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# Dutch Birding

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## Dutch Birding


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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 *Geïllustreerde 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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# Utsira

*Geir Mobakken*

Although Utsira is one of few bird localities in Norway with an international reputation, it is still quite unknown. Few non-Scandinavian birders are aware of the island's high birding potential. However, when it comes to rarities and fascinating birding, Utsira is unsurpassed in Scandinavia. As will be revealed below, Utsira has the same quality as such famous European rarity hot spots like Fair Isle in Scotland, Helgoland in Germany, the Isles of Scilly in England, Ouessant in France and Texel in the Netherlands.

## The island

Situated c 17 km off the main coast of southwestern Norway, the island outpost of Utsira is a world in itself in the North Sea. It is administratively part of Rogaland and it has the distinction of being the smallest municipality in Norway. The main cities closest to the island are Haugesund and Stavanger, the former being considered the home town for the c 220 inhabitants of Utsira. The island is fairly round in shape, with a diameter of c 3 km, covering c 6 km². The grey, barren, mountainous rock that you see from the ferry is a sign of the rugged nature of Utsira. Yet, as you enter the north or south harbour, you will discover one of the island's secrets: a beautiful green valley that cuts across the diameter. In both harbours, old boat houses and wharf buildings line the shore whilst along the lanes joining north to south and up the short valleys many houses exhibit a bewildering variety of colours. The higher areas beyond the valley, which make up most of the eastern and western parts of the island, offer little but barren rock and sparse low vegetation. These moorlands, where the only suitable food sources and resting places for birds are heather and some spruce plantations, are not very good for birds and only host breeding Meadow Pipits *Anthus pratensis* and Northern Wheatears *Oenanthe oenanthe*. A few ponds are sometimes frequented by common dabbling ducks and the rough coastline can hold a few of the most common shorebirds. Thus, the main valley, Siradalen, and its near surroundings, is

**159** Utsira in bird's eye view *(Airspot)*

*the* place for birds and birding, due to its diversity of habitats. Siradalen has numerous fields which, especially when ploughed, act as powerful magnets for newly arrived migrants. Along the narrow roads and fences criss-crossing the fertile plain other attractive habitats can be found. Almost every garden has trees and there is about a dozen evergreen plantations in or near Siradalen – all featuring sitka spruce *Picea citchensis*. Regrettably, deciduous trees are rare and just a few are scattered around the island, often thanks to some gardener's interest. Utsira's only major freshwater lake, Måkeskittmyr, named unkindly for its gull muck, is a small lake situated in the north of the island. The main attraction for the birds being the trees, bushes and other shrubs connected with the gardens, this special scene results in a unique way of birding for Norway, namely 'garden birding'. Conveniently, you can do nearly all the birding from the network of country lanes, checking the gardens while you wander around and still keeping a close watch at the nearby fields and plantations. The northernmost tip of Utsira, Perleneset, provides a fine seawatch point where much activity occurs in late summer and early autumn. It is an excellent place to watch pelagic species and, considering the obsession of many Scandinavians for seabirds, its popularity is readily understood.

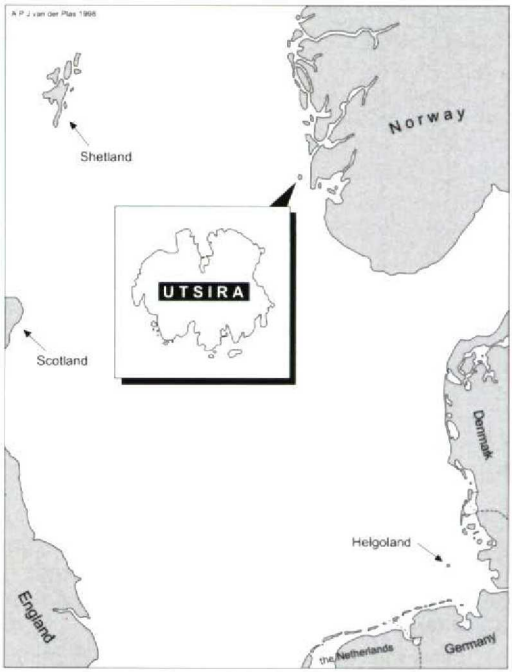


FIGURE 1 Geographical position of Utsira

## Geography

The geographical position of Utsira is the main factor why it is such a good locality for finding migratory birds. It is strategically situated on the main migration route of birds travelling from Scandinavia to Britain or Iberia, especially with regard to autumn migrants. Another, equally important factor is Utsira's role as a major, natural stopover point for reverse-migrating eastern rarities heading north-west and west each autumn. Being off the westernmost point of Rogaland, it is also strategically placed for observing the migration of seabirds in the north-eastern Atlantic. A lot of birds will see Utsira as the first piece of land if forced to return to Norway due to a weather front out in the North Sea, or they use it as a place to recuperate before crossing the North Sea in autumn. Since the small main valley and the adjacent south-eastern part of the island hold nearly all the birds, at least the passerines and near-passerines, birders can easily gain control of the scene. The relatively sparse vegetation and small areas involved suggest that a large proportion of the birds actually present will be discovered. Migrant birds have few places to hide and, when newly arrived, they tend to stay for a while. Therefore, the chances of discovering birds on Utsira are reasonably high.

## History

Utsira's ornithological history started before World War I. The first ornithological expedition to the island was in 1927, led by a Briton, J L Chaworth Musters, who regularly returned to the island until 1937. His observations formed the first major contribution to the knowledge of the birds of Utsira. He predicted six species new to Utsira: Richard's Pipit *A richardi*, Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*, Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*, Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*, Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* and Little Bunting *E pusilla*. His theory was that since these species had to pass Norway and the North Sea on their autumn migration, as they already had occurred on Fair Isle, Scotland, then they must also pass over Utsira. His prediction was a success. In the next decades, ornithologists appeared on an irregular basis, mainly under the guidance of Norwegian birders, a community of enthusiasts which was slowly growing.

**160** Myrtle Warbler / Mirtezanger *Dendroica coronata*, Utsira, Rogaland, Norway, 8 October 1996 *(Håkon Heggland)* **161** Black-throated Thrush / Zwartkeellijster *Turdus ruficollis atrogularis*, Utsira, Rogaland, Norway, 1 October 1991 *(Håkon Heggland)* **162** Swainson's Thrush / Dwerglijster *Catharus ustulatus*, Utsira, Rogaland, Norway, 20 September 1974 *(Viggo Ree)*

**163** Eyebrowed Thrush / Vale Lijster *Turdus obscurus*, Utsira, Rogaland, Norway, October 1981 *(Ove Bryne)* **164** Rose-breasted Grosbeak / Roodborstkardinaal *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, Utsira, Rogaland, Norway, October 1977 *(Ove Bryne)* **165** Little Bunting / Dwerggors *Emberiza pusilla* and Yellow-breasted Bunting / Wilgengors *E aureola*, Utsira, Rogaland, Norway, September 1985 *(Ove Bryne)*

It was not until 1972 that observations were carried out systematically. From that year on, there was nearly full coverage in each autumn, led by the same faithful observers, although only few springs were covered. In the autumns of 1972-75, the work was organized by Viggo Ree. During this important period – when nearly 70 new species for Utsira were recorded – a lot more was learned about the local bird movements, both from studies of numbers and species migrating, and by looking at phenological aspects of the migration. The results formed the basis for the first major publication on the birds of Utsira – an analysis of bird movements during the autumns of 1972-76 (Sterna 16: 113-202, 1977). Ove Bryne was responsible for the period from 1976 onwards for c 10 years. He thereby also formed a picture of the springs which, until then, had been very much neglected. Those years saw many unrivalled records. The last decade had its ups and downs regarding manning although both spring and autumn were still covered for a few weeks each year. When Utsira Bird Observatory (Utsira Fuglestasjon) was established in 1992, a general upsurge in coverage occurred. Indeed, from 1995 to the present, there has been full coverage, with material being collected in a constant surveillance every day of the year.

**Birding year**

A normal year has a quiet winter period with few wintering species. However, most winters are enlivened by wildfowl, with certain geese usually dominating. In connection with winter storms, certain unusual sightings have been noted which excite local interest. In March, occasionally in late February, small numbers of spring migrants arrive, among them Black Redstarts *Phoenicurus ochruros*, European Stonechats *Saxicola rubicola* and Mistle Thrushes *Turdus viscivorus*, all 'good birds' in Norway. April is the first spring month with obviously larger numbers and involving a larger range of species. In early and mid April, numbers of short-distance migrants accumulate. Late April usually sees the year's first heavy migration with long-distance migrants occurring in two-figure numbers. This period is further characterized by the first rarities of the year. May is the classic time for migrants but only if the all-important weather improves! Good numbers of common migrants and some scarce species can be seen if conditions are right. An important factor for the arrival of birds on Utsira in these last few weeks of spring is the presence of anticyclonic systems over central Europe, combined with moderate southerly or south-easterly winds. Locally, there should be overcast conditions and it does no harm if northerly or north-westerly winds prevail for a day or two. In recent years, weather conditions have been favourable in May and the subsequent bird avalanches were impressive and fascinating. For example, the highly memorable spring of 1992 in western Europe culminated on Utsira on 25 May, with the following highlights recorded: one Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, Utsira's first European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*, one Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*, three Red-spotted Bluethroats *Luscinia svecica svecica*, 35 Whinchats *S rubetra*, one European Stonechat, 15 Icterine Warblers *Hippolais icterina*, 10 Wood Warblers *P sibilatrix*, 100 Spotted Flycatchers *Muscicapa striata*, one Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*, five Red-backed Shrikes *Lanius collurio* and one Rustic Bunting. Also, the very good weather conditions for migrants in the North Sea area on 18-19 May 1996 – featured in the birding press for localities such as Fair Isle and Helgoland – produced on Utsira in the afternoon of 19 May six Common Cuckoos *Cuculus canorus*, one Black Redstart, 90 Common Redstarts *P phoenicurus*, 55 Whinchats, one European Stonechat, 20 Ring Ouzels *T torquata*, two Icterine Warblers, 55 Garden Warblers *Sylvia borin* and two Ortolan Buntings *E hortulana*. Apart from these and other memorable sightings over the years – too many to mention in detail – there have been many more outstanding days to remember. Some have included day totals of up to 10 Turtle Doves *Streptopelia turtur*, 20 Red-spotted Bluethroats, seven Black Redstarts, 125 Common Redstarts, four European Stonechats, 125 Ring Ouzels, 22 Mistle Thrushes, 130 Spotted Flycatchers, 125 Pied Flycatchers *F hypoleuca*, 30 Red-backed Shrikes, 30 Common Rosefinches and seven Ortolan Buntings. For the foreign visitor, the whole month of May is an optimal birding period as it produces such sought-after species as Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*, Thrush Nightingale *L luscinia*, Red-spotted Bluethroat, Icterine Warbler, Red-backed Shrike, Common Rosefinch, Ortolan Bunting and Rustic Bunting, with 12 records of the latter in the springs of 1992-98. Mid to late May is the prime time to find a Subalpine Warbler *S cantillans*; Utsira has amassed no fewer than 28 records of this little Mediterranean gem over the years (nearly as many as the 31 recorded for the Netherlands during 1800-1996). The first part of June is pretty much like late May but can be

even better. Species like Tree Pipit *A trivialis*, *Sylvia* warblers and Common Chiffchaff *P collybita* can still occur in their 10s. This is the period to look for more irregular warm-climate species such as Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* and Golden Oriole.

Mid summer on Utsira is probably the worst period for a birder. The stable weather – anticyclonic systems generating hot sunny days under clear blue skies – is quite uncomfortable for both the birds and their admirers. Utsira's birdlife during the breeding season is in strong contrast with the range of visitors in spring and autumn. About 52 species have been shown to breed although just 30 do so on a regular basis (almost as many passerines as non-passerines). Among the regular breeders are cliff birds such as Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*, Razorbill *Alca torda*, Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* and Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica*. The incidental breeding birds include species like Marsh Warbler (once) and Common Rosefinch; their respective breeding records on Utsira constituted also the first for Rogaland. The odd mid summer rarity has been surprisingly infrequent although a few Arctic Warblers *P borealis* deserve mentioning. This is the period to catch up with European Storm-petrels *Hydrobates pelagicus*, for which Utsira has proved to be an excellent trapping ground. As many as 322 have been either trapped or seen at night in a single season. Equally impressive are totals of up to eight Leach's Storm-petrels *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* in a season, bearing in mind the rarity of the species as a breeding bird in Norwegian waters.

In a European context, the target species at Perleneset, the sea-watch point at the northernmost tip of Utsira, do not make the headlines but to Scandinavians at least their numbers can be impressive. Among certain day tallies can be mentioned 35 000 Fulmars *Fulmarus glacialis*, 109 Sooty Shearwaters *Puffinus griseus*, 206 Manx Shearwaters *P puffinus*, 1000 Northern Gannets *Morus bassanus*, 106 Great Skuas *Stercorarius skua* and 1500 Little Auks *Alle alle*. However, daylight records of the storm-petrels and any records of the rarer skuas and Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*, much taken for granted at other major sea-watch points in north-western Europe, have remained surprisingly scarce.

In early August, the first autumn migrants are seen heading south. The first wave involves com-

**166** Subalpine Warbler / Baardgrasmus *Sylvia cantillans*, Utsira, Rogaland, Norway, May 1994 *(Håkon Heggland)*

**167** Grey-cheeked Thrush / Grijswangdwerglijster *Catharus minimus*, Utsira, Rogaland, Norway, 28 October 1973 *(Viggo Ree)*

**168** Pallid Swift / Vale Gierzwaluw *Apus pallidus*, Utsira, Rogaland, Norway, 3 June 1995 *(Håkon Heggland)*

mon species in small numbers. Later in the month, the numbers of species, like yellow wagtails *Motacilla*, Whinchat, various warblers and flycatchers, are increasing and the odd Barred Warbler *S nisoria* and Red-backed Shrike appear. It is not until September though that the numbers of common migrants really pick up. This is also the time for the annual arrival of 'Utsira specialities' like Richard's Pipit, Yellow-browed Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Little Bunting. Utsira is the only locality in Norway where these species occur annually in some numbers. In a European perspective, some of the autumn totals are impressive with, for example, 22 Richard's Pipits in 1994, 40 Yellow-browed Warblers in 1985 and 13 Little Buntings in 1994. The last 10 days of September and the first 10 days of October see the culmination of the autumn migration. For many years, a trip to Utsira during this three-week period has been a 'must' for Norwegian birders. Except during northerly winds, Utsira never fails to produce good birds at this time of year. Among the many gems sought after by birders in this period are Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*, Olive-backed Pipit *A hodgsoni* (there have been 18 records since the first for Europe on 8 October 1937), Citrine Wagtail *M citreola*, Siberian Stonechat *S maura* and Pallas's Leaf Warbler *P proregulus* whilst species like Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus*, Great Snipe *Gallinago media* and the occasional Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* all favour this period for a visit. Early October also features the annual appearance of long-distance migrants, like Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*, Common Redstart, Willow Warbler *P trochilus* and flycatchers, many of which can be seen in double figures. Some species even culminate like, for example, Blackcap *S atricapilla* with day totals of up to 400 in mid October 1973 and 300 in early October 1991. The emphasis on some of the more spectacular birding days in Utsira's history is not intended to downplay normal days. Some examples will show Utsira's potential in autumn, the golden season of the island.

Take as an example 18 September 1995, which produced one Osprey, one Great Snipe, one Yellow-browed Warbler, one Wood Warbler, two Red-breasted Flycatchers and one Yellow-breasted Bunting *E aureola*. This by itself would be enough to give Utsira the status of a birders' paradise but the record is even more impressive when taking into account that there were only two observers on the island that day. It tells also much about Utsira's balance between common and rare birds since, that day, only a few common species were recorded. Another date, 28 September 1996, stands out in Utsira's autumn annals of fame, producing four Sooty Shearwaters, one Pomarine Skua *S pomarinus*, 15 Great Skuas, one Richard's Pipit, one Barred Warbler, one Arctic Warbler and five Yellow-browed Warblers, with a Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* to round things off in the evening. For the record, some of the more outstanding autumn day totals included 400 Wrens *Troglodytes troglodytes*, seven Black Redstarts, 100 Common Redstarts, 100 Ring Ouzels, 50 000 Fieldfares *T pilaris*, 50 000 Redwings *T iliacus*, eight Barred Warblers, 100 Garden

Warblers, 10 Yellow-browed Warblers, 2000 Goldcrests *Regulus regulus*, seven Red-breasted Flycatchers and 16 Ortolan Buntings. The autumns of 1995 and 1996 produced six Rosy Starlings *Sturnus roseus*. The last two months of the year are a quiet period for migrating birds. Yet, November still has the 'feel' of October, with mild weather prevailing and quite a few days of visible migration. Vigils can be enlivened during this period by the occasional Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* and Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, some movements of Little Auks, lingering Black Redstarts and the odd eastern Common Chiffchaff. In most years, one or two Glaucous Gulls *L hyperboreus* appear at the end of the year.

**Rarities**

Much of Utsira's reputation as a birding hot-spot, both in Norway and internationally, no doubt stems from the unparalleled sightings of rarities. Over the years, Utsira has amassed a long and intriguing rarity list. Nationally, it ranks as the premier location for 'firsts', having added no less than 19 new species to the Norwegian list (all listed on the Internet at: http://home.sol.no/~bhoeylan/utsira/index.html). The saga of rarities on Utsira can be said to begin on 6 October 1934 when Norway's first Rustic Bunting was recorded. Two years later, a remarkable four Short-toed Larks turned up in September and October 1936. In the next year, three new Norwegian species were added in a single month from 7 September to 8 October 1937: European Reed Warbler *A scirpaceus*, Yellow-browed Warbler and Olive-backed Pipit. Impressive as these results in the 1930s were, they were paralleled in the 1970s. Utsira was also the first place in Scandinavia to record Nearctic passerines. While the appearance of passerines from the North American continent over the years can be described as the icing on the cake, it is the annual return of Siberian vagrants that maintains Utsira's name as a place to see rarities. Each autumn, a multitude of rarities is found among the more common Scandinavian migrants and some eastern European vagrants occurring on Utsira.

Nearctic species included one Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* on 26-28 September 1978; the first Norwegian 'mainland' record of Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* on 28 May 1997; one Ring-billed Gull *L delawarensis* from 22 May to 22 July 1992; the only three Norwegian records of Swainson's Thrush on 20 September 1974, 28 September 1996 and from 30 September to 6 October 1997; the only Norwegian record of Grey-cheeked Thrush *C minimus* on 28 and 30 October 1973 although, at the time of writing, the very similar Bicknell's Thrush *C bicknelli* cannot be eliminated; the only Scandinavian record of Myrtle Warbler *Dendroica coronata* on 8 October 1996; the only Norwegian records of Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* on 13-19 May 1977 and 1 October 1977, the former constituting the only spring record in Europe of an assumed wild bird; and, finally, a Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula* on 13 May 1986, also the only record for Norway.

