-winter Kumlien's Gulls regularly show a whitish mirror on p10. This is not mentioned anywhere in the text, nor illustrated in the paintings, but it can be easily seen in photographs 271-272. The pale mirror is important, as it can be used as a separating character from similarly-aged Iceland Gulls, and probably Thayer's Gulls too.

p 212 The caption to figure 8 (adult summer Kumlien's Gull) refers to the outermost three primaries as 'p1-3', instead of the much more logical 'p8-10'. Primaries are usually numbered descendantly in gulls, and this is also the case in the book, except here.

p 239 The section on adult American Herring Gull (and caption 7 on p 242) states that adult European Herring Gull 'only exceptionally shows a complete black 'W-marking' on p5 in combination with a large amount of white in primaries'. This is a somewhat simplified statement, as this combination actually occurs in at least 4% of adult *argentatus* from the Eastern Baltic, and also in some *argenteus-argentatus* intergrades, which means it is not that exceptional. Also, 'a large amount of white in primaries' is a rather vague way of describing characters that may separate adult American from European Herring.

p 240 The caption to figure 10 ('adult winter American Herring Gull') states that birds at this age 'often show white tip on p10'. This is a confusing statement, as a broad, white tip on this primary (which means there are no black markings between the white mirror and the white apical spot) is seen in only a 'small minority' of adult American Herring Gulls (eg, only 7% of Newfoundland birds, and even less in other populations: eg, 0% in Niagara birds). Note also that the corresponding figure on p 241 does not have this all-white tip on p10 but shows a complete black mark dividing the mirror and apical spot.

p 246 The section on first-winter American Herring Gull (and the section on geographical variation on p 248) mentions that 'two generations of scapulars are sometimes present Sep–Nov (unlike Herring Gull)'. This seems like an odd statement, since there are many first-year European Herring Gulls with two generations of scapulars (juvenile and incoming first-winter feathers) at that time of the year, especially in the subspecies *argenteus*. The section on second-winter birds states that 'p10 lacks a white mirror'. This is not always the case though, as a few second-winter birds do show such a mirror, although rather small.

p 247 The section on geographical variation in adult American Herring Gulls states that a 'white tip to p10 was noted in 61% Newfoundland'. This is again a somewhat misleading statement, since an *entirely* white tip (which means there are no black markings between the white mirror and apical spot) was noted in only 7% of Newfoundland birds; the other 54% all had a broken black subterminal bar between the mirror and apical spot. The percentage of Massachusetts birds with an all-white tip will probably also be lower than stated ('14%'). Perhaps, much of the confusion stems from the fact that the term 'white tip' is not defined or explained anywhere in the book, and is used for various meanings. Another confusing or misleading statement is that 'a solid or complete band on p5 is present in… 73% in Newfoundland, where often narrower, restricted to one web…' The number of adult Newfoundland birds with a complete black band on p5 ('complete' as in covering both webs) is indeed 73%. The number of birds in which the black pattern is restricted to one web only (the outer), however, is only 19%, so a clear distinction should be made here. In the sentence 'The tongues which are pointed ('bayonet-shaped')…', the 'bayonet pattern' has been misinterpreted as it has nothing to do with the tongues. See comments to p 29 above.

p 255 The section on moult from juvenile to first-winter plumage claims that moult 'starts with lower scapulars…', while these feathers are actually moulted last.

p 264 The wintering area of European Herring Gull shown on the map is incomplete; the main wintering area also includes, eg, all of the Netherlands and Belgium (not just the coasts), and parts of southern Germany.

p 285 The section on adult '*lusitanius*' Yellow-legged Gulls contains some contradictory information: adults are said to be 'white-headed from July to January' but are also said to have 'darker head markings than *michahellis* in August to November'. Perhaps the authors meant that *lusitanius* is white-headed from January to July?

p 288 'Nieuwpoort-de-Pann' should read 'between Nieuwpoort and De Panne' (two different towns).

p 293 Photograph 385 is labelled 'Third-winter and adults' but this 'third-winter' (second bird from the left) is actually a second-summer still moulting into third-winter.

p 308 *Larus cachinnans* was described by Pallas in 1826, not 1811.

p 311 Figure 2 shows a first-year Pontic Gull with an uncommon moult pattern: it has retained the juvenile lower scapulars, while it has already acquired some new wing-coverts as well (the inner median and a few lesser coverts). However, like the text on p 320 also states, first-year Pontic Gulls usually have moulted all of their juvenile scapulars by late August, when the first new wing-coverts start to appear. There may be a little overlap in moult timing but it is not typical.

p 312 The caption to figure 5 states that a third-winter Pontic Gull has a white mirror on p10 only, and this statement is repeated on p 322. This is a bit misleading, as some third-winter Pontic Gulls have a white mirror on p9 as well.

p 319 The 'second-winter' *barabensis* shown in figure 3 is, in fact, a third-winter, as is evident from its adult-like secondaries and inner primaries.

p 337 Photograph 473 is labelled a 'first-winter' Mongolian Gull but it is actually one year older (nearly second-winter). It has replaced all of its juvenile wing-coverts and tertials, and has moulted most of its primaries (the outer ones are still growing). It is hard to believe that this photograph was taken in February; the moult pattern seems more consistent with September-October.

p 338 The captions to photographs 478 and 479 should be switched.

p 359 Photograph 511 is labelled a 'second-winter' Slaty-backed Gull but it actually shows a third-winter bird, as is evident from the broad, white tips to the secondaries and inner primaries.

p 368 In the caption to figure 8 (adult winter *inter-*

medius), the sentence 'Upperparts darker blackish-grey than in *fuscus*' should read 'Upperparts darker blackish-grey than in *graellsii*'.

p 373 In the section on second-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull, 't1-4' should be replaced by 'p1-4'.

p 384 Photograph 539 is labelled a 'first- or second-summer' Baltic Gull *L fuscus fuscus*. The bird can be more precisely aged as an advanced second-summer because of the broad, white tips to the inner primaries.

p 389 The type locality of Heuglin's Gull is not 'North Siberia' (Visa Rauste in litt).

p 395 The statement that 'less than 5% (of adult Heuglin's Gulls) show black markings on p4' is incorrect (Visa Rauste in litt). In fact, the text that follows between brackets ('normally those with largest amount of white on p9-10') seems to indicate that the authors were trying to say the opposite ('less than 5% do *not* show black markings on p4')! A section on differences between adult *heuglini* and adult *barabensis* has been put at the end of the section on moult of second-winter *heuglini*, and before the section on moult of 'other ages', which is confusing.

p 401 Photograph 574 was photographed on 29 April, not 29 June (Visa Rauste in litt).

p 402 Photograph 575 was photographed on 24 May, not 29 April. The correct date is important, as first-summer Heuglin's Gulls do not usually start moulting their primaries before mid-May, and this bird has shed p1. Contrary to what is said in the caption, this bird does not have any adult-type wing-coverts. In photograph 576, p1 is still present, contrary to what is mentioned in the caption. The bird in photograph 578 still has all of its juvenile secondaries; the caption erroneously states that 50% of these feathers have been renewed (Visa Rauste in litt).

Aankondigingen & verzoeken

Vogels van Schiermonnikoog Op 10 juli 2005 werd in Hotel van der Werff op Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, het boek *Vogels van Schiermonnikoog – gezien - geteld - opgetekend* gepresenteerd, uitgegeven door Uitgeverij Uniepers te Abcoude, Utrecht. Het is samengesteld onder de verantwoordelijkheid van de Stuurgroep Avifauna Schiermonnikoog (SAS), onder eindredactie van André J van Loon en Rob Mooser.

Deze nieuwe avifauna is de opvolger van de reeds lang uitverkochte wetenschappelijke mededeling van de KNNV *De vogels van Schiermonnikoog* van Rob Mooser uit 1973.

Behalve de inleidende hoofdstukken over onder meer de ontwikkeling van vegetatie en landschap, het beheer en ontwikkelingen in de broedvogelbevolking en het systematische soortenoverzicht, bevat het boek ook een serie hoofdstukken over het onderzoek aan vogels dat op Schiermonnikoog werd en wordt verricht, zoals bijvoorbeeld het ringonderzoek aan Lepelaars *Platalea leucorodia*, zangvogels en steltlopers, het ecologische onderzoek aan ganzen en Scholeksters *Haematopus ostralegus* en de reeds jarenlang lopende regelmatige hoogwatertellingen.

Het boek omvat 440 pagina's, kost slechts EUR 29.90 en is verkrijgbaar in de boekhandel. De Vereniging Natuurmonumenten biedt het boek aan leden met korting aan.

Vogelfestival in de Oostvaardersplassen op 27 en 28 augustus 2005 Meer dan 8000 vogel- en natuurliefhebbers bezochten het Vogelfestival 2004 in de Oostvaardersplassen, Flevoland. Het evenement was daarmee een regelrecht succes! Staatsbosbeheer, SOVON en Vogelbescherming Nederland zijn zeer verheugd om u in 2005 opnieuw een Vogelfestivalweekend te mogen aanbieden. Natuurliefhebbers van jong tot oud kunnen hun hart weer ophalen, aan een gevarieerd programma. Het festival vindt wederom plaats in het prachtige, centraal gelegen en vogelrijke natuurgebied de Oostvaardersplassen tussen Almere en Lelystad.

Dit jaar staat het Vogelfestival in het teken van 'vogels van riet en plas'. Nederland draagt een bijzondere verantwoordelijkheid voor het voortbestaan van een groot aantal karakteristieke moerasvogels. Veel van deze soorten zijn inmiddels terechtgekomen op de Rode Lijst van bedreigde en kwetsbare vogelsoorten. Diverse activiteiten op het festival zullen daarom extra aandacht vragen voor de 'vogels van riet en plas' met speciale aandacht voor reigerachtigen. 50% van de entree komt ten goede aan een moerasvogelproject van BirdLife International in Burkino Faso.

Het Vogelfestival biedt een zeer gevarieerd programma met boeiende lezingen, verrassende excursies, entertainment, demonstraties door kunstenaars en natuurlijk heel veel informatiestands van allerlei binnen- én buitenlandse organisaties die 'iets hebben' met vogels. De DBA verzorgt dit jaar een lezing en levert een aantal excursieleiders.

Kijk voor meer informatie op de website www.vogelfestival.nl.

[*Dutch Birding 27: 268-269, 2005*]

Bird Festival at Oostvaardersplassen on 27-28 August 2005 After the successful Bird Festival last year (more than 8000 visitors), this event will again take place at the Oostvaardersplassen nature reserve, Flevoland, on 27-28 August 2005. This year, the central theme is 'birds of reeds and wetlands'. Many wetland species are already on the Dutch Red List of threatened and vulnerable bird species and, therefore, special attention is given during the festival to wetland birds, especially herons.

The festival will offer a varied programme of interesting lectures, excursions, demonstrations by artists and many stands of Dutch and foreign organisations related to birds. Also the DBA is present, offering a lecture and excursion leaders. For more information, see the website www.vogelfestival.nl.

Masters of Mystery

SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

Solutions of third round 2005

The solutions of mystery photographs V and VI (Dutch Birding 27: 209-210, 2005) of the 2005 Masters of Mystery competition appear below.

V The bird depicted shows its bright green and yellow upperparts to the observer. A few points catch the eye: a yellow supercilium and yellow fringes to the median coverts, secondaries, primaries and tail-feathers. Although these characters led some entrants (7%) to species such as Citril Finch *Serinus citrinella* (which would show a broad yellow wingbar and streaked upperparts), the identity must be sought within the warblers.

A number of New World warblers, although not mentioned by many entrants, seem to be good candidates as they possess the characters mentioned above. From the species recorded as vagrants in the Western Palearctic, Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina* perhaps seems the most likely candidate but would show more dull, greenish fringes to the tertials, secondaries and primaries. In addition, this species does not show such a sharply defined rear end of its supercilium as the mystery bird. The latter argument also applies to Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia*. As most other *Dendroica* warblers, Yellow would show obvious yellow spots in the tail-feathers, which should be visible in the displaced feather at the right side of the mystery bird. Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina* also shows an obvious white pattern in the tail. Although most characters seem to fit Wilson's Warbler *W pusilla*, this species can also be ruled out as it shows a fairly long tail and short wings, resulting in a short primary projection.

315 Wood Warbler / Fluiter *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*, Tizi-n-Taghatine, Ouarzazate, Morocco, 13 April 2005 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*

316 Wood Warbler / Fluiter *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*, Bou Hedma, Tunisia, 4 May 2005 *(René Pop)*

Thus, the bird must be an Old World *Phylloscopus* warbler. The bright upperparts and the absence of wingbars would fit Wood *P sibilatrix,* Willow *P trochilus* and, to a lesser extent, also Western Bonelli's Warbler *P bonelli*. The long wings, resulting in a primary projection of c 100% rules out the latter species. Finally, the mystery bird shows all characters of a Wood Warbler: contrastingly dark-centred tertials, lemon-yellow-fringed tertials, secondaries, primaries and tail-feathers, as well as a sharply defined lemon-yellow supercilium. Furthermore, the tail is very short.

