# DUTCH BIRDING

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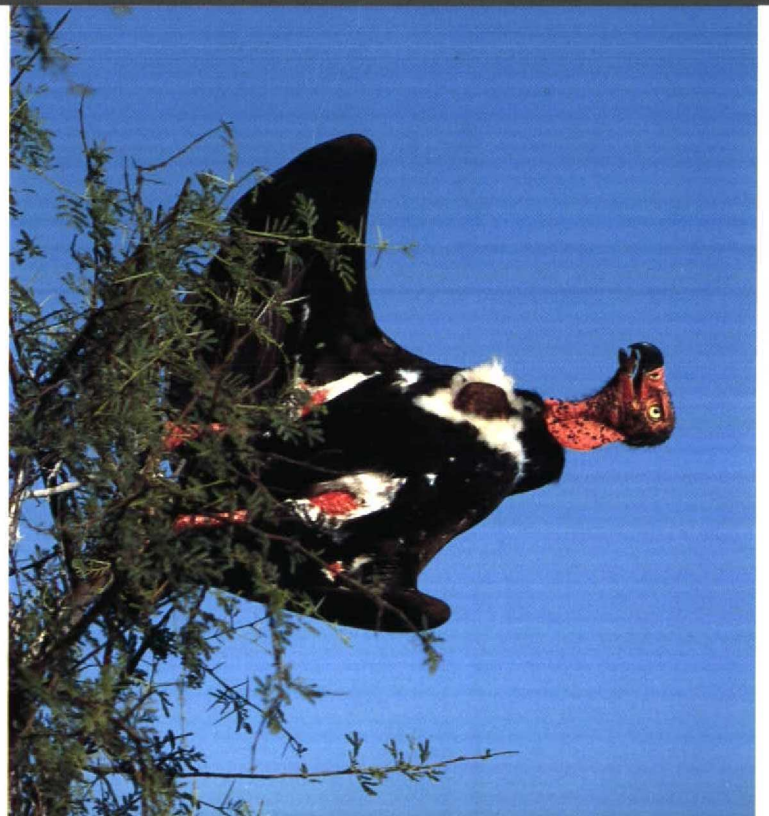

# Dutch Birding

*Internationaal tijdschrift over Palearctische vogels*

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

De volgorde van vogels in Dutch Birding volgt in eerste instantie een klassieke 'Wetmore-indeling'. Binnen dit raamwerk worden voor taxonomie en naamgeving de volgende overzichten aangehouden: *Lijst 98 Nederlandse vogelsoorten* door A B van den Berg & C A W Bosman (1998, Santpoort-Zuid) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke en Nederlandse namen van Nederlandse vogels); *List of birds of the Western Palearctic* door British Birds (1997, Blunham) (Engelse namen van West-Palearctische vogels); de door C S Roselaar samengestelde lijst in *Geillustreerde encyclopedie van de vogels* door C M Perrins (1991, Weert), met aanpassingen en aanvullingen door A J van Loon in *Vogels van de wereld – complete checklist* door M Walters (1997, Baarn) (Nederlandse namen van overige vogels van de wereld); en *Birds of the world* door C G Sibley (1996, Version 2.0, Cincinnati) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke en Engelse namen van overige vogels van de wereld). Afwijkingen van en aanvullingen op bovenstaande overzichten zijn gebaseerd op beslissingen van de CSNA (cf Dutch Birding 19: 21-28, 1997; 20: 22-32, 1998).

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

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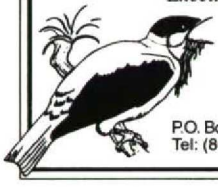

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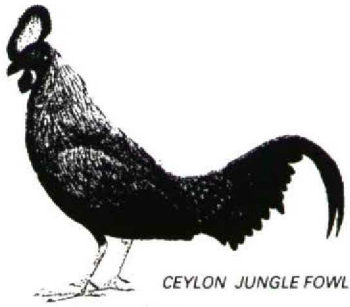

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# Elegant Tern in Llobregat delta, Spain, in April 1993

*Ricard Gutiérrez*

On 24 April 1993, Ricard Gutiérrez and Oriol Muntané discovered an orange-billed tern *Sterna* on a small flooded field in the Llobregat delta, Barcelona, north-eastern Spain (41:16-41:25N, 1:58-2:10E) (Gutiérrez & Muntané 1997). It was amongst a large group of gulls and other terns (some Mediterranean Gulls *Larus melanocephalus*, 100+ Little Gulls *L minutus*, some Black-headed Gulls *L ridibundus*, 190+ Sandwich Terns *S sandvicensis*, three Little Terns *S albifrons*, two Whiskered Terns *Chlidonias hybridus* and 120+ Black Terns *C niger*). The tern was seen under optimal light conditions. It remained settled at a distance of c 20 m and was tentatively identified as Elegant Tern *S elegans*, after excluding the possibility of similar species the observers had experience with. It was not ringed. It remained in the area until midday on 30 April, and at least 10 observers were able to see it. At the time of discovery, the bird was flying. For the rest of the observation period on the first day it remained on the ground. The observation was accepted as the first record for Spain and the Mediterranean basin (de Juana et al 1997).

## Description

The following description is based on notes taken in the field and some colour transparencies made on 24 April 1993.

SIZE & POSTURE Typical structured tern, with short legs, long bill and, in general, looking similar to Sandwich Tern. Size from certain distance appearing not very different from Sandwich Tern, although observation through telescopes revealed it as slightly bigger, and notably bigger than Lesser Crested Tern *S bengalensis* or Common Tern *S hirundo* and smaller than Royal Tern *S maxima* and Caspian Tern *S caspia*. Obvious crest, longer than that of nearby adult summer Sandwich Terns; during occasional antagonistic poses (see below), crown feathers erected and crest then appearing shorter. Bill notably longer and more curved than that of nearby Sandwich Terns, and appearing longer than that of Lesser Crested Tern observed in Llobregat and Ebro deltas. Whole bill (both mandibles) down-curved, forming clearly visible arch and appearing as bird's most prominent feature. Folded wings extending slightly beyond tail. Tail more deeply forked than that of Sandwich Tern. Seemingly more graceful ('elegant') than nearby Sandwich Terns, perhaps due to proportions of tail and wings (Miquel Rafa pers comm). Legs looking slightly longer than those of Sandwich Tern.

HEAD Complete glossy jet black cap, covering eye. Black of cap reaching bill, with exception of small white central patch over bill. Neck and face white.

WING & UPPERPARTS Lesser, median and greater coverts and mantle of exactly same colour as Sandwich Tern (certainly not as dark as in Lesser Crested Tern or Common Tern). Coverts silvery-grey, with narrow whitish outer edge. Primaries and secondaries slightly darker. Outer shaft of at least second outermost primary clearly dark, as in Common Tern. Basal parts of outer primaries much darker in tone, with pattern reminiscent of Common Tern, but totally different from dark patch on wing of Caspian Tern.

UNDERPARTS White.

TAIL In flight, tail and rump appearing white from above and below, but after careful observation tail and rump shown to be not as white as underparts, with very light and faint grey tone, paler than and clearly contrasting with mantle and wings.

BARE PARTS Bill orange, tip more yellowish. Leg black. Eye appearing black.

BEHAVIOUR Apart from moment of discovery, when seen in flight, resting in middle of group of Sandwich Terns, most of time with bill hidden in upperparts. Relatively motionless, unlike other terns, except when Sandwich Tern trying to land too close; then certain aggression shown, even adopting antagonistic poses (Aggressive-upright display), resembling illustration in Harrison (1983; fig 281a). Besides that, not indulging in any other noteworthy behaviour.

## Identification

The combination of the long, clearly downcurved, orange bill with yellowish tip, size (comparable with Sandwich Tern) and colour of upperparts pointed towards Elegant Tern. As Gantlett (1987, 1988) stated for orange-billed terns, three groups of species can be separated according to size. Lesser Crested, Elegant, Cayenne *S s eurygnatha* and Sandwich Tern would be in the same group. Caspian, Royal and Crested Tern *S bergii* are members of a different group and could be excluded by their bigger size. Besides, the latter birds have a different, heavier

bill structure. Cayenne differs only slightly from Sandwich, mainly in bill and leg colour (del Hoyo et al 1996). The only tern, therefore, that may cause problems is Lesser Crested. This species, however, usually has a darker mantle and back than Sandwich and Elegant, and a shorter bill, less curved than in Elegant. Moreover, according to Cramp (1985), Lesser Crested overlaps in size with Sandwich but is normally smaller and slimmer (length 35-37 cm for Lesser Crested, 36-41 cm for Sandwich), unlike the Llobregat bird, which appeared slightly bigger, never '...with a structure and appearance between *sandvicensis* and *hirundo*', as Cramp (1985) stated for Lesser Crested. As for the bill, measurements and structure are useful: 5.2-5.8 cm for Sandwich and 5.0-5.7 cm for Lesser Crested (Cramp 1985). The Llobregat bird had a longer bill than all nearby Sandwich Terns. Furthermore, the bill was clearly curved, unlike Sandwich and Lesser Crested. The amount of vermillion red at the bill base is variable in the breeding season (Dubois et al 1994) and the absence of red could fit a bird not fully in breeding plumage (Dubois 1991, contra Verroken 1990). The bill's size and orange tone with yellow tip matched the description for an adult female Elegant by Malling Olsen & Larsson (1995). The coloration of mantle, back, rump and tail is also important. Lesser Crested has a similar colour on the lower part of the mantle, back, scapulars, tertials and all the coverts as Common Tern, and darker than in Sandwich Tern. This was not the case in the Llobregat tern. Besides, in Lesser Crested, rump and tail have the same colour as the back and mantle or are sometimes slightly paler, but there is no contrast with the back and they are never whitish. Although the Llobregat tern had a pale grey rump and tail (typical for Elegant, Malling Olsen & Larsson 1995), not pure white, it did show an evident contrast with the darker grey back and mantle. The head showed a small white spot over the bill which may have been a remnant of winter plumage. The bird seen in Ireland in summer 1982 also showed this character (Anthony McGeehan in litt). In the Llobregat tern, the crest was long and shaggy, clearly fitting Elegant. A short crest has been reason to reject other records of Elegant (Arnoud van den Berg in litt, Anthony McGeehan in litt). However, it should be remembered that crest length does not reach its maximum until maturity (Gantlett 1987) and that there are differences in length between male and female (Malling Olsen & Larsson 1995).

**1** Elegant Tern / Sierlijke Stern *Sterna elegans* with Sandwich Terns / Grote Sterns *S sandvicensis*, Llobregat delta, Barcelona, Spain, 24 April 1993 *(Ricard Gutiérrez)*

**Sandwich x Lesser Crested Tern hybrids**

Hybridization of Sandwich x Lesser Crested Tern or Sandwich x Elegant Tern producing an Elegant-like bird, and thus adding confusion to orange-billed tern identification, was suggested during the examination of this record by the Spanish rarities committee. Some authors have discussed hybrids between these species, or birds which showed traces of hybridization (eg, Steele & McGuigan 1989, Dubois 1991, Dubois & Comité d'Homologation National 1994, Baxter 1996, Collins 1997). Hybridization in Europe of Sandwich x Lesser Crested is very rare (Malling Olsen & Larsson 1995) and chicks have only been known to fledge in: *1* Farne Islands, Northumberland, England: a female Lesser Crested ('Elsie') attempting to breed with a male Sandwich each year since 1984 and successfully raising single hybrids in 1989, 1992, 1996 and 1997 – the latter two being ringed; the 1997 hybrid was seen later in the season at La Paracou, les Sables d'Olonne, Vendée, France, on 23 September 1997 – (Steele & McGuigan 1989, Baxter 1996, Ogilvie et al 1996, Jiguet 1997, Gantlett 1997) and a hybrid adult paired to a Sandwich raising one second generation hybrid in 1994 (Ogilvie et al 1996); and *2* Albufera de Valencia, Valencia, Spain, in 1994, 1995 (probably one fledging), 1996 (one fledging) (Díes & Díes in press) and 1997 (two hybrid pairs, one with a chick on 16 June; J Ignacio Díes pers comm). Other hybrid pairs Sandwich x Lesser Crested of which it is not known whether they actually produced fledglings have occurred in: *1* Ebro delta, Tarragona, Spain: at least in 1996 a mixed pair attending eggs at the nest (pure pairs or solitary birds in previous years) (PN Delta de l'Ebre pers comm, pers obs); *2* Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, France: a displaying Lesser Crested in a colony of Sandwich on 9 August 1971 (Isenmann 1972); *3* Evros delta, Greece: a possible mixed pair with a nest on 11-13 June 1987 (Goutner 1988); and *4* Valli di Comacchio, Italy: a mixed pair in 1990, plus a pure pair from 1985 to at least 1993 (Brichetti & Foschi 1990; Br Birds 87: 168, 1994).

Dubois at al (1994) reported the regular fledging of Sandwich x Elegant Tern chicks in Arcachon, France. For years, the Elegant parent was misidentified as Lesser Crested (but see Dubois et al 1989, 1994, Dubois & Duquet 1991; cf Br Birds 80: 277, 1987, Dutch Birding 14: 168, plate 148, 1992). Proven hybrids showed bills similar to that of Sandwich but with some yellow (an adult bird, most probably one of the offspring of 'Elsie'; Baxter 1996); pale yellow with a hint of orange in its base (1995 and 1996 Spanish birds, Díes & Díes in press; same features in 1997 chick, J Ignacio Díes pers comm); or pale yellow (fledgling) developing into pattern with mostly greyish-black upper mandible and mostly greyish-yellow lower mandible when in first-winter plumage (1997 Farne Islands hybrid; Jiguet 1997, Gantlett 1997). Only Dubois et al (1994) mentioned an orange bill in Sandwich x Elegant chicks. However, not any of those hybrids obtained the total set of characters of an adult Elegant, as the Llobregat bird, including the larger size than that of Lesser Crested or Sandwich.

**Origin**

Dubois & et al (1994) suggested that the Irish Elegant Tern (O'Sullivan & Smiddy 1988, see below) could have been one of the two French birds from Arcachon. It may be worth evaluating whether our bird could also have been one of the French individuals. The study of the movements and migration patterns of Sandwich Tern, with which the Elegant associated, could be helpful in putting some possibilities in perspective. Sandwich from the European Atlantic coast are rare in north-eastern Spain, but remain a possibility; ring recoveries suggest that Sandwich breeding in the Ebro delta, Catalonia (1181 pairs in 1992, 1220 pairs in 1993; Martinez-Vilalta 1992, 1993) winter mainly in West Africa (Muntaner et al 1984). A part of this population remains in the western Mediterranean (eg, a bird ringed on 20 June 1981 in the Ebro delta was recovered on 20 February 1982 in Italy; Aymí & Julién 1989). Wintering birds and passage migrants in north-eastern Spain arrive from the eastern Mediterranean, mainly originating from Ukrainian colonies in the Black Sea (Franco & Palacios 1982, Muntaner et al 1984, de Juana & Paterson 1986), but also from the western Mediterranean, notably from the Camargue (Møller 1981, Muntaner et al 1984). Atlantic Sandwich do not seem to enter the Mediterranean in great numbers (Møller 1981). However, there seem to be two recoveries of British Sandwich in the Camargue (Møller 1981) and some birds from western Europe could penetrate into the Mediterranean as far east as Algeria, Tunisia and Mediterranean Spain (de Juana & Paterson 1986), despite the fact that French birds from the Gironde disperse principally northwards (Cramp 1985). Therefore, although other options can not be excluded, the party of Sandwich that

was associated with the Elegant was presumably moving to the east towards their breeding grounds, possibly in Ukraine.

The occurrence of American terns and gulls in Europe has been proven, eg, through ring recoveries (cf Dennis 1986, 1994). Despite its position along the Mediterranean coast, several American gull and tern species have been recorded in the Llobregat delta area or at nearby localities. For example, a Royal Tern ringed on 1 August 1989 in Virginia, USA, was recovered in Puerto de Rosas, Gerona, Spain, on 26 December 1989 (de Juana et al 1991, Dennis 1994). The same individual was possibly seen on 10 January 1990 in the Llobregat delta (Gutiérrez et al 1995); however, this record was never submitted to the Spanish rarities committee. Laughing Gull *L atricilla*, Franklin's Gull *L pipixcan* and Bonaparte's Gull *L philadelphia* have also been recorded in the Llobregat delta (Gutiérrez et al 1995).

**Other European records**

Elegant Tern is a breeding bird of the Pacific Coast of North America (southern California, Baja California and north-western Mexico), dispersing north after breeding to northern California and wintering along the Pacific coast south to Ecuador, Peru and Chile. Vagrants have been recorded only in Texas (Harrison 1983) and Virginia (Armistead 1985), and the species is not known to occur regularly on the Atlantic side of North America. It is, therefore, quite remarkable that it reached Europe as a vagrant. However, other Pacific American species have occurred in Europe as well (eg, Glaucous-winged Gull *L glaucescens* in the Canary Islands and Morocco, and Aleutian Tern *S aleutica* in England). On the other hand, del Hoyo et al (1996) suggest that European records of Elegant may refer to escapes from trade ships; there is, however, no evidence to support that theory.

The Llobregat delta record was the first for Spain and the Mediterranean basin. In Europe, previous records were at Greencastle Point, Carlingford, Lough, Down, Northern Ireland, from 22 June to 3 July 1982 (O'Sullivan & Smiddy 1988) and, probably the same individual, at Ballymacoda, Cork, Ireland, on 1 August 1982 (Mitchell & Young 1997, Anthony McGeehan pers comm); and at least two different birds at Arcachon, Gironde, France, the first in 1974, paired with Sandwich Terns and returning for several years, and the second in 1984. Another Elegant was found in a Sandwich colony both in at least 1995 and 1996 at Île aux Moutons, archipel de Molène, Finistère, Bretagne; it was photographed and accepted by the French rarities committee (Philippe Dubois in litt). It was perhaps one of the two adults previously seen in Arcachon. Hybrid origin could not be discarded in another Elegant-like individual trapped at Arcachon in 1987 which stayed at least until 1996 and very probably also was an Elegant (Dubois et al 1994; Philippe Dubois in litt). Besides, an Elegant at Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, on 12 June and 15 July 1988 (Boesman 1992) was not accepted by the Belgian rarities committee because of its alleged hybrid origin (Verroken 1990). The Llobregat delta record therefore becomes the fifth for Europe.

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**Samenvatting**

Sierlijke Stern in Llobregatdelta, Spanje, in april 1993

Van 24 to 30 april 1993 verbleef een Sierlijke Stern *Sterna elegans* in de Llobregatdelta, Barcelona, Spanje. De vogel werd gedetermineerd door de combinatie van het formaat (slechts weinig groter dan Grote Stern *S sandvicensis*), de lange, duidelijk omlaaggebogen oranje snavel met geelachtige punt en de kleur van de bovendelen (zelfde als van Grote Stern). Bengaalse Stern *S bengalensis* kon worden uitgesloten door de lichtgrijze mantel en rug (donkerder grijs bij Bengaalse) maar niettemin met duidelijk contrast tussen mantel en rug enerzijds en de nog lichter grijze stuit en staart anderzijds (geen contrast bij Bengaalse), en de grootte en vorm van de snavel (slanker, langer en duidelijker omlaaggebogen dan bij Bengaalse).

Dit was het eerste geval van Sierlijke Stern voor Spanje en het Middellandse-Zeegebied. In Europa waren eerder gevallen in: Greencastle Point, Carlingford, Lough, Down, Noord-Ierland, van 22 juni to 3 juli 1982 en, waarschijnlijk hetzelfde individu, bij Ballymacoda, Cork, Ierland, op 1 augustus 1982; ten minste twee verschillende vogels bij Arcachon, Gironde, Frankrijk, in 1974 (gepaard met Grote Sterns en enkele jaren terugkerend) en in 1984; en op Île aux Moutons, archipel de Molène, Finistère, Bretagne, Frankrijk, in 1995 en 1996 in een kolonie Grote Sterns (dit betrof

mogelijk één van de vogels van Arcachon). Van een in 1987 bij Arcachon gevangen exemplaar kon een hybride oorsprong niet met zekerheid worden uitgesloten maar het betrof mogelijk ook een Sierlijke Stern; deze vogel bleef tot ten minste 1996 aanwezig. De waarneming van een mogelijke Sierlijke Stern in Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, België, op 12 juni and 15 juli 1988 is niet aanvaard door het Belgisch Avifaunistisch Homologatiecomité wegens de vermeende hybride oorsprong. De Sierlijke Stern van de Llobregatdelta is derhalve het vijfde geval voor Europa.

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# Status van Baltische Mantelmeeuw in Nederland

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De status van Baltische Mantelmeeuw *Larus fuscus* (hierna *fuscus*) in Nederland is onduidelijk. (Tot voor kort werden de taxa *fuscus* en *graellsii* beschouwd als ondersoorten van 'kleine mantelmeeuw' sensu lato, maar worden nu beschouwd als twee soorten; *graellsii* en *intermedius* zijn samengevoegd; cf Sangster et al 1998). In de *Avifauna van Nederland* (Kist et al 1970) is over dit taxon vermeld: 'Doortrekker in zeer klein aantal langs de kust en mogelijke wintergast. Van deze subspecies bestaan uit Nederland geen bewijsexemplaren; wel zijn daarentegen enkele ringmeldingen gepubliceerd.' In de *Atlas van de Nederlandse vogels* (SOVON 1987) wordt betreffende het voorkomen van *fuscus* volstaan met de opmerking 'worden slechts zelden bij ons gezien'. Van den Berg & Bosman (1996) vermelden *fuscus* als beoordeeltaxon in de statuscategorie zeer zeldzaam (1-5 gevallen). Van IJzendoorn et al (1996) namen het taxon op in een tabel van beoordeelsoorten en -ondersoorten waarvan gevallen van voor 1980 niet werden herzien. Zij gaven niet aan of herziening in een later stadium alsnog zou plaatsvinden. Omdat voor de overgrote meerderheid van de in de bewuste tabel vermelde taxa het voorkomen in Nederland aan geen enkele twijfel onderhevig is, kan hierdoor de indruk postvatten dat het voorkomen van *fuscus* in Nederland vaststaat. Hoewel in de hierboven genoemde publicaties de status van *fuscus* op verschillende manieren tot uiting komt, is toch het beeld gevestigd dat plaatsing van dit taxon op de Nederlandse avifaunistische lijst gerechtvaardigd is.

In dit artikel wordt door middel van een feitenanalyse gepoogd vast te stellen of *fuscus* al dan niet terecht op de Nederlandse avifaunistische lijst is geplaatst. In de eerste plaats is er het simpele feit dat door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) tot en met 1997 geen veldwaarnemingen of vondsten van *fuscus* zijn aanvaard (Jan van der Laan pers meded). Rechtvaardiging voor plaatsing op de Nederlandse lijst zou dus ontleend moeten zijn aan ringmeldingen. Tot dusverre zijn echter geen ringmeldingen van als nestjong van 'kleine mantelmeeuw' geregistreerde vogels die in het broedgebied van *fuscus* zijn geringd door de CDNA beoordeeld.

In verband met de beoogde analyse volgt hier allereerst een beknopt overzicht van de verspreiding van *fuscus*. Het broedgebied strekt zich uit van de oostelijke kustgebieden van Zweden en (mogelijk) de Deense Oostzee-eilanden Bornholm en Christiansø via Finland en het noorden van Estland tot in Noordwest-Rusland – in de regio Leningrad en in de autonome republiek Karelië tot het zuiden van de Witte Zee. De populaties 'kleine mantelmeeuwen' van Midden- en Noord-Noorwegen ten noorden van Trondheim, Sør-Trøndelag, behoren ook tot *fuscus*. De najaarstrek vindt hoofdzakelijk in zuidoostelijke richting plaats en de belangrijkste overwinteringsgebieden liggen rond de Rode Zee en in het binnenland van Oost-Afrika (Barth 1975, Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer 1982, Cramp & Simmons 1983, Kilpi & Saurola 1984, Røv 1986, Bevanger & Thingstad 1990, Judin & Firsova 1990, Filchagov et al 1992).