From the Eastern Palearctic region, high-quality rarities included one Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* on 10 October 1986; the first Norwegian Pechora Pipit *A gustavi* on 29 September 1976; one White's Thrush *Zoothera aurea* on 28 September 1978; three Siberian Thrushes *Z sibirica* on 11 October 1980, 30 September 1984 and 4 September 1986; one Eyebrowed Thrush *T obscurus* on 3 October 1981 which was trapped in a mistnet and thus one of the extremely few rarities not found in the field on Utsira; four Black-throated Thrushes *T ruficollis atrogularis* on 23 October 1986, 10-12 November 1990, 1-9 October 1991 and 23 April 1997; the first Norwegian Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola* on 28 September 1986, followed by singles on 7-8 October 1988 and 9 October 1995; two Lanceolated Warblers *L lanceolata* on 6 October 1991 and 27-30 September 1997; two Radde's Warblers *P schwarzi* on 6 October 1991 and 5 October 1996; the first Norwegian Dusky Warbler *P fuscatus* on 10-13 October 1974, followed by singles on 20 October 1984, 30-31 October 1984 and 10-12 October 1996; the only Norwegian Chestnut Bunting *E rutila* on 13-15 October 1974 which at the time was only the second record for Europe of an assumed wild bird; and, lastly, 11 Yellow-breasted Buntings since the first on 15 September 1972, all occurring from late August to late September except one, a female on 24 June 1980.

Among rarities with a southern European or central Asiatic origin recorded on Utsira were one Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* on 21 May 1976; one Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* on the early date of 16 April 1989; one Great White Egret *Casmerodius albus* on 22 May 1996; one Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus* on 29 April 1997, the earliest record for Norway; one Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* on 25 April

1993, again Norway's earliest; one Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* on 3 June 1995; one Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra* on 25-27 May 1985; Norway's only Isabelline Wheatear *O isabellina* from 29 September to 18 October 1977; the second Norwegian Pied Wheatear *O pleschanka* on 7-9 October 1977; one Western Black-eared Wheatear *O hispanica* on 24 September 1982 and one black-eared wheatear *O hispanica/melanoleuca* on 4 October 1983; one Desert Wheatear *O deserti* on 3 October 1992; the first Norwegian Blyth's Reed Warbler *A dumetorum* from 27 September to 9 October 1975, followed by singles on 7 October 1992 and 8 June 1993; the first Norwegian Booted Warbler *A caligatus* on 6 October 1978, with further individuals on 22 October 1996 and 29-31 August 1997; the second Norwegian Melodious Warbler *H polyglotta* on 7 and 11 June 1993; two Western Bonelli's Warblers *P bonelli* from 30 September to 1 October 1987 and 12 May 1988; the first Norwegian Turkestan Shrike *L phoenicuroides* on 30 September to 1 October 1974, followed by one isabelline shrike *L isabellinus/phoenicuroides/speculigerus* on 7 October 1991; two Lesser Grey Shrikes *L minor* on 20-27 August 1993 and 6 June 1997; Europe's first Steppe Grey Shrike *L pallidirostris* on 5 September 1953, with another on 16-25 October 1976; and one Balearic Woodchat Shrike *L senator badius* on 26-29 September 1972, constituting the only record for Norway.

Oceanic stragglers have been surprisingly few and far between. Countless hours of observation at Perleneset have produced one Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris* on 10 May 1989; four Great Shearwaters *P gravis* since the first on 9 August 1982; and one Balearic Shearwater *P mauretanicus* on 11 October 1984.

Currently, the Utsira list stands at 301 species. The total includes two species only recorded as corpse: Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana* on 24 September 1996 (killed by a car of all things!) and Pale Barn Owl *Tyto alba alba* on 4 October 1992, but excludes a tideline corpse of Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* (found on 28 June 1978) and four species regarded as escapes: Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor* (22-26 April 1986), Oriental Greenfinch *Chloris sinica* (21 April 1996), Red-headed Bunting *E bruniceps* (7 September 1937, 30 August to 5 September 1973, 20-31 May 1979 and 8-14 May 1997) and Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena* (29 May 1980).

**Transportation**

There are several options to get to Norway; of these, by air is the most convenient nowadays. After arrival at Oslo you can continue by inland service to Haugesund airport where a bus or taxi will bring you to the town centre. If you arrive at Stavanger, a long-distance coach or catamaran ferry will bring you to Haugesund in a couple of hours. From Haugesund, the local ferry, *MS Utsira*, departs for Utsira three times a day. The ferry has room for c 18 cars but there is little advantage in having a car. The island is so small and compact that birding spots and essential buildings, like the post office, general store and local pub, are within walking distance. A car is nice if you have a lot of equipment; a ticket costs c NOK 120 (c GBP 10). Island lodgings have improved greatly in recent years and a room with modern conveniences will set you back from NOK 50 to 200 a night. Norway has a reputation as an expensive country to live and Utsira is no exception in this regard. The store accepts credit cards and can issue cash.

The visiting foreign birder will get the most out of a trip to Utsira by coming here from mid or late May to early June or, alternatively, from mid September to mid October. As a general rule, it is important to remember that the onset of spring is heavily dependent on the weather which in turn determines birding results. If you are interested in Utsira and its birdlife, please contact Utsira Bird Observatory, PO Box 23, 5515 Utsira, Norway, telephone 00-47-52749204. More information, including a detailed map and several rarity photographs, is available at the following Internet website: http://home.sol.no/~bhoeylan/utsira/.

Let me end by expressing my lasting gratitude to the local people of Utsira, many of whom have a deep interest in birds, and my own deep appreciation to *The Residents* for their musical inspiration which keeps me on my toes physically and mentally.

*Geir Mobakken, PO Box 23, 5515 Utsira, Norway*

# Invasie van Pestvogels in Nederland in 1995/96 in (inter)nationaal perspectief

*Fred Hustings, Paul Knolle, Peter de Knijff & Erik van Winden*

Pestvogels *Bombycilla garrulus* worden jaarlijks in Nederland waargenomen, vooral in de noordelijke delen en doorgaans in bescheiden aantallen. Eens in de zoveel jaar heeft hun voorkomen een irruptief karakter, zoals in 1995/96. Deze invasie wordt hier gedocumenteerd, vergeleken met vroegere invasies en in een internationaal perspectief geplaatst. De nadruk ligt op aantalsverloop, aantallen en verspreiding. Gegevens over leeftijdsverhouding binnen groepen, voedselkeus en precieze aanwezigheidsduur van individuen zijn te fragmentarisch verzameld om verder bewerkt te worden.

## Methode

*Bronnen 1995/96*

Het overgrote deel van de waarnemingen stamt uit twee bronnen: de Dutch Birding-vogellijn en het Bijzondere Soorten Project (BSP) voor Niet-broedvogels van SOVON. In beide gevallen worden losse waarnemingen van bijzondere soorten centraal ingezameld onder vermelding van datum, aantal vogels, gedrag (overvliegend/pleisterend), waarnemer en waarneemplaats (DBA: exacte locatie, SOVON: kilometerhok of kwartblok 2.5 x 2.5 km). Aanvullende waarnemingen zijn ontvangen na oproepen in SOVON-Nieuws en Dutch Birding. Alle waarnemingen zijn samengevoegd tot één computerbestand, waarbij evident dubbele waarnemingen er zoveel mogelijk uitgefilterd zijn. Hierbij bleek dat de overlap tussen de beide hoofdbronnen van informatie gering was. Buitenlandse informatie werd verkregen uit artikelen in vogeltijdschriften en door correspondentie op Internet.

*Bewerking*

Pestvogels kunnen lange tijd op een locatie blijven hangen, maar zijn uitermate mobiel. Op plaatsen waar met grote regelmaat geteld wordt, kunnen de aantallen van dag tot dag en soms van uur tot uur wisselen. Bij vervolgwaarnemingen in de omgeving is het vaak niet duidelijk of het om dezelfde vogels gaat of een (deels) nieuwe groep. In het door vogelaars dichtbevolkte Nederland, waar soms 10-tallen meldingen van Pestvogels binnen een gebied van enkele vierkante kilometers zijn binnengekomen, vormt de interpretatie van deze waarnemingen een serieus probleem.

Om het effect van 'verborgen' dubbeltellingen zoveel mogelijk te minimaliseren, is gewerkt met een 'clusterprogramma' dat waarnemingen en locaties vergelijkt. Vogels die gemeld zijn binnen een straal van 1.5 km van een locatie waar al eerder Pestvogels werden waargenomen, worden daarbij gerekend tot hetzelfde cluster. Afhankelijk van het doel wordt hierbij een tijdslimiet gebruikt. Zo wordt voor het vaststellen van het seizoenspatroon gewerkt met decadeclusters (aantallen per cluster per decade). Voor het maken van een aantalsschatting over de hele periode wordt gewerkt met een seizoenscluster (aantallen per cluster per seizoen; wanneer op een locatie langer dan een week geen Pestvogels gemeld zijn, wordt bij vervolgwaarnemingen ervan uitgegaan dat het om nieuwe vogels gaat). De methode leidt tot een betere schatting van werkelijk aanwezige aantallen dan, bijvoorbeeld, het simpelweg optellen van decadetotalen van alle locaties waar vogels gezien zijn, maar kent natuurlijk zijn beperkingen. Het voordeel van de methode ligt vooral in de mogelijkheid te werken met een geautomatiseerde interpretatie van waarnemingen die bij toekomstige vergelijkingen (met andere invasies of andere soorten) reproduceerbaar is.

Om verschillen in aantalsverloop binnen Nederland duidelijk te maken is het land opgesplitst in vier regio's: Noord-Nederland (Groningen, Friesland, Drenthe, Noordwest-Overijssel), West-Nederland (Noord- en Zuid-Holland, Zeeland), Midden-Nederland (Flevoland, Utrecht, Gelderland, Twente) en Zuid-Nederland (Noord-Brabant, Limburg).

*Historische bronnen*

De beschrijving van het voorkomen eerder deze



[Dutch Birding 20: 206-216, 1998]

**169** Pestvogel / Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*, eerste-winter, Enschede, Overijssel, 16 maart 1996 *(Paul Knolle)*

**170** Pestvogel / Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*, adult, Katwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland, 29 januari 1996 *(René van Rossum)*

eeuw is in hoge mate gebaseerd op een door Frans Rijnja bijeengebracht en aan Peter de Knijff overgedragen archief waarin vrijwel alle gepubliceerde Pestvogelwaarnemingen in 1900-77 zijn opgenomen. Hoewel dit archief niet volledig is, betreft het hier de meest complete toegankelijke bron van historische informatie. Aanvullingen over het optreden van invasies (ook buiten Nederland) zijn ontleend aan met name Eykman et al (1937), Glutz von Blotzheim (1966), Haffer (1985) en Cramp (1988). De waarnemingen uit de periode 1978-83 zijn afkomstig uit de database van het Atlasproject voor winter- en trekvogels van SOVON en deels gepubliceerd in SOVON (1987). Omdat deze waarnemingen per maand werden ingezameld en exacte aantalsopgaven niet verplicht waren, sluiten ze niet geheel aan bij die uit eerdere tijden. Voor de globale schets van het voorkomen zijn ze echter voldoende gedetailleerd. Informatie omtrent het voorkomen in 1984-88 is in hoofdzaak ontleend aan de waarnemingenrubrieken in Dutch Birding en Vogeljaar en aan Eggenhuizen (1989). Informatie van na 1989 stamt uit de database van het BSP Niet-broedvogels.

Gebruikmakend van alle informatie en rekening houdend met het in de loop der jaren sterk gestegen aantal vogelwaarnemers is getracht om het voorkomen van Pestvogels vanaf 1940 te karakteriseren. Hierbij is het voorkomen per winter ingedeeld in klassen: 1 = zeer kleine aantallen (amper waargenomen); 2 = bescheiden aantallen ('10-tallen'); 3 = kleine invasie ('100-en'); 4 = omvangrijke invasie (meer dan 1000); 5 = zeer grote invasie (vele 1000en); cf figuur 5.

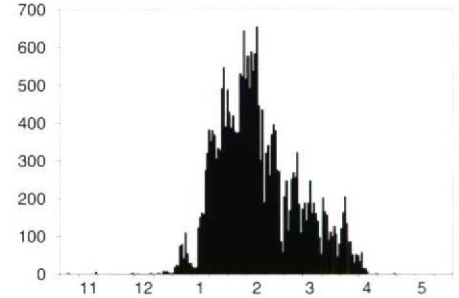
## Invasie 1995/96 in Nederland

*Aantalsverloop*

Aanvankelijk leek niets te wijzen op een aanstaande invasie van Pestvogels. Nadat de eerste vogels op 4 (Lopik, Utrecht) en 19 november (Oudemolen, Drenthe) waren gesignaleerd, werden er tot en met eind december maar enkele 10-tallen gezien. In de eerste dagen van januari begonnen de waarnemingen zich op te stapelen en in het midden van die maand werd duidelijk dat er sprake was van een invasie. Eind januari en begin februari kwamen grote aantallen aan. Veel van deze vogels bleven enige tijd hangen en medio februari waren de aantallen maximaal (figuur 1). Hoewel ze daarna geleidelijk afnamen, bleven er tot begin april nog vrij hoge aan-

tallen aanwezig. Eind april waren de vogels vrijwel overal verdwenen. De laatste waarnemingen werden gedaan op 30 april (Terschelling, Friesland) en 3 mei (Oostvoornse Meer, Zuid-Holland).

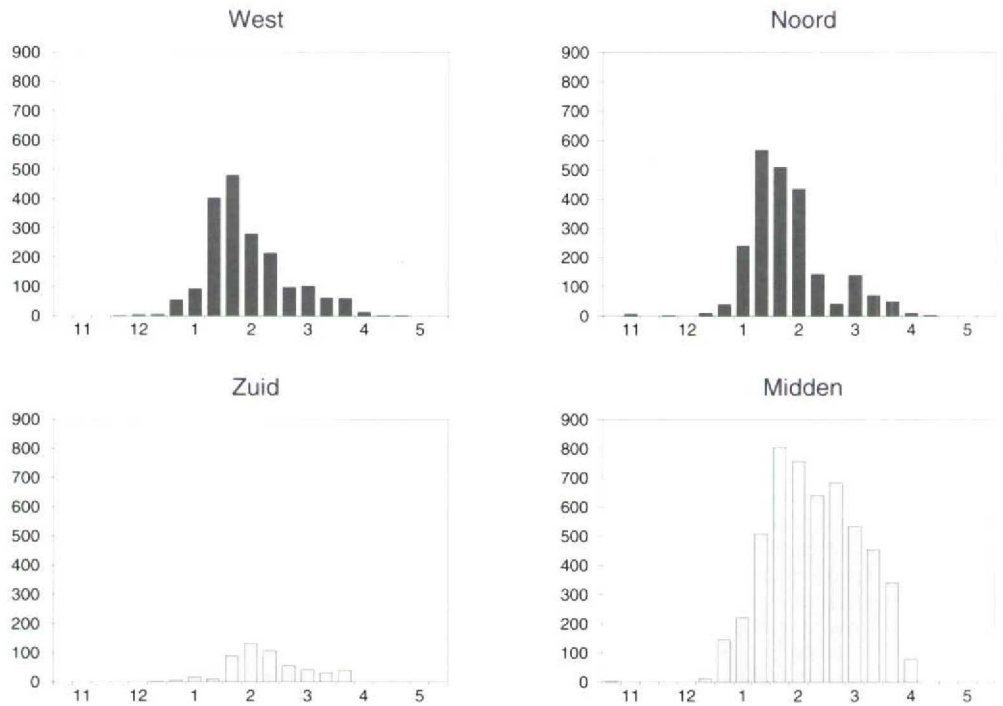
Het aantalsverloop per regio is verschillend (figuur 2). In Noord- en West-Nederland werden piekaantallen vastgesteld op de overgang van januari en februari. In Midden- en Zuid-Nederland viel de piek iets later, in de eerste twee, respectievelijk laatste twee decaden van februari. Opvallend genoeg bleven de aantallen in Midden-Nederland gedurende een lange periode op een hoog peil. Ze namen hier na de piek in februari maar langzaam af, in tegenstelling tot West- en Noord-Nederland. Dit wijst erop dat veel vogels die West- en Noord-Nederland aandeden verder getrokken zijn, terwijl in Midden-Nederland aanzienlijke aantallen zijn blijven hangen. In het oog springend is voorts dat de aantallen in Zuid-Nederland, vergeleken met de overige regio's, laag zijn geweest.




FIGUUR 1 Aantalsverloop van Pestvogel *Bombycilla garrulus* in 1995/96 in Nederland (dagsom van waargenomen individuen) / seasonal pattern of Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* in 1995/96 in the Netherlands (daily total of individuals)

*Verspreiding*

De verspreidingskaart (figuur 3) toont een nadruk op het noorden en midden van het land, en dan met name op middelgrote tot grote steden; Groningen, Assen, Almere, Enschede, Arnhem,




FIGUUR 2 Aantalsverloop van Pestvogel *Bombycilla garrulus* in 1995/96 per regio in Nederland (decadesom; voor indeling regio's zie Methode) / seasonal pattern of Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* in 1995/96 in different regions (west, north, south, centre) of the Netherlands (numbers per 10-day period)

Nijmegen, Utrecht en Haarlem zijn herkenbare accenten binnen het verspreidingspatroon. Het voorkomen in enkele grote steden in het westen van het land (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Den Haag) valt in dit opzicht tegen. Opvallend is voorts dat de westelijke helft van Overijssel amper Pestvogels opleverde. De verspreiding ten zuiden van de grote rivieren is aanmerkelijk ijler dan ten noorden ervan. Grote tot middelgrote steden (Eindhoven, Den Bosch, Tilburg, Breda, Maastricht) en sterk verstedelijkte gebieden (Oostelijke Mijnstreek) leveren weliswaar de nodige waarnemingen op, maar de aantallen zijn er vrijwel steeds laag geweest.