This Wood Warbler was photographed by Arnoud van den Berg during its spring migration at Tizi-n-Taghatine, Ouarzazate, Morocco, on 13 April 2005. It turned out to be easily identified, and was identified correctly by 90% of the entrants, while 2% voted for Willow Warbler *P trochilus*. Another picture of the same bird can be seen in plate 315. Interestingly, this bird is of the rare pale morph, showing a white throat and upperbreast; such birds may invite confusion with Western Bonelli's Warbler, especially when the upperparts are not seen well. A picture of another pale Wood Warbler on migration in north-western Africa can be seen in plate 316.

VI Mystery photograph VI shows a feeding female-type dabbling duck. As the head pattern and bill structure, the most commonly used field marks in female-plumaged dabbling ducks, are not visible in the mystery photograph, the identification appears to be a hard nut to crack. However, because of the absence of extensive white outer tail-feathers, Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* and Mallard *A platyrhynchos* can be ruled out. Note, however, that the tail-feathers do have white fringes, and this may have been the reason for 20% of the entrants to vote for one of these two species. Another reason to reject both species as possible answers is the leg colour. The left leg is visible and, although it is under water, the colour can be easily judged as pale yellowish. In both Mallard and Northern Shoveler, the colour of the leg is bright orange. Female Northern Pintail *A acuta* seems a good choice because of the distinctly patterned flank-feathers in the mystery bird but this species would show greyish legs and, in addition, a longer, pointed tail and differently patterned feathers on the wing and upperparts.

In other dabbling duck species, only Gadwall *A strepera*, Blue-winged Teal *A discors* and Baikal Teal *A formosa* show yellowish legs. Female Gadwall can be eliminated as this species would show extensive pale markings on the scapulars, forming dark U-shaped bars reminiscent of the flank-feathers, and grey-centred tertials. The absence of a white streak at the base of the tail in the mystery bird is another clue to eliminate Gadwall. In Baikal Teal, this pale patch should also be present. In addition, an important difference between Baikal and Blue-winged Teal

317 Blue-winged Teal / Blauwvleugeltaling *Anas discors*, Wakodahatchee, Palm Beach, Florida, USA, 18 February 2005 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*

Mystery photograph VII (May)

Mystery photograph VIII (May)

concerns the pattern of the flank-feathers. In the mystery bird, a subterminal pale line in the flank-feathers is present, creating dark U-shaped subterminal marks. This is typical for Blue-winged. In Baikal, the flank-feathers are more uniformly coloured brown with a pale fringe.

In conclusion, although the distinct head pattern can not be seen, this mystery bird can quite easily be identified as Blue-winged Teal by the yellowish leg colour and the absence of a pale patch at the base of the tail. In addition, the pattern of the flank-feathers is another strong pointer. This Blue-winged Teal was photographed by Arnoud van den Berg at Wakodahatchee, Palm Beach, Florida, USA, on 18 February 2005. It was correctly identified by 32% of the entrants. The most mentioned wrong answer was Northern Shoveler (32%), followed by Gadwall (15%) and Northern Pintail (15%). Another picture of the same bird is shown in plate 317. Note the distinct pale spot at the base of the bill and the pale eye-ring.

The third round for 2005 proved not to be too difficult since there were 41 entrants of whom 12 (30%) managed to identify both mystery birds correctly. From them, Stuart Piner (Britain) was drawn as the winner of a copy of *A field guide to the birds of South-East Asia* by Craig Robson. As both Hans Larsson (Sweden) and Hein Prinsen managed to identify the two mystery birds of the third round correctly, they are still on the lead of the overall competition with six correct identifications, followed closely by Martin Kuhn (Germany), Stuart Piner (Britain) and Franco Trave (Italy). Furthermore, 12 entrants have four points. The names of all the entrants with at least one correct identification can be viewed at www.dutchbirding.nl.

Fourth round 2005

Photographs VII and VIII represent the fourth round of the 2005 competition. Please, study the rules (Dutch Birding 27: 55, 2005) 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 website of the Dutch Birding Association at www.dutchbirding.nl

Entries for the fourth round have to arrive by **1 September 2005**. Please, indicate if you are subscribed to Dutch Birding. From those entrants having identified both mystery birds correctly, one person will be drawn who will receive a copy of the *Handbook of the swallows and martins of the world* by Chris Rose and Angela Turner. Swarovski Benelux has generously agreed to sponsor this competition again in 2005. This year, the overall winner after six rounds will receive a pair of marvellous 8x32 EL binoculars.

Rob S A van Bemmelen, Stavangerweg 535, 1013 AX Amsterdam, Netherlands (masters@dutchbirding.nl)
Dick Groenendijk, Elzenstraat 14, 4043 PB Opheusden, Netherlands (masters@dutchbirding.nl)

WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic mainly in **late May-early July 2005** and focuses on north-western Europe. The reports are largely unchecked and their publication here does not imply future acceptance by a rarities committee. Observers are requested to submit their records to each country's rarities committee. Corrections are welcome and will be published.

SWANS TO HERONS In June, **Whooper Swans** *Cygnus cygnus* bred for the first time in 200 years in Hungary, with three young raised at Ipoly river near the Slovakian border. At Wapserveld, Drenthe, the first-ever breeding reported for the Netherlands concerned a pair producing five eggs and just one hatchling which did not survive. In World Birdwatch 27 (2): 24-26, 2005, results of a satellite tracking project of Fennoscandinavian **Lesser White-fronted Geese** *Anser erythropus* since 1995 are highlighted. It has been found that, after spring, wild birds first fly east to Kanin Peninsula, northern Russia, to stay for several weeks and then head either south-west to wintering grounds in south-eastern Europe and Turkey or further east crossing the Ural mountains and then south along the Ob valley to northern Kazakhstan. Where these tagged birds went next remained unknown for years since signals stopped, some no doubt being shot by hunters. However, in the winter of 2004/05, one adult male fitted with a transmitter in northern Russia in late July 2004 survived and could be followed during its entire journey from northern Russia to its wintering grounds in Iraq and back. It used stopover sites and staging areas along the Ob valley and in northern Kazakhstan, where it stayed until 20 October, before it was found in northern Azerbaijan in early November, then in Nagorno Karabach, Armenia, then west at the high-altitude Haçli lake in eastern Turkey, and finally in Iraq, where it wintered until late February 2005 in wetlands between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, up to as close as 80 km east of Baghdad. The first breeding record of **Siberian White-fronted Goose** *A albifrons albifrons* for Iceland concerned a nest found at Öræfasveit on 6 June which was occupied by an individual that was also present here as a first-summer in 2004. A female **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea* at Oristano in late April was the fifth for Sardinia, Italy, and the seventh for Iceland was discovered on on 22 June, the eight to 11th on 25 June, and the 12th on 4 July. At Foss, Iceland, the male **White-winged Scoter** *Melanitta deglandi* remained at least until 30 June. In Israel, a **Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator* was seen off

318 Elegant Tern / Sierlijke Stern *Sterna elegans*, probably male, with Sandwich Terns / Grote Sterns *S sandvicensis*, Lagune du Dain, Bouin, Vendée, France, 10 June 2005 *(Matthieu Vaslin)*

319 Sooty Tern / Bonte Stern *Sterna fuscata*, The Skerries, Anglesey, Wales, 10 July 2005 *(Steve Young/Birdwatch)*

320 Sooty Tern / Bonte Stern *Sterna fuscata*, The Skerries, Anglesey, Wales, 8 July 2005 *(Adrian Webb)*

321 Black-winged Kite / Grijze Wouw *Elanus caeruleus*, Skagen, Nordjylland, Denmark, 16 May 2005 *(Ole Krogh)* **322** Steppe Eagle / Steppearend *Aquila nipalensis*, Bad Bramstedt, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, June 2005 *(Peter Schleef)* **323** Amur Falcon / Amoerroodpootvalk *Falco amurensis*, male, Klackeberga, Småland, Sweden, 1 July 2005 *(David Erterius)* **324** Amur Falcon / Amoerroodpootvalk *Falco amurensis*, male, Klackeberga, Småland, Sweden, 1 July 2005 *(Hans Larsson)*

Eilat's north beach on 6 May. The immature male **Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola* at Ezumakeeg, Friesland, the Netherlands, from 2 May was last seen on 22 May. The second **Barrow's Goldeneye** *B islandica* for Britain was a male at Ythan Estuary and Loch of Strathbeg, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, from 13 May until at least 14 June (some previous sightings have been dismissed as presumed escapes). The female **American Black Duck** *Anas rubripes* on Tresco, Scilly, England, remained throughout the period. The one in Lugo, Galicia, Spain, had returned on 11 June and the long-stayer at Gerðar, Garður, Iceland, was seen again on 12 June. On 19 June, two out of three **Fea's Petrels** *Pterodroma feae* were photographed on a pelagic off Hatteras, North Carolina, USA (although this species is now annual in North Carolina with a total of at least 50 sightings, it has not yet been accepted by the AOU rarities committee). On 2 July, one was reported from Galley Head, Cork, Ireland. A total of four **Wilson's Storm-petrels** *Oceanites oceanicus* were logged during a pelagic south-west of Bishop Rock, Scilly, as early as 14 June. Three Wilson's Storm-petrels on 12-13 May, 10 **White-faced Storm-petrels** *Pelagodroma marina* on 13 May, four **Madeiran Storm-petrels** *Oceanodroma castro* (two on 10 and two on 13 May), a total of 10 **Bulwer's Petrels** *Bulweria bulwerii* on 10, 11 and 14 May, a **Red-billed Tropicbird** *Phaethon aethereus* on 10 May, and six **Roseate Terns** *Sterna dougallii* on 11 May were found on pelagics off Puerto Rico, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands. In Israel, a **Red-billed Tropicbird** was seen off Eilat's north beach on 5 June. A **Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster* flew past Cabo Raso, Portugal, on 9 June. In Sardinia, a second colony of 45 pairs of **Greater Flamingos** *Phoenicopterus roseus* was established this spring at Gulf of Oristano;

the large colony of more than 4000 pairs in saltpans at Macchiareddu, Gulf of Cagliari, still flourished. The third **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* and (only) the first twitchable for Sweden was discovered at Lund, Skåne, on 30 June. In the Netherlands, a total of 17 were reported during May-June. Also in the Netherlands, an unprecedented 97 pairs of **Great Egret** *Casmerodius albus* were nesting this spring at Oostvaardersplassen, Flevoland, with 92 pairs of Eurasian Spoonbills *Platalea leucorodia* in the same area.

RAPTORS TO RAILS In Israel, at least eight **Crested Honey Buzzards** *Pernis ptilorhyncus* and one **Verreaux's Eagle** *Aquila verreauxii* (on 9 May) were seen over the Eilat mountains between 28 April and 21 May. The third **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* this spring for Belgium flew over Knokke, West-Vlaanderen, on 19 May (cf Dutch Birding 27: 211, 2005). In Italy, two were seen on Marettimo off Sicily on 2 May. A pair was suspected to start breeding south of Lyon, Rhône, France, this spring. In Turkey, an immature **White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* was seen at Eskipolat on 29 May. In the Netherlands, an adult and a subadult White-tailed Eagle and the colour-ringed **Eurasian Black Vulture** *Aegypius monachus* (cf Dutch Birding 27: 213, 221, 2005) remained through June and into July at Oostvaardersplassen. An immature **Lammergeier** *Gypaetus barbatus* flew past Castricum, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, on 10 July. In Switzerland, on 28 May, an unprecedented flock of 54 **Eurasian Griffon Vultures** *Gyps fulvus* were first seen near Yverdon, Vaud, between 16:10 and 16:30 and then 20 km to the north at Creux-du-Van, Neuchâtel, at c 17:00. Singles occurred in Estonia on 9 June, at Hyrynsalmi, Finland, on 12 June and on Texel and at Den Helder, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, on 22 and 23 June. In Spain, a subadult **Rüppell's Griffon Vulture** *G rueppellii* was seen at Tarifa, Cádiz, on 10 June in the company of Eurasian Griffon Vultures, of which 50 had crossed the Straits of Gibraltar that day. On 20 June, another subadult Rüppell's Griffon Vulture was seen at the Eurasian Griffon Vulture colony at Ports de Beseït, Castelló, constituting the northernmost sighting ever for Spain (cf Dutch Birding 25: 289-303, 2003). On 10 July, a juvenile flew in over sea from Africa at Playa de los Lances, Cádiz. On 29 June, a **Eurasian Black Vulture** was reported at Lancieniki, Latvia, where the species was also seen last year. The first for Estonia for 40 years turned up on 16 June. The increase in recent years in sightings of several rare raptor species in mainland north-western Europe continued. For instance, for the Netherlands, it is hard to realize that for species like **Short-toed Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*, **Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus* and **Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus* there were only eight records before 1996, eight before 1999 and none before 1992, respectively, while this year already for May-June alone there were nine (plus six in Belgium),

325 Wilson's Phalarope / Grote Franjepoot *Phalaropus tricolor*, Orrevann, Klepp, Rogaland, Norway, 4 June 2005 *(Christian Tiller)*