Diverse auteurs hebben in enigerlei vorm een overzicht samengesteld van de Nederlandse terugmeldingen van in het buitenland geringde *fuscus* en deze terugmeldingen al dan niet becommentarieerd. Voous (1963) vermeldde in een tabel enkele gegevens omtrent de tot dan uit de literatuur bekende drie gevallen en sprak zijn twijfel uit of het wel om *fuscus* ging. Dit in de eerste plaats in verband met het risico van onjuiste determinatie door de ringers van de nestjongen in gemengde kolonies met Zilvermeeuw *L argentatus*. Bovendien waren deze vogels ten tijde van de melding minder dan een jaar oud en daarom alleen door experts te onderscheiden van Zilvermeeuwen. Zijn twijfel werd verder gevoed door de omstandigheid dat de vogels in december en januari waren teruggemeld, terwijl naar zijn mening verwacht zou kunnen worden dat ze dan in Zuidwest-Azië of Noordoost- of Centraal-Afrika zouden verblijven. Inderdaad wordt door een ervaren Finse ringer van *fuscus* en Zilvermeeuw beaamd dat uit ringmeldingen van adulte vogels blijkt dat sommige



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nestjongen bij het ringen verkeerd zijn gedetermineerd, ook door hemzelf (Risto Juvaste pers meded). Over het onderscheid tussen eerstejaars *fuscus* en Zilvermeeuw is weliswaar veel gepubliceerd (onder anderen Grant 1986, Hario 1986, Nikander 1996) maar het blijft een lastig probleem. De Heer (1981) deed geen expliciete uitspraak over de aanvaardbaarheid van de vijf tot en met 1978 uit de literatuur en uit gegevens van de Nederlandse Ringcentrale (Vogeltrekstation) te Heteren, Gelderland, bekend geworden ringmeldingen. Hij volstond met te vermelden dat de betreffende vogels als nestjong waren geringd in Zuidwest-Finland en Zuidoost-Zweden. De strekking van zijn beschouwing is zodanig dat niet blijkt dat het voorkomen van *fuscus* in Nederland aan twijfel onderhevig is. Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer (1982) geven een opsomming van de vinddata en -plaatsen van deze vijf ringmeldingen. Cramp & Simmons (1983) noemen alleen een 'uitzonderlijke' Nederlandse ringmelding uit augustus, daarmee impliciet de andere ringmeldingen een status toekennend volgens een te verwachten patroon. Speek & Speek (1984) tekenen de ringplaatsen van de vier toen bij de Nederlandse Ringcentrale bekende ringmeldingen op een kaart in, zonder verder commentaar. Geen van deze auteurs heeft gemeld de originele ringers- en vindersdocumentatie te hebben geraadpleegd.

Aangezien, zoals terecht door Voous (1963) onderkend, bij het ring- en terugmeldingsproces net zo goed fouten kunnen worden gemaakt als bij de determinatie in het veld, is het van belang om te onderzoeken of dit taxon terecht in overzichten van de Nederlandse avifauna is opgenomen.

**Materiaal en methode**

Analyse van het door de Nederlandse Ringcentrale verstrekte gegevensbestand betreffende Nederlandse ringmeldingen van 'kleine mantelmeeuwen' wijst uit dat vijf gevallen betrekking hebben op vogels die als nestjongen van 'kleine mantelmeeuw' zijn geregistreerd en in het broedgebied van *fuscus* zijn geringd. Dit betreft vier Finse vogels en één Zweedse. Daarnaast is uit de literatuur nog een ouder soortgelijk Zweeds geval bekend van een Nederlandse ringmelding (Jägerskiöld 1931, 1937). De twee Zweedse ringplaatsen liggen op eilanden in de Oostzee. Alle andere in dit gegevensbestand opgenomen Zweedse ringplaatsen liggen in het noordelijke deel van het westelijke kustgebied, ver buiten het broedgebied van *fuscus*. Evenzo de Noorse vogels, waarvan de meest noordelijke c 200 km ten zuidwesten van Trondheim is geringd. Het gegevensbestand bevat geen gevallen uit Estland of Rusland. Van de Finse en Zweedse ringcentrales ontvingen wij de complete documentatie betreffende de tot en met februari 1997 bij hen geregistreerde 'kleine mantelmeeuwen' die als nestjong in het broedgebied van *fuscus* zijn geringd en uit Nederland zijn teruggemeld. Dit bracht een vijfde ringmelding van een Fins geval aan het licht. De Finse ringplaatsen liggen op eilanden in de Finse Golf, de Oostzee en de Botnische Golf. Beide ringcentrales melden de mogelijkheid dat, voorzover dat niet uit de ringersdocumentatie blijkt, in de betreffende kolonies zowel *fuscus* als Zilvermeeuw hebben gebroed. De Deense ringcentrale verstrekte gegevens betreffende de tot en met oktober 1997 bij hen geregistreerde 'kleine mantelmeeuwen' die in Denemarken of de Faeröer als nestjong zijn geringd en uit Nederland zijn teruggemeld. Geen van deze vogels is afkomstig uit de populaties van Bornholm en Christiansø, die volgens Salomonsen (1963), Dybbro (1978), Møller (1978), Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer (1982), Cramp & Simmons (1983) en de tot op heden heersende opvattingen in Denemarken (Klaus Malling Olsen in litt) tot *fuscus* behoren. 20 van de uit Nederland teruggemelde vogels zijn geringd op het Kattegat-eiland Anholt, waar volgens Møller (1978) in 1973 9% van de populatie 'kleine mantelmeeuwen' tot *fuscus* behoort, zonder dat duidelijk wordt waarop dit is gebaseerd. Daarentegen concludeerde Barth (1966, 1975) na uitvoerig biometrisch onderzoek dat alle Deense populaties tot '*intermedius*' behoren. Navraag bij de Estlandse, Noorse en Russische ringcentrales leverde geen verdere ringmeldingen op.

In tabel 1 zijn gegevens omtrent deze zeven vermeende ringmeldingen van *fuscus* in Nederland vermeld.

**Discussie**

In geen van de zeven gevallen blijkt uit de beschikbare gegevens dat de betreffende vogel bewaard is gebleven. Bij de gevallen 2 en 6 is door het ontbreken van de ringen geen enkele controle door de Finse ringcentrale mogelijk geweest, zodat deze alleen al om die reden moeten afvallen. Omdat daarnaast in verband met het sympatrische voorkomen van *fuscus*, Zilvermeeuw en Stormmeeuw *L. canus* in zowel de Finse als de Oost-Zweedse kustgebieden (SOF 1978, Hyytiä et al 1983) niet onomstotelijk vaststaat dat de geringde vogels *fuscus* waren, zou

TABEL 1 Vermeende Baltische Mantelmeeuwen *Larus fuscus* (hierna *fuscus*) geringd als nestjong in Finland en Zweden waarvan tot en met februari 1997 ringen zijn teruggemeld in Nederland / Alleged Baltic Gulls *Larus fuscus* (hereafter *fuscus*) ringed as nestlings in Finland and Sweden of which ring recoveries have been reported from the Netherlands up to and including February 1997

| # | ringcentrale/ ringnummer | ringplaats coördinaten[1] | ringdatum[1] | vinddatum[1] | vindplaats | literatuur |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Stockholm 12672D | Falholm, Gotland Zweden 57:55N 18:57O | 1 jul 1930 | 28 dec 1930 | Watergang, Noord-Holland | Jägerskiöld (1931) |
| 2 | Helsinki H5578 | Ekenäs, Uusimaa Finland 59:50N 23:15O[2] | 26 jun 1936 | 3 dec 1936 | Schildwolde, Groningen | Välikangas & Hytönen (1938-39) |
| 3 | Stockholm B3855 | Blidö, Stockholm Zweden 59:35N 18:56O | 9 jul 1941 | 21 jan 1942 | Breskens, Zeeland | ten Kate & Taapken (1955) |
| 4 | Helsinki H67638 | Pargas, Turku-Pori Finland 60:08N 22:15O[2] | 23 jun 1966 | aug 1967 | Brielle, Zuid-Holland[3] | Stén (1969) |
| 5 | Helsinki C87741 | Nagu, Turku-Pori Finland 60:03N 22:05O | 27 jun 1970 | 10 apr 1976 | Akkrum, Friesland[3] | Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer (1982) |
| 6 | Helsinki HT010144 | Porvoo, Uusimaa Finland 60:11N 25:47O | 10 jul 1973 | dec 1992 | Muiden, Noord-Holland | - |
| 7 | Helsinki HT035316 | Nykarleby, Vaasa Finland 63:23N 22:15O | 3 jul 1976 | mei 1978 | Ameland, Friesland | - |

#1 ringer meldt ter plaatse *fuscus*- en Stormmeeuw *L canus*-nestjongen te hebben geringd; door vinder gemeld als 'Kap- of mantelmeeuw'
#2 ringer meldt in lokale archipel *fuscus* en Zilvermeeuw *L argentatus*-nestjongen te hebben geringd en is niet zeker of determinatie als Zilvermeeuw van enkele ter plaatse door hem geringde nestjongen correct is; bij Finse ringcentrale is geen brief van vinder aanwezig; niet bekend of ring is ingestuurd
#3 ringer meldt ter plaatse alleen drie *fuscus*-nestjongen te hebben geringd; door vinder gemeld als 'zeemeeuw'
#4 ringer meldt in lokale archipel *fuscus*- en Zilvermeeuw-nestjongen te hebben geringd; Finse ringcentrale meldt dat ringer fouten heeft gemaakt bij determinatie van *fuscus*- en Zilvermeeuw-nestjongen; vogel is gevonden in fuik; door vinder gemeld als 'vermoedelijke eendensoort' *Anas*
#5 ringer meldt ter plaatse *fuscus*- en Stormmeeuw-nestjongen te hebben geringd; door vinder is vogel, die was 'aangevreten door roofwild', gemeld als 'vermoedelijk Kokmeeuw' *L ridibundus*
#6 ringer meldt ter plaatse alleen 15 *fuscus*-nestjongen te hebben geringd; ring is niet ingestuurd naar Finse of Nederlandse ringcentrale; vogel is geschoten en niet door melder als enige soort gemeld; Finse ringcentrale suggereert dat vogel Brilduiker *Bucephala clangula* is geweest met ring uit HX-serie (niet HT-serie)
#7 ringer meldt in lokale archipel *fuscus*- en Zilvermeeuw-nestjongen te hebben geringd; door vinder gemeld als 'zeemeeuw'

1 gegevens overeenkomstig opgave van Finse en Zweedse ringcentrales; diverse gepubliceerde gegevens wijken hiervan af
2 overeenkomstig vermelde literatuur
3 vindplaatsen onderling verwisseld in Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer (1982)

uit de vindersdocumentatie moeten blijken of er aanvaardbare gevallen zijn. In geen enkel geval is een beschrijving van de gevonden vogel voorhanden, noch is de juiste soortnaam genoemd. Dientengevolge kan worden vastgesteld dat geen van de zeven gevallen voor aanvaarding in aanmerking komt. De taxonomische status van de populatie 'kleine mantelmeeuwen' van het Deense eiland Anholt is onduidelijk. Daarom kunnen ook de aldaar geringde vogels die uit Nederland zijn teruggemeld niet als *fuscus* worden aanvaard.

Aangezien verder geen aanvaarde gevallen bekend zijn, komen wij tot de conclusie dat *fuscus* tot en met 1997 ten onrechte op de Nederlandse avifaunistische lijst stond.

Het is op dit moment niet mogelijk de status van *fuscus* in Nederland te vergelijken met die in de ons omringende landen, omdat de problematiek aldaar in belangrijke mate identiek is aan die in Nederland. Momenteel worden analyses uitgevoerd omtrent de status van *fuscus* in Duitsland en Groot-Brittannië (Buckingham 1998; Pete Combridge in litt, Axel Müller in litt).

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**Summary**

STATUS OF BALTIC GULL IN THE NETHERLANDS The status of Baltic Gull *Larus fuscus* (hereafter *fuscus*) in the Netherlands has long been unclear. Until recently, the taxa *fuscus* and *graellsii* were considered subspecies of Lesser Black-backed Gull sensu lato but they are now considered separate species; *intermedius* has been lumped with *graellsii*; cf Sangster et al 1998). Accounts as presented in the latest edition of the Dutch avifaunal list (Kist et al 1970) and subsequent comprehensive publications dealing with species and subspecies occurring in the Netherlands, including the revision of the Dutch avifaunal list (van IJzendoorn et al 1996), are summarized. Through these, the impression was created that *fuscus* has been placed on the Dutch list on the basis of ring recoveries. Up to and including 1997, there are no accepted field records and no authenticated specimens. It turned out that nobody appeared to have consulted the original ringing and recovery documentation and that the presence of *fuscus* on the Dutch list may not be justified.

Analysis of data supplied by the Dutch, Finnish and Swedish ringing offices and the literature provided a total of seven ring recoveries of alleged *fuscus* in the Netherlands (table 1). Five of these were ringed in coastal Finland and two in coastal eastern Sweden. There were no Dutch ring recoveries of Danish (from the islands Bornholm and Christiansø in the Baltic Sea), Estonian, Norwegian (north of Trondheim) or Russian *fuscus*.

From the analysis, it appeared that none of the recovered birds had been preserved. Because of the risk of incorrect identification by ringers of chicks in mixed colonies of *fuscus* and Herring Gull *L argentatus* – *fuscus* and Herring Gull being sympatric in these areas – and misidentifications by finders of ringed birds, particularly immatures, the ring recoveries had to be assessed carefully prior to acceptance as valid records. However, the original documentation of the recoveries neither included a description of the birds nor in any case the proper species name. In two cases, any control was impossible because the rings were lacking at the Finnish ringing office. One of these pertained to an adult bird (table 1, record 6). The other adult was reported as a 'possible Black-headed Gull' *L ridibundus* (table 1, record 5).

We conclude that none of the ring recoveries met the standards for acceptance as a valid record and that the presence of *fuscus* on the Dutch list up to and including 1997 is, indeed, not justified.

For the time being, it will not be possible to compare the status of *fuscus* in the Netherlands with that in the neighbouring countries, where the problems are similar to those in the Netherlands. At present, analyses of the status of *fuscus* in Britain and Germany are being carried out (Buckingham 1998; Pete Combridge in litt, Axel Müller in litt).

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NASCHRIFT De in dit artikel beschreven ringmeldingen en de argumentaties om deze niet als aanvaardbaar te beschouwen zijn voorgelegd aan de CDNA, teneinde een formele uitspraak te krijgen over de status van deze 'gevallen'. In het eerstvolgende CDNA-jaarverslag zullen de resultaten van deze (her-)beoordeling officieel worden gepubliceerd. Sinds enige jaren geniet *fuscus* een toegenomen belangstelling van vogelaars en zijn enkele veldwaarnemingen aan de CDNA voorgelegd. Zeer onlangs is één van deze waarnemingen door de CDNA aanvaard, waardoor de soort een rechtmatige plaats op de Nederlandse avifaunistische lijst heeft verkregen; het betrof een adulte vogel die op 18 oktober 1992 door Rik Winters werd gefotografeerd op Schiermonnikoog, Friesland (Max Berlijn pers meded).
W (TED) HOOGENDOORN & PETER VAN SCHEEPEN

EPILOGUE The ring recoveries described in this article and the arguments to consider these reports as unacceptable have been submitted to the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA), in order to get a formal decision on the status of these reports. In the forthcoming annual report of the CDNA, the results of this 'revision', will be published. Since several years, birders have increasingly paid attention to *fuscus* and some field observations have been submitted to the CDNA. Very recently, one of these has been accepted, giving the species a legitimate place on the Dutch avifaunal list. It concerned an adult photographed on Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, on 18 October 1992 (Max Berlijn pers comm).
W (TED) HOOGENDOORN & PETER VAN SCHEEPEN

# Roodoogvireo op Vlieland in oktober 1996

Het was eigenlijk gekkenwerk om in de middag van 3 oktober 1996 de hagen bij Lange Paal op Vlieland, Friesland, af te zoeken. De aanwakkerende westenwind maakte het vrijwel onmogelijk om vogels van bewegende bladeren te onderscheiden. Maar toch, de bosjes zaten vol vinken, mezen en 'phylloscopen', dus wie weet? Vrij snel kregen wij (Mariëtte Hoffer en Peter de Knijff) in de gaten dat de meest luwe plekjes ook de meeste vogels herbergden. We besloten deze goed af te zoeken in de hoop iets leuks te vinden. Na twee vruchteloze pogingen liepen we tegen 15:00 voor de derde en laatste keer alle hagen af. Vrij spoedig ontdekten we een grote gemengde groep met Zwarte Mezen *Parus ater*, Pimpelmezen *P caeruleus* en Koolmezen *P major*. Onverwachts kreeg MH een 'vreemde forse phylloscoop' in beeld welke zich met het blote oog op zeer korte afstand (c 1 m) goed liet bekijken. Voorzichtig maakte zij PdK hierop attent, maar de vogel was gevlogen voordat hij hem kon bekijken. Kort hierna zag PdK schuin boven zich iets bewegen en werden hem 20 lange seconden gegund om de zich rustig door de twijgen bewegende nogal forse vogel te determineren. Gelukkig keek deze eenmaal over zijn schouder en meteen was de voorlopige determinatie een feit: Roodoogvireo *Vireo olivaceus*! De combinatie van olijfgroene bovendelen, grijze kruin, opvallend groot oog, duidelijke witte wenkbrauwstreep met zwarte begrenzing en vrij forse, grijsblauwe, grasmus *Sylvia*-achtige snavel was onmiskenbaar. De vogel werd even uit het zicht verloren, maar het lukte PdK hem korte tijd later, nu vrijzittend en van opzij, wat langer te bekijken. Nu ook konden definitief andere soorten zoals Philadelphiavireo *V philadelphicus* worden uitgesloten. Na c 1 min hield de vogel het voor gezien en ondanks langdurig zoeken kon hij niet meer worden teruggevonden, wellicht mede door de verder aangewakkerde westerstorm. Omdat de laatste boot vanaf de vastewal reeds in de haven lag werd de waarneming pas later die avond doorgegeven.

De volgende ochtend waaide het nog steeds hard. De vruchteloze pogingen van de vorige dag om de vogel, eenmaal uit het zicht verloren, terug te vinden nog vers in het geheugen, besloten wij om eerst andere plekken af te zoeken en pas na aankomst van de eerste boot naar Lange Paal terug te keren. Uiteindelijk arriveerden wij daar tegen 13:00 en troffen een 20-tal somber kijkende vogelaars aan. Het was duidelijk nog niet gelukt de vogel terug te vinden. Pas tegen 14:00 vond Han Zevenhuizen hem terug, op vrijwel dezelfde plaats waar hij de dag ervoor was ontdekt. Na enige hectische taferelen gelukte het alle aanwezigen om de vireo te bekijken en al vrij snel konden de eerste foto's worden gemaakt. Tot volle tevredenheid van vogelend Nederland besloot de vogel tot en met dinsdag 8 oktober te blijven (cf de Knijff & Ebels 1996).

Onderstaande beschrijving is gebaseerd op aantekeningen van PdK en foto's van Arnoud van den Berg, Hans Gebuis en Marc Guyt.

GROOTTE & BOUW Formaat en structuur sterk lijkend op forse grasmus. Forse kop met platte kruin, opvallend groot oog en forse lange snavel met klein maar duidelijk haakje aan bovensnavel. Vleugels lang, handpentoppen tot voorbij onderstaartdekveren reikend. Handpenprojectie vrijwel even lang als zichtbaar gedeelte van tertials. Staart relatief kort. Poot stevig en kort.

KOP & HALS Voorhoofd en kruin blauwgrijs, geleidelijk overlopend in olijfgroen achterhoofd. Opvallende witte wenkbrauwstreep, vanaf snavelbasis tot ver achter oog doorlopend en vrijwel overal even breed. Duidelijk zichtbare zwarte wenkbrauwbegrenzing, vanaf snavelbasis tot ver achter oog doorlopend en geleidelijk breder wordend. Smalle donkere oogstreep, voor oog duidelijker zichtbaar dan achter oog. Oorstreek geelgroen, naar achteren toe in olijfgroene zijhals overlopend. Kin en keel wit. Zowel op 3 als op 4 oktober duidelijk c 5 x 5 mm rood vlekje op midden van keel, vlak boven borst zichtbaar. Op latere data dit vlekje niet zichtbaar.

BOVENDELEN Mantel, schouder, rug, stuit en bovenstaartdekveren vrijwel uniform olijfgroen.

ONDERDELEN Borst wit, zijborst ter hoogte van vleugelboeg gelig. Buik en flank wit. Onderstaartdekveren lichtgeel.

VLEUGEL Hand- en armpennen zeer donker met contrasterende lichte rand rond zichtbaar gedeelte van top. Tertials olijfgroen. Alle bovenvleugeldekveren olijfgroen. Duimvleugel zwart. Vleugelboeg gelig.

STAART Olijfgroen met ronde toppen.

NAAKTE DELEN Iris in veld donker overkomend. Op aantal dia's echter duidelijk dieprode iriskleur waarneembaar. Bovensnavel donkergrijs met lichte snijrand. Ondersnavel lichter grijs, naar punt toe donkergrijs uitlopend. Poot loodgrijs tot blauwgrijs.

GELUID Niet gehoord.

GEDRAG Voortdurend verblijvend in struiken en bomen, meestal op enkele meters boven maaiveld of in kruinen. Niet schuw, soms tot op korte afstand zichtbaar. Langzaam en vaak onopvallend bewegend door gebladerte. Voedsel pikkend van bladeren.

De combinatie van grootte, postuur, grijze voorhoofd en kruin, zwarte wenkbrauwbegrenzing, lange lichte wenkbrauwstreep, forse snavel met haakje aan de punt van de bovensnavel, olijf-

**2** Roodoogvireo / Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*, Vlieland, Friesland, 6 oktober 1996 *(Hans Gebuis)*

groene bovendelen en vleugel, witte keel, borst en buik, gelige onderstaartdekveren en loodgrijze poten sloot alle Euraziatische grasmussen en boszangers *Phylloscopus* uit en paste eigenlijk alleen op Roodoogvireo. Philadelphiavireo, de enige soort waarmee nog enige verwarring mogelijk is, kon onder meer worden uitgesloten op grond van de witte borst en buik (bij Philadelphiavireo vaak uniform lichtgeel tot geel), de zwarte wenkbrauwbegrenzing (afwezig bij Philadelphiavireo) en het forse formaat (National Geographic Society 1987, Bradshaw 1992). Het rode vlekje dat zich twee dagen lang op de keel bevond, was waarschijnlijk afkomstig van bessen. Het op leeftijd brengen van de vogel leverde meer problemen op. Eerstejaars vogels kunnen worden herkend op grond van hun bruine iris. Echter, veel eerstejaars ontwikkelen reeds een rode iris (cf Pyle et al 1987, Glutz von Blotzheim et al 1993, Cramp & Perrins 1994). Deze exemplaren zijn dan zelfs in de hand uiterst moeilijk op leeftijd te determineren. De gelige onderstaartdekveren vormen geen betrouwbaar leeftijdskenmerk (contra National Geographic Society 1987; cf Pyle et al 1987, Glutz von Blotzheim et al 1993, Cramp & Perrins 1994). Er zijn geen andere betrouwbare leeftijdskenmerken in het verenkleed bekend (Pyle et al 1987). Resumerend lijkt het dus in dit geval niet mogelijk om de leeftijd te bepalen.

Roodoogvireo broedt in grote delen van Noord-Amerika (behalve het zuidwesten) en in Zuid-Amerika tot Noord-Argentinië. De Noord-Amerikaanse populaties trekken en overwinteren in Zuid-Amerika (Cramp & Perrins 1994).

Deze waarneming betrof het vijfde geval voor Nederland en de eerste veldwaarneming. Eerdere gevallen waren een vondst op 13 oktober 1985 te Wormerveer, Noord-Holland, een vangst op 19 oktober 1985 te Rottumerplaat, Groningen, en twee vangsten, op 24 september en 2 oktober 1991, op Vlieland (Mauer & Westhof 1986, Terpstra & Ebels 1994).

In het najaar van 1996 werden in Groot-Brittannië en Ierland 13 Roodoogvireo's waargenomen, de helft van de 26 meldingen uit het najaar van 1995 (Evans & Millington 1996, Evans et al 1997; zowel van 1995 als 1996 is een aantal nog niet aanvaard, cf Rogers & Rarities Committtee 1996, 1997), en in IJsland twee (Dutch Birding 18: 271, 330, 1996). Het is opmerkelijk dat drie van de vijf Nederlandse gevallen van deze soort op Vlieland werden vastgesteld en dat Vlieland ook de eerste (en enige) waarnemingen van Baltimoretroepiaal *Icterus galbula* (14-19 oktober 1987) en Mirtezanger *Dendroica coronata* (13-15 oktober 1996) heeft opgeleverd.