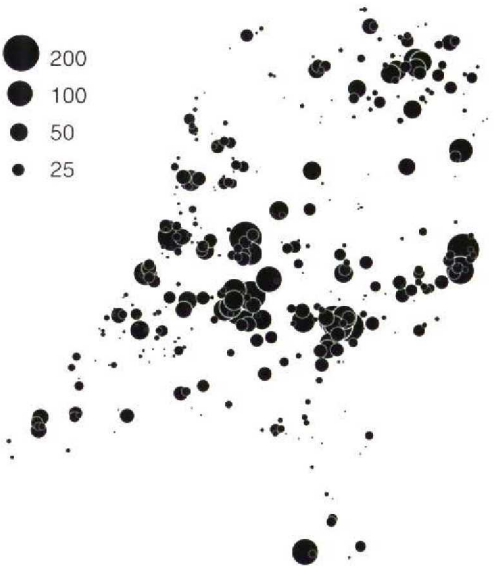
Het verspreidingspatroon wordt natuurlijk beïnvloed door de aanwezigheid van lokaal actieve waarnemers en hun bereidheid om waarnemingen in te sturen. Het is echter niet aannemelijk dat dit een groot effect heeft op de verhouding tussen regio's. Zo is de schaarste in Zuid-Limburg reëel, gezien de aanwezigheid van een dicht waarnemersnet en een goed draaiend regionaal waarnemingenarchief. Ook op kleinere schaal zijn lokaal opvallende verschillen in het voorkomen van Pestvogels geconstateerd. In en nabij Arnhem zijn veel Pestvogels gezien, maar in de dorpen Rheden en Dieren werden ze, ondanks de aanwezigheid van geschikte habitat en alerte waarnemers, niet opgemerkt (Kwint 1997).

*Aantallen*

Het is duidelijk dat er aanzienlijke aantallen Pestvogels in Nederland hebben vertoefd. Tijdens de piek in februari werden immers per dag meer dan 600 individuen geteld (figuur 1). Een optelling van de binnen de hele periode vastgestelde maxima per locatie komt uit op

TABEL 1 Verdeling van aantal Pestvogels *Bombycilla garrulus* per groep in 1995/96 in Nederland / distribution of numbers of Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* per group in 1995/96 in the Netherlands

| Groepsgrootte<br>Group size | Groepen<br>Groups | Individuen<br>Individuals | % |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 176 | 176 | 1.2 |
| 2-3 | 164 | 399 | 2.6 |
| 4-7 | 174 | 895 | 5.8 |
| 8-20 | 252 | 3145 | 20.5 |
| 21-50 | 226 | 6797 | 44.2 |
| 51-100 | 44 | 2967 | 19.3 |
| 101-200 | 8 | 988 | 6.4 |
| Total | 1044 | 15 367 | 100.0 |

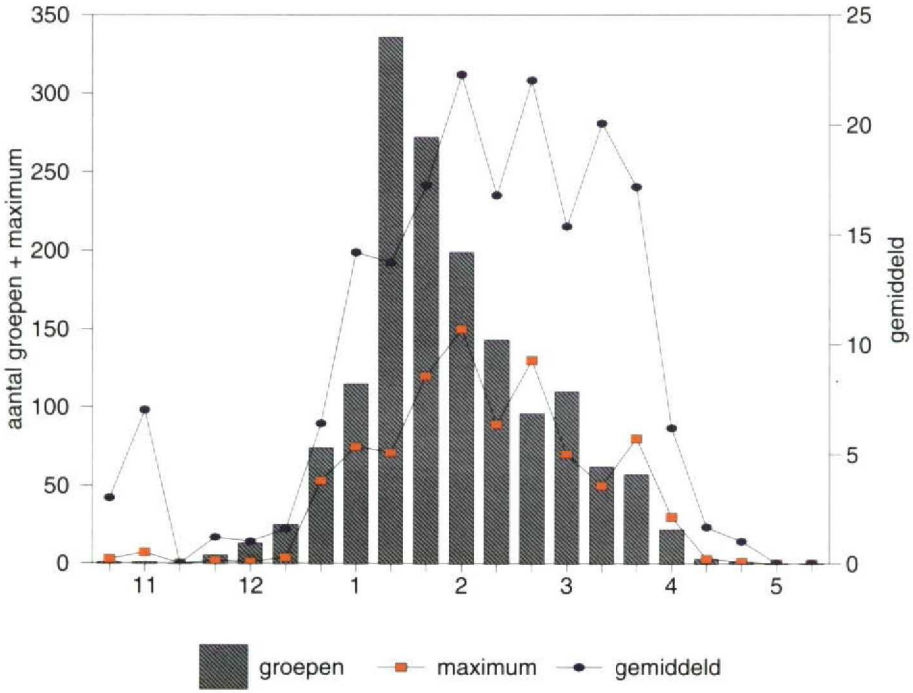



FIGUUR 3 Verspreiding van Pestvogel *Bombycilla garrulus* in 1995/96 in Nederland (som van aantal nieuw waargenomen vogels per cluster) / distribution of Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* in 1995/96 in the Netherlands (total of first birds recorded per cluster

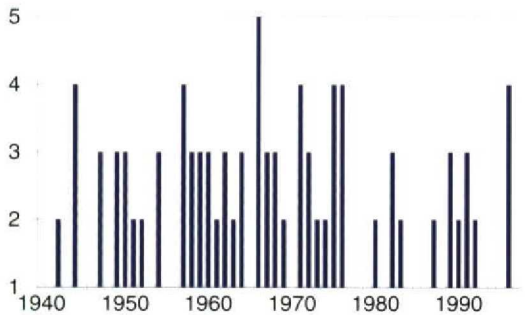
15 367 individuen, maar hierbij is geen rekening gehouden met verplaatsingen van vogels over korte afstand. Indien wordt gewerkt met de clusteringsmethode, wordt dit aantal gereduceerd tot 6655. Dit aantal is vermoedelijk aan de lage kant: de methode veegt immers ook groepen bijeen die wel degelijk uit verschillende vogels bestonden. Aan de andere kant worden vogels die op duidelijk verschillende locaties opdoken, meermalen meegeteld. Het is, mede doordat onbekend is in welke mate Pestvogels zijn opgemerkt of waarnemingen zijn doorgegeven, moeilijk om een goede schatting te maken van het aantal dat werkelijk aanwezig geweest is. Wij schatten het aantal op 8000-10 000 individuen.

*Groepsgrootte en verblijfsduur*

Hoewel er dus forse aantallen Pestvogels zijn gezien, waren de meeste groepen niet bijzonder groot (tabel 1). De meeste groepen bestonden uit 8-20 individuen en de gemiddelde groepsgrootte (inclusief 'groepen' van één vogel) bedroeg 14.7 individuen (n=1044). In eenzesde van de gevallen (betrekking hebbend op 1.2% van de vogels) ging het om solitaire vogels. Groepen van 100 of meer vogels waren zeldzaam. Ze werden gezien te Oldenzaal (maximaal 150, 12 februari),




FIGUUR 4 Gemiddelde en maximum groepsgrootte van Pestvogel *Bombycilla garrulus* in 1995/96 in Nederland per decade; tevens aantal groepen weergegeven / mean and maximum group size of Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* per 10-day period in 1995/96 in the Netherlands; number of groups in bars




FIGUUR 5 Vereenvoudigd overzicht van invasies van Pestvogel *Bombycilla garrulus* in 1940-96 in Nederland (voor bronnen en bewerking zie Methode); invasiegrootte gekarakteriseerd met cijfers 1 (zeer kleine aantallen), 2 (bescheiden aantallen), 3 (kleine invasie), 4 (omvangrijke invasie) en 5 (zeer grote invasie) / simplified overview of invasions of Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* in 1940-96 in the Netherlands; numbers on Y-axis indicate magnitude of invasion, from 1 (very low numbers) to 5 (very large invasion)

Houten (maximaal 140, 13 februari), Zeist (maximaal 130, 8 maart), Haarlem (maximaal 120, 4 februari) en Utrecht (maximaal 100, 6 maart).

De groepen waren gemiddeld het grootst van de tweede decade van februari tot en met eind maart (figuur 4). Dit is tijdens en na de piek in het aantalsverloop. Het lijkt erop dat de vogels arriveerden in kleine groepjes die in de loop van februari en maart gefuseerd zijn tot flinke groepen, mogelijk als reactie op verminderd voedselaanbod.

## Vergelijking met eerdere invasies

*Omvang*

Het voorkomen voor 1940 is onvolledig bekend, een gevolg van het geringe aantal vogelwaarnemers destijds. Vermoedelijk kwam de soort net als thans vrijwel jaarlijks in ons land voor, in sterk wisselende aantallen. Grote invasies werden opgemerkt in 1913/14 en 1931/32, terwijl ook 1903/04, 1921/22 en 1932/33 vermoedelijk forse invasies opleverden.

TABEL 2 Vereenvoudigde karakteristiek van seizoenverloop van alle grote invasies van Pestvogels *Bombycilla garrulus* na 1940 in Nederland. Aantallen per maand, in relatie tot totaal per winter, worden aangegeven door symbolen (• 5-20% van totaal, •• 21-40%, ••• >40%) / Seasonal characteristics of all major invasions of Bohemian Waxwings *Bombycilla garrulus* since 1940 in the Netherlands. Numbers per month are indicated by symbols (• 5-20% of total, •• 21-40%, ••• >40%)

| Winter | okt | nov | dec | jan | feb | mrt | apr | Categorie / category |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1943/44 | | • | ••• | • | | | | vroeg / early |
| 1946/47 | | • | ••• | | | • | | vroeg / early |
| 1948/49 | | | | ••• | • | •• | | midwinter / medium |
| 1949/50 | | ••• | • | | | | | vroeg / early |
| 1953/54 | | | • | • | •• | •• | | laat / late |
| 1956/57 | | | | | ••• | • | | laat / late |
| 1957/58 | | • | • | ••• | • | • | | midwinter / medium |
| 1958/59 | | • | • | ••• | • | • | • | midwinter / medium |
| 1959/60 | • | ••• | ••• | • | | • | | vroeg / early |
| 1961/62 | | ••• | •• | •• | | | | vroeg / early |
| 1963/64 | | •• | •• | • | • | • | | vroeg / early |
| 1965/66 | ••• | ••• | | | | | | vroeg / early |
| 1966/67 | ••• | • | | • | • | | | vroeg / early |
| 1967/68 | • | •• | • | •• | • | | | (midwinter) / (medium) |
| 1970/71 | •• | •• | • | • | | | | vroeg / early |
| 1971/72 | | ••• | • | • | • | | | vroeg / early |
| 1974/75 | • | •• | • | ••• | | | | (midwinter) / (medium) |
| 1975/76 | • | •• | •• | • | | | | vroeg / early |
| 1981/82 | | •• | •• | • | • | | | vroeg / early |
| 1988/89 | • | •• | • | | | | | vroeg / early |
| 1990/91 | | •• | • | • | • | • | | (midwinter) / (medium) |
| 1995/96 | | | | •• | ••• | • | • | laat / late |

Vanaf 1940 kan een redelijk compleet beeld geschetst worden van de jaarlijkse verschillen in voorkomen (figuur 5). In ruim eenderde van de winters waren Pestvogels bijzonder schaars (klasse 1). In de overige winters wisselde het voorkomen van bescheiden aantallen tot omvangrijke invasies. Verreweg de grootste invasie vond plaats in 1965/66, terwijl die van 1943/44, 1956/57, 1970/71, 1974/75 en 1975/76 eveneens omvangrijk waren. Vermoedelijk is het beeld van de eerste twee decennia wat onderbelicht en waren er ook in de winters 1946/47, 1948/49 en 1958/59 forse invasies. De invasie van 1995/96 behoort duidelijk tot de grotere van na 1940, maar steekt die van 1965/66 niet naar de kroon.

*Timing*

Het voorkomen van Pestvogels in Nederland, in tijd en in aantallen, wordt grotendeels bepaald door omstandigheden ten noorden en noordoosten van Nederland. Grote aantallen zullen pas naar Midden- en West-Europa vertrekken als de voedselsituatie hen daartoe dwingt (cf Haffer 1985). Afhankelijk van dat moment zullen ze eerder of later in het winterhalfjaar in Nederland arriveren.

Wanneer alle grote invasies van na 1940 op rij worden gezet, blijkt er in ons land sprake te zijn van grofweg drie typen (tabel 2). In drievijfde van de gevallen gaat het om vroege invasies. Deze beginnen doorgaans in oktober, bereiken piekaantallen in november en/of december en lopen daarna snel af. De grootste invasie van de 20e eeuw, in 1965/66, vormt binnen deze categorie een extreem voorbeeld, met 41% van alle waargenomen vogels in oktober en 54% in november. In ruim een kwart van de gevallen gaat het om invasies die soms al in de herfst, soms pas in de loop van de winter beginnen, maar de piekaantallen pas in december en/of januari bereiken. Voorbeelden zijn de winters 1948/49, 1957/58 en 1958/59. Het zeldzaamst zijn de late invasies, die pas in februari de hoogste aantallen laten zien. De winter 1956/57 was hiervan een markant voorbeeld. Tot en met januari werden er amper Pestvogels waargenomen, maar medio februari doken grote aantallen op (Taapken 1958). Qua timing past de invasie van 1995/96 het best in de categorie 'late invasies', al gaat het niet om zo'n extreem geval als in 1956/57.

Voorts valt in tabel 2 op dat de tijdsduur waarin belangrijke aantallen Pestvogels aanwezig

**171** Pestvogel / Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*, eerste-winter, Katwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland, 29 januari 1996 *(René van Rossum)*

zijn, per invasie verschilt. In veel gevallen worden gedurende 3-5 maanden grote aantallen gezien. In enkele gevallen is deze periode kortstondiger geweest, met name in de vroege, respectievelijk late invasiewinters 1965/66 en 1956/57. In het eerste geval was eigenlijk sprake van doortrek en niet van overwintering. In het tweede geval werd het zeer late en plotselinge voorkomen waarschijnlijk gelanceerd door het volledig uitgeput raken van voedselbronnen ten noorden en/of oosten van Nederland (Glutz von Blotzheim 1966).

*Verspreiding*

De in 1995/96 geconstateerde nadruk op Nederland ten noorden van de grote rivieren komt overeen met berichten tijdens eerdere invasies. Hoe zuidelijker in het land, hoe geringer de verspreiding, hoe kleiner de aantallen en hoe onregelmatiger het jaarlijkse voorkomen. Zo zijn in het verleden verschillende kleinere invasies niet of nauwelijks tot Noord-Brabant en Limburg doorgedrongen (van Erve et al 1967, Ovaa 1997). Alleen tijdens zeer grote invasies als die van 1965/66 worden ook in het zuidelijke deel van het land grote aantallen op veel plaatsen aangetroffen. Deze nadruk op noordelijk Nederland sluit aan bij informatie uit het buitenland (zie aldaar) en suggereert dat de grote rivieren voor Pestvogels doorgaans de zuidgrens vormen van het reguliere West-Europese overwinteringsgebied.

**Pestvogelinvasie 1995/96 in het buitenland**

*Fennoscandinavië*

Grootschalige bewegingen werden het eerst opgemerkt in het zuiden van Finland en Zweden. Bij Kymenlaakso, c 150 km ten oosten van Helsinki, was het in september met 41 langstrekkende vogels nog rustig. In oktober (4600) en november (9800) namen de aantallen toe en in de tweede helft van december werd de piek bereikt (19 500). De aantallen namen daarna geleidelijk af: van januari tot begin maart, per halfmaandelijkse periode, respectievelijk 15 000, 5500, 3000, 1500 en 800. De sterke afname in januari was een gevolg van het leegraken van bessenstruiken, waardoor ook de Kramsvogels *Turdus pilaris* uit het gebied verdwenen (Tero Ilomäki in litt). De meeste trek werd eind oktober vastgesteld (200-400 vogels per dag), daarna ging het voornamelijk om ter plaatse aanwezige

groepen. Gedurende deze winter werd hier het nooit eerder vertoonde aantal van (conservatief gerekend) 42 000 vogels gezien. Dat het in Finland voor vogelaars goed toeven was, is ook op te maken uit andere waarnemingen: op 20 oktober 1995 10 400 Pestvogels langstrekkend bij Mustasaari, Norrskär, op 4 januari 20 000 vogels bij Helsinki en op 21 januari 15 000 individuen op een slaapplaats in Kangasala (Annika Forsten in litt, Martin Helin in litt, Tero Ilomäki in litt).

Ook in Zweden werden vanaf eind oktober omvangrijke bewegingen opgemerkt; het aantal Pestvogels voor de hele periode in Zuid-Zweden wordt op c 300 000 geschat, waarvan 100 000 in Uppland (Dubois 1996; Roger Jonasson in litt). Het is ons niet bekend of in Noorwegen sprake was van opmerkelijke trek. Nadat Denemarken in het spel was betrokken (Birding World 9: 12, 1996), kwamen Noord-Duitsland, Nederland en Groot-Brittannië aan de beurt.

*Noordwest-Europa*

In december was er in Noordwest-Europa nog weinig te merken van de grootscheepse verplaatsing van Pestvogels in Scandinavië en Finland. Pas na de jaarwisseling begonnen de waarnemingen op gang te komen.

Na de eerste Duitse waarnemingen begin november wijzen vervolgwaarnemingen uit dat de eigenlijke invasie in Noordwest-Europa in januari begon en in de derde week van deze maand weliswaar via enkele pioniers midden-Duitsland en in februari Zuid-Duitsland had bereikt, maar verder geconcentreerd bleef in het noorden. Forse aantallen zijn gemeld uit Niedersachsen, in totaal 8801 individuen met een maximum per pentade van 980. De invasie bereikte hier, net als in Nederland, zijn hoogtepunt rond medio februari, maar er was een opvallend verschil tussen de aan Nederland grenzende westelijke delen van Niedersachsen (start invasie begin januari, relatief kleine aantallen, snelle doortrek) en de oostelijke delen (start invasie begin februari, grote aantallen, lange verblijfsduur) (Zucchi 1996, Kooiker 1997). Ook Schleswig-Holstein en Hamburg werden goed bedeeld (Berndt & Busche 1997; Limicola 10: 98-100, 149, 1996; Michael Knoll in litt).

In Groot-Brittannië werden, na enkele individuen in oktober en november, in december nog altijd niet meer dan 80 vogels gezien. De eerste golf kwam begin januari aan. Een tweede, aanzienlijk grotere golf arriveerde in de laatste week van de maand. Het Britse januari-totaal kwam uit op 6000 (Birding World 9: 8, 1996). De tweede golf is waarschijnlijk te verklaren uit het feit dat in zuidelijk Fennoscandinavië de bessen op waren. Het eerst werd de Engelse zuidoost-kust bereikt, later in januari ook Schotland en Wales. Gedurende februari bleven de 'horden' Groot-Brittannië veroveren in zuidelijke en westelijke richting, zij het dat er relatief weinig vogels werden opgemerkt ten westen van de lijn oost-Sussex (ten westen van Londen) via de Midlands naar de grens bij de Clwyd (Birding World 9: 44-48, 1996). De vogels bleven dus min of meer hangen in het oosten. In de zuidwestelijke graafschappen werden in februari slechts 50 vogels gemeld, op Shetland en Orkney slechts enkele. Gedurende deze maand telden Britse vogelaars c 10 000 vogels (Birding World 9: 44-48, 1996).

De eerste Ierse vogels arriveerden, tegen de gewoonte in, aan de westkant en wel op 23 december (Sligo) en 26 december (Galway). De echte influx begon op 23 januari, op meer gebruikelijke noordelijke en oostelijke aankomstplaatsen. Ierland werd aangedaan door, voorzichtig geschat, 1250-1300 Pestvogels (Eric Dempsey in litt).