326 Slender-billed Gull / Dunbekmeeuw *Larus genei*, Ile de Noirmoutier, Vendée, France, 11 June 2005 *(Vincent Legrand)* **327** Sabine's Gull / Vorkstaartmeeuw *Larus sabini*, Lago di Garlate, Lecco, Lombardia, Italy, May 2005 *(Antonello Turri)* **328** Lesser Crested Tern / Bengaalse Stern *Sterna bengalensis*, Banc d'Arguin, Arcachon, Gironde, France, June 2005 *(Detlef Koch)* **329** White-tailed Lapwing / Witstaartkievit *Vanellus leucurus*, Brake, Hannover, Niedersachsen, Germany, 7 June 2005 *(Sven Achtermann)* **330** Caspian Plover / Kaspische Plevier *Charadrius asiaticus*, Rovaniemi, Finland, 3 June 2005 *(Pekka Komi)* **331** Semipalmated Sandpiper / Grijze Strandloper *Calidris pusilla*, Esbjerg, Jylland, Denmark, 30 May 2005 *(Ole Krogh)*

nine and seven reports, respectively. A **Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus* was reported over Duffel, Antwerpen, Belgium, on 27 May. In Finland, singles flew over Oulu on 4 June and Pyhtää on 20 June. A juvenile **Steppe Eagle** *A nipalensis* at the Straits of Messina, Sicily, on 9 May was the c 17th for Italy while several (including a group of five) were reported from Cap Bon, Tunisia, in April-May. In Germany, one was photographed in Schleswig-Holstein on 9 June. An immature **Imperial Eagle** *A heliaca* was seen on Bornholm, Denmark, on 24 June. The sixth and seventh **Booted Eagles** for Finland were reported at Ylämaa on 24 May and at Liminka on 27 May. A male **Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni* was seen at the Slovakian border of Hungary along the Ipoly river on 16 May. The first **Amur Falcon** *F amurensis* for Scandinavia was a male at Kalmar airport, Småland, Sweden, from 30 June to 1 July. Photographs of a male first misidentified as Red-footed Falcon *F vespertinus* and taken into care in south-western France in 1984 turned up recently and, apparently, showed that it actually concerned a male Amur Falcon as well. Remarkably, after the bird was ringed and released on 25 July 1984 in south-western France, it was first seen in Yorkshire, England, on 5 September 1984 (where it was again misidentified as Red-footed and as such rejected by the British rarities committee) and then found dead at Thornhill, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, on 17 September 1984 (and since listed as an interesting recovery of Red-footed by the BTO Ringing Unit). In addition, it now turns out that a possible female Amur Falcon was shot in central Latvia in summer 2001 and deposited at the Latvian Natural History Museum (www.ltn.lv/~ofk/ez_falcomuz_rud01eng.htm). A dark-morph **Eleonora's Falcon** *F eleonorae* was seen at Szeged, Hungary, on 12 May. The second and third for Finland were at Hanko, Tvärminne, Halsholmen, on 7 June and at Parikkala on 22 June (the first was in Åland on 1 September 2001). In the Netherlands, more than 10 **Baillon's Crakes** *Porzana pusilla* were singing this spring; apart from singles at Beerta, Groningen, and Weerribben, Overijssel, from late May, there were also at least two singing near Naardermeer, Noord-Holland, and at least five (probably up to seven) at Tienhoven, Utrecht, in June-July. The number of breeding pairs of **Common Crane** *Grus grus* in the Netherlands increased to four, all at or near Fochteloërveen, Drenthe/Friesland, where the country's first successful breeding took place in 2001. A pair of **Demoiselle Cranes** *G virgo* was again present at Mlazgirt, Turkey, on 11 June. Also in Turkey, 17 **Great Bustards** *Otis tarda* were counted between Dogansu and Patnos on 5 June.

WADERS TO TERNS The numbers of **Black-winged Stilts** *Himantopus himantopus* in the Netherlands and Belgium were high this year with, in May-June alone, 68 and 85 individuals reported, respectively, with some breeding again. In Spain, an adult **Cream-coloured Courser** *Cursorius cursor* was seen on 9 June near Cabo de Gata, Almería, where the first breeding for mainland Europe took place in 2001. The fourth **Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii* for Italy was a female together with Italy's second **Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii* at Boccasette at the Maistra mouth in the Po delta, Veneto, from 25 June into July. The second **Caspian Plover** *C asiaticus* for Norway was a female at Vardø, Finnmark, on 20 June (the first was in June 1978). The third for Finland was an adult male at Rovaniemi on 3 June. In Germany, a **Sociable Lapwing** *Vanellus gregarius* was reported at Koldingen, Niedersachsen, on 25 June and a **White-tailed Lapwing** *V leucurus* stayed at Brake, Hannover, on 6-9 June. The second **Semipalmated Sandpiper** *C pusilla* for Denmark occurred near Esbjerg, Jylland, from 30 May to 1 June (the first was on 18 September 1987). The fourth for Iceland was found at Öræfasveit on 29 June. **White-rumped Sandpipers** *C fuscicollis* were seen at Azud de Riolobos, Salamanca, Spain, on 26 May, at Skallingen, Denmark, on 27-29 May, at Bowling Green Marsh, Devon, England, on 3-5 June and at Hamningberg, Finnmark, Norway, on 2 July. A **Baird's Sandpiper** stayed at Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway, on 20-22 May. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** *C melanotos* was photographed on 8 and 10 May at Kulu Gölü, Turkey. The **Stilt Sandpiper** *C himantopus* in Norfolk, England, stayed until 17 May. The third for Sweden was an adult at Beijershamn, Öland, on 4-7 July. An adult **Slender-billed Curlew** *Numenius tenuirostris* was reported at the northern end of the Kuyalnik Liman, Odessa Oblast, Ukraine, on 10 April (but no photographic evidence was obtained). DNA analysis confirmed that the 'short-and-thin-billed' first-winter curlew at Minsmere, Suffolk, England, in September-October 2004, which wrong-footed many birders who believed it to be a Slender-billed Curlew, was indeed a **Eurasian Curlew** *N arquata*, giving food to the thought that other claims and records of Slender-billed in the past 10 years also involved Eurasian (cf Dutch Birding 26: 399, 2004). In England, adult-summer **Spotted Sandpipers** *Actitis macularius* were at Belvide Reservoir, Staffordshire, on 30-31 May and at Stanpit Marsh, Dorset, on 5-6 June. The fifth **Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* for Norway was a female in Klepp, Rogaland, on 2-4 June. If accepted, an adult **White-eyed Gull** *Larus leucophthalmus* allegedly photographed near Leskovac, Serbia, in late July 2004 would be the second for Europe (the first was in Greece in the 19th century). In Germany, the adult **Laughing Gull** *L atricilla* at Zwillbrocker Venn, Nordrhein-Westfalen, 400 m across the Dutch border, was present again from 4 June onwards; this individual was first staying at the local Black-headed Gull *L ridibundus* colony from 11 April into July 2001 and has also been observed in Gelderland and Overijssel, Netherlands (for the first time on 23 July 2000), and in Liguria, Italy (cf Dutch Birding 26: 297-301, 2004, 27: 60, 2005). Singles were reported at Clonakilty, Cork, from 26 June, at Burray, Orkney, Scotland, from 29 June and the third for Norway near Hamningberg, Finnmark, from 30 June to 1 July. **Franklin's Gulls** *L pipixcan* turned up in Finnmark, Norway, on 12 July and at Stellendam, Zuid-Holland, the Netherland, on 13 July. Up to two **Bonaparte's Gulls** *L philadelphia*

332 Steppe Grey Shrike / Steppeklapekster *Lanius pallidirostris*, Lågskär, Åland, Finland, 23 May 2005 *(Jyrki Normaja)* **333** Paddyfield Warbler / Veldrietzanger *Acrocephalus agricola*, Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, 3 June 2005 *(Thomas Sacher)* **334** Marmora's Warbler / Sardijnse Grasmus *Sylvia sarda*, Skagen, Nordjylland, Denmark, 12 June 2005 *(Rie Voetmann)* **335** Pale Rockfinch / Bleke Rotsmus *Carpospiza brachydactyla*, Oorts hills, Armenia, 15 June 2005 *(Calum D Scott)*

were in Outer Hebrides, Scotland, from 18 May until early June. The fifth **Sabine's Gull** *L sabini* for Italy was an adult-summer at Garlate, Lecco, Lombardia, on at least 17-18 May. An adult **Audouin's Gull** *L audouinii* turned up at St Ouen's Pond, Jersey, Channel Islands, at 07:00 on 31 May. A second-summer was present for 30 min at Beacon Pond, Spurn, East Yorkshire, in the afternoon of 1 June. The largest colony for Italy was found this spring in southern Sardinia where 600 pairs were counted. In the Netherlands, the number of nesting **Black-legged Kittiwakes** *Rissa tridactyla* on an oil rig at Friese Front (where the species bred for the first time in 2003 with three pairs) had increased to 45 pairs on 22 June 2005. A first-summer **Ross's Gull** *Rhodostethia rosea* was reported at Húsavik, Iceland, on 28 May. In northern Noord-Holland, the first breeding of **Gull-billed Terns** *Gelochelidon nilotica* for the Netherlands since 1958 occurred in June-July. A **Bridled Tern** *S anaethetus* returned for the third consecutive year to Ma'agan Michael, Israel, on 22-23 June. On Anglesey, Wales, a **Sooty Tern** *S fuscata* was first seen at Roshneigr on 5 July and then 4 km off Carmel Head, The Skerries, from 7 to 10 July. On 11 July, it crossed the Irish Sea and was present at Rockabill, Skerries, Dublin, Ireland, until 12 July, to return to Anglesey on 13 July. The third **Lesser Crested Tern** *S bengalensis* for Switzerland was seen together with five Sandwich Terns *S sandvicensis* at Sempacher See, Luzern, on 11 July (previous ones were in September 1946 and August 1977). Apart from Lesser Crested Terns, there was also an adult male **Elegant Tern** *S elegans* reported in France, at Lagune du Dain, Vendée, at least on 6-12 June. The fourth and fifth **Common Tern** *S hirundo* for Iceland were at Höfn on 8 June and at Seltjarnarnes on

336 Trumpeter Finch / Woestijnvink *Bucanetes githagineus*, Dungeness, Kent, England, 11 June 2005 *(Andrew Lawson)* **337** Trumpeter Finch / Woestijnvink *Bucanetes githagineus*, Landguard, Suffolk, England, 21 May 2005 *(Bill Baston)* **338** Trumpeter Finch / Woestijnvink *Bucanetes githagineus*, mouth of Veleka river, Bulgaria, 7 May 2005 *(Jan Van Der Voort)* **339** Trumpeter Finch / Woestijnvink *Bucanetes githagineus*, Rovaniemi, Finland, 4 June 2005 *(Mika Rantaharju)*

21 June. The first **Arctic Tern** *S paradisaea* for Kuwait was photographed near Jahra on 22 May and, in Israel, a first-summer was off Eilat's north beach on 15 June.

DOVES TO WAGTAILS A **Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* was found at Birecik, Turkey, on 23 May. Four **Eurasian Collared Doves** *Streptopelia decaocto* were seen at Prainha, east of Caniçal, Madeira, on 10-12 April (there are only two previous records). The first **Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius* for Hungary at Hajdú-Bihar on 11 May was still present on at least 18 May. In Turkey, **Pallid Scops Owls** *Otus brucei* and **Long-eared Owls** *Asio otus* were nesting at the traditional tea garden in Birecik this spring. In the Netherlands, four pairs of **Eurasian Eagle Owls** *Bubo bubo* bred in southern Limburg and one in Achterhoek, Gelderland, this spring. In Outer Hebrides, at least one immature male **Snowy Owl** *B scandiacus* was seen on Benbecula, Lewis, St Kilda and South Uist during June and a female was reported on North Uist until 27 May. In France, a **Red-necked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus ruficollis* was found dead on the D251 at Tulette, Drôme, on 28 May (there are only two recent records for France, both near Les Baux-de-Provence, Bouches-du-Rhône, on 12 June 1997 and 14 June 2004). If accepted, a **Pacific Swift** *Apus pacificus* flying south over Spurn, East Yorkshire, in the afternoon of 1 July will be the fourth for Britain. In the Netherlands, up to three pairs of **European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* tried to breed near Monster, Zuid-Holland, which resulted in at least one young. In Belgium, breeding occurred for the fourth consecutive year at Wachtebeke, Oost-Vlaanderen, where 20 individuals were counted on 22 May. In Turkey, a **Grey-headed Woodpecker** *Picus canus*

340 Cinereous Bunting / Smyrnagors *Emberiza cineracea*, Skagen, Nordjylland, Denmark, 28 May 2005 *(Ole Krogh)*

341 Trumpeter Finch / Woestijnvink *Bucanetes githagineus*, Landguard, Suffolk, England, 21 May 2005 *(Bill Baston)*

was seen at Akseki, Taurus, on 27 May. The third **Bar-tailed Lark** *Ammomanes cincturus* for Turkey was at Göksu delta on 21 May (the previous two were at the same site). If accepted, one observed at Vai, Crete, on 1 July would be the first for Greece. The third **Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra* for the Netherlands was present for just 1.5 h at Eemshaven, Groningen, on 27 May. The 10th for Norway was on Utsira, Rogaland, on 12-13 June. A male **Black-headed Wagtail** *Motacilla feldegg* stayed at West Charleton Marsh, Devon, from 31 May to 18 June.