**Summary**

Red-eyed Vireo on Vlieland in October 1996 On 3-8 October 1996, a Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* was present near Lange Paal, Vlieland, Friesland, the

Netherlands. It was identified by the grey forehead and crown, long pale supercilium with black upper margin, strong bill with small hook at the tip of the upper mandible, olive-green upperparts and wing, mainly white underparts, yellowish undertail-coverts and plumbeous-grey legs. The age of the bird could not be established with certainty. This record constituted the fifth for the Netherlands, the third for Vlieland and the first field observation. Earlier records concerned a bird found dead at Wormerveer, Noord-Holland, on 13 October 1985 and of birds trapped on Rottumerplaat, Groningen, on 19 October 1985, and Vlieland on 24 September 1991 and 2 October 1991. It is remarkable that three of the five Dutch records of Red-eyed Vireo have been on Vlieland and that the only Dutch records of Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula* (14-19 October 1987) and Myrtle Warbler *Dendroica coronata* (13-15 October 1996) have also been on this Wadden island.

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# Trends in systematics

## Purple Swamp-hen is a complex of species

Rails present a paradox. In their day-to-day lives, many species are best described as behaviourally flightless, yet rails are known to have colonized much of the Old and New World, including a great number of islands in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. The scale at which oceanic islands have been colonized by rails only recently became apparent. Archaeological investigations on a number of tropical and subtropical islands in the Pacific Ocean in the 1970s and 1980s revealed that before human impact virtually all major islands harboured one to four flightless rails (Steadman 1995). Most, if not all, of these avifaunal losses are probably due to predation and habitat alteration by humans and introduced rats, dogs and pigs (Olson & James 1982, Steadman et al 1990). Steadman (1995) speculated that 'at one to four endemic species per island, flightless rails alone may account for 2000 species of birds that would be alive today had people not colonized Oceania'. The discovery of high levels of past biodiversity on Pacific Ocean islands led to the formulation of several new biogeographic paradigms (eg, Steadman 1993). For instance, ranges of most living species are smaller today than at first human contact and few volant species are truly endemic to one or two islands (Steadman 1993, 1995). The former presence of flightless rails on nearly every tropical oceanic island also sparked new interest in the evolution of flightlessness (eg, Diamond 1981, McNab 1994). It became clear that flightlessness, which is known in several groups of rails (Diamond 1991), may evolve very rapidly (Diamond 1981), most likely as an adaptation to the limited set of resources available on isolated islands (McNab 1994).

The biogeography and relationships of flightless and volant rails in the New Zealand region were recently studied by Trewick (1996, 1997). His studies, the first to document the status and relationships among rails from a phylogenetic perspective, included both forms of the most famous flightless rail, the New Zealand Takahe *Porphyrio mantelli*, as well as several subspecies of the widespread Purple Swamp-hen *P porphyrio*. The new data address the century-old question of whether the two named forms of Takahe are truly distinct and indicate how the Takahe and swamp-hens are related. Trewick's studies have implications which reach far beyond the New Zealand region. They forcefully show that the taxonomy of the Purple Swamp-hen complex, which may represent one of the most successful radiations of rails, needs to be reassessed.

**3** Australian Swamp-hen / Australische Purperkoet *Porphyrio melanotus*, Auckland, South Island, New Zealand, 24 October 1995 *(Theo Roersma)*

**4** South Island Takahe / Zuidereilandtakahe *Porporhyrio hochstetteri*, Tiritiri Matangi, New Zealand, 9 February 1997 *(Ed Opperman)*

**5** Grey-headed Swamp-hen / Grijskoppurperkoet *Porphyrio poliocephalus*, Bharatpur, India, 11 April 1996 *(René Pop)*

*One or two takahe?*

Takahe are the largest living rails. Adults are c 1.5 times larger and c 2.5 times bulkier than swamp-hen (Marchant & Higgins 1993) and are further characterized by a huge bill and frontal shield, thick and powerful legs and feet and, being flightless, by very short wings. To emphasize the morphological differences between Takahe and swamp-hens, Takahe has been placed in a monotypic genus *Notornis* but is now generally included in *Porphyrio*. Two forms have been described. North Island Takahe *P m mantelli* formerly occurred on North Island but, except for a possible sighting in 1894, is only known from fossils (Trewick 1996). The other form, South Island Takahe *P m hochstetteri*, was thought to be extinct by the 1930s but was rediscovered in 1948 (Falla 1949). Fossil material suggests that this taxon formerly occurred throughout South Island, including lowland areas. Today, only c 115 individuals remain in a restricted area of alpine tussock grassland in Fiordland, in the south-western part of South Island, New Zealand. To reduce the risk of extinction, some birds have been successfully translocated to four nearshore island reserves, Tiritiri Matangi, Kapiti, Mana and Maud, in the 1980s and early 1990s (Clout & Craig 1994).

Although North Island and South Island Takahe were originally described as separate species, they were downgraded in the first decades of this century as 'subspecies' of a single 'polytypic' species mainly because their breeding range did not overlap. In the 1940s, taxonomists began to define species on the basis of reproductive isolation. Because North Island Takahe is extinct and only fossil bones are available for analysis, it was impossible to determine whether North Island and South Island Takahe are reproductively compatible or reproductively isolated. Therefore, the subspecific status of the two takahe remained unchallenged and both forms continued to be lumped in a single species, a situation which has persisted right up to the present. An important aspect of avian taxonomy during the 1940s to early 1980s was the great significance given to species. Species taxa were believed to be the only true evolutionary entities; taxa recognized below the level of species (ie, subspecies), as well as taxa recognized above the level of species (ie, genera and other higher taxa), were not believed to have any evolutionary status (Voous 1975, Mayr 1982). For a long time, rigorous tests of the status of subspecies and genera were rare and subspecies and higher taxa were, in fact, recognized for convenience only.

Given the traditional mindset about subspecies, it is not surprising that it has remained unclear whether the two takahe are truly distinct. In taking a fresh look at the problem, Trewick (1996) analysed a large number of fossil bones of both forms, as well as modern material from recently skeletonized corpses. From this material, a total of some 700 elements, a series of 25 different measurements was taken. There was no evidence suggesting that North Island and South Island Takahe are connected by a cline. In nearly all compari-

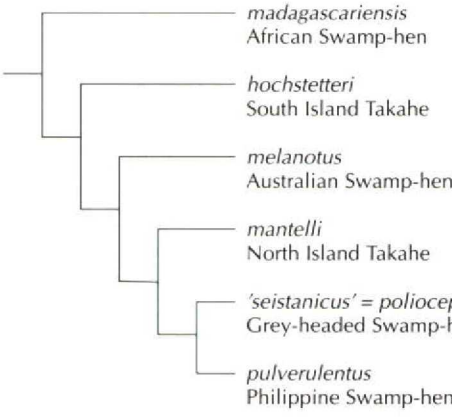


FIGURE 1 Evolutionary relationships among swamp-hens and takahe *Porphyrio* based on mitochondrial DNA sequences (Trewick 1997)

sons, a clear size difference between the two forms was detected. Although in general North Island Takahe was larger than South Island Takahe, the difference is much greater in some skeletal bones than in others. Therefore, North Island Takahe was not simply larger than South Island Takahe, as was previously believed, but also had a different shape. These differences in proportions justify the recognition of the two takahe as separate species (Trewick 1996). Trewick (1996) also found that hindlimb bones of North Island Takahe differed more from South Island Takahe than they did from *P p melanotus*, the Australian and New Zealand subspecies of Purple Swamp-hen, which suggests that North Island and South Island Takahe are not each other's closest relatives. This evidence is intriguing because if one of the takahe is indeed more closely related to a swamp-hen than to the other takahe, the two takahe cannot be considered as representatives of a single species, let alone be placed in a separate, monotypic genus. If true, the extant South Island Takahe should become known as *Porphyrio hochstetteri* and should no longer be referred to as *Porphyrio mantelli* or *Notornis mantelli*. Moreover, if *P p melanotus*, and perhaps other swamp-hen taxa, turn out to be more closely related to a takahe than to other swamp-hens, the many forms of swamp-hen currently included in 'Purple Swamp-hen *P porphyrio*' would not constitute a natural (monophyletic) assemblage. This would call for a taxonomic revision in which several swamp-hen taxa may be raised to species level. It also implies that both takahe have independently colonized New Zealand and that they independently developed flightlessness and gigantism. Therefore, if the hypothesis that the two takahe evolved independently from swamp-hen-like ancestors is confirmed, there will be far-reaching consequences for taxonomy, biogeographic models and theories about the evolution of this group. However, as noted by Trewick (1996), the morphological data alone are not sufficient to accept this hypothesis. The proper way to analyse relationships is to perform a phylogenetic analysis, ie, an analysis designed to resolve historical (evolutionary) relationships. Such an analysis was offered in a subsequent paper (Trewick 1997).

*Molecular phylogenetics*

To assess phylogenetic relationships among rails, Trewick (1997) collected DNA from 22 recognized species and subspecies of rails. Trewick (1997) succeeded in isolating and sequencing DNA from the bones of several extinct rails of the New Zealand region, including Chatham Rail *Rallus modestus*, Dieffenbach's Rail *R dieffenbachii*, Chatham Islands Coot *Fulica chathamensis chathamensis*, New Zealand Coot *F c prisca* and North Island Takahe. This in itself is a significant achievement since only very few researchers have successfully isolated and sequenced DNA from extinct birds. Among the analysed taxa are six forms of *Porphyrio*. Their relationships are summarized in figure 1. The evolutionary tree obtained by Trewick (1997) confirmed that the two takahe are not sister-taxa. North Island Takahe did not cluster with South Island Takahe but instead turned out to be more closely related to swamp-hens from Turkey (*P p 'seistanicus'*) and the Philippines (*P p pulverulentus*). *P p melanotus* and South Island Takahe, respectively, branched off before these taxa. The tree shows that the African 'subspecies' of Purple Swamp-hen, *P p madagascariensis*, holds a position at the base of the tree.

The new results confirm Trewick's early contention that the two takahe are not each other's closest relatives. North Island and South Island Takahe must, therefore, be recognized as separate species. If lumped as subspecies of a single species, North Island and South Island Takahe would not constitute a natural monophyletic group because it includes some but not all descendants of the common ancestor of North Island and South Island Takahe (ie, *P p melanotus*, *P p 'seistanicus'* and *P p pulverulentus* are excluded). In systematists' jargon such taxa are called 'paraphyletic'. The tree obtained by Trewick (1997) provides powerful evidence that North Island and South Island Takahe independently lost their ability to fly and independently developed gigantism. Also, geographically adjacent forms are not necessarily each other's closest relatives. It is uncertain when the differentiation among the various forms of *Porphyrio* took place. Trewick (1997) estimated a divergence time for *mantelli* and *melanotus* at c 1 million years ago but emphasized that this figure is likely to be approximate and may well be unreliable.

Trewick (1997) noted that, in addition to the two takahe, 'the subspecies of *Porphyrio porphyrio* should also be redefined as species, otherwise *Porphyrio porphyrio* will remain paraphyletic.' In the next section this suggestion is further elaborated upon.

*Swamp-hen taxonomy*

The currently accepted taxonomy of the genus *Porphyrio* is rooted in the actions of taxonomists in the 1930s and 1940s. By that time, many forms had been

TABLE 1 Taxonomic arrangements of Purple Swamp-hen complex *Porphyrio*

| Peters (1934)<br>Morony et al (1975) | Steadman (1988) | Roselaar (in Cramp & Simmons 1980) | proposed interim taxonomy |
|---|---|---|---|
| four species: | three species: | one species (*P porphyrio*),<br>six subspecies groups: | six species: |
| *P porphyrio* | *P porphyrio* | *porphyrio*-group | *P porphyrio* |
| *P madagascariensis* | *P poliocephalus* | *madagascariensis*-group | *P madagascariensis* |
| *P poliocephalus* | *P pulverulentus* | *poliocephalus*-group | *P poliocephalus* |
| *P pulverulentus* | | *pulverulentus*-group | *P pulverulentus* |
| | | *indicus*-group | *P indicus* |
| | | *melanotus*-group | *P melanotus* |

named (c 30), especially in the Oriental and western Pacific regions. Some named forms had been collected in the same general areas and this was sometimes taken as evidence for two or more distinct coexisting species (eg, Hartert 1924). Mayr (1949) pointed out that in some areas very different looking individuals actually represent morphs, rather than coexisting species. Although taxonomists reduced the number of recognized subspecies, there has been no agreement about the number of recognizable forms, which is evident from the different number of subspecies accepted by various authorities: 13 (Ripley 1977), 14 (Potapov & Flint 1989), 19 (Peters 1934), c 20 (Cramp & Simmons 1980) and 24 (Stepanyan 1975). Many of these forms are only very weakly differentiated. Even some subspecies which were recognized by Ripley (1977), who adopted the most conservative stance on subspecies, are characterized on the basis of differences in average size or subtle colour differences alone. Subspecies, therefore, remained problematical, which undoubtedly resulted from the lack of a theoretical framework for subspecies taxa.

At the level of species it was common practice during most of this century to lump forms which replace each other geographically. Von Boetticher (1935) argued that because all subspecies seem closely related and replace each other geographically, they should all be lumped in a single species. Mayr (1938) independently reached the same conclusion and noted that because Purple Swamp-hen already includes several distinct Asian, Oriental and Australian forms, this 'immediately suggests to draw the specific lines still wider and to include also *porphyrio*, *madagascariensis* and *pulverulentus* in the same species'. This taxonomic treatment has been adopted by most reference works (eg, Ripley 1977, Cramp & Simmons 1980, del Hoyo et al 1996), although some authors occasionally recognized more than one species. Morony et al (1975) followed Peters (1934) in recognizing four species, *P porphyrio*, *P madagascariensis*, *P pulverulentus* and *P poliocephalus*, the latter being a dustbin for virtually all forms in the Oriental and Western Pacific regions. McAllan & Bruce (1988) and Steadman (1988) also recognized several species (table 1) but neither discussed their reasons for doing so. Thus, for much of this century, swamp-hen taxonomy is characterized by a flurry of named forms, some of which are morphologically weakly defined and are sometimes not even recognized as subspecies, whereas others are strongly differentiated and are occasionally recognized as full species but without a clear and explicit rationale. However, despite lingering uncertainty about the status of several taxa, no significant revisions have appeared since Mayr's papers (Mayr 1938, 1949).

Trewick's phylogenetic analysis provides a much needed historical perspective on swamp-hen diversity. It forcefully shows that all arrangements proposed so far are unacceptable because they include species which are composed of forms which are not closely related. For instance, Peters (1934) included the form *melanotus* in *P poliocephalus*. The latter now appears to be more closely related to North Island Takahe than to *melanotus* (figure 1), which means that Peters' '*P poliocephalus*' does not represent a natural group. In the treatment proposed by von Boetticher (1935), and which is still widely accepted, '*P porphyrio*' is a paraphyletic taxon because it does not include the two takahe. Steadman's (1988) '*P porphyrio*' includes the forms *madagascariensis* and *melanotus*, which now appear to be only distantly related (the latter is actually closer to the two takahe than to *madagascariensis*, figure 1). If we accept the two takahe as full species, the tree obtained by Trewick (1997) suggests that *at least* three forms of swamp-hen should also be recognized as full species (ie, *madagascariensis*, *melanotus* and '*seistanicus*'/*pulverulentus*). However, Trewick (1997) did not analyse all relevant forms; some forms which were excluded are very distinct and may also represent species. At present, their status can only be determined with morphological characters.

If species are viewed as the most basal taxonomic units then they must be diagnosable and should not contain any included taxa. This approach, which follows the Phylogenetic Species Concept (see Sangster et al 1998 for details), has not yet been applied to the swamp-hen complex. However, the six subspecies groups which were defined by C S Roselaar (in Cramp & Simmons 1980) are characterized by qualitative morphological differences and may thus be recognized as phylogenetic species (table 1, see also figure 2). Three of these subspecies groups (ie, the *porphyrio*-group, *madagascariensis*-group and *pulverulentus*-

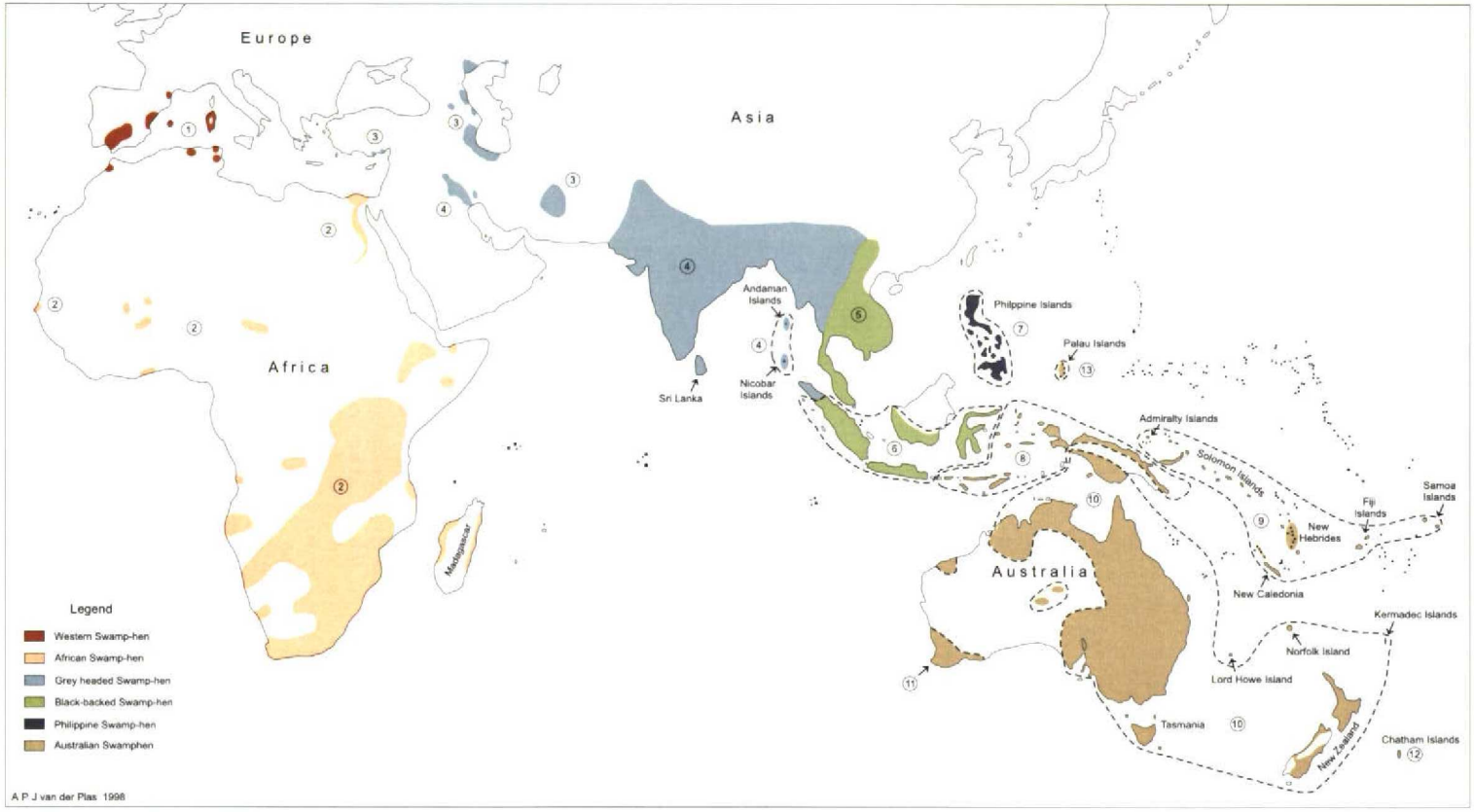


FIGURE 2 Breeding range of Western Swamp-hen / Westelijke Purperkoet *Porphyrio porphyrio*, African Swamp-hen / Smaragdpurperkoet *P madagascariensis*, Grey-headed Swamp-hen / Grijskoppurperkoet *P poliocephalus*, Black-backed Swamp-hen / Zwartrugpurperkoet *P viridis*, Philippine Swamp-hen / Filippijnse Purperkoet *P pulverulentus* and Australian Swamp-hen / Australische Purperkoet *P melanotus*, based on Ripley (1977), Snow (1978), Blakers et al (1984), Hollom et al (1988), van Marle & Voous (1988), Potapov & Flint (1989), Kasparek (1992), Berezovikov & Gistsov (1993), Marchant & Higgins (1993) and Mañez (1997). Numbers denote subspecies recognized by Ripley (1977): 1 *porphyrio*, 2 *madagascariensis*, 3 *seistanicus*, 4 *poliocephalus*, 5 *viridis*, 6 *indicus*, 7 *pulverulentus*, 8 *melanopterus*, 9 *samoensis*, 10 *melanotus*, 11 *bellus*, 12 *chathamensis*, 13 *pelewensis*

group) consist of only one subspecies and their taxonomy, therefore, should be relatively straightforward. The three remaining groups (the *poliocephalus*-group, *indicus*-group and *melanotus*-group) include several subspecies. Because subspecies have been recognized for convenience only and have lacked an evolutionary status, it is important to determine whether they represent diagnosable taxa. In the next section, I will develop the view that each of these subspecies-groups should be treated as a (phylogenetic) species but that the various subspecies in the *poliocephalus*-group, *indicus*-group and *melanotus*-group should not be recognized, at least not on the basis of present evidence.

The *porphyrio*-group is confined to the western Mediterranean and is characterized by a purplish-blue head, upper- and underparts and wings. This taxon does not show any green tones in its plumage at any age. Since it has the most westerly breeding range, it may be named Western Swamp-hen.

The *madagascariensis*-group occurs in the Nile valley and Nile delta in Egypt and in Africa south of the Sahara. It is unique among swamp-hens in having a green lower mantle and scapulars, contrasting with dark blue upper mantle and wing-coverts. This taxon may be named African Swamp-hen. The Egyptian population of African Swamp-hen has been separated as '*aegyptiacus*'. Neumann (in Archer & Godman 1937) noted that '*aegyptiacus*' can be distinguished from *madagascariensis* by deeper and purer olive-green upperparts with an almost complete absence of a coppery yellow wash and also by a pure blue throat and foreneck, which are less washed with green than in *madagascariensis*. However, these differences are not diagnostic; birds with an upperpart coloration similar to those in Egypt can be found in West Africa and coloration of upperparts of populations in southern Africa and Madagascar is intermediate between that of populations in Egypt and eastern Africa (Cramp & Simmons 1980). Although '*aegyptiacus*' is still occasionally recognized (eg, Potapov & Flint 1989), it is now most often regarded as a synonym of *madagascariensis*.

The *poliocephalus*-group, which breeds in southern Asia west to southern Turkey and the western shores of the Caspian Sea, is characterized by a distinct cerulean-blue or grey head and may thus be called Grey-headed Swamp-hen. Based on differences in size, taxonomists have recognized two (Ripley 1977, Potapov & Flint 1989) or three subspecies (Cramp & Simmons 1980) in this group. The form '*seistanicus*', which occurs in the Middle East, differs from *poliocephalus* in being larger (Cramp & Simmons 1980). On the basis of differences in size, Hartert (1917) described the populations in the Caspian region as a separate form which he named '*caspius*'. However, he subsequently did not recognize '*caspius*' and included it as a synonym of '*seistanicus*' (Hartert 1921-22). Roselaar (in Cramp & Simmons 1980) later resurrected '*caspius*', based on size differences. On the basis of three museum specimens (C S

**6** Grey-headed Swamp-hens / Grijskoppurperkoeten *Porphyrio poliocephalus*, Bharatpur, India, 10 February 1998 *(René Pop)*

Roselaar pers comm), an additional grey-headed form, *'bemmeleni'*, has been described from northern Sumatra (see van Marle & Voous 1988). The three specimens differ from *poliocephalus* only by their smaller size. Wing length in the *poliocephalus*-group declines southeastwards (Cramp & Simmons 1980); birds are largest in the Caspian region, Turkey and Syria (*'caspius'*), smaller from Iraq to western India (*'seistanicus'*), still smaller in central India to western Thailand and smallest in southern India, Sri Lanka, Nicobars (*poliocephalus*) and north Sumatra (*'bemmeleni'*). The recognition of taxa such as *'seistanicus'*, *'caspius'* and *'bemmeleni'*, which are mainly or entirely based on differences in size, is problematic because several studies have shown that size differences may be induced by environmental factors such as food during the nestling stage (eg, James 1983, Boag 1987, Larsson & Forslund 1991, Larsson 1993). Therefore, size differences alone are insufficient evidence for the existence of taxa. Hence, there is insufficient basis for the recognition of *'seistanicus'*, *'caspius'* and *'bemmeleni'* as valid taxa. Although it has been suggested that there are colour differences between *'seistanicus'* and *poliocephalus* (Palmer 1997), no diagnostic character states are known. Based on present evidence, *'seistanicus'*, *'caspius'* and *'bemmeleni'* are probably best regarded as synonyms of *poliocephalus*.