In zuidelijk en westelijk IJsland werden begin januari Pestvogels gezien; vanaf eind januari arriveerden onbekende aantallen aan de oostzijde.

*West- en Midden-Europa*

In België werden de eerste groepen iets later waargenomen dan in Nederland, vooral eind januari en februari. Het aantal bleef beperkt tot c 700 vogels. Hoewel dispersie in zuidelijke richtingen plaatsvond, werden vooral uit zuidoostelijk België weinig individuen gemeld (Jacob 1996).

In Luxemburg werden acht groepjes van in totaal slechts 23 vogels gezien (Jacob 1996; Limicola 10: 98-100, 1996). Het past in het beeld dat de invasie in Frankrijk, waar de eerste Pestvogels werden opgemerkt op 22 januari bij Le Portel, Pas-de-Calais, beperkt bleef tot het noordelijke deel, met een accent op het oosten. Het land werd bezocht door c 300 vogels (Dubois 1996; Ornithos 3: 148, 1996).

De Kanaaleilanden kwamen er eveneens bekaaid af. Intensief zoeken op Guernsey leverde tenslotte op 3 februari welgeteld één Pestvogel op (Tim Earl in litt). Ook in Zwitserland werden slechts enkele exemplaren opgemerkt (Bernard Volet in litt), terwijl Oostenrijk weliswaar een groep van 250 in januari bij Wiesfleck, Burgenland, meldde maar verder vrijwel niets (Birding World 9: 91, 1996)

*Terugtrek*

De terugtrek nam begin maart een aanvang en was in Noordwest-Europa merkbaar tot in mei, met een uitschieter naar begin juni. In Frankrijk werden na 1 maart vrijwel geen Pestvogels meer waargenomen (Dubois 1996). In Schleswig-Holstein was, na een zekere terugloop in februari (omdat vogels zuidwaarts getrokken waren), in maart en april weer sprake van een opleving, veroorzaakt door migranten op thuisreis (Berndt & Busche 1997). In Niedersachsen ging de medio maart en medio april opgemerkte zwakke opleving aan de kustregio's voorbij (Kooiker 1997). In april werden ook elders in Noord-Duitsland nog veel vogels gemeld; de laatste waarneming van het Duitse vasteland was op 10 mei in Lübeck (Limicola 10: 149, 1996) en de laatste van Helgoland op 8 juni (Dierschke et al 1996; Jochen Diersche in litt).

In Groot-Brittannië verbleven in maart nog 1000en vogels, vooral in het noorden en oosten (Birding World 9: 88-89, 1996). In Ierland waren toen nog 250 vogels aanwezig al liepen de aantallen na half maart langzaam terug; de laatste Ierse waarneming viel op 25 april (Eric Dempsey in litt). In de eerste week van april waren er nog meer dan 1000 in Groot-Brittannië, gedurende de laatste week van april 300. De eerste week van mei leverde nog 34 exemplaren op. Omdat er geen stuwing van trekkende vogels in het noorden van de Britse eilanden merkbaar was, ligt het voor de hand dat ze Groot-Brittannië direct in noordoostelijke richting hebben verlaten.

In Finland werden in april-juni bij Kymenlaakso verhoogde aantallen waargenomen: tussen 16 maart en 25 mei 1930 vogels, met eind april een piek (Tero Ilomäki in litt). Van een merkbare terugkeer van vele 1000en vogels was echter geen sprake. Mogelijk zijn vele zuidelijk van Finland naar Siberië getrokken, of hadden de remigranten zoveel haast dat zij hoog en hard vlogen en nauwelijks zijn opgemerkt.

**Karakteristiek van invasie van 1995/96**

Er was in 1995/96 sprake van een sterk westelijk en in mindere mate zuidelijk gerichte en geconcentreerde trek die in Fennoscandinavië begon in oktober. In eerste instantie bleven verreweg de meeste vogels daar hangen al schoten de nodige door om tot in Groot-Brittannië terecht te komen. Nadat de bessen in Zuid-Fennoscandinavië begin januari waren geconsumeerd, bereikten veel Pestvogels in januari Noordwest-Europa. Kennelijk zijn veel vogels opgestegen om pas aan de Britse kust massaal aan land te komen. Gelet op de berichten uit Niedersachsen is er ook een zuidelijk gerichte component geweest, waardoor vooral het in oostelijke gedeelte van deze deelstaat veel Pestvogels werden gezien. Een deel van deze vogels is verder getrokken, een ander deel is blijven hangen.

De golf die in januari-februari Noordwest-Europa bereikte is slechts beperkt verder zuidwaarts uitgewaaierd. Streken waar normaal gesproken bij grote invasies Pestvogels binnensijpelen (landen aan of eilanden in de Middellandse Zee) bleven nu buiten schot. Ook België, Luxemburg, Frankrijk, Zwitserland en Oostenrijk kenden geen massale invasie. Het Franse aantal van 300 vogels steekt mager af tegen de ten minste 2200 tijdens de meer zuidelijk gerichte invasie van 1988/89 en de nog veel hogere aantallen van de super-invasie van 1965/66 (Dubois 1996). Hetzelfde geldt voor België (zie ook Jacob 1996). De vaststelling dat Pestvogels bij hun aankomst in België geen volle bessenstruiken aantroffen omdat Merels *T merula*, Kramsvogels en Roodborsten *Erithacus rubecula* eerder die winter al in groten getale aanwezig waren (Jacob 1996), kan geen verklaring zijn voor het geringe Belgische aandeel; hetzelfde gold bijvoorbeeld voor Nederland.

Het is niet verwonderlijk dat het Noordwest-Europese gebied met de hoogste aantallen, Engeland, ook de grootste groepen herbergde. Zo verzamelden zich op 15 februari 486 vogels in één groep bij Ipswich, Suffolk, en lieten zich op 9 maart liefst 510 individuen te Stockport, Greater Manchester, bewonderen (Birding World 9: 44-48, 88-89, 1996). In Niedersachsen werden groepen tot 240 individuen gezien. De gemiddelde groepsgrootte bedroeg hier 27, bijna het dubbele van dat in Nederland. In het oosten van de deelstaat was dat nog aanzienlijk hoger (44; Kooiker 1997).

**Herkomst**

De aankomst van Pestvogels aan de westkant van Ierland heeft – in combinatie met de aankomst van vogels aan de zuid- en westzijde van IJsland begin januari en de aanwezigheid van een eerstewinter Cederpestvogel *B cedrorum* in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Engeland, van 20 februari tot 18 maart (Smith 1996) – geleid tot speculaties over een mogelijke Nearctische afkomst van althans een aantal vroege Britse en Ierse vogels. Hoewel zich ook in oostelijk Noord-Amerika een uitzonderlijke verplaatsing van Pestvogels voltrok – zo was er in december 1995 en januari 1996 een recordinvasie van Pestvogels in Newfound-

land (Birding World 9: 71-72, 1996) – kan over een dergelijk verband niets met zekerheid worden gezegd. Bovendien is voor zover bekend niet gelet op de (overigens marginale) kleurverschillen tussen de Amerikaanse en Europese populaties. De Pestvogels die eind januari in IJsland arriveerden waren zeer waarschijnlijk van Europese komaf: zij arriveerden tegelijk met grote aantallen Merels en Kramsvogels.

Waarschijnlijk zijn bij de invasie vooral vogels uit de taigazone van Fennoscandinavië en Siberië betrokken geweest. In zeer gunstige omstandigheden broeden in Noorwegen 5000, in Zweden en Finland ieder maximaal 50 000 en in Europees Rusland meer dan 100 000 paren (Hagemeijer & Blair 1997). De aantallen in Siberië (Aziatisch Rusland) zijn onbekend. In Nederland werden in de winter van 1995/96 drie geringde Pestvogels afgelezen. Twee in Vest-Agder in de zuidpunt van Noorwegen op 26 december respectievelijk 22 januari geringde vogels bevonden zich op 14 maart te Arnhem. Een vogel die op 21 februari te Merksplas, Antwerpen, België, geringd werd, bevond zich op 5 april te Utrecht (van Diermen & Speek 1998).

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**Summary**

INVASION OF BOHEMIAN WAXWING IN THE NETHERLANDS IN 1995/96 IN (INTER)NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE This paper describes the 1995/96 invasion of Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* in the Netherlands in international perspective and summarizes historical information. The 1995/96 invasion has been documented by pooling casual observations (Dutch Birding birdline; SOVON Rare Non-breeding Species Project). Historical information is derived from published and unpublished records.

In 1995/96, numbers in the Netherlands were low until the beginning of January. Thereafter, numbers suddenly increased, to reach a peak in mid February. In the second half of February, numbers gradually decreased and by the end of April almost all Bohemian Waxwings had disappeared (figure 1). The invasion was mainly confined to urban areas. Our data suggest that at least 8000-10 000 individuals have visited the country. As numbers observed in Belgium, France and south-western Germany were much lower, the Netherlands can be regarded as the southern limit of the 1995/96 invasion. This invasion was first noticed in southern Fennoscandinavia during October 1995-January 1996, moved southward when the berries were out and went on westward in a rather narrow zone over north-western Europe to Britain and Ireland during January and February. Even within the Netherlands, numbers south of the river Meuse were much lower than in the northern part of the country (figures 2-3). Most flocks consisted of 8-20 birds (mean 14.7; n=1044). Flocks of 100 or more individuals were only sporadically recorded (maximum 150). Mean flock size was highest in the second half of February and in March (table 1, figure 4). During April-May, most birds disappeared from Ireland, Britain and north-western Europe; in Finland, higher numbers than usual were noticed again during these two months.

Invasions of Bohemian Waxwings have always attracted the attention of birdwatchers. In the Netherlands, they were documented from 1940 onwards although their magnitude has probably been underestimated prior to the 1960s due to a lack of observers. The 1995/96 invasion belongs to the larger ones since 1940 but is no doubt surpassed by that of 1965/66, the largest invasion in the 20th century (figure 5). In the Netherlands, three types of invasions can be distinguished. Most invasions start in October and peak in November/December ('early'; cf table 2). Some, however, start later and reach peak numbers in December/January ('medium'). The third type ('late'), with maximum numbers in February, is rare. The 1995/96 invasion belongs to the latter type, although it was not as extreme as the 1956/57 invasion (table 2). In the Netherlands, it is more or less a rule that invasions of Bohemian Waxwings are mainly confined to the northern parts of the country. The southern parts are only invaded by high numbers during very large invasions, as in 1965/66.

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# Flight identification of Cory's and Scopoli's Shearwaters

*Ricard Gutiérrez*

Despite having been considered easily identifiable in the hand or through vocalizations (Bretagnolle & Lequette 1990, Thibault & Bretagnolle 1998), distinguishing Cory's *Calonectris borealis* (hereafter *borealis*) and Scopoli's Shearwaters *C diomedea* (hereafter *diomedea*) at sea has not been attempted seriously. Indeed, some authors doubt whether this is actually possible (eg, Mougin et al 1988, Thibault et al 1997). Irrespective of whatever taxonomic treatment is given to these taxa: specific, as decided by the Dutch committee for avian systematics (CSNA) (Sangster et al 1998); or subspecific, as otherwise considered (eg, Thibault et al 1997, Snow & Perrins 1998); a more thorough awareness of consistent differences in field characters between these taxa will broaden our understanding of their distribution and movements and may even help to clarify their taxonomic status. In this article, a number of criteria, based on structural and morphological characters, are given to assist in the separation of *borealis* and *diomedea* at sea.

**Identification**

Distinguishing *borealis* and *diomedea* from confusion species, such as Great Shearwater *Puffinus*

*gravis*, has been recently reviewed by McGeehan & Gutiérrez (1998). The identification of the related Cape Verde Shearwater *C edwardsii*, formerly considered as conspecific with *borealis* and *diomedea* but now generally treated as a separate species (eg, Sangster et al 1998, Snow & Perrins 1998), was recently discussed by Porter et al (1997) and is not discussed here although photographs are included for comparison. However, the problem of identifying *borealis* and *diomedea* at sea has not been tackled before.

On the basis of field observations in the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean (including the Canary Islands in 1990 and breeding colonies in the Azores in 1997) as well as study of published and unpublished photographs and the examination of specimens at the Zoological Museum in Barcelona, Spain, three main groups of characters were established: size and structure, upperside coloration, and underwing pattern. Only the underwing pattern (already cited in Cramp & Simmons 1977) has been found diagnostic but all three characters should be noted to *safely* identify any *diomedea* or *borealis* at sea.

*Size and structure*

On average, *borealis* is 46% larger than *diomedea* (Thibault et al 1997). This character is, however, of little value when observing a lone individual. Moreover, there are differences in size among the various populations of *borealis* (Granadeiro 1993) and a cline of decreasing size from west to east has been reported in *diomedea* (Iapichino et al 1983, Mougin et al 1991). Exceptions to this are said to exist in the Balearic Islands and may be related to genetic isolation (Randi et al 1989, Brichetti & Foschi 1993) as well as environmental conditions (Cabo et al 1993). However, these exceptions are less important than previously thought and probably relate to mistakes in sampling (Triay & Capó 1996). At sea, *borealis* usually looks heavier than *diomedea*, with a stouter bill (both in depth and length), giving it a more fierce look than *diomedea*. Also, the longer wings of *borealis* look broader than in *diomedea*. However, due to variation and some overlap in certain measurements (for a review, see Thibault et al 1997), these characters should only be considered as supportive.

*Upperside coloration*

On average, the upperside is noticeably darker in *borealis*. The head and, especially, the upperparts of *diomedea* are generally paler. Thus, individuals with little or no contrast between head, upperparts and upperwings are clearly *borealis*

**172** Scopoli's Shearwater / Scopoli's Pijlstormvogel *Calonectris diomedea*, off Palamós, Girona, Spain, 6 April 1997 *(Ricard Gutiérrez)*. Note head proportions, slender bill and neck, pale neck and upperparts and pale inner webs of outermost primaries

**173** Scopoli's Shearwater / Scopoli's Pijlstormvogel *Calonectris diomedea*, off Palamós, Girona, Spain, 6 April 1997 *(Ricard Gutiérrez)*. Compared with Cory's Shearwater *C borealis*, Scopoli's shows narrower wings. Note also bill proportions and white underwing panel shape **174** Cory's Shearwater / Kuhls Pijlstormvogel *Calonectris borealis*, off Lajes do Pico, Pico, Azores, 26 July 1997 *(Ricard Gutiérrez)*. Note thicker and darker neck compared with Scopoli's Shearwater *C diomedea* depicted in plate 172. Note also broader wings. White underwing panel restricted to coverts, creating rounded-tip effect

while birds with paler upperparts contrasting with the rest of the upperside could either be *borealis* or *diomedea*. *Borealis* tends to show more contrast between upperside and underside, also contributing to a more fierce look than *diomedea* (see above). The neck shows less contrast with the head and mantle in *borealis*. Often, *borealis* appears thicker-necked than *diomedea*. In addition, the extent to which the dark upperside fades into the pale sides of the neck differs between the two. On average, it is more contrasting in *borealis* than in *diomedea*. Some distant *borealis* seen in the Azores in July 1997 seemed to have a head with a cap recalling Great Shearwater in this respect, a feature never recorded in *diomedea*. The lores always appear dark in both *borealis* and *diomedea*.

*Underwing pattern*

Compared with *borealis*, *diomedea* has a prominent white wedge on the inner webs of the primaries which project well beyond the coverts (Cramp & Simmons 1977: 140), leading to diagnostic differences in the pattern of the primaries. *Borealis* shows a rounded shape to the white panel on the underside of the outerwing. This panel, only formed by the primary coverts, contrasts with the completely dark outer primaries, at the most with the black outer web and dark grey inner web, giving at a distance the impression of a wide dark terminal area. Only the longest primary, when the wing is fully extended, can show a small amount of white below the coverts although it never reaches the tip nor changes the overall 'rounded white area' impression (figure 1). In *diomedea*, the inner webs of the outer primaries (particularly the outer seven) are almost white, reaching the tip in the longest of them, and creating the effect of an angled white underwing panel, not only formed by the coverts, as in *borealis*, but also by the primaries. It does not create an effect of a dark terminal area, as in *borealis*. Dark edges to the inner webs are also visible as 'lines' entering the white area

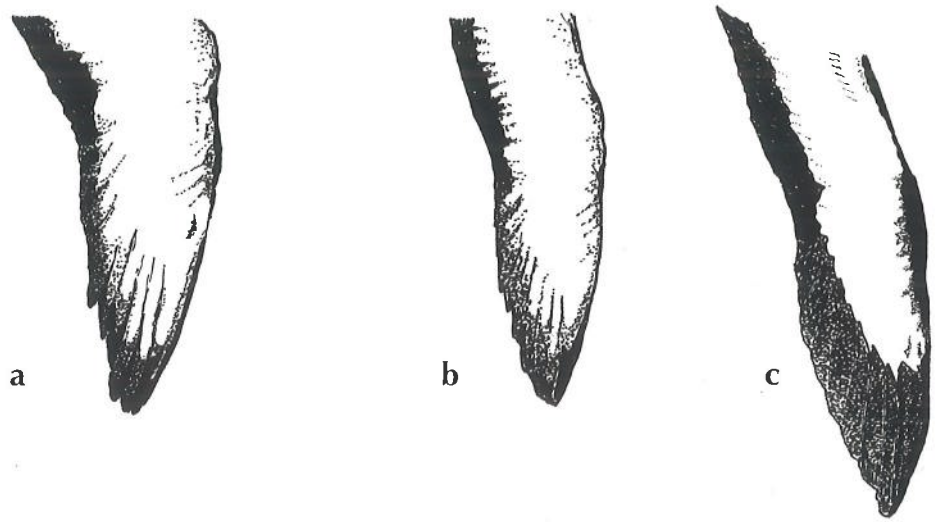



FIGURE 1 Underwing pattern of Scopoli's Shearwater / Scopoli's Pijlstormvogel *Calonectris diomedea* (a, b) and Cory's Shearwater / Kuhls Pijlstormvogel *C borealis* (c) (*Ricard Gutiérrez*). *a* Semi-folded and *b* extended wings from birds off Palamós, Girona, Spain, in 1997. Note white area formed by coverts and inner webs of outer primaries. Dark edges to primaries visibly entering white area in both positions. *c* Extended wing of bird from Canary Islands in 1988. Note white area restricted to coverts and, in this case, exceptionally to innermost visible part of longest primary. Large dark area in underwing formed by dark primaries and overall rounded tip of white underwing panel formed by coverts

(figure 1). In comparison, if the underwing-tip pattern of *diomedea* can be likened to Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, then that of *borealis* can be likened to Caspian Tern *S caspia*.