THRUSHES TO BUNTINGS In Denmark, a first-summer male **Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus* was found dead as a lighthouse victim at Blåvand, Vestjylland, on 7 June. The alleged sightings and breeding records of **Finsch's Wheatear** *Oenanthe finschii* reported for Bulgaria at Emona, Kaliakra and Varna in the past decade (cf Dutch Birding 15: 183, 234, 1993, 16: 164, 1994) and recently in Romania appear to concern hybrids **Pied x Eastern Black-eared Wheatear** *O pleschanka* x *melanoleuca*. In Sweden, an adult male **Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis* was present at Sydudden, Blekinge, on 25 May. The first **Lanceolated Warbler** *Locustella lanceolata* this spring for Finland was singing at Rissala, Siilinjärvi, from 29 June. In Turkey, two **Paddyfield Warblers** *Acrocephalus agricola* were singing downstream the Euphrates south of Birecik on 23 May and at the Bendimahi marshes on 2 June. Others were encountered at Mustasaari, Finland, on 30 May; on Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, on 3 June; and at Skaw, Unst, Shetland, Scotland, on 22-23 June. A **Blyth's Reed Warbler** *A dumetorum* turned up on Fair Isle, Shetland, on 16 June. In Italy, two **Eastern Olivaceous Warblers** *A pallidus* ssp were filmed at Otranto, Puglia, in mid-May (there are c 15 records). On 23 May, one was seen at Simar, Malta. A **Western Olivaceous Warbler** *A opacus* was reported on Île du Levant, Var, France, on 19 May. A presumed **Booted Warbler** *A caligatus* turned up on Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, on 29 May (the identification is still under scrutiny because some characters indicate Sykes's Warbler *A rama*). A warbler trapped at Kromslootpark, Almere, Flevoland, on 11 October 1986 and first identified as Booted Warbler will probably be accepted as the first **Sykes's Warbler** for the Netherlands (cf Dutch Birding 9: 41, plate 29, 1987). The first **Marmora's Warbler** *Sylvia sarda* for Denmark was a male trapped at Skagen, Nordjylland, on 12 June. The second **Sardinian Warbler** *S melanocephala* for Poland was a male trapped at Darłowo on 2 May. A female stayed at Lerwick, Shetland, on 2-4 June. In Indre, France, a **Western Orphean Warbler** *S hortensis* was singing at the camping of Rosnay during late May. DNA analysis revealed that the presumed **Desert Whitethroat** *S curruca minula* trapped at Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, on 5 December 2004 and staying until 21 December was in fact a **Siberian Lesser Whitethroat** *S c halimodendri*, even though its measurements suggested otherwise (cf Birdwatch 14 (158): 22, 2005, Dutch Birding 27: 67, 2005). The third **Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* for Austria occurred at Reichraminger Hintergebirge, Steyerland, on 19 June. An **Arctic Warbler** *P borealis* was on Fair Isle on 22-23 June. In Turkey, two **Plain Leaf Warblers** *P neglectus* were reported 16.5 km north of Çatak, 1 h driving south-west from Van, in the Narlica river valley, in late May; on 24-25 June 2004, the first two to three singing individuals for Turkey were found in the same area, 1 km south of the junction of the Çatak and the Bahcesaray roads (Sandgrouse 27: 96, 2005). A **Daurian Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus* at Kempeleenlahti, Kampele, on 24-26 May constituted the fifth 'isabelline shrike' for Finland. The first **Lesser Grey Shrike** *L minor* for Helgoland since 1983 was seen on 3 June. The second and third **Steppe Grey Shrike** *L pallidirostris* for Finland occurred at Lågskär bird observatory, Åland, on 22 May and at Hanko, Uusikaupunki, on 10 June; the first was also on Lågskär on 31 October 1981. The fourth **Balearic Woodchat Shrike** *L senator badius* for England was at Uphill, Somerset, on 11-13 June (the first was at Portland, Dorset, on 10 May 1986). The sighting of a male **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* at Birecik on 22 May follows this species' very recent discovery in south-eastern Turkey in the breeding season. In Armenia, one **Pale Rockfinch** *Carpospiza brachydactyla* was singing at Oorts hills on 15 June and at least five were seen at Vedi gorge on 19 June. The fourth **European Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris* for Iceland was a female photographed at Reykjavík on 1 June. A pair of **Eurasian Siskins** *Carduelis spinus* at Akseki on 26-27 May may be the first recorded in summer in the Taurus, Turkey. The influx of **Trumpeter Finch** *Bucanetes githagineus* in Europe reached a total of more than 25 individuals with, from late May, more than 10 records. In this context, it is noteworthy that in Morocco during April the species was much more numerous than in other years. After the eighth ever for Britain at Landguard, Suffolk, on 21-26 May, three other individuals occurred in Kent, at Tankerton on 24-25 May, North Foreland on 9 June and Dungeness on 11-15 June. The second for Switzerland was reported near Ascona on 24 May and the third at 2230 m near Grengiols, Valais, on 4 July. The first for Finland was at Rovaniemi on 4-7 June. The second for the Netherlands was observed for c 2 h at Eemshaven, Groningen, on 12 June. In Gotland, Sweden, two were found at Fårö and at Hoburgen on 28 May and another turned up at Norderhamn on 4 June; in Bohuslän, Sweden, one was seen at Ramsö on 12 June. On 7 May, one was photographed south of the Veleka river mouth, Bulgaria. In Turkey, a pair of **Mongolian Finches** *B mongolicus* was seen at Serpmetas lava fields on 23 May, a total of seven were reported at Ishak Pasha Saray, Dogubayazit, on 31 May, and one pair displayed north of Dogubayazit on 1 June. In Shetland, single **Rustic Buntings** *Emberiza rustica* were sighted on Fair Isle on 19 and 25 May and 13 June and on Unst on 22 May; another was in Angus, Scotland, on 28-29 May. A first-summer male **Cinereous Bunting** *E cineracea* at Grenen, Skagen, on 28-29 May was an unexpected first for Denmark; there is one previous record for northern

Europe of a male on Helgoland on 1-7 June 1877.
A new annotated list of bird species of Germany has been published (Limicola 19: 89-111, 2005). It contains a number of differences in order and nomenclature with lists of some other WP countries (eg, Britain). For instance, **Whistling Swan** *C columbianus* and **Bewick's Swan** *C bewickii*, **Little Shearwater** *Puffinus baroli*, **Yellow-legged** *L michahellis*, **Pontic (Steppe)** *L cachinnans*, **Heuglin's** *L heuglini* and **American Herring Gull** *L smithsonianus*, **Naumann's** *Turdus naumanni*, **Dusky** *T eunomus*, **Red-throated** *T ruficollis* and **Black-throated Thrush** *T atrogularis*, **Western Black-eared Wheatear** *O hispanica* and **Eastern Black-eared Wheatear** *O melanoleuca*, **Blue-headed** *M flava*, **Yellow** *M flavissima*, **Black-headed**, **Ashy-headed** *M cinereocapilla*, **Grey-headed** *M thunbergi*, **Yellow-headed** *M lutea*, **White** *M alba* and **Pied Wagtail** *M yarrellii*, and **Two-barred Crossbill** *Loxia bifasciata* are regarded as specifically distinct and all (in this order) on the German list. These and other changes in systematics and taxonomy are commented upon in the same issue (Limicola 19: 112-128, 2005).

For a number of reports, Birding World, British Birds, www.birdguides.com and www.netfugl.dk were consulted. We wish to thank Alexander Abuladze, Chris Batty (Rare Bird Alert), Max Berlijn, Paul Bradbeer (Ukraine), Agris Celmins (Latvia), Alain Chappuis, Rolf Christensen, José Luis Copete (Turkey), Andrea Corso (Italy), Giovanni Cumbo, Michahelis Dretakis (Greece), Philippe Dubois, Hugues Dufourny (Turkey), Enno Ebels, Xavier Escobar, Lee Evans, Oleg Formaniuk, Dick Forsman, Tommy Frandsen, Raymond Galea (Malta), Barak Granit, Mark Grantham (BTO), Dave Gray (Puerto Rico), Andy Grieve (Madeira), Marcello Grussu (Sardinia), Ricard Gutiérrez (Spain), Steve Hay, Martin Helin, Erik Hirschfeld, Niklas Holmstrom, Wietze Janse, Justin Jansen, Maris Jaunzemis, Erling Jirle (Sweden), Adrian Jordi, Krys Kazmierczak, Guy Kirwan (Turkey, Madeira), Detlef Koch, Szabolcs Kókay, Yann Kolbeinsson, Nuri Korkmaz, Slobodan Kulic, Didier Lecornu, Harry LeGrand, Henry Lehto, André van Loon, Ferran López, Leen Martens, Richard Millington, Dominic Mitchell, Geir Mobakken, Colm Moore, Charlie Moores, Nial Moores, Christian Neumann, Gert Ottens, Pavel Panchenko, Menotti Passarella, Brian Patteson (North Carolina; www.patteson.com), Yoav Perlman (IRDC), Martin Poot, René Pop, W Price (Madeira), Wim Remmelzwaal, Colin Richardson, Mathias Ritschard, Magnus Robb, Kees Roselaar, Cyril Schönbächler, Holger Schritt, Calum Scott, Russell Slack (BirdGuides), Roy Slaterus, Pierre Unge (Sweden), Didier Van Brussel, Jan Van Der Voort, Daniel López Velasco, Dominique Verbelen, Alan Vittery, Rik Winters and Maxime Zucca for their help in compiling this review.

Arnoud B van den Berg, Duinlustparkweg 98, 2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid, Netherlands (arnoud.vandenberg@planet.nl)
Marcel Haas, Turkooisstraat 8, 9743 KZ Groningen, Netherlands (m.haas@wpbirds.com)

Recente meldingen

Dit overzicht van recente meldingen van zeldzame en interessante vogels in Nederland en België beslaat voornamelijk de periode **mei-juni 2005**. 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 website van de DBA op www.dutchbirding.nl.

Nederland

ZWANEN TOT VALKEN Dit voorjaar konden we een nieuwe broedvogelsoort begroeten. Bij Wapserveld, Drenthe, werd een nest gevonden van **Wilde Zwanen** *Cygnus cygnus*. Van de vijf gelegde eieren kwam er één uit maar dit jong overleed helaas. **Sneeuwganzen** *Anser caerulescens* vlogen op 1 mei langs Castricum aan Zee, Noord-Holland (twee), op 7 mei één over Reeuwijk, Zuid-Holland, en op 8 mei drie witte en één blauwe vorm eerst langs Egmond aan Zee, Noord-Holland, en later langs Camperduin, Noord-Holland. **Ross' Ganzen** *A rossii* bleven tot 7 mei in de Scherpenissepolder, Zeeland, en op de Westplaatbuitengronden bij Middelharnis, Zuid-Holland. Op deze plek werd op 4 mei ook een **Roodhalsgans** *Branta ruficollis* gezien. **Witbuikrotganzen** *B hrota* werden doorgegeven op 14 mei op Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, en op 22 mei langs Huisduinen, Noord-Holland. **Zwarte Rotganzen** *B nigricans* werden ook nog op 14 mei op Schiermonnikoog gezien en tot 16 mei bij het Rammegors, Zeeland. **Witoogeenden** *Aythya nyroca* zwommen op 5 en 6 mei in het Kromslootpark, Flevoland, en op 19 en 20 mei in de Nieuwkoopse Plassen, Zuid-Holland. De ongeringde **Buffelkopeend** *Bucephala albeola* bleef tot 2 mei bij Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland. Een ander ongeringd mannetje verbleef van 2 tot 22 mei in de Ezumakeeg, Friesland. Van een vrouwtje dat van 8 tot 11 mei bij Naarden, Noord-Holland, zwom kon het ontbreken van ringen niet worden vastgesteld. Een hybride **Slobeend x Blauwvleugeltaling** *Anas clypeata x discors* verbleef van 3 tot 9 mei bij Camperduin, Noord-Holland. De **Bronskopeend** *A falcata* van het Nuldernauw, Gelderland, bleef tot 5 mei. Op 28 mei werd deze vogel gemeld aan de overzijde van het