The *indicus*-group is distributed in South-East Asia and consists of two named forms, *viridis* in mainland South-East Asia and *indicus* in the Greater Sunda Islands (Sumatra, Java, southern Borneo). This group is characterized by blackish upperparts and wing-coverts and a large frontal shield with pronounced lateral ridges and differs from the *melanotus*-group in having a turquoise-green to cerulean-blue throat and upper breast (Cramp & Simmons 1980). An appropriate name for this group may be Black-backed Swamp-hen. However, the taxonomic status of populations in South-East Asia is complex and poorly understood. Evidence of the nature of interaction of the *poliocephalus*-group and *indicus*-group is contradictory. Although there are reports of intergradation of *poliocephalus* and *'viridis'* (Ripley 1977), there is also evidence that *poliocephalus* and *'viridis'* coexist in the breeding season in certain parts of South-East Asia (Riley 1938). Also, it is not clear whether the three Sumatran specimens on which the form *'bemmeleni'* is based belong to a resident population of grey-headed birds in northern Sumatra, perhaps geographically close to (or even sympatric with) the resident form *indicus* or whether they refer to migrants from mainland Asia (van Marle & Voous 1988). Sibley (1996) apparently included *indicus* en *viridis* in the *poliocephalus*-group but did not state his reasons for doing so. Clearly, the status of swamp-hens in South-East Asia remains incompletely known. At present, it is even not clear whether there are diagnostic differences between *'viridis'* and *indicus* (see Ripley 1977). The taxonomy of these forms may benefit from detailed field observations, the collecting of additional material and phylogenetic analysis.

The form *pulverulentus* is endemic to the Philippines and may be called Philippine Swamp-hen. It differs from all other forms, including *poliocephalus* (which may be its closest relative, figure 1), and the geographically nearest forms, *'viridis'*, *indicus*, *'melanopterus'* and *'pelewensis'*, by its brown, bronze or olive-chestnut upperparts and grey head and underparts.

The *melanotus*-group, which occurs from Indonesia to New Zealand, is characterized by a blackish plumage, a small frontal shield and short toes (Cramp & Simmons 1980) and may be named Australian Swamphen. The *melanotus*-group is the most variable group in the entire complex. Mayr (1949), in particular, has stressed the 'almost unbelievable amount of individual variation' and the difficulties of identifying diagnostic character states for the subspecies in this group. Two widespread forms, *'samoensis'* and *'melanopterus'*, are recognized by virtually all recent authors. Mayr (1949), however, noted that *'samoensis'* differs from *'melanopterus'* only by having on average a brighter breast and browner upperparts and that some individuals are not identifyable. Similarly, the form *'pelewensis'*, which is recognized for the rather isolated population on the Palau Islands, differs only in subtle colour differences and these differences fall within the range of individual variation shown by populations of *'samoensis'* and *'melanopterus'* (see Mayr 1949). The subspecies *'chathamensis'*, which has been recognized for swamp-hens on Chatham Island, was regarded by Marchant & Higgins (1993) as a synonym of *melanotus* because no diagnostic differences are known, a treatment which is supported by *'chathamensis'* and *melanotus* having identical mitochondrial DNA's (Trewick 1997). The south-western Australian subspecies *'bellus'* differs from *melanotus* mainly in having a cobalt blue or cerulean, rather than black, breast, usually browner upperparts and a smaller and squarer bill shield (Marchant & Higgins 1993). In coloration, *'bellus'* is very similar to *'samoensis'* (Ripley 1977) and may not be recognizable. At present, there seems insufficient evidence to recognize more than one species in the *melanotus*-group, although further studies may indicate otherwise.

*Conclusions*

Based on the preceding discussion and Trewick's (1997) evidence for paraphyly of the Purple Swamphen complex, I suggest that Roselaar's (in Cramp & Simmons 1980) six subspecies-groups be recognized as species. Further studies should focus on the confusing taxonomic status of South-East Asian populations and on the status of the various populations of the *melanotus*-group. It may be argued that because the present state of knowledge is incomplete no taxonomic changes should be formally adopted. However, taxonomies will never be definitive because our knowledge is never complete. All that can be required from a given taxonomy is that it reflects current knowledge of the status and relationships of the relevant taxa. At present, these six morphologically defined species seem the best supported hypothesis about the basal taxa in this complex and recognition of these species avoids the problem of paraphyly.

Trewick's (1996, 1997) studies have shown that the evolution of the swamp-hen complex can not be understood unless other, seemingly very distinct, relatives such as the takahe are also considered. It seems likely that other extinct species of *Porphyrio* are also nested within the swamp-hen/takahe group. These include Lord Howe Swamp-hen *P albus*, which was endemic to Lord Howe Island, New Caledonian Swamp-hen *P kukwiedei*, which had gigantic proportions similar to the two takahe and was restricted to New Caledonia (Balouet & Olson 1989) and the small Marquesas Swamp-hen *P paepae*, which was similar in size to American Purple Gallinule *Porphyrula martinica* and which occurred on the Marquesas Islands at the northeastern edge of Polynesia (Steadman 1988). Bones of another, as yet undescribed, species have recently been discovered on Mangaia, Cook Islands (Steadman 1995). Although a clear understanding of the evolution of rails is only beginning to emerge, Trewick's studies of the swamp-hen/takahe group will serve as an example of what may be regarded as the ideal systematic study: archaeological research and phylogenetic analysis, the two most important sources of information about the history of birds, used in conjunction.

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# CSNA-mededelingen

## Dutch avifaunal list: species concepts, taxonomic instability, and taxonomic changes in 1998

This report, the second since the reinstatement of the Dutch committee for systematics (CSNA) in late 1996 (Dutch Birding 18: 340, 1996), summarizes recent taxonomic decisions affecting the Dutch avifaunal list. As noted in the previous report (Sangster et al 1997), species limits are consistent with a phylogenetic approach to species level taxa. Given the considerable confusion surrounding phylogenetic species concepts, both in the scientific and birding literature, further comments about species concepts and their application are presented below.

As stated in the previous report (Sangster et al 1997), two basic rules are applied for the recognition of higher taxa (ie, taxa above the level of species): *1* higher taxa are named clades and, therefore, represent monophyletic groups of species or less inclusive clades, and *2* phylogenetic knowledge should be expressed as accurately as possible in nomenclature. As phylogenetic knowledge grows, implementation of these rules will result in taxonomic changes. The necessity of such changes and their effect on taxonomic systems are further discussed below.

Decisions by the CSNA are either based on unanimous vote or supported by a majority of the committee (Dutch Birding 18: 340, 1996). Decisions in the present report are all based on unanimous vote and will be adopted in Dutch Birding from the first issue of volume 20 (1998).

*Choice of species concept and its application*

Different species concepts may be best for different purposes (Endler 1989) and it seems increasingly likely that no single species concept will satisfy the multiple purposes of 'species' in the biological sciences (eg, Hull 1997). However, a theme common to all biological sciences is that all living organisms are historically connected through their pattern of ancestry and descent. All living organisms are the product of history, and we can understand little about the diversity of organisms without knowledge of their history, ie, the phylogenetic knowledge provided by systematics (O'Hara et al 1988). Virtually all comparative studies of biological variation among taxa depend on such phylogenetic knowledge for interpretation (Brooks & McLennan 1991, Harvey & Pagel 1991). Therefore, a first and fundamental requirement of any species concept in biology is that species taxa are *compatible with the reconstruction of evolutionary relationships*. Species concepts which group taxa that are not closely related in a single species, misrepresent evolutionary history and must be abandoned. Second, species taxa should be delimited on the basis of historical subdivisions (ie, *historical patterns*), rather than present-day or possible future interactions and processes (Lidén & Oxelman 1989), such as hybridization and gene flow. Species concepts which are prospective and which require speculations about the future are not helpful in biology; since all of our data are of the present and past, the units by which we interpret these data must also be strictly historical (Maddison 1997). Third, species should be basal,

taxonomically comparable units (Cracraft 1987, 1989); species should be *basal taxa*, that is, taxa that contain no included taxa. A species concept should not combine several distinct taxa in a single (polytypic) 'species' because such 'species' actually are higher taxa. Species concepts which recognize not only single units (monotypic species) but also polytypic assemblages (polytypic species) as 'species' run counter to the fundamental need for species taxa to be basal and comparable.

The decision by the CSNA to abandon the traditional Biological Species Concept (BSC) in favour of a Phylogenetic Species Concept (PSC) was largely based on these three principles. The Biological Species Concept is rejected because its properties violate all three aforementioned principles. First, interbreeding taxa are not necessarily more closely related to each other than they are to taxa from which they are reproductively isolated. Because interbreeding is the prime criterion for conspecificity under the BSC, the BSC could still regard such interbreeding taxa as conspecifics. Therefore, the problem of lumping taxa which are not closely related in a single species and, hence, the misrepresentation of evolutionary history, is inherent to the BSC and does not simply result from errors in application. Phylogenetic analyses indicate that in various groups of birds 'polytypic' species recognized by the BSC do not represent natural (monophyletic) groups. Evidence comes from phylogenies based on both morphological (eg, Livezey 1995) and molecular data sets (eg, Zink 1988, Friesen et al 1996, Leisler et al 1997, Roy et al 1997, Trewick 1997). Second, under the BSC taxa are recognized as species if they remain 'reproductively isolated', in the sense that they do not fuse into a single population (Mayr 1982). The BSC, therefore, is prospective (O'Hara 1993, 1994, Maddison 1997); only future events will show whether currently recognized taxa remain reproductively isolated or fuse into each other. This poses both theoretical and practical problems. It makes little sense to try to interpret the past and present diversity of organisms with a taxonomy that is based on expectations ('dreams', Maddison 1997) about the future. A practical problem is that, except for rare cases, the process of fusion transcends observable time. The likely time-to-fusion may be measured in 1000s or even millions of years (Zink & McKitrick 1995). Third, many 'species' recognized by the BSC contain more than one taxon. The BSC recognizes monotypic species but may also unite up to 10 or more diagnosable taxa and still recognize the resulting unit as a single 'species'. This not only underestimates and misrepresents biodiversity but also compromises interspecific comparisons (Prum 1994, Hazevoet 1996, Cracraft 1997).

In the systematic literature, two distinct Phylogenetic Species Concepts have been advocated. These versions agree in viewing species as a product of evolution, not as a player in evolution, and support the notion of species as basal taxa. The original version, proposed by Cracraft (1983) and further developed by Nixon & Wheeler (1990) and Davis & Nixon (1992), considers a phylogenetic species to be an irreducible cluster of organisms possessing at least one diagnostic character state. This version thus focuses on the *diagnosability* of species. Diagnostic character states are discrete character states which are fixed within the species and absent from close relatives. Diagnosability of species may be based on any intrinsic attribute, either morphological, molecular, ethological or a combination of these. It should be emphasized that this concept is populational (Cracraft 1997); the criterion of diagnosability only applies to populations, and not to, eg, family groups or individuals. An alternative approach was developed by Donoghue (1985) and de Queiroz & Donoghue (1988, 1990) and considers phylogenetic species to be the smallest *monophyletic* groups of organisms supported by autapomorphies (unique derived character states).

The diagnosability and monophyly versions of the PSC are significantly different, both in theory and application (Baum 1992). A major difference is that the monophyly version requires phylogenetic analysis prior to delimiting species, whereas the diagnosability version does not. Implementation of the monophyly version will, therefore, result in a significant shift in taxonomic practice, whereas the diagnosability version will not (Baum 1992). In addition to this practical difference, the two versions also differ with regard to which basal taxa are called 'species'. When a small group of related individuals leaves a species, evolves diagnostic character states and thus forms a descendant species, the ancestral 'species' will cease to be monophyletic. Because both the ancestral and descendant 'species' are characterized by diagnostic character states, the diagnosability version would recognize both as phylogenetic species; the monophyly version, however, would recognize the descendant species, but not the ancestral 'species', as a phylogenetic species because only the

former is monophyletic. Proponents of the monophyly version propose that such ancestral 'species' are recognized as a separate class of species, for which they propose the term 'metaspecies' (Donoghue 1985, de Queiroz & Donoghue 1988).

The CSNA has adopted the diagnosability version of the PSC as its operational species concept because no phylogenetic analysis is required prior to delimiting species, its implementation involves little modification of existing taxonomic practices and does not require the recognition of additional classes of species. It is believed that these are advantages over the monophyly version, and similar versions (eg, Baum & Shaw 1995), and that these outweigh any disadvantages. Although both aspects (diagnosability and monophyly) may be meaningful at the level of species (Baum 1992), the monophyly version is not sufficiently practical to be acceptable as an operational species concept.

Throughout this paper, 'qualitative differences' are differences which can be coded as discrete character states.

*Systematics and taxonomic (in)stability*

There is a large hiatus between our knowledge of phylogenetic relationships, which has increased exponentially since the late 1970s, and the avian taxonomic system (classification), which is basically still the same as the one proposed by Alexander Wetmore in 1930, which in turn was largely based on the work of Max Fürbringer and Hans Gadow in the late 19th century. Some have been concerned that the goal of systematics is to produce a 'stable standard classification' and that the Wetmore classification and sequence is now so well entrenched that it should continue to serve as a stable standard classification (Mayr 1989, Mayr & Bock 1994). The 'stability' of the Wetmore classification, especially in the light of much systematic research, was viewed by Mayr & Bock (1994) as 'of major advantage to all avian biologists' because, in the Wetmore classification, biologists can easily locate a particular group or species. However, this 'stability' is not to be regarded as a proof of its correctness. In fact, the 'stability' of the Wetmore classification throughout this century is entirely due to failure to incorporate new ideas about relationships (Sibley 1989, 1994). Fortunately, in recent years taxonomic systems have become more consistent with current knowledge of phylogenetic relationships. Closely associated with this development is a reappraisal of systematics as a *historical science* (eg, Gould 1986), in which phylogenies are viewed as *hypotheses* of relationships and taxonomies based on them as *dynamic* systems, subject to further modification as our knowledge of relationships grows.

Systematics is not an exercise in producing classifications convenient for humans, but an attempt to discover an underlying real structure in nature (Griffiths 1994). That real structure, or natural system, is the pattern of historical (phylogenetic) relationships. This natural system is something we discover (ie, reconstruct), not something we create (Ghiselin 1987). The objective of systematics, therefore, is the *reconstruction* of phylogenetic relationships; taxonomy is concerned with the *representation* of these relationships. With its focus on past events (ie, historical subdivisions), systematics is a historical science.

It needs to be emphasized that reconstructed phylogenies (cladograms) are *hypotheses*. The true organismal phylogeny is buried in history and is unknown and probably unknowable. Therefore, proof, in a literal sense, of phylogenetic relationships may never be obtained. Because the true organismal phylogeny is unknown, there is no *a priori* basis for accepting or rejecting a given phylogeny; hypotheses must be tested in the light of additional data. A phylogenetic hypothesis is open to test by the addition of new characters, the addition of new taxa and the reevaluation of other characters. Thus, a phylogeny can be corroborated or rejected and replaced by another phylogeny. Corroboration may come in the form of *congruence*. Phylogenies are congruent if they show the same branching pattern. If congruence exists between phylogenies based on different sets of data, this may indicate a strong historical signal; congruence may be regarded as evidence that the relevant phylogenies identify the true organismal phylogeny. Rejection of a phylogenetic hypothesis requires that an alternative hypothesis better summarizes all available evidence.

Because the purpose of taxonomy is communication of information on phylogenetic relationships, taxonomic systems should reflect the current best supported hypothesis of relationships. Taxonomic systems should be adjusted only if it is believed that an alternative hypothesis is better supported by the available evidence. Because phylogenies are hypotheses which are subject to further testing, taxonomies based on them are provisional and may later be replaced or modified. Therefore, taxonomies are dynamic systems;

a definitive taxonomic system is probably unattainable in principle.

*Association of European Rarities Committees*
In July 1997, the Association of European Rarities Committees (AERC) held its fourth biannual meeting in Blahova, Slovak Republic. During the meeting, a subcommittee was established with the objective to review the taxonomy of Western Palearctic birds according to modern principles. The subcommittee consists of four members, at present from Britain, Germany and the Netherlands. The main purpose of the subcommittee is to examine current evidence of phylogenetic relationships and to produce a modern sequence of species taxa. Results are scheduled to be presented at the next meeting of the AERC in the Czech Republic in the summer of 1999.

**Galloanserae**
A sister-group relationship of Anseriformes and Galliformes is strongly supported by congruency of phylogenetic analyses of several independent data sets. These include morphological characters (Cracraft 1986, 1988, Cracraft & Mindell 1989, Andors 1991, 1992, Kurochkin 1995, Livezey 1997), DNA-DNA hybridization (Sibley et al 1988, Sibley & Ahlquist 1990, Harshman 1994, Bleiweiss et al 1995), 12S and 16S ribosomal RNA sequences (Hedges et al 1995), α-crystallin sequences (Hedges et al 1995, Caspers et al 1997) and mitochondrial DNA sequences (Mindell et al 1997). The clade formed by Anseriformes and Galliformes was named Galloanserae by Sibley et al (1988). In accordance with the convention to list, of each pair of sister-taxa, the less speciose group first in taxonomic systems (de Queiroz & Gauthier 1992), Anseriformes and Galliformes should be listed before the remaining taxa on the Dutch list.

***Branta hutchinsii* (Lesser Canada Goose / Kleine Canadese Gans)**
***Branta canadensis* (Greater Canada Goose / Grote Canadese Gans)**
Lesser Canada Goose and Greater Canada Goose are specifically distinct (cf Sibley 1996) based on congruence of phylogeographic analyses of mitochondrial DNA restriction fragments (Shields & Wilson 1987, Shields 1988, Van Wagner & Baker 1990, Quinn et al 1991), mitochondrial DNA sequences (Quinn et al 1991, Baker & Marshall 1997) and morphometry (Van Wagner & Baker 1990). Pending further analysis, *leucopareia*, *minima* and *taverneri* are provisionally retained conspecific with *hutchinsii*; *fulva*, *interior*, *maxima*, *moffitti*, *occidentalis* and *parvipes* are provisionally retained conspecific with *canadensis*.

***Anas crecca* (Common Teal / Wintertaling)**
***Anas carolinensis* (Green-winged Teal / Amerikaanse Wintertaling)**
Common Teal and Green-winged Teal are specifically distinct (cf Stepanyan 1990, Livezey 1991, Gantlett et al 1996) based on qualitative differences in morphology (eg, Livezey 1991).

**[soft-plumaged petrel complex / donsstormvogel-complex]**
Fea's Petrel *Pterodroma feae*, Zino's Petrel *P madeira* and Soft-plumaged Petrel *P mollis* are specifically distinct (cf Bourne 1983, Collar & Stuart 1985, Zino & Zino 1986, Sibley & Monroe 1990, Beaman 1994, Hazevoet 1995, 1997, Sibley 1996, Snow & Perrins 1998) based on phylogeographic analysis of mitochondrial DNA sequences (Nunn & Zino in press) and concordance of differences in morphology (Zino & Zino 1986), vocalizations (Bretagnolle 1995) and reproductive behaviour (Zino & Zino 1986). Analysis of mitochondrial DNA sequences suggests that the divergence of *P feae* and *P madeira* occurred 840 000 years ago and that *P mollis* is not closely related to *P feae* and *P madeira* (Nunn & Zino in press). Populations of Fea's Petrel breeding on the Deserta Islands, Madeira ('*deserta*'), are provisionally retained conspecific with *feae* (cf Snow & Perrins 1998). Non-monophyly of the soft-plumaged petrel complex precludes the recognition of a 'superspecies' taxon for *P feae*, *P madeira* and *P mollis*.

[There are no accepted records of *P feae*, *P madeira* or *P mollis* in the Netherlands, although a record at Camperduin, Noord-Holland (Stegeman et al 1995), was accepted as *P feae/madeira/mollis*.]

***Calonectris borealis* (Cory's Shearwater / Kuhls Pijlstormvogel)**
Cory's Shearwater and Scopoli's Shearwater *C diomedea* are specifically distinct based on phylogeographic analysis of allozymes (Randi et al 1989) and mitochondrial DNA (Heidrich et al 1996), qualitative differences in vocalizations (Bretagnolle & Lequette 1990) and phenetic analysis of morphological characters (Granadeiro 1993).

Cape Verde Shearwater *C edwardsii* is specifically distinct from Cory's Shearwater and Scopoli's Shearwater (cf Bannerman & Bannerman 1968, Norrevang & den Hartog 1984, Hazevoet 1995, 1997, Sibley 1996, Porter et al 1997, Snow & Perrins 1998), based on qualitative differences in morphology and vocalizations (Alexander 1898, Murphy 1924, Bourne 1955, Bannerman & Bannerman 1968, Hazevoet 1995, 1997, Porter et al 1997, Snow & Perrins 1998).

[In the Netherlands, all records of *Calonectris* which were collected were identified to species level as *C borealis*. The identity of sight records of *C borealis/diomedea* in the Netherlands is currently being investigated by the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA).]

**[*Porphyrio madagascariensis* (African Swamp-hen / Smaragdpurperkoet)]**
**[*Porphyrio poliocephalus* (Grey-headed Swamp-hen / Grijskoppurperkoet)]**
Western Swamp-hen *P porphyrio*, African Swamp-hen, Grey-headed Swamp-hen, Philippine Swamp-hen *P pul-*

*verulentus*, Black-backed Swamp-hen *P indicus* and Australian Swamp-hen *P melanotus* are specifically distinct (cf Sangster 1998), based on qualitative differences in morphology (Ripley 1977, Cramp & Simmons 1980, del Hoyo et al 1996). Analyses of mitochondrial DNA suggest that forms previously included under the name 'Purple Swamp-hen *P porphyrio*' (eg, von Boetticher 1935, Ripley 1977, del Hoyo et al 1996) are paraphyletic with respect to two large flightless New Zealand taxa, South Island Takahe *P hochstetteri* and extinct North Island Takahe *P mantelli* (Trewick 1997). These results argue against continued inclusion of swamp-hen forms in a single polytypic species. The six groups here treated as species (*P porphyrio*, *P madagascariensis*, *P poliocephalus*, *P pulverulentus*, *P indicus* and *P melanotus*) are similar to those recognized by Roselaar (in Cramp & Simmons 1980) as subspecies groups. Pending further analysis, *caspius* and *seistanicus* are tentatively included in *poliocephalus*; *viridis* is tentatively included in *indicus*; and *bellus*, *chathamensis*, *melanopterus*, *pelewensis* and *samoensis* are tentatively included in *melanotus*.

[The inclusion of African Swamp-hen and Grey-headed Swamp-hen on the Dutch list is currently under review by the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA).]

***Gallinago gallinago* (Common Snipe / Watersnip)**
Common Snipe and Wilson's Snipe *G delicata* are specifically distinct (cf Olsson 1987, Gantlett et al 1996) based on qualitative differences in morphology, vocalizations and drumming display (Thönen 1969, Cramp & Simmons 1983, Olsson 1987, Carey & Olsson 1995, Miller 1996a, 1996b, Gibson & Kessel 1997). Pending further analysis, *faeroeensis* and *gallinago* are provisionally retained as conspecific (cf Miller 1996b).

African Snipe *G nigripennis*, Madagascar Snipe *G macrodactyla*, Paraguayan Snipe *G paraguaiae*, Magellan Snipe *G magellanica* and Puna Snipe *G andina* are specifically distinct from Common Snipe based on qualitative differences in morphology, vocalizations and drumming display (Tuck 1972, Sutton 1981, Hayman et al 1986, Fjeldså & Krabbe 1990, del Hoyo et al 1996).

***Stercorarius skua* (Great Skua / Grote Jager)**
Recent phylogenetic analyses of allozymes and mitochondrial DNA sequences (Cohen et al 1997) confirm and extend previous suggestions based on short mitochondrial DNA sequences (Blechschmidt et al 1993) that Pomarine Skua *S pomarinus* is more closely related to Great Skua and other species placed in *Catharacta* than to Arctic Skua *S parasiticus* and Long-tailed Skua *S longicaudus*. Because independent lines of evidence suggest that *Catharacta* and *Stercorarius*, as currently defined (cf Furness 1987, Christidis & Boles 1994, BOURC 1997, Sangster et al 1997), are paraphyletic taxa, all skuas are placed in *Stercorarius*.