*Jizz*

In attempting to convey the look or 'feel' of particular species, subjective terms have been used to categorize the different qualities of flight between species (eg, Harrison 1983). Although there is often a clearly definable jizz for many seabirds, its description is always subject to rather unquantifiable variables such as 'direct flight' and 'buoyant'.

Shearwater flight is a combination of wing-beats and glides but, as pointed out by McGeehan & Gutiérrez (1997, 1998), there are clear differences among species. But can these be measured? Up to now, it appears that no attempt has been made to try to quantify jizz of shearwaters.

For *diomedea*, specific observations were carried out from a sea-watch point at Llobregat delta, Barcelona, Spain, in October-November 1997 and, for *borealis*, from Vila Franca do Campo, São Miguel, Azores, in late July 1997. The observations were carried out from the shore during the evenings, all by the author, using a 30x telescope eyepiece. A set of data was noted for each taxon studied under similar environmental conditions: *1* good light; *2* no wind (a sample with moderate wind was taken for comparison purposes); *3* patrolling-related bird activity (not linked to rafts in breeding colonies, present in the Azores); and *4* no human disturbance or interaction (fishing vessels). As measuring glides proved almost impossible due to bird speed, the number of wing-beats between each gliding period was recorded. Special care was taken not to measure the same bird twice. This was possible due to the number of birds present off Vila Franca do Campo (more than 6000 birds) and more than 100 birds in each of the Mediterranean observations. Samples were found not to be normally distributed (Kolmogorov-Smirnoff test; *borealis* calm wind, DN=0.22, P<0.0001; *diomedea* calm wind, DN=0.16, P=0.04; *diomedea* moderate wind (Beaufort scale 3), DN=0.19, P<0.0001). Non-parametric Mann-Whitney U-tests were used to compare samples.

The number of wing-beats for the two taxa considered under similar environmental conditions were plotted in a histogram (figure 2). In calm conditions, *borealis* usually gave 2-4 wing-

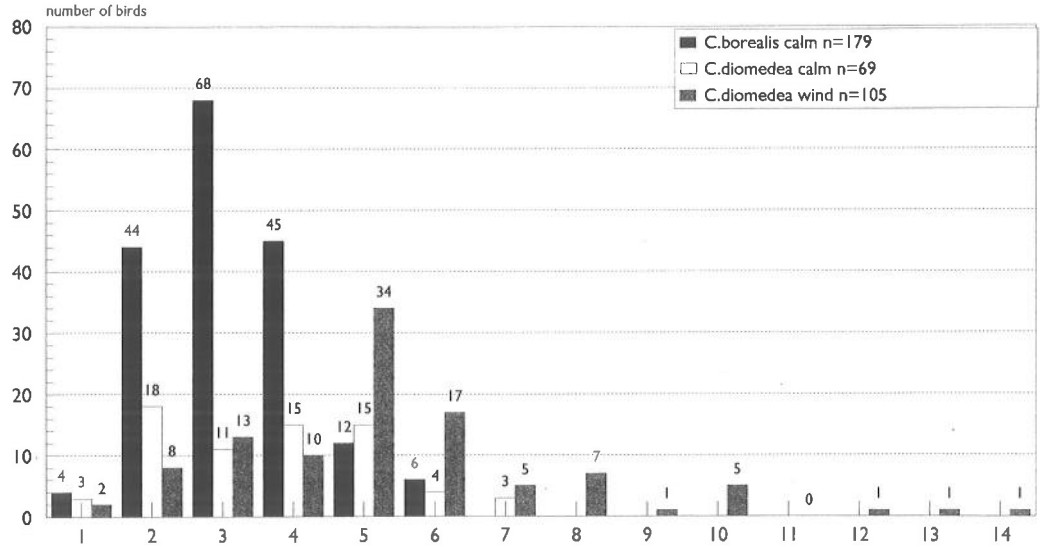



FIGURE 2 Number of wing-beats between each gliding period of Cory's Shearwater / Kuhls Pijlstormvogel *Calonectris borealis* off Vila Franca do Campo, São Miguel, Azores, on 24 July 1997 in calm conditions and Scopoli's Shearwater / Scopoli's Pijlstormvogel *C diomedea* off Prat de Llobregat, Llobregat delta, Barcelona, on 23 October 1997 in calm conditions and on 16 September 1997 with moderate wind

beats, with a mean of 3.20±1.06 (n=179), while *diomedea* usually gave 2-5 wing-beats, with a mean of 3.65±1.53 (n=69). Under moderate wind conditions, *diomedea* increased the number of wing-beats to a mean of 5.31±2.38 (n=105) between glides.

There were significant statistical differences between the average flight of *borealis* and *diomedea* in calm conditions (*borealis* calm wind and *diomedea* calm wind; Z=-2.09, P=0.03). The differences were highly significant between the samples recorded in *diomedea* under calm and moderate wind conditions (Z=4.99, P=5.74 x $10^{-7}$) while they were even higher among *borealis* calm wind and *diomedea* with wind (Z=8.70, P=0).

The results show that the flight pattern of these and other shearwaters can be described, at least in part, by measuring the number of wing-beats between each gliding period. A histogram plotting the wind-force helps elucidate the differences.

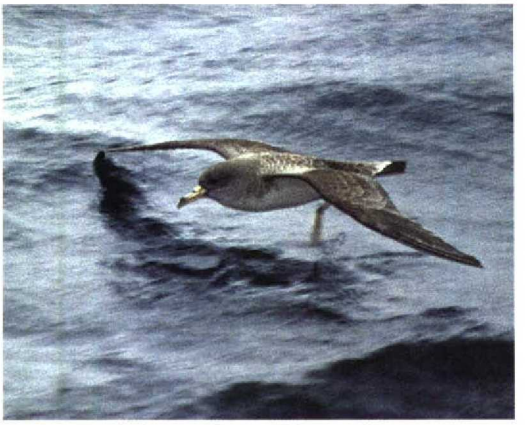
Differences between *borealis* and *diomedea* can be related to the former's larger size which produces a heavier and slower flight. *Diomedea* is smaller and slimmer, resulting in a faster and less heavy flight. It has to be borne in mind, however, that calm conditions are not normal at sea. Wind changes flight pattern, so differences found between the taxa are almost useless for identification if not compared under similar environmental conditions.

Apart from demonstrating the effect of wind on the flight action of shearwaters, the results suggest differences in flight due to structural differences between *borealis* and *diomedea*. More research is needed to clarify further the influence of wing structure and wind on flight action.

## Numbers and distribution

*Borealis* is the more numerous taxon, recent estimates giving 96 500-136 500 pairs (Thibault et al 1997), breeding in the Azores, Berlengas (off Portugal), Canary Islands, Madeira Islands and Selvagens. The population of *diomedea* breeding on islands throughout the Mediterranean Sea has been recently estimated at 63 000-70 000 pairs (Thibault et al 1997), a number consistent with the results of previously published censuses (Massa & Lo Valvo 1986, Thibault 1993).

Neither are all birds seen in the Mediterranean Sea *diomedea* nor do all Atlantic records refer to *borealis*. There are a few reports of *borealis* breeding in the Mediterranean Sea. A male ringed as pullus on Selvagem Grande, Selvagens, successfully bred paired with a *borealis* female during 1992-93 in the Columbretes, off eastern Spain, within a *diomedea* colony of 140 pairs

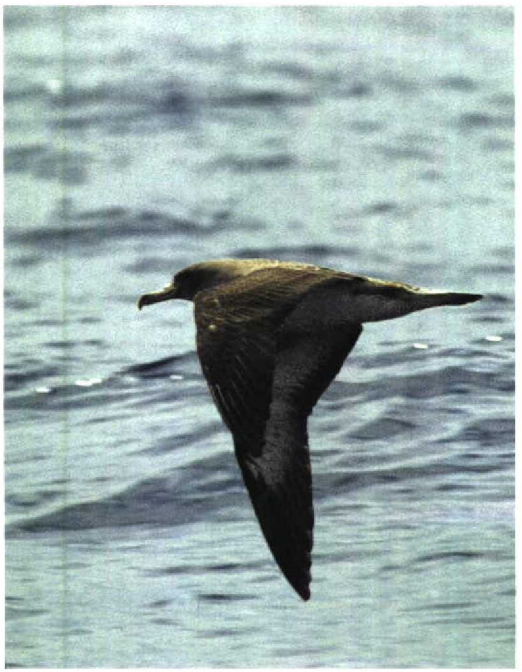


**175** Scopoli's Shearwater / Scopoli's Pijlstormvogel *Calonectris diomedea*, off Arenys de mar, Barcelona, Spain, 14 April 1986 *(Ricard Gutiérrez)* **176** Cory's Shearwater / Kuhls Pijlstormvogel *Calonectris borealis*, off Lajes do Pico, Pico, Azores, 26 July 1997 *(Ricard Gutiérrez)*. Note thicker bill than in Scopoli's Shearwater *C diomedea* depicted in plate 175 **177** Cory's Shearwater / Kuhls Pijlstormvogel *Calonectris borealis*, off Lajes do Pico, Pico, Azores, 26 July 1997 *(Ricard Gutiérrez)*. In some light conditions, primaries show two tones, black and dark grey; however, white underwing panel never forms pointed shape (plate 178). Note also broad wings and heavy structure **178** Scopoli's Shearwater / Scopoli's Pijlstormvogel *Calonectris diomedea*, off Isla Cristina, Huelva, August 1996 *(Xavier Larruy)*. Even in distant birds, shape of white underwing panel is clearly visible

(Sánchez Codoñer 1994, contra Thibault & Bretagnolle 1998). Another (nine-year-old) female *borealis* ringed as pullus on Selvagem Grande was present on Linosa, Pelagian Islands, Sicilian Channel, although not breeding (Lo Valvo & Massa 1988). An apparent case of mixed pairing in the Mediterranean Sea between a proven male *borealis* (identified through call analysis, body measurements and cytochrome-b sequence) and a presumed *diomedea* female (call atypical for *diomedea* but biometrics within the range of this taxon; however, no underwing pattern was described) was reported from a *diomedea* colony of 25-30 pairs on Giraglia, just north of Corsica, between 1993 (probably already in 1992) and 1996 at least (Thibault & Bretagnolle 1998). However, Thibault & Bretagnolle (1998) did not exclude the possibility of the male being a first-generation hybrid due to the lack of ringing evidence, intermediate measurements and some biometric characters supporting this hybrid explanation.

The migrating and wintering ranges of *borealis* and *diomedea* are well segregated (Mougin et al 1988). After the breeding season, immature *borealis* migrate to South America where they spend

**179** Cory's Shearwaters / Kuhls Pijlstormvogels *Calonectris borealis*, off Lajes do Pico, Pico, Azores, 26 July 1997 *(Ricard Gutiérrez)*. Upperside of Cory's Shearwater tends to be darker than in Scopoli's Shearwater *C diomedea*. Note also underwing pattern and structure **180** Scopoli's Shearwaters / Scopoli's Pijlstormvogels *Calonectris diomedea*, off Palamós, Girona, Spain, 6 April 1997 *(Ricard Gutiérrez)*. Head pattern is variable. However, note bill proportions in relation to head compared with Cory's Shearwater *C borealis*



**181** Cory's Shearwater / Kuhls Pijlstormvogel *Calonectris borealis*, off Lajes do Pico, Pico, Azores, 26 July 1997 *(Ricard Gutiérrez)*. Even in bad conditions, underwing pattern is clearly visible. Note also almost uniformly coloured upperside in this bird (unlike Cory's Shearwater depicted in plate 176) **182** Scopoli's Shearwaters / Scopoli's Pijlstormvogels *Calonectris diomedea*, off Palamós, Girona, 6 April 1997 *(Ricard Gutiérrez)*. Note slim proportions (pitfall of Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* for inexperienced observers) and white underwing panel **183** Cory's Shearwater / Kuhls Pijlstormvogel *Calonectris borealis*, picked up at Fijnaart, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands, 27 September 1996 (photographed on 4 October 1996) *(Hans Westerlaken)*

**184-185** Cape Verde Shearwater / Kaapverdische Pijlstormvogel *Calonectris edwardsii*, off Senegal, October 1996 *(Tony Marr)*

the northern winter in Argentine and Brazilian waters (eg, Mougin et al 1988, Cantos & Gómez-Manzaneque 1996). Then, during the northern spring, they head north to Central and North American waters where they stay during the summer. Immature *borealis* return to their South American wintering grounds either via Central America or via Europe (Mougin et al 1988, Paterson 1997). Immature *diomedea* spend the northern winter in southern African waters. Then they return to the Mediterranean Sea and European Atlantic waters to spend the summer (Mougin et al 1988). The migration patterns of adult *borealis* and *diomedea* are less complicated. They migrate directly to and back from their South American and southern African wintering waters, respectively (Mougin et al 1988). Some *diomedea* overwinter in the Mediterranean Sea (Paterson 1997) and off the Atlantic coast of Morocco (Thibault et al 1997). Interestingly, *diomedea* has been recorded off New England, USA, and *borealis* off South Africa (Cramp & Simmons 1977). Vagrant *borealis* (and/or *diomedea*) are regular in the Indian Ocean (Thibault et al 1997) and have been recorded as far as New Zealand (Tunnicliffe 1982).

Birds regularly recorded at Eilat, Israel, most probably coming from the Indian Ocean, enter the Red Sea and end up at Eilat. Shirihai (1996) identifies them as *diomedea* but remarks that 'At Eilat a form slightly different from typical nominate *diomedea* is found, with slightly larger measurements (six trapped birds had wing 344-405 mm, av. 358) and darker upperparts'. This actually points towards *borealis* (cf measurements in Cramp & Simmons 1977) and, together with the remark that 'from Eilat, some continue overland above the Negev until they probably reach the Mediterranean', this may suggest that *borealis* could enter the Mediterranean Sea not only from the west but also from the east.

It is clear that distribution cannot be properly used as an aid in identification. This is especially true in the Atlantic Ocean where the two taxa can be present at the same time, even though the larger population of *borealis* may result in more vagrant records of this taxon. Around Britain and Ireland and in the North Sea, *borealis* is the 'more common' taxon. There are no proven records of *diomedea* in Britain and Ireland, *borealis* being the only taxon on the British list (British Ornithologists' Union 1992). All four *Calonectris* shearwaters collected in the Netherlands refer to *borealis* (van den Berg & Bosman 1999). However, the possible occurrence of *diomedea* around Britain and Ireland and in the North Sea should not be discarded. Another shearwater breeding in the (western) Mediterranean Sea, Balearic Shearwater *P mauretanicus*, is now known to be a scarce but regular summer and early-autumn visitor in the southern North Sea and a more common visitor off the British south coast.

The (very few) reports of *borealis* breeding in the Mediterranean Sea are also a reminder that not all Mediterranean birds are *diomedea*.

Further analysis of records in the non-breeding season should result in a more thorough knowledge of the distribution patterns of *borealis* and *diomedea*.

**Acknowledgements**

The encouragement and friendly comments of my colleague Anthony McGeehan induced me to pay more attention to these shearwaters. He has not only commented on the findings and characters described in this article but also reviewed earlier drafts (and corrected the English): very many thanks indeed. Dominic Mitchell provided information on where to watch birds in the Azores. Francesc Xavier Santaeufemia kindly accompanied me during sea-watches at Llobregat delta. The comments by the members of the editorial board of Dutch Birding improved the text.

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# Hybrids of Black Kite and Common Buzzard in Italy in 1996

*Andrea Corso & Roberto Gildi*

On 7 August 1996, Roberto Gildi discovered two strange-looking raptors in the Tolfa Hills, Lazio, Italy. After prolonged study and observation, RG concluded that the birds might be hybrids of Black Kite *Milvus migrans* and Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*. He asked Andrea Corso to study the birds to confirm his suspicion and to make an extensive and accurate analysis. The birds stayed in the area until at least 11 September 1996; they turned out to be among the most observed and popular birds in Italy, with several birders managing to get good views of them.

During the late spring of 1996, in a nearby area, a Black Kite and a Common Buzzard had been observed flying together on several occasions and were even seen displaying occasionally.

## Description

The described birds are frequently compared with Black Kite and Common Buzzard with which they were regularly seen.

SIZE & STRUCTURE Larger than Common Buzzard but slightly smaller than Black Kite. When perched, appearing very similar to Common Buzzard, although less bulky and more slender (plate 186). When perched on poles, assuming upright or horizontal posture but on ground always assuming horizontal posture. Wing-tip only few centimetres shorter than tail-tip, similar to Common Buzzard. Bill shape similar to Common Buzzard. Leg without feathering, quite long and stout, appearing slightly longer than in Black Kite; toes short and stout, apparently as in Black Kite but structure more similar to Common Buzzard. Nostril round and profound as in both species, not long and narrow as in European Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*. Head robust and rounded as in Common Buzzard, not long, small and flat-crowned as in European Honey-buzzard or Black Kite. However, in flight showing long and not very squat head, due to slightly longer neck, more like Black Kite rather than Common Buzzard. Head very often held pointing downward, giving birds humped appearance as in Black Kite. Wing-span longer than in Common Buzzard but appearing slightly shorter than in Black Kite. Hand longer and slimmer than in Common Buzzard, markedly directed backwards in flight. Fingers apparently also longer, more visible and more distantly spaced than in Common Buzzard, with five fingers well exposed (p6-10, with p8-9 longest; primaries numbered from inside); fingers often very arched-up during flight as in Black Kite. Wing broad as in Common Buzzard, with line of secondaries more convex, making wing look broader than in Black Kite. In flight, wings held arched as in Black Kite, especially hand from carpal joint bending downwards. Sometimes, wings held slightly forward, at same level as body (never higher as in Common Buzzard) but flat rather than raised. Tail longer and narrower than in Common Buzzard, not forked but square-ended with central rectrices slightly longer than outhermost, giving triangular shape. Individual feathers rather pointed.

HEAD & NECK Head warm pale brown, paler than upperparts, with paler and wider edgings to feathers, especially on nape. Forehead white with narrow and quite indistinct dark streaks (plate 186). Crown paler than side of neck and nape, whitish with dark-streaks, with also some streaks on side of neck. Chin, throat and part of ear-coverts uniform buffish-white, without visible streaking, forming pale gorget contrasting strongly with breast, also well visible during flight. Pale crown and forehead separated from pale gorget by dark eye-mask, typical of juvenile (and second-year) Black Kite, also visible during flight.

UPPERPARTS & UPPERWING Especially in flight, appearing very similar, almost identical, to typical juvenile Black Kite (plate 189). Upperparts warm pale brown with interspersed pale fringes. Mantle, rump and uppertail-coverts edged dull buffish or brownish. Remiges dark brown with bars (especially visible on paler primaries), slightly more visible and better marked than in typical Black Kite, thus more similar to Common Buzzard. Greater wing-coverts tipped buffish or buff-white; also primary coverts tipped buffish or buff-white but less obvious than on greater coverts; tips forming narrow bar across wing (plate 189), similar to juvenile Black Kite. Median wing-coverts with pale brownish or buffish edgings, forming broad diagonal pale band across wing, running from scapulars to carpal joint; this band obvious during flight but at large distance appearing less striking than in Black Kite. Scapulars (and to lesser extent tertials) edged buffish or brownish.