Nuldernauw, langs het Erkemederstrand, Flevoland. Een **Woudaap** *Ixobrychus minutus* was te horen en af en toe te zien van 16 mei tot 1 juni in het Harderbroek, Flevoland. Een andere veelbezochte plek was het Koornmolengat bij Zevenhuizen, Zuid-Holland, waar van 27 mei tot 14 juni regelmatig twee mannetjes werden waargenomen. Andere locaties voor deze soort in juni waren de Westbroekse Zodden, Utrecht, de Tienhovense Plassen, Utrecht, langs de Nederrijn, Gelderland, en op enkele niet nader genoemde plekken in de Kempen, Noord-Brabant. **Kwakken** *Nycticorax nycticorax* werden op 18 mei bij Arnhem, Gelderland, en bij Vlissingen, Zeeland, gemeld. Een **Ralreiger** *Ardeola ralloides* werd op 15 en 18 juni gezien in de Oostvaardersplassen, Flevoland. De influx van **Koereigers** *Bubulcus ibis* zette stevig door in mei met 13 exemplaren en in juni nog eens vier. De noordelijkste broedkolonie **Kleine Zilverreigers** *Egretta garzetta* in Nederland, op Schiermonnikoog, telde dit voorjaar acht paren. Het aantal broedparen van **Grote Zilverreiger** *Casmerodius albus* in de Oostvaardersplassen liep op naar 97. De inmiddels normale toevloed van zwervende **Zwarte Ooievaars** *Ciconia nigra* leverde in totaal 39 op met piekjes in midden mei en eind juni. **Zwarte Ibissen** *Plegadis falcinellus* verschenen op 5 mei bij Marle, Overijssel, op 7 mei aan het Nuldernauw bij Nijkerk, Gelderland, op 8 mei bij Eemnes, Utrecht, op 17 mei bij De Cocksdorp op Texel, Noord-Holland, op 25 mei bij het Amstelmeer, Noord-Holland, en op 15 en 16 juni in de Ezumakeeg. In mei trokken vele 10-tallen **Zwarte Wouwen** *Milvus migrans* door met topdagtotalen van zes op 1 mei langs Breskens, Zeeland, en zes over de Strabrechtse Heide, Noord-Brabant, en op 2 mei vier kort pleisterend bij Bunschoten, Gelderland. In juni werden er nog slechts drie doorgegeven. **Rode Wouwen** *M milvus* waren in mei al schaars met slechts vijf gemelde exemplaren. In de Oostvaardersplassen bleven de gehele periode een adulte en een onvolwassen **Zeearend** *Haliaeetus albicilla* aanwezig. Op 12 juni werden zelfs twee onvolwassen exemplaren opgemerkt. Andere werden gemeld op 15 mei over het Balloërveld, Drenthe, op 19 mei in het Fochteloërveen, Drenthe, van 25 mei tot 18 juni in de Lauwersmeer, Groningen, op 23 juni over Spanbroek, Noord-Holland, en op 24 juni over polder Arkenheem, Gelderland. Een **Vale Gier** *Gyps fulvus* verbleef op 22 juni op Texel; op 23 juni verliet de vogel het eiland en vloog in zuidelijke richting over Den Helder, Noord-Holland. Op 24 juni werd er één gemeld over Oosterbeek, Gelderland. De gehele periode bleef de adulte **Monniksgier** *Aegypius monachus* in de Oostvaardersplassen. Het regende weer meldingen van **Slangenarenden** *Circaetus gallicus*: op 12 mei langs Doenrade, Limburg, op 21 mei langs Halfweg, Noord-Holland, op 22 mei bij De Logt, Noord-Brabant, op 27 mei bij de Reeuwijkse Plassen, Zuid-Holland, op 29 mei over de Marnewaard, Groningen, op 9 juni bij Naarden, van 17 tot 22 juni weer eens op het Deelensche Veld, Gelderland, op 26 juni over Alkmaar, Noord-Holland, en op 28 juni over de Strabrechtse Heide. Net als in de voorgaande periode werden **Steppekiekendieven** *Circus macrourus* veelvuldig

342 Terekruiter / Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*, Wagejot, Texel, Noord-Holland, 15 mei 2005
(Jan den Hertog)

343 Alpengierzwaluw / Alpine Swift *Apus melba*, Breskens, Zeeland, 30 april 2005 *(Jacques Leclerq)* cf Dutch Birding 27: 227, 2005 **344** Slangenarend / Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*, Hoge Veluwe, Gelderland, 19 juni 2005 *(Ralph Buij)* **345** Steppekiekendief / Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*, Eemshaven, Groningen, 27 mei 2005 *(Jaap Schelvis)* **346** Iberische Tjiftjaf / Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*, Bergen, Noord-Holland, 25 mei 2005 *(Leo J R Boon/Cursorius)*

gemeld: op 1 mei langs Breskens en over de Kennemerduinen, Noord-Holland, op 11 mei op Schiermonnikoog, op 19 mei op de Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, op 21, 22 en 27 mei over de Eemshaven, Groningen, op 22 mei op De Hamert, Limburg, op 24 juni een adult mannetje bij Alkmaar en (mogelijk dezelfde) op 26 juni bij Koudekerk aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland. Op telposten werden in mei zo'n 50 **Grauwe Kiekendieven** *C pygargus* gezien, waarvan veel op 1 mei. Van **Dwergarenden** *Hieraaetus pennatus* waren meldingen op 14 mei over de Kennemerduinen, op 20 mei over De Hamert, op 27 mei over Hoogkerk, Groningen, op 28 mei over het Buurserzand, Overijssel, op 29 mei over het Bargerveen, Drenthe, en op 1 juni een donkere en op 15 juni een lichte vorm over het Deelensche Veld. In mei werden nog 22 **Roodpootvalken** *Falco vespertinus* gemeld.

RALLEN TOT STERNS **Kleinste Waterhoenders** *Porzana pusilla* werden opvallend vaak opgemerkt met waarnemingen van 21 tot 28 mei in de Tjamme bij Beerta, Groningen, vanaf 31 mei twee bij Tienhoven, Utrecht, oplopend tot vijf en mogelijk zeven op 29 juni, op 3 juni één en van 23 tot 27 juni twee bij het Naardermeer, Noord-Holland, en op 18 juni in de Weerribben, Overijssel. Het aantal broedparen van **Kraanvogels** *Grus grus* op en rond het Fochteloërveen, Drenthe/Friesland, nam toe tot vier. Een **Jufferkraanvogel** *G virgo* van onbekende origine vloog op 26 mei over Wageningen, Gelderland. Er bleven veel **Steltkluten** *Himantopus himantopus* arriveren: tot 8 juni in totaal 68 met een piek rond half mei. Dit resulteerde in verschillende broedgevallen, met wisselend succes. **Grielen** *Burhinus oedicnemus* werden gezien op 1 mei op het Balgzand, Noord-Holland, en op 5 mei op Terschelling, Friesland. Een **Vorkstaartplevier** *Glareola pratincola* vloog op 21 mei hoog over Middelburg, Zeeland. De beste plek voor **Morinelplevieren** *Charadrius morinellus* was Texel met van 1 tot 11 mei maximaal 14 langs de Hoofdweg en van 3 tot 9 mei vier ten

noorden van De Cocksdorp. Andere vlogen op 1 mei langs Breskens, op 4 mei acht langs de Zandvoortweg bij Sint Laurens, Zeeland, en op 12 mei acht en 15 mei drie langs de Eemshaven; van 17 tot 21 mei waren twee ter plaatse bij Burgervlotbrug, Noord-Holland. Een **Amerikaanse Goudplevier** *Pluvialis dominica* werd op 18 mei gemeld bij Noorderleeg, Friesland. **Gestreepte Strandlopers** *Calidris melanotos* verbleven op 4 en 5 mei bij Zwolle, Overijssel, op 8 mei, 26 en 27 mei en 26 en 27 juni in de Ezumakeeg, op 10 mei in de Keihoogte-inlaag, Zeeland, op 12 en 13 mei bij Durgerdam, Noord-Holland, op 14 en 15 mei te Spaarndam, Noord-Holland, van 17 tot 21 mei én op 26 juni in de Scherpenissepolder en op 18 mei op Texel. **Breedbekstrandlopers** *Limicola falcinellus* werden waargenomen op 13 mei in de Steenwaard, Utrecht, op 15 mei in de Ezumakeeg, bij Rosmalen, Noord-Brabant, en bij Westhoek, Friesland, op 21 mei zelfs twee bij Westhoek, op 27 mei bij de Eemshaven en op 25 en 26 juni in Achter de Zwarten in de Lauwersmeer. Er werden 15 **Poelruiters** *Tringa stagnatilis* doorgegeven, voornamelijk in juni. **Terekruiters** *Xenus cinereus* waren present op 5 mei bij Swalmen, Limburg, van 14 tot 18 mei op Texel en van 6 tot 11 juni in De Braakman, Zeeland. Slechts acht **Grauwe Franjepoten** *Phalaropus lobatus* werden doorgegeven. De **Rosse Franjepoot** *P fulicarius* van Herkingen, Zuid-Holland, werd daar nog tot 4 juni gezien. Op Terschelling was er één op 18 mei. De gehele periode werden onregelmatig **Grote Burgemeesters** *Larus hyperboreus* gezien bij Katwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland, en Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland. Andere kwamen op 16 mei op Texel en bij Callantsoog, Noord-Holland, op 20 mei bij Lauwersoog, Groningen, en op 21 mei bij de Punt van Reide, Groningen. In mei werden nog 14 **Lachsterns** *Gelochelidon nilotica* gemeld, waaronder één op 1 mei over de telpost op de Strabrechtse Heide. Bij het Balgzand was voor het eerst sinds 1958 sprake van een broedgeval. Verspreid over de periode werden zes **Reuzensterns** *Sterna caspia* doorgegeven. Op 12 mei was er een melding van een **Dougalls Stern** *S dougallii* langs Scheveningen. Tot 20 mei werden 15 **Witwangsterns** *Chlidonias hybrida* gezien, waaronder drie op 20 mei in de Blikken bij Groede, Zeeland, en drie op 21 mei in Jezuïtenwaai bij Duiven, Gelderland. Van 11 tot 14 juni verbleef een exemplaar bij Hoogkerk, Groningen. Van 1 tot 27 mei bevond zich, net als in 2003, een **Witvleugelstern** *C leucopterus* in een kolonie Zwarte Sterns *C niger* bij Genemuiden, Overijssel. Op 8 mei werden hier twee adulte Witvleugelsterns gezien en van 22 tot 27 mei ook een mogelijke hybride. Overigens werden er van 14 tot 18 mei nog eens 15 opgemerkt en een late volgde op 6 juni langs de Eemshaven.

GIERZWALUWEN TOT GORZEN Een **Alpengierzwaluw** *Apus melba* die op 6 mei 's ochtends werd ontdekt bij Huizen, Noord-Holland, werd rond het middaguur bij de Stichtse Brug nogmaals opgemerkt. **Bijeneters** *Merops apiaster* lijken elk jaar algemener te worden met in deze periode ruim 80, waarvan het gros (45) tussen 21 en 23 mei. De grootste groep telde 15 en trok op 22 mei langs gemaal Leemans bij Den Oever, Noord-Holland. Drie paren deden broedpogingen ten zuiden van Den Haag, Zuid-Holland. Een **Scharrelaar** *Coracias garrulus* werd op 29 mei doorgegeven van het gebied Kortenhoeff bij Huijbergen, Noord-Brabant. **Hoppen** *Upupa epops* verbleven op 12 mei bij het Oostvoornse Meer, Zuid-Holland, van 12 tot 14 mei bij Castricum aan Zee, op 13 mei bij Capelle aan den IJssel, Zuid-Holland, en op 28 mei bij Dalfsen, Overijssel. Voor velen was het spijtig dat de derde **Kalanderleeuwerik** *Melanocorypha calandra* slechts korte tijd bleef op 27 mei in de Eemshaven. Een **Kortteenleeuwerik** *Calandrella brachydactyla* werd op 18 mei gezien bij West-Terschelling, Friesland. **Roodstuitzwaluwen** *Hirundo daurica* vlogen op 1 mei langs Breskens (twee), op 12 mei ten noorden van de Brouwersdam, Zuid-Holland, op 15 mei langs de Eemshaven, en op 26 mei langs Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland. Tot 5 mei werden niet meer dan vijf **Duinpiepers** *Anthus campestris* op doortrek gemeld en er waren slechts drie waarnemingen van **Roodkeelpiepers** *A cervinus*: op 20 en 22 mei langs Breskens en op 21 mei langs de Eemshaven. Een waarschijnlijk mannetje **Iberische Kwikstaart** *Motacilla iberiae* bleef lange tijd waarnemers trekken van 7 mei tot 5 juni bij Nieuwerkerk aan den IJssel, Zuid-Holland. Een late **Pestvogel** *Bombycilla garrulus* was op 9 mei kort op

347 Woudaap / Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*, mannetje, Zevenhuizen, Zuid-Holland, 27 mei 2005 *(Chris van Rijswijk)*

348 Noordse Nachtegaal / Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*, Flevocentrale, Flevoland, 21 mei 2005 *(Roland Jansen)* **349** Orpheusspotvogel / Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*, Swalmen, Limburg, 3 juni 2005 *(Otto Plantema)* **350** Orpheusspotvogel / Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*, Arnemuiden, Zeeland, 12 juni 2005 *(Pim A Wolf)*

351 Grauwe Fitis / Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*, Bodegraven, Zuid-Holland, juni 2005 *(Phil Koken)*

352 Waarschijnlijke Iberische Kwikstraat / probable Iberian Wagtail *Motacilla iberiae*, mannetje, Nieuwerkerk aan den IJssel, Zuid-Holland, 18 mei 2005 *(Chris van Rijswijk)*