***Larus graellsii* (Lesser Black-backed Gull / Kleine Mantelmeeuw)**
***Larus fuscus* (Baltic Gull / Baltische Mantelmeeuw)**
Lesser Black-backed Gull and Baltic Gull are specifically distinct based on qualitative differences in morphology and differences in moult, foraging and breeding behaviour (Barth 1968, Bergman 1982, Cramp & Simmons 1983, Hario 1992, Strann & Vader 1992). There is no evidence that the form '*intermedius*' is diagnosably distinct from *graellsii*; '*intermedius*' is, therefore, considered conspecific with *graellsii*.

Heuglin's Gull *L heuglini* is specifically distinct from Lesser Black-backed Gull, Baltic Gull, Armenian Gull *L armenicus*, Pontic Gull *L cachinnans*, Yellow-legged Gull *L michahellis* and Vega Gull *L vegae* based on qualitative differences in morphology and behaviour, and differences in ecology (Grant 1986, Filchagov et al 1992, Hario 1992, Kennerley et al 1995). The breeding range of Heuglin's Gull overlaps with that of Herring Gull and Baltic Gull, with evidence for reproductive isolation (Filchagov & Semashko 1987, Filchagov et al 1992, Filchagov 1994). Pending further analysis, *taimyrensis* and *heuglini* are provisionally retained as conspecific (cf Kennerley et al 1995).

[The inclusion of Baltic Gull on the Dutch list has been questioned (Hoogendoorn & van Scheepen 1998) and is currently under review by the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA).]

***Larus cachinnans* (Pontic Gull / Pontische Meeuw)**
***Larus michahellis* (Yellow-legged Gull / Geelpootmeeuw)**
Pontic Gull and Yellow-legged Gull are specifically distinct (cf Klein & Buchheim 1997, Klein & Gruber 1997), based on qualitative differences in morphology and vocalizations, and differences in behaviour and ecology (Klein 1994, Gruber 1995, Jonsson 1996, 1998, Garner 1997, Garner & Quinn 1997, Garner et al 1997, Klein & Buchheim 1997, Klein & Gruber 1997, Larsson & Lorentzon 1998). Pontic Gull and Yellow-legged Gull breed in close proximity along the Black Sea coast of Rumania, apparently without interbreeding (Klein & Buchheim 1997). Pending further analysis, *atlantis* is provisionally retained as conspecific with *michahellis*; *barabensis* and *mongolicus* are provisionally retained as conspecific with *cachinnans*.

Armenian Gull *L armenicus* is specifically distinct from Pontic Gull, Yellow-legged Gull and Heuglin's Gull *L heuglini* based on qualitative differences in morphology and vocalizations (Géroudet 1982, Hume 1983, Dubois 1985, Grant 1986, 1987, Satat & Laird 1992, Buzun 1993, Filchagov 1993, Frede & Langbehn 1997).

***Larus argentatus* (Herring Gull / Zilvermeeuw)**
Herring Gull, Vega Gull and American Herring Gull *L smithsonianus* are specifically distinct based on qualitative differences in morphology and vocalizations (Frings et al 1958, Hoffman 1979, Grant 1986, Mullarney 1990, Kennerley et al 1995, Dubois 1997). There is no evidence that the form '*argenteus*' is diagnosably distinct from *argentatus*. Current evidence indicates a clinal variation pattern (Barth 1968, Cramp & Simmons 1983); the design of studies which have suggested clear differences between populations of '*argenteus*' and *argentatus* (Monaghan et al 1983, Golley 1993) was

inadequate to substantiate such claims (eg, Chylarecki 1993). The form *'argenteus'* is, therefore, considered conspecific with *argentatus*.

***Motacilla flavissima* (Yellow Wagtail / Engelse Kwikstaart)**
***Motacilla flava* (Blue-headed Wagtail / Gele Kwikstaart)**
***Motacilla thunbergi* (Grey-headed Wagtail / Noordse Kwikstaart)**
***Motacilla feldegg* (Black-headed Wagtail / Balkankwikstaart)**

Yellow Wagtail, Blue-headed Wagtail, Grey-headed Wagtail, Black-headed Wagtail, Spanish Wagtail *M iberiae*, Ashy-headed Wagtail *M cinereocapilla*, Yellow-headed Wagtail *M lutea*, Green-headed Wagtail *M taivana*, Kamtchatka Wagtail *M simillima*, Alaska Wagtail *M tschutschensis* and White-headed Wagtail *M leucocephala* are specifically distinct based on qualitative differences in morphology (Vaurie 1957, Cramp 1988). There is no evidence that populations in western Asia (*'beema'*) and Egypt (*'pygmaea'*) are diagnosably distinct from *flava* and *cinereocapilla*, respectively. Therefore, *'beema'* and *'pygmaea'* are included in *flava* and *cinereocapilla*, respectively.

***Motacilla alba* (White Wagtail / Witte Kwikstaart)**
***Motacilla yarrellii* (Pied Wagtail / Rouwkwikstaart)**

White Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Moroccan Wagtail *M subpersonata*, Masked Wagtail *M personata*, Himalayan Wagtail *M alboides*, Black-backed Wagtail *M lugens*, East Siberian Wagtail *M ocularis*, Amur Wagtail *M leucopsis* and Baikal Wagtail *M baicalensis* are specifically distinct based on qualitative differences in morphology (Cramp 1988). There is no evidence that populations in western Asia (*'dukhunensis'*) are diagnosably distinct from *alba*. Therefore, *'dukhunensis'* is included in *alba*. The form *'persica'* probably represents a variable hybrid population of *alba* and *personata* (Vaurie 1959, Cramp 1988) and is not recognized.

***Saxicola rubicola* (European Stonechat / Roodborsttapuit)**
***Saxicola maura* (Siberian Stonechat / Aziatische Roodborsttapuit)**

European Stonechat, Siberian Stonechat and African Stonechat *S torquata* are specifically distinct (cf Sibley 1996) based on qualitative differences in morphology (Cramp 1988, Svensson 1992) and phylogeographic analysis (Wittmann et al 1995). There is no evidence that populations inhabiting western Europe are diagnosably distinct from those in central and northern Europe. Therefore, the form *'hibernans'* represents a synonym of *S rubicola*. There is no evidence that populations inhabiting eastern Siberia (*'stejnegeri'*) are diagnosably distinct from western Siberian populations. Therefore, *'stejnegeri'* is included in *maura* (cf Svensson 1992). Pending further analysis, *variegata*, *armenica*, *indica* and *przewalskii* are provisionally retained as conspecific with *maura*.

***Oenanthe hispanica* (Western Black-eared Wheatear / Westelijke Blonde Tapuit)**
***Oenanthe melanoleuca* (Eastern Black-eared Wheatear / Oostelijke Blonde Tapuit)**

Western Black-eared Wheatear and Eastern Black-eared Wheatear are specifically distinct based on qualitative differences in morphology (Clement & Harris 1987, Cramp 1988).

***Zoothera aurea* (White's Thrush / Goudlijster)**

White's Thrush and Scaly Thrush *Z dauma* are specifically distinct (cf Eck 1996) based on qualitative differences in morphology and vocalizations (Seebohm & Sharpe 1902, Ali & Ripley 1973, Cramp 1988, Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer 1988, Martens & Eck 1995). There is no evidence that populations in south-eastern Siberia, Russia and southern Kuril Islands, Japan (*'toratugumi'*) are diagnosably distinct from *aurea*. Therefore, *'toratugumi'* is included in *aurea*.

Amami Thrush *Z major*, Nilghiri Thrush *Z neilgherriensis*, Sri Lanka Thrush *Z imbricata*, Horsfield's Thrush *Z horsfieldi*, Fawn-breasted Thrush *Z machiki*, New Britain Thrush *Z talaseae*, San Cristobal Thrush *Z margaretae*, Guadalcanal Thrush *Z turipavae*, Bassian Thrush *Z lunulata* and Russet-tailed Thrush *Z heinei* are specifically distinct (cf Mayr 1955, Deignan et al 1964, Ford 1983, Ishihara 1986, White & Bruce 1986, Christidis & Boles 1994, Gibbs 1996, Inskipp et al 1996, Sibley 1996) based on qualitative differences in morphology and vocalizations (Seebohm & Sharpe 1902, Jahn 1942, Mayr 1955, Ali & Ripley 1973, Ford 1983, Ishihara 1986).

***Acrocephalus scirpaceus* (European Reed Warbler / Kleine Karekiet)**

European Reed Warbler, Mangrove Reed Warbler *A avicenniae*, African Reed Warbler *A baeticatus* and Caspian Reed Warbler *A fuscus* are specifically distinct (cf Leisler et al 1997, Sangster 1997) based on qualitative differences in morphology (Pearson 1981, Ash et al 1989, Harris et al 1995). Phylogenetic analysis of mitochondrial DNA sequences indicates that Mangrove Reed Warbler, which is currently regarded as a subspecies of *A baeticatus*, is actually more closely related to European Reed Warbler, and that European and Caspian Reed Warbler, until recently regarded as subspecies of *A scirpaceus*, are not sister-taxa (Leisler et al 1997).

***Acrocephalus caligatus* (Booted Warbler / Kleine Spotvogel)**

Phylogenetic analyses of mitochondrial DNA sequences indicate that Booted Warbler and Olivaceous Warbler *A pallidus* are more closely related to species traditionally included in *Acrocephalus* than to Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* (Leisler et al 1997, cf Sangster 1997). Therefore, Booted Warbler and Olivaceous Warbler are placed in *Acrocephalus*.

Booted Warbler and Sykes's Warbler *A rama* are specifically distinct (cf Stepanyan 1978, 1990, Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer 1991, Sibley & Monroe 1993,

Sibley 1996) based on qualitative differences in morphology and vocalizations, and differences in ecology (Portenko et al 1976, Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer 1991, Cramp 1992, Hirschfeld 1994). Pending information on phylogenetic relationships of Sykes's Warbler, its placement in *Acrocephalus* is tentative.

**[*Lanius phoenicuroides* (Turkestan Shrike / Turkestaanse Klauwier)]**

**[*Lanius speculigerus* (Daurian Shrike / Daurische Klauwier)]**

Turkestan Shrike and Chinese Shrike *L. isabellinus* are specifically distinct (cf Kryukov 1995, Panov 1995, Panow 1996) based on qualitative differences in morphology (Dean 1982, Cramp & Perrins 1993, Panow 1996, Lefranc & Worfolk 1997) and analyses of their contact zone (Kryukov 1995). Daurian Shrike is specifically distinct from Turkestan Shrike and Chinese Shrike based on qualitative differences in morphology (Dean 1982, Cramp & Perrins 1993, Panow 1996) and vocalizations (Panov 1995). Pending further analysis, *tsaidamensis* is provisionally retained as conspecific with *isabellinus*.

[An accepted record of an 'isabelline shrike' on Texel, Noord-Holland, in May 1995 (Dutch Birding 18: 129-131, 1996), is now considered to refer to Daurian Shrike. The identity of all records of 'isabelline shrike' in the Netherlands is currently being investigated by the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA).]

***Chloris chloris* (Common Greenfinch / Groenling)**

Phylogenetic analyses of morphological characters (Raikow 1978, 1985) and short mitochondrial DNA sequences (Fehrer 1996) provide congruent evidence that *Chloris* is more closely related to *Pyrrhula* than to *Carduelis*. Because two independent studies suggest that *Chloris* is not part of the *Carduelis* clade and identify the same sister-taxon (Raikow 1978, Fehrer 1996), whereas inclusion of *Chloris* in *Carduelis* is supported by only one study (van den Elzen & Nemeschkal 1991), recognition of *Chloris* for the greenfinches is justified.

***Carduelis cannabina* (Linnet / Kneu)**
***Carduelis flavirostris* (Twite / Frater)**
***Carduelis cabaret* (Lesser Redpoll / Kleine Barmsijs)**
***Carduelis flammea* (Mealy Redpoll / Grote Barmsijs)**
***Carduelis hornemanni* (Arctic Redpoll / Witstuitbarmsijs)**

Published studies of phylogenetic relationships among cardueline finches (Marten & Johnson 1986, van den Elzen & Nemeschkal 1991, Fehrer 1996) are contradictory with regard to the phylogenetic relationships of *Acanthis* and *Carduelis*. Because monophyly of *Acanthis* has not been established and is contradicted by one study (van den Elzen & Nemeschkal 1991), recognition of *Acanthis* may not significantly contribute to the elimination of paraphyletic taxa. Although *Carduelis* as defined here (ie, including *Acanthis* but excluding *Chloris*) is still likely to be paraphyletic, other hypotheses of relationships, which require changes in nomenclature, do not seem to be better supported by available data. Therefore, pending further phylogenetic analyses, Linnet, Twite, Lesser Redpoll, Mealy Redpoll and Arctic Redpoll are provisionally retained in *Carduelis*.

Lesser Redpoll and Mealy Redpoll are specifically distinct based on qualitative differences in morphology (Knox 1988, Herremans 1990) and vocalizations (Herremans 1989), and overlap of breeding ranges in south-eastern Norway without hybridization (Lifjeld & Bjerke 1996). Pending further analysis, *rostrata* and *exilipes* are provisionally retained conspecific with *flammea* and *hornemanni*, respectively.

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# CDNA-mededelingen

**Recente beslissingen** Op de CDNA-vergadering van 10 januari 1998 heeft Gerard Steinhaus na ruim zeven jaar (twee zittingsperioden) afscheid genomen van de commissie. De vrijgekomen plek is ingenomen door Bert de Bruin uit Groningen, Groningen. De samenstelling van de commissie is nu als volgt: Max Berlijn, Ruud van Beusekom, Bert de Bruin, Jan van der Laan (voorzitter), Karel Mauer, Kees Roselaar, Jelle Scharringa (secretaris) en Wim Wiegant (archivaris). Voor adressen en telefoonnummers wordt verwezen naar het colofon van Dutch Birding.

Met ingang van 1 januari 1998 worden drie taxa niet meer beoordeeld door de CDNA omdat ze te algemeen blijken te zijn (geworden). Daarnaast mag, dankzij de toegenomen kennis over de determinatie van deze taxa, verwacht worden dat er onder toekomstige meldingen relatief weinig foutmeldingen zullen zijn. Het gaat om Vale Pijlstormvogel *Puffinus mauretanicus* (55 gevallen in 1980-96), Pontische Meeuw *Larus cachinnans cachinnans* (40+ gevallen in 1988-97, merendeels nog te aanvaarden) en Kleine Burgemeester *L glaucoides* (62 gevallen in 1980-96). Bij beide eerstgenoemde taxa valt op dat het hier om voormalige ondersoorten van meer algemene soorten gaat, die sinds korte tijd als aparte soort worden beschouwd. De toegenomen aandacht van vogelaars voor deze 'nieuwe' soorten en de toegenomen aandacht in de literatuur voor de veldherkenning kunnen blijkbaar de status van voorheen zeer zeldzaam geachte taxa binnen enkele jaren in een wezenlijk ander daglicht stellen. Inzending van gevallen van vóór 1 januari 1998 wordt door de CDNA zeer op prijs gesteld, zodat de dossiers van bovengenoemde taxa zo compleet mogelijk afgesloten kunnen worden. Opmerkelijk is dat de drie genoemde taxa alle één of meer nauw verwante taxa of ondersoorten kennen die nog niet in Nederland zijn vastgesteld maar waarvan het optreden in Nederland niet uitgesloten moet worden geacht (en die natuurlijk wel voor indiening in aanmerking komen): Yelkouan Pijlstormvogel *P yelkouan*, Barabameeuw *L c barabensis* en Mongoolse Meeuw *L c mongolicus*, en Kumliens Meeuw *L g kumlieni* en Thayers Meeuw *L g thayeri*.

Op de vergadering is besloten een aantal oude gevallen opnieuw te beoordelen, omdat ze door recente taxonomische beslissingen (cf Dutch Birding 20: 22-32, 1998) nog niet op soortniveau aanvaard zijn. Het gaat om alle aanvaarde 'canadese ganzen' *Branta hutchinsii/canadensis*, zeetrekwaarnemingen van Kuhls/Scopoli's Pijlstormvogel *Calonectris borealis/diomedea* en de vier aanvaarde gevallen van 'izabelklauwier' *Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides/speculigerus* en Vanwege het beschikbaar zijn van nieuwe informatie over de herkenning worden ook de 'donsstormvogel' *Pterodroma feae/madeira/mollis* van Camperduin, Noord-Holland, in oktober 1992 en de afgewezen Lachmeeuw *L atricilla* van Harderwijk, Gelderland, in september 1993 opnieuw beoordeeld. JAN VAN DER LAAN

# Aankondigingen & verzoeken

**Bird migration survey in Israel in autumn of 1998** During August-October 1998, the Israel Ornithological Center (IOC) organizes the annual raptor, stork and pelican migration survey in the Northern Valleys, Israel. During the autumn of last year, over a period of 45 days, c 806 000 migrating birds were counted in the skies over Israel, including 580 000 raptors of 30 different species, 250 000 White Storks *Ciconia ciconia* and 36 000 White Pelicans *Pelecanus onocrotalus*!

You are invited to join an international team of birders to experience the busiest migration route in the Western Palearctic. Experienced birders willing to assist in the survey for a period of at least four weeks and to watch the migration for at least 10 hours a day are offered free lodging and food for the length of their stay. Those interested are requested to send a short curriculum vitae including details of their previous experience to: Dan Allon, Israel Ornithological Center, 155 Herzel Street, Tel-Aviv, 68101 Israel, telephone +972-36826802, fax +972-35182644, e-mail ioc@netvision.net.il. Please state the period you will be available.

**Finland for Birdwatchers** *Finland for Birdwatchers* is a leaflet which presents 25 birding sites in Finland. For each site there is a bird guide and accommodation available on demand. The target species are also listed. Some of the sites are for the hardcore birder, while others are for the more generally interested birdwatcher. The sites are marked on a map of Finland. The leaflet includes a general presentation of Finland as a birding destination. Those interested can write for a free copy to: Dutch Birding Travel Report Service (DBTRS), Postbus 737, 9700 AS Groningen, Netherlands, fax +31-505272668; or BirdLife Finland, PL 1285, 00101 Helsinki, Finland. The information is also available on the Internet at http://www.wakkanet.fi/birds.

**Nieuwe adapter en astronomische oculairen van Swarovski** Optiekfabrikant Swarovski heeft sinds kort een speciale adapter in het assortiment waarmee het gebruik mogelijk wordt van de eveneens nieuwe oculairen van 77x en 115x (insteekdiameter 31.7 mm). Met dergelijke vergrotingen zijn niet alleen de ringen van Saturnus en de wolkenbanden van Jupiter te bestude-

ren maar kunnen bijvoorbeeld ook broedplaatsen van verstoringgevoelige vogelsoorten heel dichtbij worden getrokken. De prijs van de oculairen bedraagt NLG 385 (77x) en NLG 440 (115x).

**Verhuizing Natuur en Boek** Boekhandel Natuur en Boek te Den Haag gaat verhuizen. Met ingang van begin april 1998 wordt Natuur en Boek gehuisvest in het complex van het Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum / Naturalis (nieuwbouw en het voormalige Pesthuis) aan de Darwinweg te Leiden, Zuid-Holland. De opening van het nieuwe museum is op 8 april 1998.

**Voorjaarstrek bij Breskens 1997** In april 1998 verschijnt onder de titel *Voorjaarstrek bij Breskens 1997* het derde 'Breskens-boekje' van de Telgroep Breskens, samengesteld door Sander Lilipaly, Peter Meininger en Pim Wolf: ten minste 32 pagina's vol informatie over de spectaculaire voorjaarstrek bij Breskens, Zeeland, met het accent op 1997. Opgenomen zijn onder meer de geschiedenis van de telpost, jaartotalen en fenologie 1990-97, dagrecords, de voorjaarstrek in 1997, speciale hoofdstukken over de trek van 'gele kwikstaarten' *Motacilla* en bepaalde topdagen, etc. Tevens worden tarieven en vertrektijden van het veer Vlissingen-Breskens vermeld.

Het boekje is te bestellen door het overmaken van NLG 8.00 op giro 76442 tnv P L Meininger te Vlissingen, ovv 'Breskens' (bij bankoverschrijvingen gaarne volledig adres vermelden!) of door het zenden van NLG 10.00 of BEF 200 in een enveloppe naar Peter Meininger, Lisztlaan 5, 4384 KM Vlissingen, Nederland.

# DBA-nieuws

**DBA-vogeldag te Utrecht in februari 1997** Ruim 250 mensen hebben op 7 februari de jaarlijkse DBA-vogeldag bezocht, meer dan ooit tevoren. Weinigen zullen spijt hebben gehad van hun aanwezigheid. Jari Peltomäki uit Finland beet het spits af met een lezing over problemen bij de herkenning van West-Palearctische gorzen. Hopelijk zal zijn lezing ertoe bijdragen dat we dit najaar onze eerste Pallas' Rietgors *Emberiza pallasi* kunnen 'twitchen'. Jari hield zich niet aan zijn tijd, maar weinigen zullen het hem kwalijk hebben genomen dat hij aan het einde van zijn lezing nog een groot aantal fraaie dia's van Siberische 'wenssoorten' liet zien. Daarna kwam Ian Burrows, die jarenlang in Papoea-Nieuw-Guinea heeft gewoond en mooie dia's van onder meer paradijsvogels vertoonde. Het eerste gedeelte van het middagprogramma werd verzorgd door de Oriental Bird Club (OBC). Brian Sykes hield een korte inleiding over werk en doelstelling van de OBC en daarna sprak Paul Jepson, co-auteur van *Birding Indonesia*. Zijn lezing over zeldzame vogels en natuurbescherming in Indonesia zat zeer goed in elkaar en werd ondersteund met professioneel beeldmateriaal.

Opmerkelijk was dat de 'mystery bird-competitie', die dit jaar in de voortreffelijke handen was van Diederik Kok en Nils van Duivendijk, voor het eerst sinds jaren een Nederlandse winnaar kende. Kees de Vries deelde de eerste prijs met Gunter De Smet uit België, beide met 23 van de 27 soorten goed gedetermineerd, een hoge score. Speciale dank verdient tenslotte Hans ter Haar die de onmogelijke taak om de dit jaar verhinderde Wim Wiegant te vervangen toch tot een goed einde bracht. De goede lezingen, de vele stands en de mogelijkheid oude bekenden weer te spreken (voor velen misschien nog steeds de belangrijkste reden om naar de DBA-vogeldag te gaan) maakten het tot een zeer geslaagde dag. CHRIS QUISPEL

**New address of Dutch Birding-homepage** From March 1998 onwards, the revised homepage of Dutch Birding on the Internet can be reached as follows: http://www.xs4all.nl/~eland/dutchbirding. GIJSBERT VAN DER BENT

**Nieuw adres Dutch Birding homepage** Met ingang van maart 1998 is de vernieuwde homepage van Dutch Birding op Internet als volgt bereikbaar: http://www.xs4all.nl/~eland/dutchbirding. GIJSBERT VAN DER BENT

**Programma DBA-vogelweek** In samenwerking met het Texel Birdwatching Center is voor de DBA-vogelweek op Texel, Noord-Holland (van zaterdag 12 tot en met zaterdag 19 september 1998), een aantrekkelijk programma opgesteld. Dit ziet er beknopt als volgt uit: zaterdag 12 september, Detlef Gruber over 'Field identification of so-called 'large white-headed gulls' that might appear in the Netherlands'; zondag 13 september, George Sangster over 'Taxonomie van West-Palearctische vogels'; maandag 14 september, René Pop met 'Natuurimpressies van India'; dinsdag 15 september, Ruud Kampf over 'Vogels van Oman'; woensdag 16 september, Diederik Kok met een 'mystery bird-competitie'; donderdag 17 september, 12-uurs *big day*, gevolgd door prijsuitreiking, koud buffet voor deelnemers en 'bal na'; vrijdag 18 september, Gerald Oreel over 'Herkenning van 'gele kwikstaarten' *Motacilla* en Citroenkwikstaart *M citreola*'; en zaterdag 19 september, Jelle Scharringa over 'Aziatische zangvogels en hun geluiden'. Voor alle lezingen wordt een entree geheven. Er komt een aparte inschrijving voor de 12-uurs *big day*. Meer informatie over lokaties en verdere bijzonderheden volgen in een komend nummer van Dutch Birding, maar het zal duidelijk zijn dat het nu al tijd wordt om accommodatie op Texel te gaan reserveren. GIJSBERT VAN DER BENT

# Recensies

DARRYL N JONES, RENÉ W R J DEKKER & CEES S ROSELAAR 1995. *The Megapodes*. Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP, UK. 262 pp. ISBN 0-19-854651-3. GBP 35.00.