UNDERPARTS Underparts strikingly paler than upperparts as in Common Buzzard (in Black Kite normally only slightly paler). Side of breast pale brownish, tinged slightly darker and rufous on flank; centre of breast very pale, with upperbreast paler and more buff, and lower breast slightly darker with some rufous traces. Breast all dark-streaked as in Black Kite, forming band contrasting with belly and vent. Belly and vent very



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**186** Hybrid Black Kite x Common Buzzard / hybride Zwarte Wouw x Buizerd *Milvus migrans* x *Buteo buteo*, juvenile, Tolfa Hills, Lazio, Italy, August 1996 (*Daniele Ardizzone*)

**187-188** Hybrid Black Kite x Common Buzzard / hybride Zwarte Wouw x Buizerd *Milvus migrans* x *Buteo buteo*, juvenile, Tolfa Hills, Lazio, Italy, August 1996 (*Roberto Gildi*)

pale, buffish or buffish pink/orangish, without any streaks; vent and undertail-coverts contrasting strongly with tail. One individual showing dark spots on belly and less so on lower breast. Flank-feathers barred, not streaked as in Black Kite, with each feather showing dark mark along shaft, dark wedge-shaped spot near tip and dark, less wide, bar at base (eg, plate 186-187). Thigh ('trousers') barred but with narrower and less obvious marks, less wedge-shaped at tip (plate 187). Such mark never noted in Black Kite while some Common Buzzard show barred flanks and thigh.

UNDERWING Very remarkable and unlike any other European raptor. Primaries with white or greyish-white base and darker barring. Barring of primaries slightly less marked than on secondaries, on outermost primaries more greyish, less numerous and quite indistinct (even not visible in strong light). Primary-tips (especially fingers) black, strongly contrasting with pale base, much more marked, darker and contrasting than in other remiges; in fact, dark tips (of each feather), although slightly larger than other bars, not forming remarkable dark trailing edge typical of adult Common Buzzard. Secondaries all pale and evenly barred dark, with six to seven well-marked and visible black bars of same length and width, except last (distal) bar, being slightly larger and wider at tip (plate 187). Whole pale area (secondaries and base of primaries) as in Common Buzzard, with secondaries only shade darker than base of primaries as in most juvenile Common Buzzard, thus totally different from any Black Kite (in which secondaries visibly darker than base of primaries). Underwing-coverts pale brownish-rufous as in some richly coloured Black Kite, all pale-spotted and with some dark streaks and spots, especially on greater underwing-coverts; carpal area with pale marks but characterized by dark 'commas' as in Common Buzzard.

TAIL Uppertail coloured as in Black Kite but undertail distinctly paler, with greyish-white ground tone contrasting with body, thus more like Common Buzzard. Both uppertail and undertail showing pale buffish-cream terminal band, more contrasting and obvious from above, and six to eight black or blackish-brown bars across tail. All bars more contrasting on undertail. All bars of even width, more obvious than in adult Common Buzzard (in some photos, last one or two bars appearing more marked but this due to strong sunlight effect).

MOULT All feathers fresh.

BARE PARTS Eye dark brown, more like juvenile Black Kite than Common Buzzard (in which iris normally paler in juvenile). Bill bluish-black, cere yellow or greyish-yellow. Leg yellow-ochre, claws black.

BEHAVIOUR Slow gait when foraging on ground, with combined walks and short jumps. In flight, wings constantly manoeuvred and tail flexed side to side perfectly as in typical flight action of Black Kite.

VOICE Strange hiss, intermediate between Black Kite and Common Buzzard.

## Age

Both birds were aged as recently fledged juveniles because of: *1* presence of a dark eye-mask (typical of juvenile and second-year Black Kite); *2* absence of a black or dark conspicuous and contrasting terminal tail-band, wider than the bars (as in juvenile Common Buzzard); *2* absence of an obvious, striking black or dark trailing edge to the wings, with black on fingers contrasting with inner primaries and with secondaries (as in juvenile Common Buzzard); *4* stage of feather moult and wear: the feathers were fresh, especially the remiges and rectrices; *5* presence of narrow pale tips to the remiges forming a pale trailing edge to the wing as well as, and more markedly, to the rectrices, resulting in a pale terminal tail-band; *6* presence of pale tips and edgings to the greater and primary coverts; *7* longer, more pointed central rectrices (compared with other rectrices), creating a slight projection (as in juvenile Common Buzzard and, much more rarely, juvenile Black Kite); and *8* behaviour, both in hunting performance and interaction, with examples of typical juvenile play, behaviour in general in reaction to human presence.

## Identification

Initially, with only four photographs available, the Tolfa Hills raptors appeared very puzzling; the birds looked like typical juvenile Black Kite but with odd proportions and some strange patterns and field marks that we never have seen in any Black Kite, neither in European nor in eastern populations. Probably the strangest character was the pattern of the flank-feathers. Later, when many other photographs and additional field observations became available, the identification could be resolved.

Pure Common Buzzard could be eliminated by the different flight shape and wing position during flight (with wing held downwards like Black Kite) and flight behaviour (with the tail manoeuvring like Black Kite), different pattern of upperparts and breast streaking, and strange voice (see also some other characters mentioned in the description). Pure Black Kite could be excluded mainly by the barred flanks (never barred in Black Kite), pale secondaries (always darker in Black Kite) and wing structure. Having eliminated also all other known raptor species (cf Porter et al 1976, Forsman 1984, Clark & Wheeler 1987, Gensbøl 1992, del Hoyo et al 1994), only the hybrid theory can explain the birds under study. From the description, it is clear that the parents are a Black Kite and a Common Buzzard. There are seven characters of

**189** Hybrid Black Kite x Common Buzzard / hybride Zwarte Wouw x Buizerd *Milvus migrans* x *Buteo buteo*, juvenile, Tolfa Hills, Lazio, Italy, August 1996 *(Daniele Ardizzone)*

**190** Hybrid Black Kite x Common Buzzard / hybride Zwarte Wouw x Buizerd *Milvus migrans* x *Buteo buteo*, juvenile, Tolfa Hills, Lazio, Italy, August 1996 *(Roberto Gildi)*

Common Buzzard, eight characters of Black Kite, and five intermediate (see table 1).

One character, the shape of the markings on flanks and thighs, is seldomly found in Common Buzzard *B b buteo* (Andrea Corso pers obs) and is never encountered in Steppe Buzzard *B b vulpinus* (Bill Clark pers comm). The parentage of Black Kite is evident from the photographs and flight action of the Tolfa Hills birds. However, to many birders in the field, the birds looked more like a strange *Buteo* buzzard, eg, an odd Steppe Buzzard or a Long-legged Buzzard *B rufinus*.

The possible parentage of Red Kite *M milvus* or European Honey-buzzard also needs discussion. Red Kite was excluded for the following reasons: the hybrids did not have a fox-red tone nor a very long tail, they had differently coloured upperparts and, especially, tail and possessed a dark eye-mark. European Honey-buzzard was eliminated by: *1* the unfeathered tarsus; *2* the round and profound nostril (not long, narrow and inconspicuous as in European Honey-buzzard); *3* the rounded head with angled forehead (not flat-crowned, long with flat forehead as in European Honey-buzzard); *4* the presence of bars on the wing and black on the fingers as described above (juvenile European Honey-buzzard shows less visible bars (three to five, on average four), not evenly distributed, interspersed with some thinner and less visible other bars (observable only at very close range or in the hand)); *5* pale secondaries, only a shade darker than (or in some conditions as pale as) the base of the primaries (in juvenile European Honey-buzzard the secondaries are darker and less clean, contrasting more with the primaries); *6* tail marks as described above (juvenile European Honey-buzzard shows many narrow bars interspersed with four (rarely only three) principal dark bars that are noticeably more obvious and

TABLE 1 Summary of characters of Tolfa Hills hybrid raptors, indicating Common Buzzard / Buizerd *Buteo buteo* or Black Kite / Zwarte Wouw *Milvus migrans*, as well as intermediate characters

| **indicating Common Buzzard** | **indicating Black Kite** | **intermediate characters** |
|---|---|---|
| general shape when perched | general shape and structure in flight | size |
| shape of secondaries | wing formula | wing span |
| pattern on flank, thigh and undertail-coverts | shape and length of hand | structure and shape of tail |
| coloration of and markings on underparts | length of tail | foraging behaviour |
| pattern of underwing | pattern of upperparts | voice |
| pattern and coloration of undertail | breast-streaks | |
| length of legs | eye colour | |
| | flight action | |

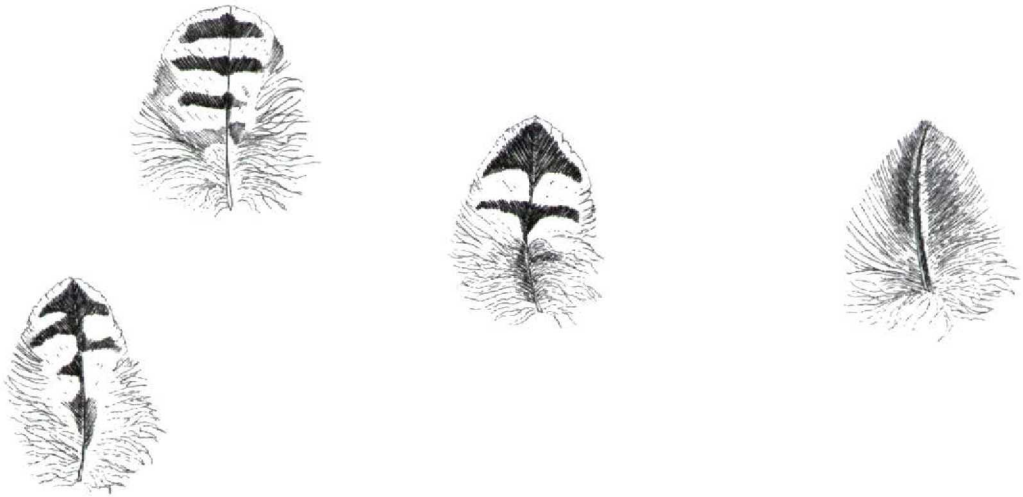

FIGURE 1 Flank-feathers. Centre: Tolfa Hills juvenile hybrid Black Kite x Common Buzzard / hybride Zwarte Wouw x Buizerd *Milvus migrans* x *Buteo buteo*; right: Black Kite; left: Common Buzzard, two different types *(Carmeluccia Cardelli)*

FIGURE 2 Breast-feathers. Centre: Tolfa Hills juvenile hybrid Black Kite x Common Buzzard / hybride Zwarte Wouw x Buizerd *Milvus migrans* x *Buteo buteo*, from upper breast (upper, similar to Black Kite) and lower breast (lower, similar to Common Buzzard); right: Black Kite, two different types, juvenile (upper) and adult (lower) and adult (lower); left: Common Buzzard, two different types *(Carmeluccia Cardelli)*

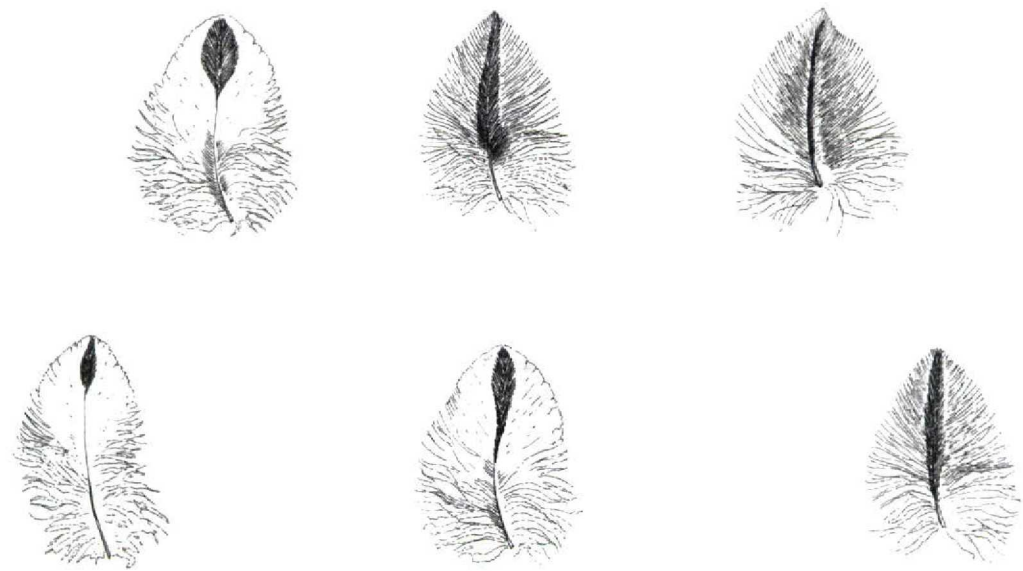

FIGURE 3 Rectrices. Centre: Tolfa Hills juvenile hybrid Black Kite x Common Buzzard / hybride Zwarte Wouw x Buizerd *Milvus migrans x Buteo buteo*; right: European Honey-buzzard / Wespendief *Pernis apivorus*; left: Common Buzzard / Buizerd *(Carmeluccia Cardelli)*

darker than the others and also wider); and 7 barred flanks and thighs, contrasting with unbarred vent, belly and undertail-coverts (juvenile European Honey-buzzard normally shows dark, evenly spotted underparts although they can rarely show bars).

**Discussion**

Hybridization among raptor species in the wild is uncommon but has been recorded before. There are several hybrids Red Kite x Black Kite (one in Germany and a few in Sweden, Wobus & Creutz 1970, Sylvén 1977). Other raptor hybrids or mixed pairs laying eggs include European Honey-buzzard x Oriental Honey-buzzard *P (ptilorhyncus) orientalis* (Vaurie 1965), Black Kite x Eastern Black Kite *M (migrans) lineatus* (Vaurie 1965), Cape Verde Kite x Black Kite *M fasciicauda x M migrans migrans* (Naurois 1972, Hazevoet 1995, Ortlieb 1988), Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* x Beaudouin's Snake-eagle *C beaudouini* (Brown 1974), Short-toed Eagle x Black-chested Snake-eagle *C pectoralis* (Brown 1974), Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* x Eastern Marsh Harrier *C spilonotus* (Vaurie 1965), Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* x Pallid Harrier *C macrourus* (Forsman 1993, 1995), Hen Harrier *C cyaneus* x Pallid Harrier (Fairclough 1995), Common Buzzard x Steppe Buzzard (Haffer 1989, 1992), Spanish Imperial Eagle *Aquila adalbertii* x Golden Eagle *A chrysaetos* (van den Berg & Sangster 1995) and Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus* x Grey Goshawk *A novaehollandiae* (Olsen & Olsen 1985). In the USA, many hybrids Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* x Prairie Falcon *F mexicanus* are known; there is also a record of Grey Hawk *Asturina plagiata* paired to and unsuccessfully nesting with a Red-shouldered Hawk *B lineatus* (Bill Clark pers comm).

In Europe, there are records of harriers which displayed to members of a different species, eg, males Pallid Harrier with female Hen Harrier,

FIGURE 4 Legs and feet. Left: Tolfa Hills juvenile hybrid Black Kite x Common Buzzard / hybride Zwarte Wouw x Buizerd *Milvus migrans* x *Buteo buteo*; right: European Honey-buzzard / Wespendief *Pernis apivorus* (*Carmeluccia Cardelli*)

Marsh Harrier or Montagu's Harrier (see overview in Forsman 1995 and references therein, Fairclough 1995; Dutch Birding 17: 119, 1995). The only successful hybridization in harriers was of a male Pallid paired with a female Montagu's raising three hybrid young in Finland in 1993 (Forsman 1995). Amongst European falcons, there are two known instances of copulating Common Kestrel *F tinnunculus* and Lesser Kestrel *F naumanni* but without nesting success (Andrea Corso pers obs).

In conclusion, the Tolfa Hills raptors are the first-ever recorded Black Kite x Common Buzzard hybrids and the first-ever known record in birds of prey, at least in the Western Palearctic, of hybridization between two different genera.

**Acknowledgements**

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## Surfbird in its non-surfing habitats

Surfbird *Aphriza virgata* is a New World shorebird with a restricted breeding range. It derives both its scientific ('striped bird living in sea foam', cf Jobling 1991) and English name from the microhabitat it occupies during all but a few months of the year. Surfbirds seldomly stray from the wave-washed rocky intertidal zone. Indeed, in terms of latitude spanned and width of preferred habitat, Surfbird holds the record among all the world's shorebirds for having the longest and narrowest wintering range, extending from central Alaska, USA, south to the Straits of Magellan, Chile.

These and other details of the Surfbird's life history have recently been summarized as part of the *Birds of North America* series (Senner & McCaffery 1997). However, these authors are quick to point out how little is actually known about this species. Especially lacking is information from the breeding season, when birds disperse to high alpine habitats throughout isolated regions of Alaska and the Yukon Territory, Canada. Indeed, despite a total population estimated at c 100 000 birds, probably fewer than two dozen nests have ever been reported for the species (Senner & McCaffery 1997).

Key aspects of the Surfbird's life history have sofar eluded description and, as a consequence, its relationship to other shorebirds has produced much debate. The short bill and legs, the colour patterns of tail and wings and several other characteristics have led some (eg, A Kistchinski pers comm) to posit that Surfbird and turnstones *Arenaria* are closely related, and further, that the similarity in breeding plumages between Surfbird and Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* developed independently in response to their similar habitats, albeit over disjunct breeding areas. Yet, from other studies of downy plumages (Jehl 1968) and acoustic signals (Miller et al 1987) in shorebirds, it appears that Surfbird is more similar to *Calidris* sandpipers.

Until recently, there were no detailed studies of the breeding biology and behaviour of either Surfbird or Great Knot from which further comparisons of their affinities could be made. During the mid-1990s, Great Knot was studied on its breeding grounds (Tomkovich 1995) and in 1996, Bennett (1996) located what appeared to be a 'workable' breeding population of Surfbirds in mountains 225 km WSW of Anchorage, Alaska. Through the help of the United States National Park Service (Lake Clark National Park and Preserve) we returned to Bennett's site, near Turquoise Lake, in spring 1997 to conduct the first study ever on the breeding biology of Surfbird. In this paper we highlight some of our findings and compare them with similar aspects of the biology of Great Knot.

The glaciers that carved out the 8 km long x 2.5 km wide Turquoise Lake have long ago retreated beyond the head of the lake, leaving behind a series of steep lateral moraines. The glaciers, however, remain very active and, although mostly out of sight from anywhere around the lake, the sounds of their movements and the local weather they create constantly reminded us of their presence. We would eventually learn that the actions of these same glaciers many millennia ago were ultimately responsible for the distribution of Surfbirds at the site.