Vlieland, Friesland. Een jonge **Roodbuikwaterspreeuw** *Cinclus cinclus aquaticus* werd op 15 juni opgemerkt langs de Worm bij Kerkrade, Limburg, en bleef tot het eind van de maand. **Noordse Nachtegalen** *Luscinia luscinia* zongen van 21 mei tot in juni bij Lelystad, Flevoland (deze liet zich anders dan gebruikelijk bij deze soort regelmatig goed bekijken), met op 25 mei een melding van een tweede vogel, en van 9 tot 10 juni bij Groningen. **Cetti's Zangers** *Cettia cetti* bleven bij het Zwanenwater, Noord-Holland, met in mei drie zangposten en in juni nog slechts één. De vogel bij Stellendam, Zuid-Holland, werd weer eens aangetroffen op 14 mei en die van Maastricht, Limburg, was ook nog in mei aanwezig. Een exemplaar bij Philippine, Zeeland, dat op 15 juni werd doorgegeven verbleef daar al vanaf voorjaar 2004. **Graszangers** *Cisticola juncidis* werden gezien op 7 mei bij de Westerplas op Schiermonnikoog en op 29 mei langs Breskens; vanaf 11 juni was er één ter plaatse bij Paal, Zeeland. In tegenstelling tot vorig jaar was er dit jaar slechts één **Krekelzanger** *Locustella fluviatilis*, die op 15 juni zong in de Ooijpolder, Gelderland. De zang van **Orpheusspotvogels** *Hippolais polyglotta* klonk op 31 mei bij Strucht, Limburg, op 2 en 3 juni bij Swalmen, Limburg, op 6 juni op de Strabrechtse Heide en van 11 tot 23 juni te Arnemuiden, Zeeland. **Baardgrasmussen** *Sylvia cantillans* sierden de struikjes op 2 mei in het Zwanenwater en op 10 mei bij Castricum aan Zee. Op 23 mei kwam de eerste melding van een **Grauwe Fitis** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* te Utrecht, Utrecht, een 'longstayer' bleef van 4 tot 15 juni in hartje Bodegraven, Zuid-Holland, en een andere zong op 11 en 12 juni nabij 't Zand, Noord-Holland. **Iberische Tjiftjaffen** *P ibericus* zongen van 24 mei tot 12 juni in Bergen, Noord-Holland, vanaf 18 juni (een mogelijk exemplaar met afwijkende zang) bij Dokkumer Nieuwe Zijlen, Friesland, en een aantal dagen in midden juni in Amstelveen, Noord-Holland. **Grauwe Klauwieren** *Lanius collurio* kwamen behalve op bekende plekken ook tot broeden te Castricum, Noord-Holland, en in de Oostvaardersplassen. De **Roodkopklauwier** *L senator* van Texel bleef tot 1 mei. Andere vertoefden op 10 mei op de Hoog-Buurlosche Heide, Gelderland, op 2 juni op de Strabrechtse Heide, op 22 juni bij de Lithse Kooi ten zuiden van Lith, Noord-Brabant, en op 24 juni bij Wergea (Warga), Friesland. Een adulte **Roze Spreeuw** *Sturnus roseus* frequenteerde van 5 tot 9 juni het zogenaamde Trekvogelveldje bij De Blocq van Kuffeler, Flevoland. De Eemshaven sloeg op 12 juni wéér toe, ditmaal met de tweede **Woestijnvink** *Bucanetes githagineus*. Helaas bleef deze vogel slechts kort. Vanaf 26 mei werden c 11 **Roodmussen** *Carpodacus erythrinus* aangetroffen. De schamele oogst aan **Ortolanen** *Emberiza hortulana* in deze periode telde slechts zes.

Ruud M van Dongen, Taalstraat 162, 5261 BJ Vught, Nederland
Klaas Haas, Turkooisstraat 8, 9743 KZ Groningen, Nederland (klaas.haas@dutchbirding.nl)
Peter W W de Rouw, Schoolstraat 3-bis, 3581 PM Utrecht, Nederland

België

EENDEN TOT IBISSEN **Krooneenden** *Netta rufina* werden waargenomen in Amay, Liège; op Blokkersdijk, Antwerpen (vier); in Rijkevorsel, Antwerpen (twee); en in Virelles, Hainaut. Er was weer een geslaagd broedgeval in Hensies, Hainaut. Op 5 mei was er een waarneming van een mannetje **Witoogeend** *Aythya nyroca* in Sint-Lenaerts, Antwerpen; op 17 mei verbleef nog een ontsnapt mannetje in Testelt, Vlaams-Brabant; en op 15 juni zwom een vrouwtje rond in Harchies. Opvallend was de ontdekking van een mannetje **Buffelkopeend** *Bucephala albeola* bij Douvrain, Hainaut, op 24 mei. De volgende dag werd de vogel teruggevonden bij Enghien, Hainaut. Een adulte **Roodhalsfuut** *Podiceps grisegena* in zomerkleed verbleef de hele periode op het vijfde AWW-bekken in Duffel-Rumst, Antwerpen. Op 1 mei was daar nog een tweede aanwezig en werd er één waargenomen op Blokkersdijk. Op 15 mei verbleef een **Woudaap** *Ixobrychus minutus* op De Gavers in Harelbeke, West-Vlaanderen; van 22 mei tot ten minste 7 juni riep er weer een ongepaard mannetje in de Abdij van 't Park in Heverlee, Vlaams-Brabant; van 28 mei tot 10 juni liet een mannetje zich goed bekijken in Lier-Anderstad, Antwerpen; en op 20 en 21 juni was er een vrouwtje in Het Vinne in Zoutleeuw, Vlaams-Brabant. **Kwakken** *Nycticorax nycticorax* werden waargenomen in Westerlo, Antwerpen, op 13 mei; in de Wijvenheide in Zonhoven, Limburg, op 22 mei; in de Kalmthoutse Heide, Antwerpen, op 25 en 26 mei; bij Wavre, Brabant-Wallon, tot 26 mei; in Planckendael bij Muizen, Antwerpen, vanaf 2 juni; in het Molsbroek in Lokeren, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 5 juni; in de Bourgoyen in Gent, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 5 juni; in Welden/Eine, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 8 juni; in Deux-Acren, Hainaut, op 15 juni; en in Heestert, West-Vlaanderen, op 18 juni. Een **Ralreiger** *Ardeola ralloides* in zomerkleed liet zich op 25 en 26 juni zeer goed bekijken in de Kruibeekse Polder, Oost-Vlaanderen. Op 4 mei en 5 juni werd een **Koereiger** *Bubulcus ibis* waargenomen in de Moerassen van Harchies-Hensies. Op 6 mei verbleven twee exemplaren in de Uitkerkse Polders, West-Vlaanderen; op 16 mei vloog er één van Blankenberge, West-Vlaanderen, in de richting van de Uitkerkse Polders en op 28 mei werd er één kortstondig waargenomen aan de Kluizendokken bij Doornzele, Oost-Vlaanderen. **Kleine Zilvereigers** *Egretta garzetta* deden een stapje terug met maxima van vijf in de Uitkerkse Polders op 16 mei en acht in de IJzermonding in Nieuwpoort, West-Vlaanderen, op 20 mei. Elders betrof het solitaire exemplaren of groepjes tot drie. **Grote Zilverreigers** *Casmerodius albus* werden gezien in Elzendamme, West-Vlaanderen; Genk, Limburg; Harchies-Hensies (drie); Latour, Luxembourg; Obourg, Hainaut (vier); Thieu, Hainaut; Verrebroek, Oost-Vlaanderen (twee);

353 Terekruiter / Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*, Kieldrecht, Oost-Vlaanderen, Antwerpen, juni 2005
(Kris De Rouck)

354 Ralreiger / Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*, Kruibeke, Oost-Vlaanderen, 26 juni 2005
(Vincent Legrand)

Virelles; Wintam, Antwerpen; Woumen, West-Vlaanderen; Zandvliet, Antwerpen; Zonhoven (vier); en Zoutleeuw. Mei leverde in totaal 58 **Purperreigers** *Ardea purpurea* op maar dubbeltellingen zijn hier en daar niet uitgesloten. De laatste waarnemingen waren op 1 juni in De Gavers in Harelbeke en op 9 juni op het Noordelijk Eiland bij Wintam. **Zwarte Ooievaars** *Ciconia nigra* trokken op 1 mei over Kortrijk, West-Vlaanderen; op 10 mei over Wilsele, Vlaams-Brabant; op 19 mei twee over Zoutleeuw; op 22 mei twee over As, Limburg; op 25 mei over Schelle/Niel, Antwerpen; op 10 en 14 juni (mogelijk telkens hetzelfde exemplaar) over Genk; en op 19 juni over de Kalkense Meersen, Oost-Vlaanderen. In mei werden 127 **Ooievaars** *C ciconia* gemeld en juni was nog goed voor 28 exemplaren. De grootste groep telde 15 bij Veurne, West-Vlaanderen, op 1 mei. Op 10 mei landde een **Zwarte Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* in de Achterhaven van Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen. Een gekleurringd exemplaar liep op 19 juni gedurende vijf minuten in De Putten bij Kieldrecht, Oost-Vlaanderen.

WOUWEN TOT FRANJEPOTEN Voor een verrassing zorgde de derde **Grijze Wouw** *Elanus caeruleus* dit voorjaar die op 19 mei over het centrum van Knokke, West-Vlaanderen, vloog. Over het hele land trokken in mei 137 **Zwarte Wouwen** *Milvus migrans*, waarvan alleen al op 1 mei 40. De hoogste telling bedroeg vijf over De Panne, West-Vlaanderen, op 1 mei. In Wallonië volgden nog 10 juniwaarnemingen. In mei trokken in totaal 32 **Rode Wouwen** *M milvus* over, de meeste tijdens de eerste 16 dagen van de maand. Op 15 juni vlogen er twee over Werchter, Vlaams-Brabant, en op 17 juni twee over Kinrooi, Limburg. Met zes exemplaren werden er uitzonderlijk veel **Slangenarenden** *Circaetus gallicus* vastgesteld. Ze vlogen over Mechelen, Antwerpen, op 13 mei en hetzelfde exemplaar over Lier op 14 mei; op deze laatste dag vloog er ook een over de Kalkense Meersen. Op 18 mei trok er een over Frasnes-lez-Buissenal, Hainaut; op 27 mei over Doornzele; op 3 juni over de Kalmthoutse Heide; op 5 juni mogelijk hetzelfde exemplaar over Essen, Antwerpen; en op 12 juni over Wintam. Op 1 mei werd in Het Zwin in Knokke een langstrekkend vrouwtje **Steppekiekendief** *Circus macrourus* waargenomen; bovendien vloog op diezelfde dag een adult vrouwtje over Lier-Anderstad. Op 16 mei pleisterde een onvolwassen vrouwtje bij het Zwart Water in Turnhout, Antwerpen. Tussen 1 en 28 mei werden 37 **Grauwe Kiekendieven** *C pygargus* opgemerkt en in juni werden er nog eens vijf gezien. Op 27 mei vloog een **Arendbuizerd** *Buteo rufinus* laag van Lier naar Duffel, Antwerpen. Een **Bastaard- of Schreeuwarend** *Aquila clanga/pomarina* met zwaar gehavende staart trok op 26 mei over de Achterhaven van Zeebrugge. Een poging om hem te onderscheppen boven Het Zwin in Knokke, leverde iets later 'slechts' een **Dwergarend** *Hieraaetus pennatus* op. Een onvolwassen **Havikarend** *H fasciatus* werd op 1 mei gedurende een kwartier bekeken boven het Meer van Virelles. In totaal bereikten ons 50 meiwaarnemingen van **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus*, waarvan de meeste tijdens de eerste helft van de maand. De enige juniwaarnemingen waren op 3 juni in Knokke en op 4 juni in Rosières, Brabant-Wallon. Tot 25 mei trokken in totaal nog 34 **Smellekens** *Falco columbarius* over, waarvan 14 op 1 mei. Op 1 mei vlogen vrouwtjes **Roodpootvalken** *F vespertinus* over De Haan, West-Vlaanderen, Harchies en de Kaltmhoutse Heide. Mannetjes vlogen op 2 mei over Antoing, Hainaut; op 3 mei over Willebroek-Hazewinkel, Antwerpen; en op 22 mei over Torgny. Er werden ook vrouwtjes gezien in Castillon, Hainaut, en in de Kalmthoutse Heide op 19 mei; over Tienen, Vlaams-Brabant, op 20 mei; bij Faymonville, Liège, op 10 juni en over Kuringen, Limburg, op 16 juni. Op 1 mei vloog een bleke, grote valk *Falco* over Oostende, West-Vlaanderen. Er werden op heel wat plaatsen 'zingende' **Kwartels** *Coturnix coturnix* gehoord. Vooral tussen 27 en 29 mei waren er weer verschillende nachtelijke waarnemingen van overtrekkende, zingende exemplaren. Van 3 tot ten minste 26 juni riep een mannetje **Kleinst Waterhoen** *Porzana pusilla* in Het Vinne in Zoutleeuw. Nog een exemplaar riep in het Midden-Limburgs vijvercomplex. De enige waarneming van **Kwartelkoning** *Crex crex* gebeurde op 30 juni in de Uitkerkse Polders. In mei waren er nog zes waarnemingen van **Kraanvogels** *Grus grus*: op 1 en 3 mei respectievelijk één en drie over Kessenich, Limburg; op 2 mei drie over Virelles en twee pleisterend bij Nassogne, Luxembourg; op 13 mei een onvolwassen exemplaar ter plaatse in Muizen; op 22 mei een kortstondig in Genk en op 25 mei een roepend exemplaar op de vijver van Latour, Luxembourg. Er waren zelfs nog waarnemingen in Focant, Namur, op 14 juni en in Tenneville, Luxembourg, op 16 juni (telkens twee). Op heel wat plaatsen werden **Steltkluten** *Himantopus himantopus* waargenomen, met de volgende maxima: Aalter, Oost-Vlaanderen (twee); Anderlecht, Brussels Gewest (twee); Beernem, West-Vlaanderen (drie); Doornzele (twee); Drongen, Oost-Vlaanderen (twee); Frasnes-lez-Buissenal (twee); Gentbrugge, Oost-Vlaanderen (vier); Ieper, West-Vlaanderen (twee); Orreye, Liège (twee); Kalmthout (twee); Kieldrecht (vier); Kluizen, Oost-Vlaanderen (zes); Klemskerke, West-Vlaanderen (twee); Knesselare, West-Vlaanderen (twee); Lens-sur-Geer, Liège; Lokeren (twee); Longchamps (drie); Mechelen (drie); Meilegem, Oost-Vlaanderen (vier); Noordschote, West-Vlaanderen; Sint-Lenaerts (twee); Stuivekenskerke, West-Vlaanderen (drie); Uitkerke (13); Warcoing (drie); Wintam (twee); Woumen; Zeebrugge (acht); en Zelzate, Oost-Vlaanderen (twee). Op 2 mei liep een **Griel** *Burhinus oedicnemus* bij Antoing, Hainaut. Een **vorkstaartplevier** *Glareola* werd op 30 mei waargenomen bij Gavere, Oost-Vlaanderen. Vooral in de eerste helft van mei werden veel **Temmincks Strandlopers** *Calidris temminckii* gezien. Op 11 mei foerageerde een **Gestreepte Strandloper** *C melanotos* in de Uitkerkse Polders en van 15 tot 17 mei pleisterde er één in de Gentbrugse Meersen. De enige **Poelruiter** *Tringa stagnatilis* voor deze periode liep op 15 mei in de Achterhaven van Zeebrugge. Een **Terekruiter** *Xenus cinereus* liet zich van 24 tot 26 mei uitermate goed