Megapodes have long fascinated biologists and have been the subject of study by behavioral ecologists, paleontologists, biogeographers and, more recently, by conservationists. This monograph, the third in the Oxford series, represents the first monographic treatment of the Megapodes since 1881 and, for that reason alone, it is an important book. *The Megapodes* is a synthetic effort, pulling together the widely scattered knowledge of megapode biology and summarizing it succinctly and thoroughly. The book is divided into two parts. Part I consists of a chapter introducing the megapodes and a further eight chapters dealing with taxonomy, biogeography, behaviour, breeding biology (three chapters), ecophysiology and conservation. In Part II, the species accounts, all 22 species are described and illustrated in detail.

In the introductory chapter, a brief overview is presented about the family. The chapter on taxonomy discusses species limits and presents an up-to-date review of the relationships of this group, concluding that it is most likely the sister-group of all other Galliformes. The chapter on distribution, biogeography and speciation discusses the origin of megapodes, presents a review of past and present ideas about the causes of current and historic distribution patterns and outlines contact zones. In the chapter on general biology and behaviour various aspects of the life-history of this group are described. Megapodes are, of course, famous for their highly unusual breeding biology. Rather than using body heat, megapodes are unique among birds in their use of external heat sources (microbial respiration, hot springs, gases and solar energy) for incubation. The unusual breeding strategies of this group are discussed, from various angles, in the three chapters on breeding biology. These culminate in a chapter on the evolution of megapode incubation strategies, in which current knowledge about relationships and breeding biology is synthesized and which describes how phylogenetic analysis may help to explain the evolution of megapode breeding strategies. Finally, the conservation status and threats to megapodes are discussed, providing details of human exploitation of eggs, status of megapodes in the wild, local conservation programmes and captive breeding. The importance of this chapter is underscored by the fact that no less than 13 species are threatened with extinction, making the megapodes one of the most threatened families of birds. Each of these chapters is well-organized, highly readable and clearly shows that the authors know their subject well.

The species accounts are on average 6.5 pages long and include detailed information about subspecies, plumages, bare parts, moults, measurements, weights, geographic variation, range and status (illustrated by a map), field characters, voice (often illustrated by sonagrams), habitat, general habits, food, breeding behaviour, nest, eggs, displays and breeding season, local names and references. These accounts include a wealth of previously unpublished information. Indeed, much of the information was gathered especially for this book. For example, five new subspecies were formally described (by Roselaar) during preparations for this book. The eight colour plates by Ber van Perlo are excellent.

Compared with other high-profile ornithological monographs, the three titles published in the Oxford series have covered less species but the quality of the information is unsurpassed by any other series. *The Megapodes* is no exception. The authors, illustrator and editors are to be congratulated, not only for producing a highly informative and up-to-date review but also for showing that monographs can actually be good reading. GEORGE SANGSTER

C C MOORE, GONÇALO ELIAS & HELDER COSTA 1997. *A birdwatcher's guide to Portugal and Madeira*. Prion Ltd Publishers, 21 Roundhouse Drive, Perry, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE18 0DJ, UK. Distributed by NHBS, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN, UK. 144 pp. ISBN 1-871104-07-6. GBP 12.75.

After short introductory chapters on travel, accommodation, weather, geography etc, 18 prime birding sites in mainland Portugal are described in detail, including a map. A further 14 minor sites are mentioned briefly. A section on seabirds (seawatching and 'pelagic trips') is included. The chapter on Madeira covers only eight pages, but the most mouthwatering species are mentioned here: Madeira (or Zino's) Petrel *Pterodroma madeira* (if not almost impossible to see due to its rarity, almost impossible to distinguish from the less rare Cape Verde Petrel *P feae*), Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*, Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*, and the endemic Trocaz (or Long-toed) Pigeon *Columba trocaz*. There are selected lists of the most sought-after species to be found (and where and when!) in Portugal and Madeira, complete annotated lists of all the birds seen in both areas, as well as of amphibians, reptiles and mammals in mainland Portugal. The guide is well written, very informative and nicely illustrated (by Tony Disley): highly recommended! PETER L MEININGER

# Masters of Mystery

SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

## Solutions of third round

The solutions of mystery photographs IX-XII of the third round (Dutch Birding 19: 300-302, 1997) appear below.

**IX** This warbler in the hand proved a hard nut to crack. Based on the general appearance, structure and plumage, the choice can be limited rather easily to the smaller unstreaked *Acrocephalus* and *Hippolais* warblers but the next step, determining to which genus it belongs, is more difficult. Note that following recent taxonomic decisions of the CSNA (cf Dutch Birding 19: 294-300, 1997; 20: 22-32, 1998), some former members of the genus *Hippolais* are now considered to belong to the genus *Acrocephalus*, and that as a result the traditional problem of separating *Acrocephalus* and *Hippolais* warblers has become (even) more complex.

The pale brown-grey coloration of the upperparts fits well for some members and former members of *Hippolais*, especially Booted *A caligatus*, Sykes's *A rama*, Olivaceous *A pallidus*, Olive-tree *H olivetorum* and Upcher's Warblers *H languida*. Although another pointer towards these species is formed by the presence of pale edges to the outermost tail feather (usually absent or less distinct in the other *Acrocephalus* warblers), the undertail-coverts are too long for them (reaching well past the wing-tip in the mystery bird). Furthermore, the outermost tail feather is distinctly shorter than the rest of the tail, whereas in Booted, Sykes's, Olivaceous, Olive-tree and Upcher's the outer pair of tail feathers is of equal length as or only slightly shorter than the rest of the tail. These species also usually show an all-black eye instead of the contrast between the dark brown iris and the black pupil shown by the mystery bird.

The combination of these features rules out *Hippolais* and the three 'new' species of *Acrocephalus*, so the bird must belong to the other smaller unstreaked *Acrocephalus* warblers. Cape Verde Warbler *A brevipennis* and Paddyfield Warbler *A agricola* can be easily put aside as they show, amongst others, shorter wings, browner upperparts and the latter also a well-marked head pattern. Eliminating Blyth's Reed Warbler *A dumetorum* is more difficult. The pale, rather greyish upperparts and the uniform pale underparts of the mystery bird could indicate adult Blyth's Reed (first-year Blyth's Reed has browner upperparts), but this species usually has a better defined supercilium (often not extending behind the eye). Although Blyth's Reed is on average shorter-winged than Marsh Warbler *A palustris* and European Reed Warbler *A scirpaceus*, the primary projection (about three quarters of the exposed tertial length in the mystery bird) is not always very helpful to the identification, as there is a range of overlap in primary projection between Blyth's Reed, Marsh and European Reed. A better feature is formed by the eight visible primary-tips of the mystery bird. This does not fit Blyth's Reed which usually shows six or seven tips, while Marsh and European Reed have seven or eight tips visible. Although the precise pattern of emarginated outer webs of the primaries is virtually impossible to see in the field, it can sometimes be used when identifying a bird from a photograph. In the mystery bird, an emargination is only visible on the longest and third outermost primary (p3, primaries numbered from outside; note that p2 is wholly covered by p3 and thus not visible). This rules out Blyth's Reed, in which p3 and p4 (and often also p5) are emarginated, while in Marsh and European Reed only p3 is emarginated (rarely, a faint emargination on p4 is present in European Reed).

Indeed, the wing-formula, with only p3 emarginated and eight primary-tips visible, indicates Marsh or European Reed. The separation of these two species can be very difficult and should be based on as many characters as possible. One of the main differences between the two is the colour of the upperparts. The mystery bird has rather cold, pale brown-grey upperparts, with no trace of warm brown and rufous tones. This does not fit European Reed; a typical European Reed has dark warm brown upperparts (warmest, often rufous-brown, on rump), but the variation in the upperpart coloration of European Reed is considerable and some birds, mainly worn adults, are more greyish (and then more similar to Marsh). However, the plumage of the mystery bird is rather fresh and a fresh-plumaged European Reed would never show upperparts as grey as those of the mystery bird. Marsh is slightly colder, paler and greyer than European Reed with the upperparts greyish green-brown or olive-brown (warmer brown in first-years), thus more similar to those of the mystery bird. Before deciding that the bird has to be a Marsh Warbler, another possibility should be taken into account: Caspian Reed Warbler

*A fuscus*, which was until very recently treated as the eastern subspecies of European Reed (cf Dutch Birding 20: 22-32, 1998). This species, breeding from the Caspian region eastwards and wintering in eastern Africa, is a potential straggler to north-western Europe. Structurally, Caspian Reed is (very) similar to European Reed, but its plumage is distinctly paler and greyer and thus more like Marsh (but with some differences). The upperparts of Caspian Reed are pale brown-grey, distinctly greyer and less brown than European Reed. Caspian Reed lacks the prominent rufous or warm brown tones of European Reed (rump rather pale sandy-grey or brown-grey, but sometimes, mainly in first-years, rather brown, possibly even warm brown). When compared with Marsh, Caspian Reed is on average even slightly paler and greyer, lacking the green tinge to the upperparts of most Marsh (but there is of course some variation and some Caspian Reed appear very similar to Marsh). Altogether, the cold, very pale and grey upperparts of the mystery bird, lacking distinct warm brown or greenish tones, indicate Caspian Reed.

The underparts of the mystery bird are uniform creamy-white, very different from those of a fresh-plumaged European Reed which shows a rather contrasting cinnamon-brown smudge on flanks and breast sides (underparts more uniform in worn plumage). In Marsh, the underparts are whiter and more uniform than those of European Reed with only a weak yellow-brown suffusion to the flanks. The underparts of Caspian Reed are rather similar to those of Marsh but are on average even marginally whiter and more uniform, with a barely visible buffish suffusion to the flanks.

The long and slender bill, accentuated by the sloping forehead and flat crown, are slightly better for both European Reed and Caspian Reed than for Marsh, which has on average a fractionally shorter and stouter bill combined with a slightly steeper forehead and more rounded crown. The rather prominent white eye-ring and long buffish-white supercilium are good for both Marsh and Caspian Reed (eye-ring and supercilium on average less distinct and less whitish in European Reed, with supercilium often absent behind eye). The mystery bird lacks contrasting markings on the primaries and tertials. A typical Marsh has rather prominent pale crescents on the primary-tips and contrastingly pale-fringed tertials, lacking in most European Reed. Caspian Reed appears to be rather intermediate between the two in this respect, varying from rather uniform wings to primaries with distinct pale edges and tertials with well-defined or broad and diffuse fringes (cf also Dutch Birding 19: 298, plate 302, 1997).

Rather distinct pale edges and tips to the outer tail feathers, as shown by the mystery bird, appear to be present more often in Caspian Reed than in Marsh and, especially, European Reed. Due to this feature and the coloration of upperparts and underparts, Caspian Reed can show a striking resemblance to Olivaceous Warbler (compare plates 8, 9 and 10), and confusion between the two is not unlikely at all. In addition to the already mentioned features which did not fit this former *Hippolais* warbler (see above), it can be separated from Caspian Reed by the following features: *1* six or seven visible primary-tips (against seven or eight in Caspian Reed); *2* shorter primary projection, resulting in long-tailed impression; *3* emarginated outer webs of p3, p4 and p5 (only p3 and sometimes also p4 emarginated in Caspian Reed); *4* often a faint secondary panel; *5* supercilium usually not extending behind the eye (rather variable in Caspian Reed but regularly a poorly demarcated supercilium behind the eye is present); and *6* thicker and broader-based bill with a more orange lower mandible.

This Caspian Reed Warbler was photographed by Arnoud van den Berg; it was trapped at Jubail, Saudi-Arabia, on 16 April 1991. Plate 12 shows the same bird, with the long undertail-coverts well visible. The Marsh Warbler in plate 9 is a very greyish (but also greenish) individual, possibly due to its eastern origin.

In 1997, when this mystery bird was published, Caspian Reed was still treated as a subspecies of European Reed, the recent split being made official in this issue of Dutch Birding. Therefore, all (European) Reed Warblers were accepted as correct answers as well. This mystery bird was correctly identified by 24% of the entrants (17% of which mentioned the race *fuscus*). Interestingly, the most mentioned answer was Olivaceous Warbler (48%), with other incorrect answers including Marsh (13%) and Upcher's Warblers (13%).

**X** Although not really in a characteristic position, this mystery bird must be a falcon *Falco* based on the long, pointed wings and the straight-ended tail. Cuckoos Cuculidae can be eliminated because they have a distinct rounded tail with the outer tail feathers well shorter than the inner ones. The bird can be aged as a juvenile because of the pale tips to nearly all visible feathers.

The bird does not look heavy enough for the larger falcons, which would also show less slender wings with a more rounded wing-tip. The (almost) unbarred closed uppertail rules out many

**7** Marsh Warbler / Bosrietzanger *Acrocephalus palustris*, Jubail, Saudi Arabia, 5 May 1991
*(Arnoud B van den Berg)*

**8** Caspian Reed Warbler / Kaspische Karekiet *Acrocephalus fuscus*, Jubail, Saudi Arabia, 16 April 1991
*(Arnoud B van den Berg)*

**9** Olivaceous Warbler / Vale Spotvogel *Acrocephalus pallidus*, Jubail, Saudi Arabia, 16 April 1991 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)* **10** Caspian Reed Warbler / Kaspische Karekiet *Acrocephalus fuscus*, Jubail, Saudi Arabia, 16 April 1991 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*

species of falcon with a barred closed uppertail (for example juvenile Red-footed Falcon *F vespertinus*). Juvenile Sooty Falcon *F concolor* has a uniform closed uppertail, but another important feature of the mystery bird, the dark upperparts, do not fit this species (paler blue-grey in Sooty). As is visible on the outermost left tail feather, the barring is restricted to the inner web. This pattern on the tail feathers is typical for juvenile Hobby *F subbuteo*, although there are often some small spots present on the outer webs. In the very similarly plumaged juvenile Eleonora's Falcon *F eleonorae*, the barring of the tail feathers is denser and continues further onto the outer web (the central pair of tail feathers being unbarred in both species).

This lazy juvenile Hobby was photographed at Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands, by Arie de Knijff in August 1995. It was identified correctly by 72% of the entrants, with incorrect answers including Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* (14%) and Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* (7%), but no other falcons.

**XI** This partially hidden bird can be readily identified as one of the *Emberiza* buntings by the combination of bill shape and the pale outer edge of the tertials bulging into the dark centre. This tertial pattern, though not particularly well developed in the mystery bird, is unique to most *Emberiza* buntings and Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*. The plumage of the bird is very fresh but also rather fluffy, and therefore it can be aged as a juvenile. The lack of bright colours in the plumage makes further steps to the solution difficult because this is a character shared by many juvenile buntings.

An important feature of the mystery bird is its well-marked head. There is a broad, pale buff supercilium, and the bold dark surroundings of the pale ear-coverts are broken at the rear, resulting in a prominent dark eye-stripe and moustachial stripe; this pattern is typical for Cirl Bunting *E cirlus*. In Pine Bunting *E leucocephalos* and Yellowhammer *E citrinella* the head pattern is weaker and less contrasting. It can be rather similar in juvenile Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*, but this species can be eliminated by its paler and heavier bill and, of course, tertial edges of even

width (as member of a different genus). From what can be seen of it, the relatively cold brown-buff rump with darker streaks and lacking any rufous represents another feature of juvenile Cirl Bunting.

This juvenile Cirl Bunting was photographed in Corsica, France, on 11 July 1990 by Leo Boon. It was identified correctly by 20% of the entrants, with incorrect answers including Pine (28%), Rustic *E rustica* (17%) and Yellow-browed Bunting *E chrysophrys* (17%).

**XII** Almost all entrants identified this medium-sized gull as either a Common Gull *Larus canus* or Ring-billed Gull *L delawarensis*. It can be aged as a second-year by the extensive black on the outer wing extending onto the primary coverts. Well known differences between the two candidates like the colour of the upperparts and the shape of the bill are not of any help here, but the patterns on wing and tail provide some clues.

The mystery bird has an irregular, broken subterminal tail-band. This feature is indicative, but not diagnostic, for second-year Ring-billed Gull which usually shows a variable amount of traces of a tail-band. This is normally lacking in second-year Common Gull, but a minority of birds shows dark subterminal tail markings, sometimes forming a partial tail-band reminiscent of Ring-billed. Furthermore, the wing-tip of the mystery bird shows only one mirror. Second-year Ring-billed only shows a mirror on the outermost primary, while most second-year Common have mirrors on the outer two primaries, but sometimes only a mirror is present on the outermost primary. Thus, this second-year gull shows two characters good for Ring-billed: a broken subterminal tail-band and only one mirror. Still, this does not eliminate a second-year Common as both characters can be found occasionally in this species. There is, however, a more diagnostic, not yet mentioned, feature which is the size of the mirror. In the mystery bird, the mirror on the outermost primary is both long (almost reaching the tip of the feather) and broad (extending over the whole width of the feather). This feature identifies the mystery bird as a second-year Common, which has a distinctly larger mirror on the outermost primary than second-year Ring-billed. The mirror of the latter is much smaller (confined to the inner web) and is, in contrast with second-year Common, often difficult to discern in the field.

This second-winter Common Gull was photographed at Woerden, Utrecht, the Netherlands, on 31 March 1996 by Diederik Kok. Plate 12 shows another picture of the same bird. The combination of the broken tail-band and only one mirror made it rather tricky to identify. Only 21% of the entrants identified it correctly, whilst almost all other entrants identified it as Ring-billed Gull.

This third round was quite difficult. Three entrants, Dave Mc Adams, Arjan Boele and Sander Lagerveld, achieved three correct answers. Only one entrant, Leon Edelaar, made no mistakes and identified all four mystery birds correctly. He is the winner of the third round and will receive a copy of the *Photographic handbook of the rare birds of Britain and Europe* by Dominic Mitchell & Steve Young, donated by New Holland (Publishers) Ltd. Two other copies of this book will go to Arjan Boele and Sander Lagerveld, who were drawn from those with three correct answers.

This was the last round of the 1997 competition. During the three rounds with four mystery birds each, Dick Groenendijk, Jan van der Laan and Hein Prinsen with seven, Rik Winters with eight and Sander Lagerveld and Pat Lonergan with nine correct answers, all did very well. Two entrants, however, achieved ten correct answers: **Dave Mc Adams** from Germany and **Leon Edelaar** from the Netherlands. They are the overall winners of this competition. Congratulations to both! According to the rules, there should have been a draw to decide who would become the owner of the new **Swarovski 8x20B Century binoculars**. However, Swarovski Benelux has very generously decided to to donate a pair of these outstanding binoculars to both winners of this first Masters of Mystery!

Ted Hoogendoorn is acknowledged for his comments on the second-winter Common Gull. Furthermore, we would like to thank the following persons for lending us their photos or help in some other way during this competition: Theo Bakker, Gijsbert van der Bent, Arnoud van den Berg, Max Berlijn, Leo Boon, Richard Chandler, Don DesJardin, Paul Doherty, Marc Duquet, Enno Ebels, Klaas Eigenhuis, Shawneen Finnigan, Jaap van 't Hof, Ricard Gutiérrez, Kevin Karlson, Arie de Knijff, Peter de Knijff, Ronald de Lange, André van Loon, Arnold Meijer, Gino Merchiers (Swarovski Benelux), Dominic Mitchell, Roef Mulder, Jari Peltomäki, René Pop, David Tipling (Windrush), Ray Tipper, Keith Vinicombe and Roland van der Vliet.

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**11** Hobby / Boomvalk *Falco subbuteo*, juvenile, Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, August 1995 *(Arie de Knijff)* **12** Common Gull / Stormmeeuw *Larus canus*, second-winter, Woerden, Utrecht, Netherlands, 31 March 1996 *(Diederik Kok)* **13** Cirl Bunting / Cirlgors *Emberiza cirlus*, juvenile with adult male, Porto, Corsica, France, 11 July 1990 *(Leo J R Boon/Cursorius)*

## First round 1998

This is the first round of a new edition of the bird identification competition Masters of Mystery. The rules are the same as last year, but the structure has been slightly changed: this year's competition will consist of six rounds of two mystery birds each. The six issues of the 1998 volume will, therefore, contain two new mystery birds as well as the solutions of the previous ones.

Swarovski Benelux has kindly agreed to a continued sponsorship of this competition. This year, they will award a pair of the highly acclaimed Swarovski SLC 8x30 WB binoculars (value c NLG 1700) to the overall winner at the end of the competition (after six rounds). These compact binoculars are multicoated and have wide angle oculars and a close focus of less than 4 m. The push-in eye-cups are enabling eye-glass wearers an absolutely full viewing field. Additionally, there will be some smaller prizes available for each round.

Plates I-II represent the first two mystery photographs. Please, carefully study the rules below and identify the birds in the photographs. Solutions can be submitted in three different ways:

Swarovski SLC 8x30 WB binoculars

- by *postcard* to Dutch Birding Association, Postbus 75611, 1070 AP Amsterdam, Netherlands
- by e-mail to d.s.kok@stud.chem.ruu.nl (a confirmation of arrival will be sent)
- by Internet via the home-page of the Dutch Birding Association, http://www.xs4all.nl/~eland/dutchbirding

Entries for the first round have to arrive by **20 April 1998**. From those entrants having identified both mystery birds correctly, three persons will be drawn who will receive a copy of the Helm identification guide *Warblers of Europe, Asia and North Africa* by Kevin Baker, donated by A & C Black.

**Rules**

Only subscribers to Dutch Birding are eligible to enter. Excluded from entry are the editors and members of the editorial board of Dutch Birding and the members of the board of the Dutch Birding Association. Photographers whose work is used in the competition (both as mystery birds or as photographs accompanying the solutions) are excluded from entry in the round(s) in which their work is used.

For each round only one entry per person is accepted (which will be the first received). Entries have to arrive by the closing date stated. The Dutch Birding Association cannot be held responsible for possible non-receipt or loss of entries.

All species in the photographs have been recorded (or reliably reported) in the Western Palearctic as defined in *Birds of the Western Palearctic* (BWP). Hybrids will not be featured.

Each mystery bird must be identified at the level of species. In this competition, decisions of the Commissie Systematiek Nederlandse Avifauna (CSNA) are followed (see, for example, Dutch Birding 19: 21-28, 1997; 20: 22-32, 1998).

In case of any dispute concerning the identity of a bird, the decision of the editorial board of Dutch Birding will be binding on all parties.

The overall winner will be the entrant who has correctly identified most mystery photographs during the competition (six rounds). In case of joint winners, one winner will be drawn.

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# WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic in **January-February 1998** and focuses on north-western Europe. Many additional February reports will be dealt with in the next review. The reports are largely unchecked and their publication here does not imply future acceptance by the rarities committee of the relevant country. Observers are requested to submit records to each country's rarities committee. Corrections are welcome and will be published.

The fifth **Whistling Swan** *Cygnus columbianus* for the Netherlands discovered at Veendam, Groningen, on 28 November 1997 stayed until at least 6 February, mostly at Spijkerboor, Drenthe. A group of five **Greenland White-fronted Geese** *Anser albifrons flavirostris* was seen on 2-26 January in Nord-Trøndelag, Norway. Two **Lesser White-fronted Geese** *A erythropus* were present in the Göksu delta, Turkey, on 26 December. The largest flock in the Netherlands totalled 22, which stayed at Burgervlotbrug, Noord-Holland. At least four single **Black Brants** *Branta nigricans* were staying in January in the coastal areas south from Rotterdam to western France, including at least two single adults on Schouwen, Zeeland, the Netherlands, to early February (presumably, one was the same as an individual on Goeree, Zuid-Holland, during December and in February), one near Sene, Morbihan, France, on at least 2 January,

**14** Rosy Starling / Roze Spreeuw *Sturnus roseus*, Beeston, Norfolk, England, January 1998 *(Iain H Leach)*

**15** Marsh Sandpiper / Poelruiter *Tringa stagnatilis*, adult winter, Tavira, Algarve, Portugal, 24 January 1998 *(Ray Tipper)*

and one at La Turballe, Loire-Atlantique, France, from 16 December into February. Singles were also present in Suffolk and Norfolk, England. In Ireland, three singles were seen between 31 January and 25 February. Also in February, four singles were found on Texel, Noord-Holland. The **Canvasback** *Aythya valisineria* in England stayed at Welney, Norfolk, until late February. In Spain, up to six **Ring-necked Ducks** *A collaris* were in Asturias in November-January; during February, three were present at Cecebre reservoir, Galicia. If accepted, a female **Lesser Scaup** *A affinis* at Embalse de la Fuerza, Asturias, on 17 November will be the second for Iberia; a male stayed during February in Galicia. Other females were reported in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, on 10 January and on the North Slobs, Wexford, Ireland, from 25 January onwards. The third for Denmark was an adult male from 13 February at Hanvejle, Thisted, Nordjylland. From 17 January to at least 14 February, an unringed first-winter **White-headed Duck** *Oxyura leucocephala* stayed at Amsterdam and Ouderker aan de Amstel, Noord-Holland, constituting the 12th record for the Netherlands. A flock of 687 was counted at Lake Vistonis, northern Greece, on 29 January. On 10 February, 70 were counted at Burgas Lake, Bulgaria. The second **Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola* for Spain was a female near Santander from late December to mid January (the first was accepted for 25 December 1992 to 9 January 1993). In England, an unringed male discovered on 30 November at Hevingham Hall, Suffolk, remained until 19 January. A female staying at Macroom, Cork, from 18 January into February was extremely wary; if accepted, it will be the first for Ireland.