**191** Surfbird / Brandingloper *Aphriza virgata*, territorial bird, Turquoise Lake, Alaska, USA, 21 May 1997 *(Pavel S Tomkovich & Robert E Gill Jr)*

**192** Surfbird / Brandingloper *Aphriza virgata*, Turquoise Lake, Alaska, USA, 26 May 1997 *(Pavel S Tomkovich & Robert E Gill Jr)*

We initiated our study at Turquoise Lake on 7 May 1997, a date we certainly expected to precede the arrival of any Surfbirds, based on limited previous information (Senner & McCaffery 1997). Our assumption proved wrong, however, and this only happened to be the first of many surprises this enigmatic shorebird would present to us during our 10-week stay. That evening during our initial excursion onto the northern and uppermost lateral moraine above camp, we were treated to several Surfbird display flights and accompanying vocalizations. Despite the lake below being completely ice-covered and snow still covering much of the higher tundra, it was clear that Surfbirds had already found the area to their liking.

The subsequent almost daily visits quickly revealed that Surfbirds were not distributed evenly over the site, but that they preferred to nest in areas with particular geomorphological features. Over the following weeks, we repeatedly found birds along this upper slope where we observed active flight displays and song, birds engaging in passionate fights with neighbouring males, and other observations that quickly convinced us that Surfbirds are indeed territorial during the early phase of the breeding period. Almost all pairs on the northern side of the lake were found between 910 and 1150 m above sea level (Turquoise Lake is 770 m above sea level) generally along the upper of a series of south facing, stair-stepped terraces that paralleled the lake. The picture that emerged after mapping locations of paired Surfbirds and interactions of males was an 8 km long chain of nesting birds centered along a relatively narrow band of sparsely vegetated lichen-dwarf scrub tundra and scree fields.

In our concerted efforts to discern reasons for the observed distribution of birds, we almost overlooked the commencement of nesting activities. The fact that finding Surfbird nests eventually proved to be no easier than finding nests of Great Knot, Red Knot *C canutus* or Bristle-thighed Curlew *Numenius tahitiensis* provided little consolation. It did, however, explain why so little had previously been known about their breeding biology. In the end, our daily searches and observations of birds eventually led us to three nests of the 10 pairs we were following on the study slope. By catching and equipping with radio transmitters four other non-incubating birds that had come to the outlet of the lake to feed, we were able to locate two additional nests on the study slope. From all these nests, we were able to back-date from known hatching dates and establish that the first eggs were laid in mid-May and that almost all clutches were complete by the end of May.

With respect to the habitat choice, the common feature of this small but revealing sample of nests was that all were placed among partly vegetated scree just below a terrace edge. The benefit of their doing this appeared two-fold. First, snow storms are not uncommon in May and early June at this site, but relatively little snow accumulates on the protruding portions of these slopes. What does occur there melts away more quickly than on other areas. Second, this nesting habitat is less attractive to Arctic Ground Squirrels *Spermophilus parryi*, which we found to be among the main predators of Surfbird eggs and possibly downy chicks.

The other major unknown aspect about Surfbird breeding ecology that was revealed to us was the role of individual parents in incubation and chick rearing. Through individually marked and radio-equipped birds we learned that both adults shared incubation duties, exchanging shifts once or twice each day. The non-incubating members of pairs then often flew off to feeding and loafing areas as far as 5-6 km from the nest. We also found that in nests that hatched early, both parents tended the brood, usually almost up to the time of fledging. In late hatching nests, however, only a single parent remained with the brood. Like other species of montane nesting waders (eg, Bristle-thighed Curlew and Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*) that we have studied elsewhere, adult Surfbirds gradually moved their broods up slope from the nest site onto higher habitats that were covered in snow during the early nesting period. Within a couple of days after fledging, adults had departed the area and by mid-July most Surfbirds were presumable once again a common feature of rocky intertidal habitats.

As stated previously, one of the reasons for studying Surfbirds was to obtain information that could be compared with that available for Great Knot in the hope it would shed some new light on their taxonomic relation. What then did we learn? Overall, the similarities between the two species far outnumbered the differences: *1* breeding plumages are comparable; *2* both species maintain territories during pre-nesting; *3* flight displays (including vocal repertoires) and predator avoidance strategies are similar; *4* macro- and microhabitat features during nesting are similar in many respects; and *5* both species exhibit similar parental care systems.

**193** Surfbird / Brandingloper *Aphriza virgata*, incubating female after hail, Turquoise Lake, Alaska, USA, 9 June 1997 *(Pavel S Tomkovich & Robert E Gill Jr)*

**194** Surfbird / Brandingloper *Aphriza virgata*, adult with downy young, Turquoise Lake, Alaska, USA, 11 June 1997 *(Pavel S Tomkovich & Robert E Gill Jr)*. Tundra is getting green at hatching

Combined, these shared traits strongly reinforce the idea that the two species evolved from common ancestral stock that occurred across Beringia (Theunis Piersma in litt). The most obvious differences between the two species are morphological (eg, leg size and bill shape), traits that appear to have been shaped by the specialized habitats each species occupies during the non-breeding period. These and other issues will be addressed more fully when we return to Turquoise Lake in the near future.

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## Colour variation in European Nuthatch

On 17 December 1996, in Park Sansouci in Potsdam, Germany, I noticed a flock of c 20 European Nuthatches *Sitta europaea*. One of these nuthatches looked different. It gave a darker overall impression and it lacked the red lower breast and belly of the continental subspecies *S e caesia*. The upperparts of the bird were identical with those of the other nuthatches, with the same shade of blue-grey from the forehead and crown down to the rump and tail and on the wings. However, this individual also had blue-grey flanks and a blue-grey belly and lower breast, of the same shade as the upperparts. The grey of the lower breast was separated from the rusty breast by a thin darker band, apparently continuing onto the ear-coverts and joining with the black eye-stripe. On the vent, it showed the normal brownish-rusty colour. The aberrant nuthatch did not call and moved along with the rest of the group, behaving identically to the other nuthatches.

There is no other species of nuthatch with the features shown in the photographs (cf Harrap & Quinn 1996) and no obvious hybrid candidate is available with blue-grey belly and flanks. Thus, the conclusion can be drawn that it most likely was a rare colour variation of the continental subspecies of European Nuthatch, possibly due to mutation.

**195** Aberrant European Nuthatch / afwijkende Boomklever *Sitta europaea*, Park Sansouci, Potsdam, Germany, 17 December 1996 (*Ignaz Wanders*)

**Reference**

Harrap, S & Quinn, D 1996. Tits, nuthatches & treecreepers. London.

*Ignaz Wanders, Mercatorpad 4, bus 401, 3000 Leuven, Belgium*

# Brieven

## Pale-headed great skuas

The unusually pale and bleached Great Skua *Stercorarius skua* shown in Keijl & Prins (1997) clearly invites confusion with South Polar Skua *S maccormicki*. The specimen was seen during my work for *Skuas & jaegers* (Malling Olsen & Larsson 1997) and is mentioned on p 66 (under 'variant').

Recent knowledge (Bourne & Curtis 1994) has proven that these very bleached first-year Great Skuas occur regularly and have confused observers to a large degree, leading to several misidentifications. Such birds may show a very pale head and underbody contrasting with the dark underwing. Furthermore, they show the typical irregular pale pattern on upperwing-coverts and mantle as would be expected, thus excluding South Polar Skua, which at most would show narrow pale streaks on the mantle and (especially lesser and median) upperwing-coverts. This makes the upperwing look much more uniform than the bicoloured upperwing of Great Skua.

As stressed in Malling Olsen & Larsson (1997), the pale 'blaze', sometimes regarded as diagnostic for South Polar Skua, may occur in all worn 'great skuas'. As South Polar Skuas which reach the Western Palearctic in late summer and autumn should be in fresh plumage, a strong 'blaze' is a most unreliable character for South Polar at this time of year – it much better fits worn Great Skuas! Newell et al (1997) present photographs of a large series of autumn birds off Senegal, none of which showed the 'classical' pale blaze. Furthermore, they never observed any very pale-headed birds. A pale 'morph' South Polar Skua is always an adult bird, whereas juveniles – based on photographs and skins – are much more homogenous grey. The 'battleship-grey' plumage of South Polar Skua probably refers to the juvenile plumage, as older birds tend to look browner, although still cold brownish.

### References


Bourne, W R P & Curtis, W F 1994. Bonxies, barnacles and bleached blondes. Br Birds 87: 289-298.

Keijl, G O & Prins, T G 1997. Vondst van bleke Grote Jager in Grevelingenmeer. Dutch Birding 19: 284-286.

Malling Olsen, K & Larsson, H 1997. Skuas and jaegers: a guide to the skuas and jaegers of the world. Mountfield.

Newell, D, Porter, R & Marr, T 1997. South Polar Skua – an overlooked bird in the eastern Atlantic. Birding World 10: 229-235.



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## Variability of field characters in adult Pontic Gull: a comment

I very much enjoyed the recent articles in Dutch Birding on Pontic Gull *Larus cachinnans cachinnans*. The second of these (Liebers & Dierschke 1997) was most interesting as it provided information on the variability of field characters, for the first time from the breeding grounds. However, I would like to gently challenge their conclusions (summarized in the final paragraph in Liebers & Dierschke 1997) that: *1* 'there are differences in field characters compared with earlier identification papers'; and *2* that variation (particularly of bare-part colours) renders these characters as not useful in identification.

Liebers & Dierschke (1997) for the most part confirmed the variation already described in, for example, Garner & Quinn (1997). It is, therefore, somewhat surprising to read Liebers & Dierschke (1997), in referring to, for example, iris colour, state that 'According to Garner & Quinn (1997) ... the iris colour is more or less dark-coloured in *cachinnans* ...' In fact, the relevant text in Garner & Quinn (1997) reads: 'Iris colour on nominate *cachinnans* ranges from pale yellow to cloudy, dull yellow-brown, or completely dark, looking blackish at long range. Two-thirds of the British individuals so far reported have shown dark eyes.'

Discounting other observers' reports (which may have been biased towards identifying dark-eyed birds), Garner & Quinn's (1997) ratio for iris colour was c 65% dark and c 35% pale. Indeed, Garner & Quinn (1997) published a photograph of a nominate with a pale iris (Br Birds 90: 376,

**196** Pontic Gull / Pontische Meeuw *Larus cachinnans cachinnans*, adult, Mucking, Essex, England, 24 August 1996 *(Bob Glover)*

**197** Yellow-legged Gull / Geelpootmeeuw *Larus michahellis*, adult, Mucking, Essex, England, October 1996 *(Bob Glover)*

plate 117, 1997), and another photograph of the same individual is published here (plate 195).

Variability in bare-part colours does not render them defunct as field characters. *Cachinnans* with a pale iris seen in Britain still tended to show other bare-part colours within the typical range of this form, which in combination with each other and other field characters, facilitated a clear identification.

In this regard, in plate 290 in Liebers & Dierschke (1997), the iris colour differs between the two individuals, but the bill and leg colours are similar and within the typical range of *cachinnans*.

**References**

Garner, M & Quinn, D 1997. Identification of Yellow-legged Gulls in Britain. Br Birds 90: 25-62.

Liebers, D & Dierschke, V 1997. Variability of field characters in adult Pontic Yellow-legged Gulls. Dutch Birding 19: 277-280.

*Martin Garner, 35 Meeting House Lane, Lisburn, Antrim BT27 5BY, Northern Ireland*

## Common Tern variation and pale bill-tips: a comment

Mystery photographs offer a unique opportunity to make short comments on certain individuals, and are generally not intended to appear as 'main papers'. Peter Kennerley's comments (Kennerley 1997) on mystery photograph 58 (Malling Olsen 1997) were useful regarding what Common Tern *Sterna hirundo tibetana* looks like when *fresh*. Of course, the grey coloration in the underparts is strongest when the plumage is very fresh, becoming gradually paler during the breeding season. I have based my knowledge on series of skins, mainly at the Natural History Museum (NHM) at Tring, England, all from breeding sites in Tibet. A disadvantage of skin series is surely that most may be collected within a short period on a certain spot, leaving large 'gaps' in knowledge on yearly variation, but suitable for taking measurements. This could not be substituted by studying 100s of live birds.

Kennerley (1997) shows what fresh *tibetana* may look like and has given some useful comments on the coloration of underparts and bare parts. Note, however, the similarities between underpart coloration in plate 294 (Dutch Birding 19: 283, 1997) and the Common Tern *S h hirundo* in similar fresh plumage in Malling Olsen & Larsson (1995, plate 81). Also, I tend to agree with Kennerley that plate 87 in Malling Olsen & Larsson (1995) may be *S h minussensis*, which may be an intergrade form between *hirundo* and *longipennis*. The photo was taken in evening light, affecting the coloration of the birds, making exact colours and shades hard to judge.

My conclusion that the 'mystery tern' was an unusually dark-patterned *hirundo* was based on discussions with the late Claudia Wilds concerning similar birds observed in the USA, which

**198** Common Tern / Visdief *Sterna hirundo hirundo*, adult summer, Stellendam, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 4 July 1994 *(Klaus Malling Olsen)*. Note pale extreme tip to bill **199** Common Tern / Visdief *Sterna hirundo hirundo*, adult moulting to winter plumage, Lelystad, Flevoland, Netherlands, 9 September 1995 *(Klaus Malling Olsen)*. Note extent of pale bill-tip, which gradually becomes more extensive in late summer and autumn before bill in winter becomes all black

would be even more out-of-range for the short-distance migrating *tibetana*. A further indication was that neither Kennerley nor me have ever seen the grey axillaries in any *hirundo* and *tibetana*, although I have noticed a slight grey wash in a bird (*hirundo* or *minussensis*) photographed in Kazakhstan in June. In that individual, the bill coloration was close to the Hong Kong *tibetana* (darker red with broader black bill-tip). Note also, that the 'mystery tern' photographs are rather dark, especially affecting the appearance of the upperparts – in my opinion this may well be a photographic effect rather than reality.

A pale tip to the bill is *not*, as stated by Kennerley, a unique feature of *tibetana*. It occurs in *hirundo* as well, as shown by the summer plumaged adult in plate 198. During development of the dark winter bill, the pale bill-tip becomes more extensive, sometimes as much as to create a look reminiscent of Sandwich Tern *S sandvicensis* (plate 199; see also plate 82 in Malling Olsen & Larsson 1995).

**References**

Kennerley, P R 1997. Dark Common Terns. Dutch Birding 19: 283-284.

Malling Olsen, K 1997. Mystery photograph 58: Common Tern. Dutch Birding 19: 20.

Malling Olsen, K & Larsson, H 1995. Terns of Europe and North America. London.

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# Corrigenda

Bij de foto van Ruigpootuil *Aegolius funereus* (Dutch Birding 20: 147, plaat 108, 1998) is het verkeerde jaartal vermeld; het correcte jaar is 1993 (niet 1996).

Bij de foto van Huiskraai *Corvus splendens* (Dutch Birding 20: 190, plaat 152, 1998) heeft een verwisseling plaatsgevonden. De afgebeelde vogel betreft niet de adulte vogel van Kollumerpomp, Friesland, maar de juveniele vogel van Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland. Het correcte onderschrift luidt: Huiskraai / House Crow *Corvus splendens*, juveniel, Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland, 23 juli 1998 *(Leo J R Boon/Cursorius)*. REDACTIE

The photograph of Tengmalm's Owl *Aegolius funereus* (Dutch Birding 20: 147, plate 108, 1998) was wrongly captioned; the correct year is 1993 (not 1996).

The photograph of House Crow *Corvus splendens* (Dutch Birding 20: 190, plate 152, 1998) was switched. The bird in the photograph is not the adult at Kollumerpomp, Friesland, but the juvenile at Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland. The correct caption should read: Huiskraai / House Crow *Corvus splendens*, juveniel, Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland, 23 juli 1998 *(Leo J R Boon/Cursorius)*. EDITORS

# Recensies

WULF GATTER 1998. *Birds of Liberia*. Pica Press, The Banks, Mountfield, Nr Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5JY, UK. 320 pp. ISBN 1-873403-63-1. GBP 40.00.

J S ASH & J E MISKELL 1998. *Birds of Somalia*. Pica Press, The Banks, Mountfield, Nr Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5JY, UK. 320 pp. ISBN 1-873403-58-5. GBP 40.00.

These are two beautifully produced books, both to be considered major contributions to African ornithology. The books roughly follow the same outline, including a brief introduction, history of ornithology (Liberia 4.5 pages, Somalia 10 pages), geology and topography, climate, vegetation zones (10 and 28 pages), biological, respectively breeding seasons (8 and 2 pages), migration (11 and 9 pages), conservation, various appendices, gazetteer and bibliography. Several of these chapters in *Birds of Somalia* are contributions by others than the authors of the book. *Birds of Liberia* has been written entirely by Wulf Gatter, except for two small sections on 'Phenology of Liberian lowland forest insects' and 'Aspects of biogeography'. In the systematic list of Birds of Liberia, 615 species are dealt with on 157 pages, in that of Somalia 654 species on 217 pages. Distribution maps, based on half-degree grid squares, have been included in many Liberian and in *all* Somali species accounts. As a result, most pages in the systematic list section of *Birds of Somalia* have plenty of blank space to add additional notes...

In geographical terms, Liberia is regarded as one of the least known countries of Africa: large areas have never even been mapped. This country holds the most extensive area of rainforest within the upper Guinea region of West Africa. Serious ornithological work was only undertaken for the first time in the 1960s and 1970s. Wulf Gatter has carried out over 15 years of research in Liberia. As a professional forester, he gives a clear and detailed account of forest vegetation and ecology of forest birds. Many new data on foraging heights and composition of mixed species flocks are presented in a large chapter and in two appendices (3 and 14 pages). The species accounts, where relevant, summarize details on distribution, habitats, ecology, and annual cycle. Four nice colour plates by Martin Woodcock show 29 characteristic species. In addition, there are colour photographs of 56 species, 30 colour photographs of habitats, most half page, and 21 monochrome plates of various subjects, making this book more illustrated than *Birds of Somalia*.

Ornithologically, Somalia has been probably the least known of any country in Africa. The author's statement 'we like to think now that this deficiency has been somewhat overcome' is too modest indeed! John Ash and John Miskell have carried out an impressive amount of fieldwork during many years of residency. This is reflected by the map showing squares from which there are ornithological observations, the majority of which were visited by the authors (although 40 of these squares have never been visited by ornithologists!). Over 70% of the 20 000 records used to compile the distribution maps were provided by the authors. Indeed, the essence of the book are the 654 distribution maps. The species accounts give the preferred habitat, relative abundance, details on migration, breeding season and clutch size. Five excellent colour plates by Martin Woodcock depict 25 little-known birds special to the region, including Somalia's seven endemics: Somali Rock Pigeon *Columba oliviae*, Warsangeli Linnet *Acanthis johannis*, and five lark species.