bekijken en fotograferen bij Kieldrecht. Een **Grauwe Franjepoot** *Phalaropus lobatus* werd op 1 juni opgemerkt in de Uitkerkse Polders.

JAGERS TOT GORZEN Op het strand van Koksijde, West-Vlaanderen, stond op 24 mei een **Grote Jager** *Stercorarius skua*. 'Paniek' ontstond toen op 28 mei een tweede-zomer **Reuzenzwartkopmeeuw** *Larus ichthyaetus* werd doorgepiept bij Assenede, Oost-Vlaanderen. De grootste concentraties **Zwartkopmeeuwen** *L melanocephalus* werden geteld op de foerageerplaatsen te Brecht-Wuustwezel-Kalmthout, Antwerpen (155 op 12 juni) en te Boechout-Lier-Koningshooikt, Antwerpen (maximaal 156 op 28 mei). Op 1 mei was een eerstewinter **Pontische Meeuw** *L cachinnans* aanwezig op het Noordelijk Eiland in Wintam, op 8 mei werd een derde-zomer waargenomen in de Brechtse Heide, Antwerpen, en op 28 mei pleisterde een adulte in Gooreind, Antwerpen. Een **Lachstern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* vloog op 3 juni over het Deurganckdok bij Doel, Oost-Vlaanderen. In de Voorhaven van Zeebrugge pleisterde op 13 mei kortstondig een **Dougalls Stern** *Sterna dougallii*. Er werden **Witwangsterns** *Chlidonias hybrida* waargenomen in De Panne (15 mei); Gaurain-Ramecroix, Hainaut (7 mei); Lokeren (van 29 mei tot 26 juni); Verrebroek (23 mei); Wintam (26 mei); Woumen (een op 15 en twee op 16 mei); en Zoutleeuw (twee vanaf 30 mei). **Witvleugelsterns** *C leucopterus* doken op in het Schulensbroek, Limburg, op 10 mei; op De Gavers in Harelbeke op 12 mei; bij Nieuwpoort op 13 en 14 mei; en (langstrekkend) in Wenduine op 15 mei. Er werden nog **Velduilen** *Asio flammeus* gezien in Mechelen (15 mei); Poederlee, Antwerpen (14 mei); Wannegem-Lede, Oost-Vlaanderen (1 mei); en Woumen (4 en 16 mei). Op 14 mei keerden de **Bijeneters** *Merops apiaster* van Wachtebeke, Oost-Vlaanderen, terug naar het Domein Puyenbroek. Maximaal werden er 20 geteld op 22 mei en waarschijnlijk kwamen er vier paren tot broeden. Op 14 mei vloog er één over Nassogne. Vanaf 16 mei pleisterde een paar aan de Texacoheuvel in Gent. Op 15 mei trok er één over Nieuwpoort/Sint-Joris; op 16 mei twee over Aublain, Namur, drie over Mariembourg, Namur, en zeven over Nokere, Oost-Vlaanderen. Op 18 mei was het de beurt aan Opglabbeek, Limburg (gehoord), op 5 juni vloog er één over Doel, op 20 juni (gehoord) over de Kalmthoutse Heide en op 28 juni (gehoord) over De Panne. Op 1 mei werd een **Hop** *Upupa epops* gezien bij Merkem, West-Vlaanderen, op 11 mei liep er één in een tuin in Willebringen, Vlaams-Brabant, van 11 tot 17 mei verbleef er één op het Militair Domein in Leopoldsburg, Limburg, en op 22 mei zat er kortstondig één langs de autosnelweg in Haasrode, Vlaams-Brabant. In het Haagje in Heist, West-Vlaanderen, werd op 1 mei een **Draaihals** *Jynx torquilla* gezien en op 13 mei pleisterde er één in Antwerpen-Linkeroever, Antwerpen. Opmerkelijk was de **Kortteenleeuwerik** *Calandrella brachydactyla* die op 10 juni 'per ongeluk' werd gefotografeerd op de Kalmthoutse Heide. Een **Roodstuitzwaluw** *Hirundo daurica*, die op 1 mei langstrok in Bredene,

355 Witvleugelstern / White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*, Nieuwpoort, West-Vlaanderen, 14 mei 2005 *(Koen Verbanck)*

West-Vlaanderen, werd iets later onderschept in Zeebrugge. Op 2 mei volgde een waarneming in De Panne. Over Het Zwin in Knokke trok op 1 mei een **Grote Pieper** *Anthus richardi*. **Duinpiepers** *A campestris* werden waargenomen in Bredene, De Panne en Knokke op 1 mei; in Nieuwpoort op 5 mei; en op het Noordelijk Eiland in Wintam op 22 mei. In de eerste helft van mei was er nog doortrek van **Roodkeelpiepers** *A cervinus* met waarnemingen in Mortsel, Antwerpen, op 1 mei; Doornzele op 4 en 15 mei; Brecht op 6 mei; en Opvelp, Vlaams-Brabant, op 14 mei. Op 18 mei volgde een laatste waarneming in Gimnée, Namur. Mogelijke **Iberische Kwikstaarten** *Motacilla iberiae* doken op bij de Viconiakleiputten in Stuivekenskerke op 18 mei en aan het Spaarbekken van Kluizen, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 20 mei. De laatste **Pestvogels** *Bombycilla garrulus* lieten zich bekijken in Temploux, Namur (1 mei); Hasselt, Limburg (drie op 2 mei); in Verlaine, Liège (maximaal 21 tot 6 mei) en in Genk (8 mei). Hybriden **Zwarte x Gekraagde Roodstaart** *Phoenicurus ochruros x phoenicurus* waren gedurende lange tijd aanwezig in Mortsel/Deurne en in Lier. Tussen 1 en 4 mei werden nog 27 **Beflijsters** *Turdus torquatus* opgemerkt en een laatste waarneming volgde op 20 mei bij de Kluizendokken in Doornzele. Zingende **Cetti's Zangers** *Cettia cetti* waren soms te zien in Assenede; De Panne (zes); Geraardsbergen, Oost-Vlaanderen; Harchies-Hensies (13); Koksijde; Lissewege, West-Vlaanderen (vijf); Mons, Hainaut; Oostduinkerke, West-Vlaanderen; Quaregnon, Hainaut; Reninge, West-

356 Roodkopklauwier / Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*, Laren, Limburg, 5 mei 2005 *(Marc Jacobs)* **357** Baardgrasmus / Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*, mannetje, Kieldrecht, Oost-Vlaanderen, 25 mei 2005 *(Johan Buckens)* **358** Bijeneter / European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*, Wachtebeke, Oost-Vlaanderen, 4 juni 2005 *(Miel Ferdinande)* **359** Kortteenleeuwerik / Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*, Kalmthoutse Heide, Antwerpen, 10 juni 2005 *(Chris De Groof)*

Vlaanderen (vier); Roly, Namur; Sint-Andries, West-Vlaanderen; Stalhille, West-Vlaanderen; Stuivekenskerke (vier); Walem, Antwerpen; Willebroek, Antwerpen (twee); en Woumen (twee). In de Achterhaven van Zeebrugge werden maximaal 10 **Graszangers** *Cisticola juncidis* geteld op 15 mei. Van 6 tot ten minste 24 mei zong er één in het Groot Rietveld bij Kallo en op 16 mei werd er één gehoord langs de Schelde in Temse, Oost-Vlaanderen. Er werden zangposten van **Snorren** *Locustella luscinioides* opgetekend in Assenede; op Blokkersdijk (twee); in Doel; Emblem, Antwerpen; Kallo/Melsele; Lier (twee); Stuivekenskerke (twee); Veurne; Wachtebeke; en Woumen. **Grote Karekieten** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* deden het minder goed met zingende exemplaren bij Amay op 15 mei, op Blokkersdijk op 20 mei en in Kallo-Melsele van 23 tot 29 mei. In Gelinden, Limburg, werd een dood exemplaar gevonden in de nestkast van een Steenuil *Athene noctua*! In Vlaanderen werden **Orpheusspotvogels** *Hippolais polyglotta* opgemerkt op 19 mei in Loppem, West-Vlaanderen (ringvangst); vanaf 21 mei twee in De Panne; op 30 en 31 mei twee in Muizen; op 8 en 9 juni in Heist; op 25 juni in Izegem, West-Vlaanderen; en op 29 juni in Ingooigem, West-Vlaanderen (ringvangst). Op 25 mei zong een mannetje **Baardgrasmus** *Sylvia cantillans* bij Kieldrecht en op 27 mei werd er kortstondig één gezien in de duinen bij Wenduine. In Vaux-sur-Sûre, Luxembourg, werd op 28 mei een mogelijke **Bergfluiter** *Phylloscopus bonelli* waargenomen. Op 25 juni was er een melding van een mannetje **Withalsvliegenvanger** *Ficedula albicollis* in Bougle bij Chimay, Namur. Op 13 mei werd een **Buidelmees** *Remiz pendulinus* waargenomen in Maasmechelen, Limburg. Van 16 tot 23 mei verbleef er één op het Noordelijk en Zuidelijk Eiland bij Wintam en vanaf 28 mei waren er verschillende in Kallo-Melsele. Van 2 tot

7 juni verbleven twee exemplaren bij Kieldrecht en op 15 juni volgde een waarneming in Harchies. De eerste **Grauwe Klauwier** *Lanius collurio* verscheen op 14 mei in Vilvoorde, Vlaams-Brabant. Er zouden in Vlaanderen nog 16 meiwaarnemingen volgen. Op 20 juni was er één aanwezig bij Zichem, Vlaams-Brabant. In Wallonië werd een uitzonderlijk aantal broedparen vastgesteld met alleen in Marche-en-Famenne, Luxembourg, al 144! Op 1 mei verbleef een mannetje **Roodkopklauwier** *L senator* in Raversijde, West-Vlaanderen, op 5 mei pleisterde een mannetje bij Laren, Limburg, en een derde vogel, een vrouwtje, dook op aan de Verrebroekse Plassen op 22 mei. Opmerkelijk was de waarneming van een staartloze **Bonte Kraai** *Corvus cornix* in Ingelmunster, West-Vlaanderen, op 31 mei. In het centrum van Prosperdorp, Oost-Vlaanderen, kwamen weer twee paren **Kuifmaina's** *Acridotheres cristellatus* tot broeden. Een **Ortolaan** *Emberiza hortulana* werd op 14 mei gefotografeerd in Balen/Olmen, Limburg.