Three **Great Northern Divers** *Gavia immer* were wintering in Catalonia, Spain. In Germany, the second **White-billed Diver** *G adamsii* for this winter was a juvenile at Kiessee, Schladen, Niedersachsen, on 23-31 January. An adult **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* remained through February at Rostellan, Cork, Ireland. In London, England, another stayed at Tooting Bec from 6 December 1997 to 10 February. The second for the Netherlands was present on 1-10 January at Krabbeplas, Vlaardingen, Zuid-Holland, where it may have been present since 13 December. At least four **Slavonian Grebes** *Podiceps auritus* were seen in Cantabria, Spain, during December. The first **Herald Petrel** *Pterodroma arminjoniana* for the WP was a dark-morph bird photographed on 18 July 1997 off Pico, Azores (Birding World 10: 456-459, 1997). At Burgas, Bulgaria, 100 **Dalmatian Pelicans** *Pelecanus crispus* were present on 10 February. At Coto Doñana, Andalucía, Spain, a first-winter **White Pelican** *P onocrotalus* was seen on 6-8 December and up to eight **Black Storks** *Ciconia nigra* and a flock of 72 **Glossy Ibises** *Plegadis falcinellus* (at El Rocío) were reported through December. Also in Andalucía, an unseasonal female **Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus* was reported at Sotogrande on 1 January.

It now appears that, at Gibraltar and Tarifa, Cadíz, Spain, **Turkey Vultures** *Cathartes aura* were not only seen in September 1996 and on 2-17 September 1997, but also in September 1995, when presumably the same bird (until 1997 wearing leather jesses) seemed to migrate to Africa but was later seen at the rubbish tip of Tarifa (cf Dutch Birding 19: 256, 1997). The species was also reported in Denmark on 1-3 June 1997 at Skagen, Nordjylland, and on 6 June flying past Blåvand, Esbjerg. The fifth **Crested Honey-buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhyncus* for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was seen in Dubai on 2 January. In the Cape Verdes, the population size of **Cape Verde Kite** *Milvus fasciicauda* was censused in 1996-97 and estimated to be five to six individuals; it is now only found on Santo Antão and there is no evidence of breeding. The number of the sympatric **Black Kite** *M migrans* was three to five, now restricted to Boavista (J Ornithol 139: 73-75, 1998). A **Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus* stayed in the Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, France, from 13 January to at least 15 February. As in previous winters, at least two **Spotted Eagles** *Aquila clanga* were wintering in the Camargue and one at Étang du Lindre, Moselle, from 7 December to at least early February. At least five were wintering in northern Italy. The third **Tawny Eagle** *A rapax* for Israel was photographed on 21 December at Urim fields, Eilat. In the Czech Republic, two **Eastern Imperial Eagles** *A heliaca* were present on 5 January at Dyje-Morava river mouth, southern Moravia (where they were also reported in 1997). There were c 10 **Booted Eagles** *Hieraaetus pennatus* in the Camargue during January. A **Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus* continued to be present at Saint-Denis-du-Payré, Vendée, France, from 22 November to at least 7 February. An immature **Saker** *F cherrug* stayed until at least late December near Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy. More than 20 **Western Swamp-hens** *Porphyrio porphyrio* were present in Ebro delta, Catalonia, during January. Two **Little Bustards** *Tetrax tetrax* were seen in the Göksü delta on 25 December. In India, two adults and an immature **Siberian White Crane** *Grus leucogeranus* wintered at Bharatpur. A recently published, amazing discovery in 1992 concerned the presence of a population of **Ptarmigan** *Lagopus mutus* in the mountains of Pamir-Alai, western Tadzhikistan, at a distance of 1600 km from the nearest breeding area (Alauda 65: 379-380, 1997).

Two **Black-winged Pratincoles** *Glareola nordmanni* at Taizz sewage ponds on 8 November 1997 constituted the fourth record for Yemen; previous records were in April 1993 and two singles in October 1996 (cf Dutch Birding 19: 305, 1997, Guy Kirwan in litt). The eighth **Little Pratincole** *G lactea* for the UAE stayed from 16 December to at least 29 January at the Emirates golf course. On 21 February, the fourth **White-tailed Lapwing** *Vanellus leucurus* for the Netherlands (and Europe's first for February) was discovered between Assendelft and Krommenie, Noord-Holland, where it stayed into March; possibly, it was one of last summer's 15 birds in Europe (Denmark, Finland, Greece (nine), Hungary, Poland (two) and Sweden; Dutch Birding

19: 202, 256, 1997, Birding World 11: 26, 1998). A **Spur-winged Lapwing** *V spinosus* at Oude Zeug, Wieringermeer, Noord-Holland, on 11-12 January and on Ameland, Friesland, on 13-16 January was considered to be the same individual already seen on 17-22 May 1997 at Naardermeer, Noord-Holland; in the meantime, it stayed from June 1997 to 10 January in Kent, England (where it had also been present on 30 April 1997). The fact that this bird was rediscovered four times at different localities in England and the Netherlands, twice within 24 hours, is amazing. The southernmost-ever **Northern Lapwing** *V vanellus* for the USA was seen at Lake Placid, Florida, during December. The second **Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris* for Egypt and the WP was reported on 14 December at Aswan; the first occurred in March 1993. In Portugal, a **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* from 24 January into February at Tavira, Algarve, was well-photographed. Two first-winter **Lesser Yellowlegs** *T flavipes* were together at Banks, Southport, Lancashire, England, from 31 January into March. Like last year, a **Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* stayed during January in the Camargue. The **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularia* at Roquito del Fraile, Tenerife, Canary Islands, remained through February.

In Spain, an adult winter **Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla* was seen at Blanes, Girona, on 13 January (there are c 15 previous records). In Ireland, a first-winter (from 22 February onwards) and an adult (from 28 February) **Bonaparte's Gull** *L philadelphia* were together at Cork. In January, singles were seen in Cork and Cornwall, England. A **Ring-billed Gull** *L delawarensis* near Goes, Zeeland, from 18 January to 9 February was (only) the seventh for the Netherlands; there were c 20 individuals reported for western France in December-January. In Spain, at least five were wintering at the species' traditional winter haunt at Parque de Isabel la Católica, Gijón, during December-January and single adults were seen in Galicia on 9 January and 17 January. On 19 January, five adults were present at Sandymount, Dublin, Ireland, which is a high number for the time of year. An adult **Thayer's Gull** *L glaucoides thayeri* was discovered on 22 February at Killybegs, Donegal,

**16** White-headed Duck / Witkopeend *Oxyura leucocephala*, first-winter, Kleine Nieuwe Diep, Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 21 January 1998 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)* **17** White-headed Duck / Witkopeend *Oxyura leucocephala*, first-winter, Kleine Nieuwe Diep, Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 25 January 1998 *(Johan van der Louw)*

Ireland, where it was still seen in early March. In January-February, c nine **Kumlien's Gulls** *L g kumlieni* were reported in Britain and 12 in Ireland. Besides, in January, five first-winter **American Herring Gulls** *L smithsonianus* were seen in Ireland and one in Scilly, Cornwall. In February, several were reported at Killybegs, including an adult on 22 February. In north-western France, two adult **Pontic Gulls (Steppe Gulls)** *L cachinnans cachinnans* were staying during December and early January at Boulogne-sur-Mer, Pas-de-Calais, and another was at Armbouts-Cappel near Dunkerque, Nord. On 16 January, one adult was seen at Priolo salt-pans near Siracusa, Sicily. In Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, large-gull counts on 24 January by the AG Möwen NRW group at two roosts totalled 8700 Herring *L argentatus*, 170 Pontic (149 adults), 19 Yellow-legged *L michahellis*, 7 Lesser Black-backed *L graellsii*, and 1 Greater Black-backed Gull *L marinus*. It has been estimated that 300 to 500 Pontic Gulls were present in late January in Nordrhein-Westfalen. Also in January, 12 were reported in Denmark and c 15 in the Netherlands. On 15 February, a maximum of 40 was counted in the Netherlands at a gull roost at Oost-Maarland, Limburg; besides, during February, at least 33 individuals were reported at other Dutch sites, nearly all inland. The first for Ireland was seen on 13 February in Belfast. Reportedly, the majority of 600 black-backed gulls wintering in December-January at Siracusa and Catania, southern Sicily, were **Baltic Gulls** *L fuscus*, with up to 50 Lesser Black-backed Gulls. An adult **Ross's Gull** *Rhodostethia rosea* occurred at Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, on 7 January and a second-winter was in Antrim, Northern Ireland, on 8 February and, subsequently, at Groomsport, Down, Northern Ireland, on 9-12 February. Others were present in Fife, Scotland, on 3 January, in Lerwick, Shetland, from 16 January, and at Falmouth, Cornwall, from 26 January. The 10th **Brünnich's Guillemot** *Uria lomvia* for Denmark was swimming in Strandby Havn on 23 January and from the next day until 3 February at Frederikshavn, Nordjylland.

A first-winter **Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis* staying from November 1997 into late February at Alfta, Hälsingland, was the 12th for Sweden. On 22 February, an early **Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius* was seen at Dawlish Warren, Devon, England. In Israel, three **Striated Scops Owls** *Otus brucei* were wintering near Eilat. A minor influx of **Snowy Owls** *Nyctea scandiaca* in January brought nine individuals into southern Finland. Several sightings occurred in Denmark and, in February, one was seen on Waddensea islands in Germany. A **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* at Hodeidah on 12 November 1997 may have been the seventh record for Yemen; there were six previous reports for South Yemen (cf Dutch Birding 19: 305-306, 1997, Guy Kirwan in litt). On 17 February, a **Common Swift** *Apus apus* was found dead (still fresh) at Alkmaar, Noord-Holland; possibly, this constituted the first February record for the Netherlands. The fourth **White-breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis* for the UAE was seen at Dhayah on 17-23 January. A **Horned Lark** *Eremophila alpestris* staying from 3 January to 22 February at Tyrella Beach, Down, was the fourth for Northern Ireland; it is (still) uncertain whether it concerned one of the American taxa. The second **Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii* for the UAE stayed at the Emirates golf course on 14-28 January. A handful of reports of **Red-rumped Swallow** *H daurica* in England, Wales and Ireland during February was exceptionally early. In Spain, up to 18 wintering **Richard's Pipits** *Anthus richardi* were found at four localities. In France, a flock of up to 16 was present from 15 January to late February at the Crau, Bouches-du-Rhône. The first **Blyth's Pipit** *A godlewskii* for France was a first-winter discovered at the Crau on 16 January and still present on at least 18 February. In the UAE, two stayed at Al Wathba camel track during November-January. The first for Italy was a first-winter staying with four Richard's Pipits at Lentini lake,

**18** Blyth's Pipit / Mongoolse Pieper *Anthus godlewskii*, Crau, Bouches-du-Rhône, France, 14 February 1998 *(Thierry Fournet)*

**19** Horned Lark / Strandleeuwerik *Eremophila alpestris*, Tyrella Beach, Down, Northern Ireland, January 1998 *(Martin Garner)*

**20** Dark-eyed Junco / Grijze Junco *Junco hyemalis*, Chester, Cheshire, England, January 1998 *(Iain H Leach)*

Siracusa, south-eastern Sicily, on 21-30 December. In Israel, one **Olive-backed Pipit** *A hodgsoni*, three **Buff-bellied Pipits** *A rubescens* and two **Citrine Wagtails** *Motacilla citreola* were seen in December-January near Eilat. A **Blue-headed Wagtail** *M flava* at Læsø, Nordjylland, during the third week of January constituted the first winter record for Denmark.

In the USA, the best species in this period included a long-staying **Nutting's Flycatcher** *Myiarchus nuttingi* in south-eastern Arizona (the second or third for the USA), a **Siberian Accentor** *Prunella montanella* at a feeder in Anchorage, Alaska, and two **White-throated Thrushes** *Turdus assimilis* in southern Texas (the second record for the USA). The 22nd **Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti* for Sweden was a second-year male from 11 January to at least 12 February at Lerhamn, Skåne. Another male was present during the same period at Falkenberg, Halland, 100 km further north. In France, individuals staying from December to at least late January included up to two in the Camargue (one still present on 6 February) and one at Sarzeau, Morbihan. In Israel, two males and a female **Red-tailed Wheatear** *O xanthoprymna* were staying from 17 December at Wadi Shlomo, Eilat. A male **Black-throated Thrush** *T ruficollis atrogularis* was seen on 15 February in the Camargue. A possible **Siberian Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca blythi* stayed on 11-25 January at Lerhamn, Skåne, where it was trapped. In Dorset, England, a **Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus* was present from 23 January into March at Lodmoor, Weymouth. Single **Yellow-browed Warblers** *P inornatus* were seen at Kibbutz Lotan, Israel, during January and on Ouessant, Finistère, France, on 5 February. A **Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* at Hugh Town, St Mary's, Scilly, from 31 January onwards was long believed to be a Spotless Starling *S unicolor*; if anything, the misidentification induced a better understanding of latter species' field marks. A wintering male **Rosy Starling** *S roseus* remained at Beeston, near Sheringham, Norfolk, from 15 November to at least 14 February. This winter's total number of **Two-barred Crossbill** *Loxia leucoptera* for the Netherlands increased to 128, with 25 reported on 28 December at Doldersum, Drenthe, three on 31 January at Castricum, Noord-Holland, two at Posbank, Gelderland, on 15 February, and 15 at Baarn, Utrecht, on 25 February. In Denmark, a flock of up to 22 remained at Vester Torup Klitplantage, Fjerritslev, Nordjylland, until at least 22 February. A female was seen in Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, England, from 15 February into March. In the Netherlands, **Common Crossbills** *L curvirostra* with unfamiliar calls were sound-recorded near Santpoort, Noord-Holland; four types could be identified. A first-winter **Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis* stayed from 15 December to at least late February at Chester, Cheshire, England (Birding World 11: 11, 1998). The **Spanish Sparrow** was still at Waterside, Cumbria, England, and the three **House Crows** *Corvus splendens* at Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland. On 10 February, several **Pine Buntings** *Emberiza leucocephalos* were found in the Camargue at the site where last winter up to eight were seen. One was wintering in Telemark, Norway.

For a number of reports, publications in Birding World, Birdwatch, British Birds, Limicola, Ornithos, Vår Fågelvärld, Winging It and World Birdwatch were consulted. News from Britain was kindly supplied by Birdline (0891-700-222 or 0891-700-242) and Rare Bird News (0881-888-111). I wish to thank Hugh Addlesee, Rafa Armada (Spain), Theo Bakker (Turkey), Peter Barthel (Germany), Antti Below, Arend van Bemmel, Andreas Buchheim, Mario Camici (Liberty Tours), Rolf Christensen, Tony Clarke (Canarian Nature Tours), José Luis Copete (Spain), Andrea Corso, Hugh Delaney (Ireland), Eric Dempsey, Ben Dielissen, Jochen Dierschke (Germany), Enno Ebels, Thierry Fournet, Peter Fraser (UK), Marcello Grussu, Morten Günther, Ricard Gutiérrez, François Hupet, Erling Jirle, Yves Kaiser, Guy Kirwan (OSME), Paul Lehman, Pierre Le Maréchal (France), Anthony McGeehan, Richard Millington, Geir Mobakken, Gerald Oreel, Maria Panayotopoulou, Charlie Perez, Gunnlaugur Pétursson (Iceland), Stefan Aki Ragnarsson (Iceland), Colin Richardson (UAE), Magnus Robb, Martien Roos, Luciano Ruggieri (Italy), Bob Scott, Peter Symens, Yannis Tsougrakis, Martin Vavrik and Willem van der Waal for their help in compiling this review.

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# Recente meldingen

Dit overzicht van recente meldingen van zeldzame en interessante vogels in Nederland en België beslaat voornamelijk de periode **december 1997-januari 1998**. 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. Hiertoe gelieve men gebruik te maken van CDNA-waarnemingsformulieren die eveneens verkrijgbaar zijn bij bovenstaand adres.

## Nederland

ZWANEN TOT VALKEN De op 28 november ontdekte **Fluitzwaan** *Cygnus columbianus* bleef de gehele periode ten westen van Veendam, Groningen, en bij Annen, Drenthe. Naast diverse losse exemplaren werd een groep van zeven **Sneeuwganzen** *Anser caerulescens* op 22 en 23 december gezien op Terschelling, Friesland, en waarschijnlijk dezelfde groep op 17 en 18 januari ten zuiden van Klazienaveen, Drenthe. Minimaal 50 (!) **Dwergganzen** *A erythropus* werden geteld: van 25 oktober tot 28 november en misschien ook nog in december maximaal 14 in de Anjumer Kolken, Friesland, van 28 november tot 1 januari maximaal 13 in het Oude Land van Strijen, Zuid-Holland, van 14 tot 20 december zeven in het grensgebied bij Maaseik (België), op 27 en 29 december 22 (!) bij Petten, Noord-Holland, en op 29 januari vijf bij Goedereede, Zuid-Holland. Consternatie omtrent het mogelijk wilde voorkomen van **canadese ganzen** *Branta canadensis/hutchinsii* in Nederland en daaraan gekoppeld de interesse voor de veldherkenning van de verschillende taxa, leidde tot de ontdekking van een **Hutchins' Canadese Gans** *B h hutchinsii*, die van 30 december tot 2 januari (maar waarschijnlijk al vanaf 16 november) verbleef in de omgeving van het Haringvliet, Zuid-Holland. Er werden minimaal 12 **Roodhalsganzen** *B ruficollis* gezien, waarvan het overgrote deel in Zeeland en Zuid-Holland. Op 11 januari verbleven er drie in de Prunjepolder, Zeeland. **Witbuikrotganzen** *B hrota* bleven schaars, met waarnemingen vanaf 7 december bij Scharendijke, Zeeland, vanaf 23 december in de Prunjepolder en op 1 januari bij de Koudekerkse Inlaag, Zeeland. **Zwarte Rotganzen** *B nigricans* verbleven van 3 tot 20 december bij Goedereede, vanaf 7 december in de Prunjepolder, van 29 december tot 19 januari bij Scharendijke (vermoedelijk dezelfde als die van Goedereede), op 30 december op Texel, Noord-Holland, en op 29 januari bij de Plaat van Scheelhoek, Zuid-Holland. De **Witoogeend** *Aythya nyroca* van Best, Noord-Brabant, werd daar tot 19 december waargenomen. Verder zwommen er exemplaren op 14 december bij Oost-Maarland, Limburg, van 14 december tot 25 januari op het Soerendonks Goor, Noord-Brabant, op 20 december op de Lek bij Lopik, Utrecht, en op 30 december bij Linne, Limburg. Een **Witkopeend** *Oxyura leucocephala* werd op 18 januari ontdekt op het Kleine Nieuwe Diep in Amsterdam-Oost, Noord-Holland, en bleef daar tot 25 januari, waarna de vogel een pendeldienst opzette naar de Ouderkerkerplas, Noord-Holland. Dat het Nieuwe Diep een voor deze soort zeer aantrekkelijke plek is, blijkt wel uit eerdere aanvaarde gevallen in 1965 en 1985. Een winterse **Zomertaling** *Anas querquedula* zwom op 12 januari op het Veerse Meer bij Wolphaartsdijk, Zeeland. Op 18 december vlogen maar liefst 1100 duikers *Gavia*, vermoedelijk merendeels **Roodkeelduikers** *G stellata*, langs Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland. Eind december waren c 85 Roodkeelduikers aanwezig langs de Brouwersdam, Zuid-Holland. Een **Parelduiker** *G arctica* werd op 9 december opgemerkt bij Nieuwegein, Utrecht. Andere in het

binnenland verbleven te Makkum, Friesland, op 14 december en bij Roermond, Limburg, op 14-15 december. **IJsduikers** *G immer* zwommen op 9 en 10 december bij Veere, Zeeland, vanaf 21 december langs de Brouwersdam (van 29 december tot 12 januari zelfs twee), en van 26 december tot 24 januari op het IJmeer bij Diemen, Noord-Holland. Spectaculair was de ontdekking van de tweede **Dikbekfuut** *Podilymbus podiceps* voor Nederland, die van 1 tot 10 januari op de Krabbeplas ten westen van Vlaardingen, Zuid-Holland, zwom. Mogelijk was hij al vanaf 13 december aanwezig. Ongewoon was de waarneming van een in zuidoostelijke richting vliegende **Noordse Stormvogel** *Fulmarus glacialis* ten westen van Utrecht, Utrecht. Eveneens ongebruikelijk, maar dan meer qua seizoen, waren de waarnemingen van andere 'buisneuzen' in deze periode: een **Grote Pijlstormvogel** *Puffinus gravis* vloog op 5 december langs Camperduin, Noord-Holland, en werd kort na de waarneming gemeld van Callantsoog, Noord-Holland; **Grauwe Pijlstormvogels** *P griseus* vlogen op 26 december langs Scheveningen en op 6 januari langs Westkapelle, Zeeland; en een **Vaal Stormvogeltje** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* werd op 12 december gezien te Scheveningen. **Kuifaalscholvers** *Stictocarbo aristotelis* werden alleen gemeld op 10 januari te Scheveningen en op 17 januari bij de Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland. Een adulte **Kwak** *Nycticorax nycticorax* (van onbekende oorsprong) verbleef op 27 december tussen de flamingo's en pelikanen in Diergaarde Blijdorp te Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland. Minimaal zeven **Kleine Zilverreigers** *Egretta garzetta* vertoefden tot ten minste 16 januari in het westelijke deel van het Veerse Meer, Zeeland. Solitaire exemplaren werden opgemerkt op 7 december in de Millingerwaard, Gelderland, op 1 januari in Het Zwin, Zeeland, op 6 januari bij Makkum, Friesland, op 11 januari bij de Bijland, Gelderland, en op 12 januari bij het Muiderzand, Flevoland. **Grote Zilverreigers** *Casmerodius albus* verbleven op 5 december en 10 januari in de Lauwersmeer, Groningen, vanaf 7 december op de Korendijkse Slikken, Zuid-Holland (op 27 december twee), vanaf 14 december twee langs de Hertogswetering ten noorden van Nuland, Noord-Brabant, op 1 januari bij Valkenswaard, Noord-Brabant, en tussen Zaltbommel en Aalst, Gelderland, op 2 januari bij Vianen, Gelderland, vanaf december tot 11 januari maximaal vier bij de Bijland en vanaf 29 januari twee bij Glimmen, Groningen. Vijf **Zwarte Ibissen** *Plegadis falcinellus* liepen op 15 december korte tijd bij Boskoop, Zuid-Holland, en één exemplaar vloog op 20 december over de duinen bij Castricum, Noord-Holland. De **Zeearend** *Haliaeetus albicilla* van de Veermansplaat in de Grevelingen, Zeeland, bleef daar onregelmatig gezien worden tot 29 december. Verder overwinterden Zeearenden van 13 december tot 27 januari op de Korendijkse Slikken, vanaf 13 december een vrijwel adult exemplaar langs de Praamweg, Flevoland, op 4 januari bij de Ketelbrug, Flevoland, en vanaf 12 januari, naast de adulte ook een onvolwassen vogel langs de Praamweg. Er werden c 25 **Slechtvalken** *Falco peregrinus* gemeld.