De hulp van al diegenen die (hun) waarnemingen inspraken op de Natuurpunt-Vogellijn was hier onontbeerlijk. De Natuurpunt-Vogellijn is alleen vanuit België bereikbaar op het nummer 0900-00194 (EUR 0.45/min), de Natuurpunt-Inspreeklijn is te bereiken op 0800-11194 (gratis). De Waalse gegevens werden in hoofdzaak geput uit de AVES-website.

Gerald Driessens, Pastoriestraat 16, 2500 Lier, België (gerald.driessens@pandora.be)

DB Actueel

Vluchtige dwaalgasten in Eemshaven: Kalanderleeuwerik en Woestijnvink Teletekst vermeldde op 26 mei 's avonds laat voor de volgende dag een zwakke oostelijke wind; genoeg wind voor een dag met leuke gestuwde voorjaarstrek op de Eemshaven, Groningen? Na verschillende redenen te hebben verzonnen om de volgende ochtend niet zo vroeg op te hoeven staan besloot Roelf Hovinga uiteindelijk toch de wekker op 04:15 te zetten. Hij was per slot van rekening het hele voorjaar nog niet in de Eemshaven geweest… Op dat tijdstip op 27 mei mepte hij chagrijnig de wekker uit en draaide zich nog eens om. Om 05:20 constateerde hij dat echt in slaap komen niet meer lukte. Bovendien begon de twijfel te knagen. Op de Eemshaven begonnen in zijn verbeelding de eerste groepjes Bijeneters *Merops apiaster*, Duinpiepers *Anthus campestris* en Ortolanen *Emberiza hortulana* te vliegen, zo nu en dan afgewisseld door een Griel *Burhinus oedicnemus*, Scharrelaar *Coracias garrulus* of Kortteenleeuwerik *Calandrella brachycdactyla*…. Ineens lag hij niet meer zo lekker en stond hij toch op. Om 05:40 stapte hij in de auto en was op weg. 'Windstil…'; was het eerste dat hij dacht toen hij bij de telpost op het oostelijke Eemshaventerrein uit de auto stapte. Terwijl hij de dijk op sjouwde vloog er een Kleine Zilverreiger *Egretta garzetta* over. Van de tellers kreeg hij te horen dat het verder erg rustig was. In het eerste kwartier vlogen er twee Boerenzwaluwen *Hirundo rustica* en een Gele Kwikstaart *Motacilla flava* langs, verder was het doodstil. RH overwoog net serieus om toch maar naar de Lauwersmeer te rijden toen er om c 07:15 vanuit het westen een rare zangvogel hoog kwam aanvliegen over de zeedijk. Kijker erop, zwarte halsvlekjes, lange, pikzwarte ondervleugels met witte achterrand, het was een grote leeuwerik… 'Kalanderleeuwerik!!' schreeuwde hij de overige vogelaars op de dijk toe. De leeuwerik vloog recht over hen heen terwijl RH de door hem waargenomen kenmerken opnoemde. Even dachten de waarnemers hem als een stipje in oostelijke richting te zien verdwijnen maar gelukkig draaide hij met een grote boog terug en passeerde de telpost in westelijke richting en leek uiteindelijk c 750 m ten westen van de telpost te landen achter de stuifdijk. Het daaropvolgende uur was hectisch: samen met Emo Klunder vond RH de Kalanderleeuwerik *Melanocorypha calandra* tot tweemaal toe terug maar de vogel was erg vliegerig en bleef steeds maar kort aanwezig. Tussendoor werden mensen telefonisch gewaarschuwd, mislukte een poging om bewijsplaatjes van de vogel te maken, werd er gepiept en belden (veel) mensen terug om op de hoogte te worden gesteld. Kort na 08:00 zat de vogel iets minder dan een kwartier net ten oosten van de telpost op de zeedijk en liet zich hier goed bekijken en voldoende fotograferen. Martijn Bot, Rommert Cazemier, Martin Olthoff en enkele andere noorderlingen waren nog net op tijd, waarna de leeuwerik zonder aanwijsbare reden in westelijke richting wegvloog. Wederom leek de vogel neer te ploffen en om c 08:30 werd hij voor de laatste keer door enkele van de over het Eemshaventerrein uitzwermende vogelaars teruggevonden. Dit keer verdween hij definitief in zuidwestelijke richting. Vele net daarna arriverende vogelaars waren te laat. Een tweede-kalenderjaar mannetje Steppekiekendief *Circus macrourus* dat de telpost later op de ochtend passeerde kon het leed voor een enkeling nog enigszins verzachten.

Het betreft de derde Kalanderleeuwerik voor Nederland; eerdere waarnemingen waren op 10 oktober 1980 (vangst) bij Castricum, Noord-Holland, en op 16 mei 1988 kortstondig in De Muy op Texel, Noord-Holland. Hoewel driemaal scheepsrecht is, was de soort ook deze keer nauwelijks twitchbaar te noemen. Hij broedt in landen rondom de Middellandse Zee en in Zuidwest-Azië en is opvallend zeldzaam in Noord- en West-Europa.

Ruim twee weken later, op zondag 12 juni, besloot Martin Olthoff te gaan vogelen in de Eemshaven. Na dagen van krachtige noordwestelijke wind was het eindelijk iets rustiger, wat het zoeken naar zangvogels iets gemakkelijker maakte. De wind was gedraaid naar het zuidwesten en het was buiig. In de Eemshaven aangekomen was het even droog en hij besloot eerst naar de

360 Kalanderleeuwerik / Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*, Eemshaven, Groningen, 27 mei 2005 *(Martijn Bot)*

361 Woestijnvink / Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus*, adult mannetje, Eemshaven, Groningen, 12 juni 2005 *(Martijn Bot)*

uitlaat van de Eemscentrale te lopen om de daar aanwezige sterns *Sterna* te checken. Hij was net de dijk opgelopen toen hij rond 10:15 in zijn ooghoek rechts op het begroeide stenen pad iets rozeachtigs op de grond zag zitten. Op het moment dat hij zijn kijker erop richtte vloog de plompe en inderdaad wat roze vink op, samen met een Witte Kwikstaart *M alba* en een Kneu *Carduelis cannabis*. 'Mijn God, het is een Woestijnvink' dacht MO onmiddellijk. De vogel maakte een paar rondjes om hem heen en hij kon hem goed met de kijker volgen. Behalve het plompe postuur en de overwegend roze kleur viel de enorme knalrode snavel op – het was inderdaad een Woestijnvink *Bucanetes githagineus*! De vogel leek enkele 10-tallen meters verderop te gaan zitten maar tot MO's schrik vloog hij toch laag verder naar het middenterrein van de centrale – uit het zicht. Een aantal 'scans' over het terrein leverden wel weer de Witte Kwikstaart en de Kneu op maar niet de vink. MO besloot eerst Bert de Bruin te bellen (omdat die de soort nog niet had) en de vogel door te piepen als 'mogelijk weg of in de buurt'. Reden voor deze code was het feit dat het centraleterrein absoluut verboden toegang is en vrij onoverzichtelijk. Na c 45 min kwamen de eerste mensen aan. Dit bood de mogelijkheid om de plek van de ontdekking te verlaten en verspreid te gaan zoeken. Een half uur later vond Theo Bakker de vogel terug. Deze zat inderdaad op het terrein van de centrale en liet zich door het hek heen goed bekijken op steenhopen en op het gras. Een half uur lang kon de vogel door c 20 mensen worden waargenomen en gefotografeerd. Om c 12:15 verdween hij even iets verder naar achteren. Dit had hij al eens eerder gedaan en er was dan ook niemand die dacht dat hij niet meer in beeld zou komen. Toch werd hij, ondanks intensief zoeken gedurende de rest van de dag, niet meer teruggevonden.

Deze waarneming is de tweede voor Nederland. De eerste was op 31 mei 2003 op de Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland. De waarneming in de Eemshaven past in het patroon van een ware influx van Woestijnvinken in Europa in april-juni 2005. In totaal werden tot begin juli 27 exemplaren gezien, met behalve de Nederlandse vogel waarnemingen in Brittannië (4), Bulgarije (1), Finland (1), Frankrijk (6), Griekenland (2), Italië (3), Noord-Spanje (2), Zweden (4) en Zwitserland (3). Op dezelfde dag als die in de Eemshaven werd ook een exemplaar ontdekt in Zweden. Woestijnvinken komen voor in Noord-Afrika, de Canarische Eilanden, het Midden-Oosten en Centraal-Azië en Noord-Pakistan. Sommige populaties zijn nomadisch en gedeeltelijk trekvogel. Vogels van de oostelijke populatie vertonen het meeste trekgedrag. Er zijn vier ondersoorten te onderscheiden, die uiterlijk zo weinig verschillen dat op grond hiervan niet te zeggen is waar de influx in Europa vandaan komt. Vogels uit Azië behoren tot de ondersoort *B g crassirostris* ('met een grote snavel') en de vogel van de Eemshaven had zelfs voor een Woestijnvink een forse snavel zodat wellicht aan een zuidoostelijke oorsprong kan worden gedacht. Op grond van het roze kleed, het grijs op de kop, de knalrode snavel en de witte handpenranden is deze vogel te determineren als mannetje en hoogstwaarschijnlijk ook als adulte vogel. Het enige adulte kenmerk dat ontbrak is het rood rond de snavel op de kop. De karakteristiek trompetroep – of enig ander geluid – werd tijdens de twee uren van de waarneming niet gehoord.
ROELF HOVINGA & MARTIN P OLTHOFF

CALANDRA LARK AND TRUMPETER FINCH On 27 May 2005, a Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra* was seen for c 1.5 h at Eemshaven, Groningen, the Netherlands; it was seen by c 15 birders and constitutes the third record for the Netherlands, after individuals on 10 October 1980 (trapped) and 16 May 1988, neither of those twitchable. On 12 June, a male (probably adult) Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus* was seen for c 2 h at almost the same spot at Eemshaven. It constitutes the second record (the first was on 31 May 2003) and forms part of an unprecedented influx of this nomadic desert species in central and northern Europe in April-July 2005, with 27 birds reported up to early July.

DBA-nieuws

Jubileum Dutch Birding-vogelweek met Swarovski De Dutch Birding-vogelweek, dit jaar voor de 20e achtereenvolgende keer op Texel, Noord-Holland, vindt plaats vanaf zaterdag 1 oktober 2005. Er is voorzien in activiteiten tot en met donderdag 6 oktober, het officiële einde van de vogelweek. Het is dit jaar extra interessant om naar Texel te komen, want wie wil er nu niet een topklasse Swarovski-verrekijker winnen? Of een fraaie Swarovski-rugzak!

Swarovski, sinds jaar en dag zeer gewaardeerd sponsor van onze Masters of Mystery, gaat extra cachet geven aan deze vogelweek. In ieder geval op zaterdag en donderdag zal het bedrijf met een stand aanwezig zijn in de eetgelegenheid van De Robbenjager, op de noordpunt van het eiland, die overdag zal fungeren als het DBA-trefpunt, inclusief mededelingenbord en internet.

Een geheel nieuw item wordt 'De soort van de week'. Degene die de beste soort ontdekt gedurende de week (van zaterdag tot en met donderdagavond) wint een Swarovski SLCnew 10x42 WB. Het spreekt vanzelf dat hiervoor een zeer deskundige jury wordt ingesteld. Het is immers niet de bedoeling dat iemand die ongeveer voor de oostkust van Engeland een 'grote pijl' ziet vliegen met deze fantastische verrekijker naar huis gaat. Er komen duidelijke spelregels en de winnaar wordt in ieder geval geacht begunstiger te zijn (of ter plaatse te worden) van de DBA.

Teams worden weer uitgenodigd om deel te nemen aan de Big Day op donderdag 6 oktober: zoveel mogelijk soorten zien van 06:00 tot 18:00. Ook hiervoor stelt Swarovski een mooie prijs beschikbaar. Elke deelnemer van het winnende team (twee tot vier personen) krijgt een Swarovski-rugzak, type 'Shetland'. En ook hier zal streng worden toegezien op een eerlijk verloop van de wedstrijd. Teams die willen deelnemen dienen zich uiterlijk één week voor het begin van de vogelweek aan te melden, bij voorkeur via de website www.dutchbirding.nl.

Uiteraard zijn er op zaterdag, maandag, dinsdag, woensdag en donderdag lezingen gepland. Plaats van samenkomst voor de avonden is het Eierlandse Huis in De Cocksdorp. Op dinsdagavond is de mystery birdcompetitie, met leuke prijzen. Aanvang van de avonden is 20:00. Indien de jury tot een beslissing komt, zal donderdagavond behalve de prijzen voor het winnende Big Day-team ook de prijs voor 'De soort van de week' uitgereikt worden.

Het definitieve programma wordt zo spoedig mogelijk bekend gemaakt, via de website www.dutchbirding.nl, de Dutch Birding-vogellijn (0900-BIRDING) en in de volgende Dutch Birding. Voor informatie, vragen en aanmelden: Marc Plomp (0348-433730 of 06-54657040) en Gijsbert van der Bent (071-4024547 of 06-23532750).
GIJSBERT VAN DER BENT