KRAANVOGELS TOT ALKEN Twee **Kraanvogels** *Grus grus* liepen op 18 januari langs de Praamweg. Een late **Morinelplevier** *Charadrius morinellus* was op 3 december aanwezig in ganzenreservaat De Poel ten zuidwesten van Goes, Zeeland. Een **Sporenkievit** *Vanellus spinosus* hield zich op bij het haventje van Oude Zeug in de Wieringermeer, Noord-Holland, op 11 en 12 januari; waarschijnlijk verbleef dezelfde van 12 tot 16 janu-

**20** Fluitzwaan / Whistling Swan *Cygnus columbianus* en Kleine Zwanen / Bewick's Swans *C bewickii*, Gieten, Drenthe, december 1997 *(Jan van Holten)*

**21** Pontische Meeuw / Pontic Gull *Larus cachinnans cachinnans*, adult, Huizen, Noord-Holland, januari 1998 *(Jan Mulder)*

ari bij Hollum op Ameland, Friesland. Het heeft er alle schijn van dat dit dezelfde vogel was die op 17-22 mei 1997 bij het Naardermeer, Noord-Holland, verbleef en daarna tot 10 januari (!) in Kent, Engeland. Er was een melding van een **Regenwulp** *Numenius phaeopus* op 27 januari bij Zoetermeer, Zuid-Holland. **Rosse Franjepoten** *Phalaropus fulicaria* pleisterden van 28 december tot 3 januari bij de Brouwersdam en op 1 januari bij Scharendijke, en op 24 januari vlogen er twee langs Scheveningen. De zevende **Ringsnavelmeeuw** *Larus delawarensis* voor Nederland, een adult winter, verbleef vanaf 18 januari in de omgeving van Goes. Nu vogelaars blijkbaar precies weten hoe ze eruit zien worden er veel adulte **Pontische Meeuwen** *L cachinnans cachinnans* waargenomen, in totaal ruim 25, waaronder minimaal vier in december te Arcen, Limburg, maximaal acht in december en januari te Oost-Maarland en Itteren, Limburg, en ten minste drie te Huizen, Noord-Holland. Er werden c 15 **Geelpootmeeuwen** *L michahellis* gemeld, zowel in het binnenland als aan de kust. Een **Kleine Burgemeester** *L glaucoides* verbleef op 14 en 15 december te Arcen. Langsvliegende exemplaren werden opgemerkt op 26 december te Scheveningen en op 31 december te Huisduinen, Noord-Holland. **Grote Burgemeesters** *L hyperboreus* waren er ook, en wel op 28 december op Terschelling, op 31 december bij De Putten bij Camperduin en langsvliegend bij Scheveningen, op 10 januari bij de Brouwersdam (waarschijnlijk niet de bekende adulte vogel) en van 14 tot 19 januari op Ameland. Grote aantallen **Drieteenmeeuwen** *Rissa tridactyla* werden vastgesteld: op 12 december hingen er 1900 rond bij Scheveningen en op 6 januari vlogen er 4200 langs Westkapelle. Overwinterende **Grote Sterns** *Sterna sandvicensis* werden weer eens gezien bij de Brouwersdam en wel op 13 december en 11 januari. Op 15 december werd een **Zwarte Zeekoet** *Cepphus grylle* gemeld van Scheveningen. **Kleine Alken** *Alle alle* werden gezien op 20 december (11) en op 26 december te Scheveningen, op 27 december te Westkapelle en op Neeltje Jans, Zeeland, op 6 januari te IJmuiden, Noord-Holland, op 10 januari langs de Brouwersdam en op 20 januari op Ameland.

UILEN TOT GORZEN Twee **Oehoes** *Bubo bubo* bleven de gehele periode bij Maastricht, Limburg. Vanaf 1 januari verbleef een **Middelste Bonte Specht** *Dendrocopos medius* in de stad Enschede, Overijssel. Daarnaast waren er in januari enkele meldingen uit Limburg. Grote aantallen **Strandleeuweriken** *Eremophila alpestris* waren 37 bij Het Zwin (Zeeuwse kant), maximaal 80 bij Oostvoorne, Zuid-Holland, en meer dan 100 op de kwelders van Schiermonnikoog, Friesland. Een **Grote Pieper** *Anthus richardi* was op 10 januari aanwezig te Nummer Eén, Zeeland. **Pestvogels** *Bombycilla garrulus* bleven zeer dun gezaaid, met

**22** Ringsnavelmeeuw / Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*, adult, Goes, Zeeland, januari 1998 *(Carl Derks)*

**23** Ringsnavelmeeuw / Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*, adult, Goes, Zeeland, 20 januari 1998 *(René van Rossum)*

waarnemingen op 5 december in Almere-Stad, Flevoland, en op 23 januari in Callantsoog. **Zwartbuikwaterspreeuwen** *Cinclus cinclus cinclus* waren aanwezig op 19 en 20 december bij Glimmen en vanaf 17 januari langs de Hierdense Beek op de Leuvenhorst, Gelderland. Een **Provençaalse Grasmus** *Sylvia undata* werd op 1 januari gemeld bij de Horsmeertjes op Texel, maar kon daarna niet worden teruggevonden. De laatste **Bladkoning** *Phylloscopus inornatus* van het seizoen werd op 1 december gemeld van Den Helder, Noord-Holland. De **Siberische Tjiftjaf** *P collybita tristis* van Huizen bleef daar tot 13 december. Opmerkelijke waarnemingen en meldingen van **Taigaboomkruipers** *Certhia familiaris* waren op 26 december bij Muiderberg, Noord-Holland, en bij Nederwetten, Noord-Brabant, op 28 december en 7 januari bij Wageningen, Gelderland (deze vogel werd op 28 december gevangen en bleek een **Kortsnavelboomkruiper** *C f macrodactyla*), op 10 januari bij Dun in landgoed De Utrecht, Noord-Brabant, en op 16 januari, ver buiten de bekende broedgebieden, bij de Eijsder Beemden, Limburg. Enkele **Buidelmezen** *Remiz pendulinus* overwinterden in het Verdronken Land van Saeftinge, Zeeland. Geprolongeerd: drie **Huiskraaien** *Corvus splendens* bij Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland. De **Roze Spreeuw** *Sturnus roseus* bleef tot 12 december in Anjum, Friesland. De invasie van **Witbandkruisbekken** *Loxia leucoptera* in West-Europa bracht ten minste 108 individuen naar Nederland: grote groepen werden vastgesteld bij Oranje-Nassau's Oord, Wageningen (maximaal 16 op 27 december); op het IJzeren Veld bij Huizen (maximaal 22 op 13 december); in het Kuinderbos, Flevoland (maximaal 18 op 21 december); bij Doldersum, Drenthe (25 op 28 december); en bij Duurswoude en Haulerwijk, Friesland (maximaal 16 op 2 en 6 januari). Verder waren er waarnemingen tussen Veenendaal en Rhenen, Utrecht, op 20 december (één), te Groet, Noord-Holland, op 29 december (drie) en te Castricum op 31 januari (drie). Een vrouwtje **Grote Kruisbek** *L pytyopsittacus* was vanaf 11 januari te zien in de Kennemerduinen, Noord-Holland. Een leuke groep van 40 **Grauwe Gorzen** *Miliaria calandra* werd op 1 januari waargenomen in het Verdronken Land van Saeftinge.

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## België

GANZEN TOT VALKEN Een vermoedelijk ontsnapte **Sneeuwgans** *Anser caerulescens* was van 4 tot 7 januari aanwezig te Schoten, Antwerpen. Van 14 tot 31 december pleisterden aan beide kanten van de Belgisch-Nederlandse grens maximaal twee adulte en vijf juveniele ongeringde **Dwergganzen** *A erythropus* bij Maaseik, Limburg. Bij Meetkerke, West-Vlaanderen, verbleef er één op 27 december. Een vogel met een Finse nekband zat van 2 tot ten minste 17 januari bij Uitkerke, West-Vlaanderen, en op 7 januari werd deze vogel bij Vlissegem, West-Vlaanderen, gezien in gezelschap van een tweede exemplaar. Op 3 december verbleef een **Roodhalsgans** *Branta ruficollis* bij Stalhille, West-Vlaanderen; op 6 december bij Vlissegem; op 14 december bij Damme, West-Vlaanderen; en op 15 december te Klemskerke, West-Vlaanderen. Het gaat hier om drie vogels. De onvolwassen **Witoogeend** *Aythya nyroca* van Duffel, Antwerpen, bleef nog aanwezig tot 22 december. Vrouwtjes zwommen van 1 tot 10 januari op de Gavers te Harelbeke, West-Vlaanderen, van 17 tot 24 januari op Blokkersdijk, Antwerpen, en omgeving en op 31 januari te Gent-Blaarmeersen, Oost-Vlaanderen. Het mannetje **Ringsnaveleend** *A collaris* bleef de gehele periode aanwezig op Blokkersdijk en Antwerpen-Linkeroever, Antwerpen. Te Kluizen, Oost-Vlaanderen, werd op 12 december een vrouwtje **Rosse Stekelstaart** *Oxyura jamaicensis* opgemerkt, op 13 december één bij Kallo, Oost-Vlaanderen, en van 10 tot 17 januari een mannetje bij Schulen, Limburg. Op 7 december trok een **IJsduiker** *Gavia immer* langs Sint-Idesbald, Koksijde, West-Vlaanderen. Juveniele waren te zien op de Barrages de la Plate-Taille, Hainaut, gedurende de gehele periode (vanaf 16 november); te Kallo-Doel op 11 en 12 december; in het Mechels Broek, Antwerpen, op 12 en 13 december; te Roksem, West-Vlaanderen, van 11 tot 31 januari; en te Zeebrugge-Achterhaven, West-Vlaanderen, op 23 januari. Op 28 januari vloog een grote, niet nader gedetermineerde duiker langs Gent. Een **Stormvogeltje** *Hydrobates pelagicus* trok op 19 januari langs Oostende. Op 5 december verbleef kortstondig een juveniele **Kuifaalscholver** *Stictocarbo aristotelis* te Beerse, Antwerpen, en een onvolwassen exemplaar trok op 28 december langs De Panne, West-Vlaanderen. Een eerste-winter **Kwak** *Nycticorax nycticorax* vloog op 6 januari over Wommelgem, Antwerpen. Te Knokke-Westkapelle-Dudzele verbleven nog tot ten minste 1 januari twee **Koereigers** *Bubulcus ibis* en op 30 januari was er weer één bij het Zwin te Knokke. In de Bourgoyen te Gent werd er één gezien op 12 december. Op 21 en 30 december en op 3 januari was een **Kleine Zilverreiger** *Egretta garzetta* aanwezig op Blokkersdijk en op 1 en 30 december één in het Zwin te Knokke. Vanaf 3 januari verbleven er maximaal twee te Dudzele-Zeebrugge. Een **Grote Zilverreiger** *Casmerodius albus* verbleef op 5 en 6 december te Kalken, **West-Vlaanderen**, en op 7 december vloog er één over Overmere, Oost-Vlaanderen. Van 7 tot 17 december pleisterden maximaal zeven exemplaren op De Maten te Genk-Diepenbeek, Limburg. Daarna ver-

**24** Middelste Bonte Specht / Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius*, Enschede, Overijssel, januari 1998 *(Carl Derks)*

**25** Grote Kruisbek / Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus*, vrouwtje, Kennemerduinen, Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland, 31 januari 1998 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*

spreidden deze vogels zich verder over Limburg en volgden waarnemingen te Helchteren-Meeuwen (11 januari); Schulen (10 en 23 januari); Neerpelt (maximaal drie op 22 en 24 januari); en Bokrijk (twee op 25 januari). Op 17 december verbleven er twee te Tienen, Vlaams-Brabant; op 24 december één te La Hulpe, Waals-Brabant, en op 26 december één te Ploegsteert, Hainaut. Te Harchies-Hensies, Hainaut, werden tot in februari nog één tot twee vogels waargenomen en ook te Geel, Antwerpen, was de gehele periode een exemplaar aanwezig. Van 24 tot 28 december verbleef een **Ooievaar** *Ciconia ciconia* in het centrum van Tournai, Hainaut; verder werden exemplaren waargenomen te Tessenderlo, Limburg, op 5 januari; te Warchin, Hainaut, op 7 en 8 januari; over Gent op 9 januari; over Heule, West-Vlaanderen, op 22 januari; te Geel op 25 januari; en hetzelfde exemplaar vloog over Geel, Herentals, en Brecht, Antwerpen, op 26 januari. De enige **Rode Wouwen** *Milvus milvus* in Laag-België vlogen op 14 december over Mendonk, Oost-Vlaanderen, en op 18 december over Kallo-Doel. Op 1 en 2 december werd een mogelijke **Sakervalk** *Falco cherrug* waargenomen te Lovendegem-Oosterzele, Oost-Vlaanderen.

KRAANVOGELS TOT VINKEN Op 11 januari vlogen c 100 **Kraanvogels** *Grus grus* over Tongeren, Limburg. Op 8 december vertoefde een **Rosse Franjepoot** *Phalaropus fulicaria* te Oostende en op 14 december één te Blankenberge, West-Vlaanderen. Een late juveniele **Vorkstaartmeeuw** *Larus sabini* vloog op 12 december langs Oostende. Een adult-winter **Ringsnavelmeeuw** *L delawarensis* werd op 6 en 8 januari kortstondig waargenomen te Nimy, Hainaut. **Pontische Meeuwen** *L cachinnans cachinnans* werden gezien te Bredene, West-Vlaanderen (twee); Duffel; Harelbeke; Hasselt, Limburg; Hermalle-sous-Argenteau, Liège (drie); Maaseik; Mechelen (twee); en Oostende (twee). Uiteraard werden hier en daar ook **Geelpootmeeuwen** *L michahellis* opgemerkt. Een stervende tweede-winter **Kleine Burgemeester** *L glaucoides* werd op 23 december opgeraapt te Genval, Waals-Brabant. In Oostende pleisterde van 11 december tot in februari een **Grote Burgemeester** *L hyperboreus* in vierde winterkleed. Op het strand van De Panne zaten op 7 december twee eerste-winters en op 17 januari één vierde-winter en op 28 januari werd een vierde-winter gezien in het Mechels Broek. Een dode **Kleine Alk** *Alle alle* werd op 31 januari opgeraapt te Middelkerke, West-Vlaanderen. Op 12, 26 en 27 december en op 2, 7 en 19 januari vloog er telkens één langs Oostende; op 27 december één langs Heist, West-Vlaanderen; en op 28 december vlogen er zeven langs de Panne. Op 2 januari werd te Oostende een **Papegaaiduiker** *Fratercula arctica* opge-

merkt. Op 20 januari werd een eerste-winter opgepikt langs de kustweg te Bredene; tijdens de harde landing had de vogel zijn poot bezeerd. Op 25 januari overleed hij in een vogelopvangcentrum. Van 8 tot ten minste 27 januari pleisterde een **Grote Pieper** *Anthus richardi* te Hermalle-sous-Argenteau; het betreft het eerste januarigeval voor België. Bij Zwijndrecht, Oost-Vlaanderen, verbleef op 7 december een adulte **Pestvogel** *Bombycilla garrulus* en op 18 december werden er twee gezien in het centrum van Borgerhout, Antwerpen. De late **Veldrietzanger** *Acrocephalus agricola* die op 4 december werd ontdekt in de Bourgoyen te Gent, was meteen de beste najaarssoort van 1997. Bij Harelbeke werd op 11 januari een **Siberische Tjiftjaf** *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* waargenomen en op 27 januari één te Ronse, Oost-Vlaanderen. Een **Russische Kauw** *Corvus monedula soemmerringii* werd op 13 december opgemerkt te Hensies, op 2 januari werden er zes geteld te Kluizen en op 15 december was er één aanwezig te Schoten. Een **Witstuitbarmsijs** *Carduelis hornemanni* werd op 8 januari gevangen en geringd te Kapellen, Antwerpen.

Deze waarnemingsrubriek kwam tot stand met medewerking van Yves Baptiste (De Gavers), Luc Bekaert (Oost-Vlaanderen), Peter Collaerts (Tienen), Frank De Scheemaeker (Mergus), Hugues Dufourny (Hainornitho), Koen Leysen (Limburg), Dirk Symens (Vlavico), Willy Verschueren (Groenlink) en Didier Vieuxtemps (Luxembourg). Ook de hulp van al diegenen die (hun) waarnemingen inspraken op de Belgische Dutch Birding-vogellijn (03-4880194) was hier onontbeerlijk.

*Gerald Driessens, Pastoriestraat 16, 2500 Lier, België*

# DB Actueel

**Newly described bird species** The dry caatinga zone of eastern Brazil features many endemic birds. Mario A Raposo has now added a new species to its avifauna: San Francisco Sparrow *Arremon franciscanus* (Raposo, M A 1997. A new species of *Arremon* (Passeriformes: Emberizidae). Ararajuba 5: 3-9). The sparrow is only known from the states of Bahia and Minas Gerais. Its closest relative is probably Half-collared Sparrow *A semitorquatus*, which was recently treated as a separate species from the widespread Pectoral Sparrow *A taciturnus* (Bull Br Ornithol Club 117: 294-298, 1997).

No less than six other new South American bird species were described in a monograph dedicated to the late Ted Parker (Ornithol Monogr 48, 1997). Gary R Graves discovered that Colombian populations of Dusky Antbird *Cercomacra tyrannina* actually consist of two regionally sympatric species, Dusky Antbird and a previously undescribed form, which he named Parker's Antbird *C parkeri* (Graves, G R 1997. Colorimetric and morphometric gradients in Colombian populations of Dusky Antbirds (*Cercomacra tyrannina*), with a description of a new species, *Cercomacra parkeri*. Ornithol Monogr 48: 21-35). Parker's and Dusky Antbird appear to replace each other elevationally and females have distinct plumages.

John W Fitzpatrick and Douglas F Stotz described a very distinctive new species of tyrannine flycatcher, Cinnamon-faced Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes parkeri*, from the foothills of the Andes of south-eastern Peru and adjacent northern Bolivia (Fitzpatrick, J W & Stotz, D F 1997. A new species of tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes*) from the andean foothills of Peru and Bolivia. Ornithol Monogr 48: 37-44). Significantly, both Parker's Antbird and Cinnamon-faced Tyrannulet remained without a name until now, despite both being present in museum collections for over half a century.

In a detailed study of the notoriously difficult genus *Scytalopus*, Niels Krabbe and Thomas S Schulenberg recognized three new species: Chocó Tapaculo *S chocoensis* from the Chocó region in north-western South America (easternmost Panama, western Colombia and north-western Ecuador), Ecuadorian Tapaculo *S robbinsi* from the Pacific slope in Azuay and El Oro, Ecuador, and Chusquea Tapaculo *S parkeri* from the Andes of southern Ecuador and northern Peru (Krabbe, N & Schulenberg, T S 1997. Species limits and natural history of *Scytalopus* tapaculos (Rhinocryptidae), with descriptions of the Ecuadorian taxa, including three new species. Ornithol Monogr 48: 47-88). All three species have highly distinct songs and occupy separate elevational zones. Both Ecuadorian and Chusquea Tapaculo occur at sites where other new species have recently been discovered (a parakeet and a cotinga, respectively) and which are often visited by birders.

Orange-eyed Flycatcher *Tolmomyias traylori* was one of Ted Parker's own discoveries (in 1983) and featured prominently in Don Stap's book on the famous Louisiana State University expeditions to the last unexplored parts of the Peruvian rainforests (A parrot without a name, New York, 1990). Orange-eyed Flycatcher is now known from 11 rainforest sites in eastern Ecuador and north-eastern Peru and coexists with three other members of the genus (Schulenberg, T S & Parker, T A 1997. A new species of Tyrant-flycatcher (Tyrannidae: *Tolmomyias*) from the western Amazon Basin. Ornithol Monogr 48: 723-731). GEORGE SANGSTER

**26** Witstaartkievit / White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*, Krommenie, Noord-Holland, 23 februari 1998 *(René Pop)*

**Witstaartkievit bij Krommenie** Op zaterdag 21 februari 1998 was Martien Roos op zoek naar teruggekeerde Grutto's *Limosa limosa* in de voor toekomstige woningbouw gedeeltelijk met zand opgespoten weilanden ten zuiden van Krommenie en bij Assendelft, Noord-Holland. In een ondiepe plas vond hij drie steltlopers, waarvan hij er twee direct als Tureluur *Tringa totanus* determineerde; bij de derde vogel lukte dat echter niet zo gemakkelijk. De lange gele poten en witte staart vielen bij deze vogel het meest op. Even dacht MR aan een Goudplevier *Pluvialis apricaria* maar al snel concludeerde hij dat het die niet kon zijn. Thuisgekomen raadpleegde hij de 'Lars Jonsson' en kon hij geen andere conclusie trekken dan dat het om een Witstaartkievit *Vanellus leucurus* ging. Hoewel MR niet speciaal geïnteresseerd is in zeldzaamheden besefte hij dat anderen graag kennis zouden nemen van deze bijzondere waarneming; daarom belde hij zijn kennis Peter Meijer, die het nieuws direct verspreidde. Ongeveer een uur later werd de waarneming bevestigd en konden de massaal toegestroomde (en aanvankelijk veelal ongelovige) vogelaars dit ornithologische mirakel met eigen ogen aanschouwen. Nadat de vogel zich over een flinke afstand verplaatst had en daarmee nog even voor wat spanning zorgde, liet hij zich tot donker bekijken in een weiland ten zuiden van de opspuitingen. De volgende ochtend bleek de vogel nog steeds in het gebied aanwezig, tot opluchting van laatkomers en fotografen. Hij werd tot in maart gezien.

Deze waarneming betekende het vierde geval voor Nederland; eerdere gevallen waren op 9-12 juli 1975 op Texel, Noord-Holland (Limosa 49: 207-210, 1976), op 10-15 juni in het Bargerveen, Drenthe (Dutch Birding 7: 98-99, 1985), en op 10-16 juli 1984 bij Petten, Noord-Holland (Limosa 58: 33, 1985). Omdat het eerste geval uit het pre-DBA tijdperk was en de twee gevallen uit 1984 beide stilgehouden werden, was de vogel van Krommenie de eerste die door een groot publiek bewonderd kon worden. Van oudsher wordt deze soort geassocieerd met de mid-zomerperiode; deze waarneming betekende het eerste februarigeval voor Europa. De vroegste tot nu toe was op 29 maart 1975 in de Neusiedler See, Oostenrijk (cf Dutch Birding 7: 79-84, 1985). De zeer zachte winter en de influx in de zomer van 1997, toen in noordwest-Europa ten minste vijf exemplaren werden gezien waarvan er misschien één of meer zijn blijven 'hangen', kunnen als mogelijke verklaringen worden aangedragen. PETER C MEIJER & MARTIEN ROOS

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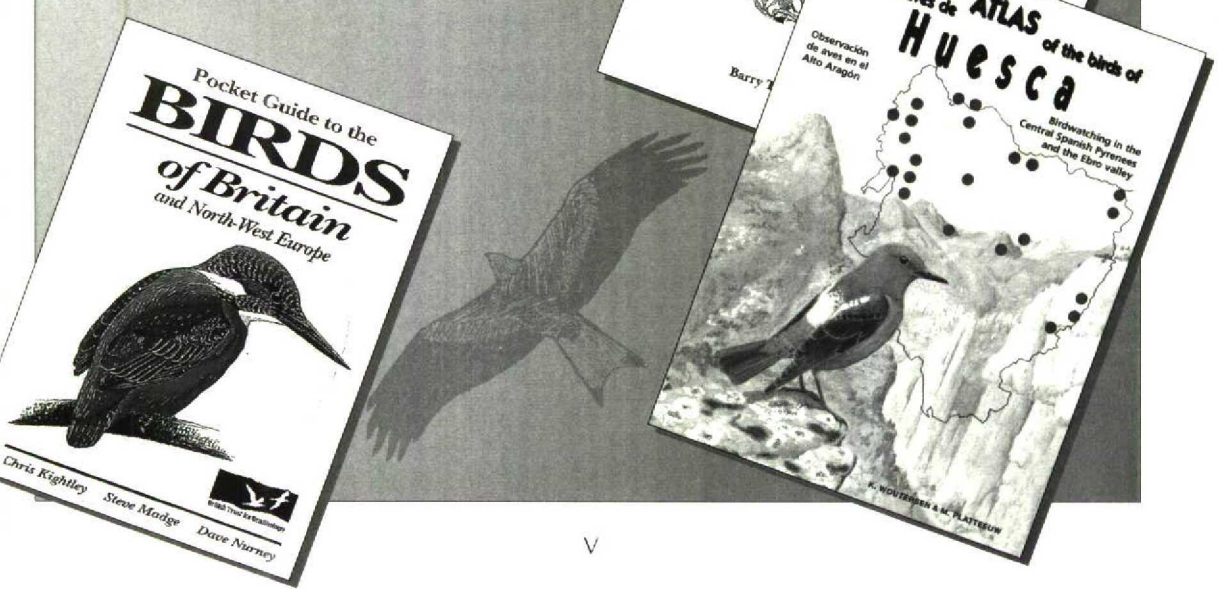

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