I will refrain from making the usual remarks on numbers of bird books published and their prices, but still would like to express my doubt that more than a few copies of these books will find their way to either of the countries. And that is a pity! PETER L MEININGER

BARBARA MEARNS & RICHARD MEARNS 1998. *The bird collectors*. Academic Press, 525 B Street, Suite 1900, San Diego, California 92101-4495, USA; 24-28 Oval Road, London NW1 7DX, UK. 472 pp. ISBN 0-12-487440-1. USD 59.50, GBP 43.95.

Barbara and Richard Mearns have become well known as 'ornitho-historical' researchers by a series of books published in the last decade. *Biographies for birdwatchers* (1988) contained 90 biographies of naturalists and other people commemorated in Western Palearctic bird names. *Audubon to Xanthus* (1992) in a similar fashion described the lives of over 100 persons whose name is kept in memory in Nearctic bird names. Their third major work on a row, *The bird collectors*, again builds on the fascination both authors have for the people who played important roles in the ornithological history from the last two centuries. This book describes the work and lives of all those who have collected birds in various ways and for various reasons. Together, these collected birds nowadays form an invaluable treasure of documentation and information, which serves the ornithological community up to today and will continue to do so probably for centuries to come. The authors try to cover the whole field of bird collecting, first touching upon collecting for other than scientific reasons (eg, for food, sport or fashion) but devoting most of the book to scientific bird collecting. They describe how in the 17th to 19th century private collections became fashionable (many of which have later merged into institutional collections). Also the practicalities of for instance catching and killing, skinning and preparing and sending specimens home are discussed. The following chapters each describe a different aspect of bird collecting and the various collectors, focussing on the variety of people and institutions involved in collecting, such as bird artists, government-sponsored expeditions, army officers,

clergymen and missionaries, the 'great accumulators' and the professional field collectors of the last 150 years. Separate chapters are devoted to female collectors and the protectionist and conservationist collectors, more a phenomenon of the 20th century than of earlier days. The book ends with a chapter discussing the importance of old and n w bird collections and highlights the ethical aspe ts of continued collection in such a way that it enables the reader to form his own opinion and draw his own conclusion. An appendix gives a list of the world's 69 largest study skin museums. The British Museum of Natural History (BMNH) is on a firm first place with a collection of c 1 million skins; the two influential Dutch collections are at modest positions, as far as the number of skins is concerned: position 16 (NNM, Leiden) and 37 (ZMA, Amsterdam), respectively.

The chosen clustering in chapters sometimes takes the reader back and forth in time and the reasons for some clusters may be argued, but in general this approach adds the necessary context and results in interesting extra information. The text is readable and informative and several black-and-white illustrations enliven the works and lives of the people described and flavour the book with a strong feeling of 'days-gone-by'. As a sidestep, I personally experienced that every person mentioned in the books induces the reader to find a bird species in which his or her name continues to be remembered. Contrary to the first two books mentioned above, which are centered completely around this 'nam -giving' theme, *The bird collectors* tells a complete story of a fascinating aspect of ornithology and invites the reader to read the whole story rather than 'zapp' through the biographies as in the other two books. For those interested in the development of ornithology this is a fascinating book and therefore highly recommended. If it shows one thing, it is the fact that the eagerness and perseverence of modern-day birdwatchers, be they professionals or amateurs, to trace birds in the most remote corners of the earth may differ from the gone-by bird collectors as far as tools and methods are concerned, but not in the mentality that drives them. ENNO B EBELS

# DBA-nieuws

**25% korting op British Birds** Nog altijd komen Dutch Birding-abonnees in aanmerking voor een korting van 25% op de abonnementsprijs van British Birds. Hierdoor kost dit abonnement voor 1999 slechts GBP 36.00. Zoals bekend verschijnt British Birds maandelijks. Voor een abonnement of een proefnummer kunt u zich wenden tot: Mrs Erika Sharrock, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ, UK, telefoon & fax +44-1234364366.

**Betaling van abonnementsgeld voor 1999** Bij dit nummer van Dutch Birding treft u een acceptgirokaart aan waarmee het abonnementsgeld voor 1999 kan worden betaald. De abonnementsprijs is hetzelfde als voor 1998 en bedraagt NLG 65.00 (Nederland) of BEF 1320 (België). Wij verzoeken u het abonnementsgeld voor 1 februari 1999 over te maken. In verband met de kosten die verbonden zijn aan het versturen van herinneringen en aanmaningen zal voor latere betalers NLG 5.00 extra in rekening worden gebracht.

Voorts verzoeken wij u om alle correspondentie over abonnementszaken te richten aan: Dutch Birding Association, p/a Jeannette Admiraal, Iepenlaan 11, 1901 ST Castricum, Nederland.

**Payment of subscription for 1999** We request our subscribers to pay their subscription fee for 1999 as soon as possible. The subscription rate remains unchanged. For subscribers in Europe the rate is NLG 72.50 and for subscribers outside Europe NLG 77.50. We kindly request to follow the instructions on the enclosed invoice. Subscribers in Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway and Sweden are requested to use *exclusively* the Dutch Birding giro accounts in these respective countries, as indicated in the invoice. Subscribers in Britain and Ireland are requested to pay *exclusively* by Sterling cheque and to follow the instructions on the enclosed invoice. Subscribers in the remaining European countries (except those resident in the Netherlands and Belgium) are requested to use a Eurocheque or credit card (Access, Eurocard, MasterCard or Visa; please state account number and expiry date and append signature). Please, do not pay by bank (NLG 20.00 extra costs), cheque (NLG 20.00 extra costs) or our giro account in the Netherlands (NLG 6.50 extra costs). Subscribers who have not paid by 1 February 1999 will be charged NLG 5.00 extra to compensate administration costs.

For all subscription matters, please use the following address: Dutch Birding Association, c/o Jeannette Admiraal, Iepenlaan 11, 1901 ST Castricum, Netherlands.

**Uitverkochte nummers van Dutch Birding** Veelvuldig doen leden navraag waar zij *uitverkochte* nummers van Dutch Birding kunnen vinden. Een goed advies was helaas nooit voorhanden en tot op heden hebben wij mensen moeten teleurstellen. Hierbij doen wij een dringend beroep op de lezer die wellicht in het bezit is van dubbele nummers of misschien geen prijs meer stelt op zijn oude nummers. Bent u zo iemand, of kent u zo iemand? Neem dan even contact op met Ron van den Enden, Molenveltlaan 30, 2071 BS Santpoort-Noord, Nederland, telefoon 023-5375389. Over een redelijke vergoeding valt natuurlijk te praten!

**Out-of-stock back issues of Dutch Birding** Frequently, subscribers request information where to find back issues of Dutch Birding that are out of stock. Good advice was, unfortunately, not available and we had to disappoint many of those interested. Therefore, we want to appeal to readers who perhaps have duplicate copies or who are no longer interested in keeping their copies. Do you have back issues available, or do you know somebody who has? If so, please, contact Ron van den Enden, Molenveltlaan 30, 2071 BS Santpoort-Noord, Netherlands. A reasonable price can be negotiated!

**DBA-vogeldag op 6 februari 1999 te Utrecht** Het programma van de traditionele DBA-vogeldag op zaterdag 6 februari 1999 is bekend. We zijn erin geslaagd om voor deze dag de bekendste Amerikaanse vogelaar van dit moment te strikken, Jon Dunn, auteur van *The large gulls of North America* (video) en co-auteur van *National Geographic Society field guide to the birds of North America* en *A field guide to warblers of North America*. Het programma ziet er als volgt uit: 09:00 zaal open voor publiek; 09:30 opening (Gijs van der Bent); 10:00 warblers of North America (Jon Dunn); 11:15 pauze; 11:45 mystery bird competitie 1 (Dominique Verbelen, Gunter de Smet & Gerald Driessens); 12:15 pauze; 13:15 mystery bird competitie (oplossingen en prijsuitreiking); 14:00 pauze; 14:30 identification of dowitchers, sandpipers & large gulls (Jon Dunn); 15:15 pauze; 15:45 jaaroverzicht 1998 België; 16:00 jaaroverzicht 1998 Nederland (Wim Wiegant); 17:05 sluiting; 17:30 zaal dicht voor publiek.

De locatie van de DBA-vogeldag is het inmiddels al even traditionele Hoofdgebouw Diergeneeskunde aan de Yalelaan 1 (in De Uithof) te Utrecht, Utrecht, bereikbaar met de auto via afslag 'De Uithof' vanaf de A27 en A28, na het AZU-ziekenhuis de eerste weg rechts, en met de bus vanaf Utrecht CS met de lijnen 11 en 12.

In de foyer zal de gebruikelijke 'vogelaarsbeurs' opgesteld worden die tevens dienst doet als sociaal ontmoetingscentrum. Door beter gebruik te maken van de beschikbare ruimte kunnen behalve de bekende standhouders (onder meer Combi Focus, DBTRS, Ger Meesters Boekprodukties, Natuur & Boek/Naturalis, Moby Dick) enkele nieuwe namen aan het aanbod van stands worden toegevoegd. Via de Dutch Birding-vogellijn en Internet zal het laatste nieuws hierover worden gegeven

Wegens groot succes krijgt de stand van de CDNA dit jaar een vervolg. Er komt een kleine diaprojector in de stand te staan voor het geval dat er bezoekers zijn met dia's van echte 'mystery birds'. De truien en polo's met Dutch Birding-logo die tijdens de DBA-vogelweek op Texel te koop waren vielen zeer in de smaak en zijn allemaal uitverkocht. Niet-Texelgangers krijgen op de DBA-vogeldag echter een herkansing: in de DBA-stand zullen naast de gebruikelijke oude nummers van Dutch Birding ook truien, polo-shirts, t-shirts en petten te koop zijn. Mensen die benieuwd zijn naar de DBA-website op Internet kunnen deze bekijken op twee pc's ter plaatse. Uiteraard is ook het Dutch Birding-video-jaaroverzicht in de foyer te zien. GIJSBERT VAN DER BENT

# Aankondigingen & verzoeken

**Griffon Vulture nesting surveillance project in Israel** The National Parks and Nature Reserve Authority of Israel is running a nesting surveillance project for Griffon Vultures *Gyps fulvus* in Gamla Nature Reserve in northern Israel/Golan heights. The study aims to uncover reasons for the decline of this, Israel's largest, Griffon Vulture population. Nesting pairs will be observed, monitored and tracked during their nesting and incubation period.

The nests are situated in crevices along the walls of a deep canyon in the beautiful Gamla Nature Reserve, which also holds the largest colony of raptors in Israel, such as Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*, Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*, Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*, Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus* as well as Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*.

Volunteers are required for monitoring and recording data during the nesting season and will participate in radio-telemetry tracking. The project will run from December 1998 through September 1999. Accommodation and basic subsistence will be provided. Commitment of at least four weeks is preferable.

Those interested are requested to contact the following address, where also more information on the project can be obtained: Gamla Nature Reserve, PO Box 70, Katzrin 12-900, Golan Heights, Israel, telephone +972-66963721 (work) or +972-66963879 (home), fax +972-66961166, e-mail ferro@internet-zahav.net.

**New owners of Texel Birdwatching Center** The Texel Birdwatching Center (TBC) at De Cocksdorp, Texel, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, has recently changed ownership and is now managed by Cor and Ineke Brandsema. Also telephone and fax numbers have changed: telephone +31-222316899, fax +31-222316688.

**Nieuwe eigenaars Texel Birdwatching Center** Het Texel Birdwatching Center (TBC) in De Cocksdorp, Texel, Noord-Holland, is onlangs van eigenaar veranderd en wordt nu beheerd door Cor en Ineke Brandsema. Ook telefoon- en faxnummer zijn veranderd: telefoon 0222-316899, fax 0222-316688.

# Masters of Mystery

SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

## Solutions of fourth round 1998

The solutions of mystery photographs VII-VIII of the fourth **round** of 1998 (Dutch Birding 20: 182-183, 1998) appear below.

**VII** This photograph shows a rather strange looking animal that is even somewhat difficult to recognise as a bird. The position of the head and the use of flashlight, resulting in some parts of the bird being overexposed, make this bird look so mysterious. Fortunately, this does not alter the fact that there are some features visible on the photograph. These are a both very deep- and broad-based bill, rather broad but diffuse supercilia between the eye and bill, a dark crown, and a pale, unmarked throat and neck/breast.

Immature Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* shows most of these features, but in non-juvenile plumage, when the neck and breast are no longer clearly streaked, this species already shows a whitish forehead. Also Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* and most (juvenile) crakes *Porzana* resemble the mystery bird in some respects, but the bills of these species are not as broad- and deep-based as that of the mystery bird. Only Corn Crake *Crex crex* shows the right features to fit this odd photograph.

This Corn Crake was photographed at Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands, on 20 May 1990 by Leo Boon. Another photograph of the same bird appears as plate 200. It was identified correctly by 21% of the entrants. Incorrect answers included Baillon's Crake *P pusilla* (13%), Common Quail (11%), Night Heron (8%), Little Crake *P parva* (8%) and also some passerines such as Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* and Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*.

**VIII** The combination of yellowish-toned underparts, olive-green upperparts, pale and bright yellow lores without a hint of a dark loral stripe, just visible broad bill-base, pale edges to the secondaries forming a wing-panel, square-ended tail and pale-edged outer tail-feathers points towards either a Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* or an Icterine Warbler *H icterina*. A good feature for separating these two species is presented by the structure of the closed wing, most importantly the primary-projection. In Icterine, the length of the primary-projection often equals more or less that of the exposed tertials, whereas the primary-projection of Melodious is shorter, often about half of the tertial length. However, there is some variation in the primary-projections of Icterine and Melodious and individuals with a primary-projection of about two-thirds of the tertial length can be found in both, though more regularly in Melodious. Hence, the primary-projection of the mystery bird could probably fit both species. In such a case it is important to study the number of visible primary-tips and the spacing between them. Firstly, there are about six primary-tips visible beyond the tertials in the mystery bird. This best fits Melodious, which usually shows five or six (but sometimes seven) visible primary-tips on the closed wing, whereas Icterine usually shows seven or eight visible pri-

**200** Corn Crake / Kwartelkoning *Crex crex*, Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands, 20 May 1990
*(Leo J R Boon/Cursorius)*

mary-tips. Secondly, the primary-spacings of the mystery bird are all of roughly equal length. This also suggests Melodious, since in Icterine the spacings between the visible primary-tips often increase towards the wing-tip.

On the other hand, the fairly contrasting wing-panel of the mystery bird suggests an Icterine Warbler, which typically shows a prominent wing-panel formed by the pale-edged secondaries. In many Melodious Warblers, the wing-panel is almost absent, but quite regularly Melodious shows a rather well-developed wing-panel (especially in spring). Additionally, the legs of the mystery bird are brown like that of most Melodious. Icterine usually has blue-grey legs, but some Melodious have grey legs as well and Icterine occasionally has rather brownish legs.

Fortunately, there is one feature shown in the mystery photograph that confirms this bird's identity as a Melodious Warbler. This is the length of the outermost primary (p1). In the photograph it is clearly visible that p1 is longer than the primary coverts. This fits Melodious, which has p1 2.5-8 mm longer than the longest primary covert, whereas in Icterine Warbler p1 is shorter, varying from 3 mm shorter to 3 mm longer than the longest primary covert.

This Melodious Warbler was photographed at Taliouline, Morocco, on 18 April 1997 by Arnoud van den Berg. 18% of the entrants identified it correctly, while the rather unusual prominent wing-panel of this Melodious attracted 25% of the entrants towards Icterine Warbler. Other incorrect answers included Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* (22%) and Chiffchaff *P collybita* (20%).

There were 12 entrants with one correct answer, but only three entrants succeeded in identifying both mystery birds correctly: Hannu Jännes and Jyrki Normaja from Finland and Sander Lagerveld from the Netherlands. All three of them will receive a copy of *Bird Identification – a reference guide* by Kristian Adolfsson and Stefan Cherrug, donated by Skånes Ornitologiska Förening.

Hannu Jännes is now the sole leader of the competition with seven correct answers out of eight mystery birds, followed by Sietse Bernardus, Jan van der Laan, Sander Lagerveld, Timo Marijnissen, Mark Nieuwenhuis, Jyrki Normaja and Dave van der Spoel with five correct answers, seven entrants with four, 18 entrants with three, 57 entrants with two, 32 entrants with one and 30 entrants with zero (see also http://www.xs4all.nl/~eland/dutchbirding).

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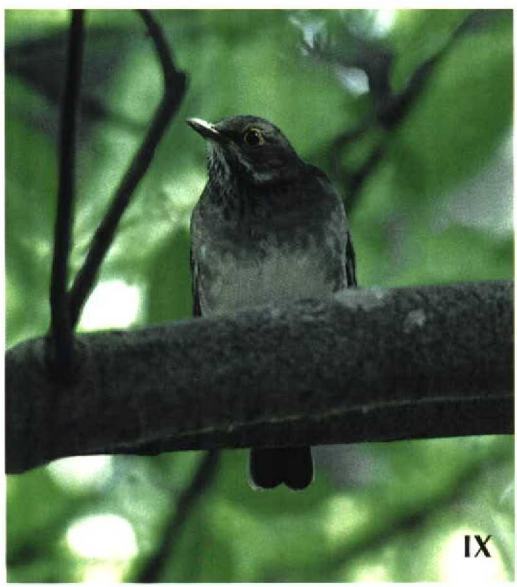
## Fifth round 1998

Please, study the rules (Dutch Birding 20: 42-43, 1998) carefully and identify the birds in mystery photographs IX and X. In mystery photograph X, only the bird in the centre of the picture has to be identified (not all birds in this photograph are necessarily of the same species). Solutions can be sent in three different ways:

- by *postcard* to Dutch Birding Association, Postbus 75611, 1070 AP Amsterdam, Netherlands
- by e-mail to d.s.kok@students.chem.uu.nl
- by Internet via the homepage of the Dutch Birding Association, http://www.xs4all.nl/~eland/dutchbirding

Entries for the fourth round have to arrive by **31 December 1998**. From those entrants having identified both mystery birds correctly, three persons will be drawn who will receive a copy of *A field guide to warblers of North America* by Jon Dunn & Kimball Garrett, donated by Houghton Mifflin (publishers). Swarovski Bene-



lux will award a pair of the highly acclaimed Swarovski SLC 8x30 WB binoculars to the overall winner at the end of the competition (after six rounds).

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# WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic in **late September-October 1998** and focuses on north-western Europe. Many reports from early September can be found in Dutch Birding 20: 126-135, 1998. 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.

At Hortobágy, Hungary, 44 **Lesser White-fronted Geese** *Anser erythropus* had arrived by 24 September. In the Netherlands, there were 61 reports of colour-rings in the winter of 1997/98, including 35 at Anjum, Friesland, 22 at Petten, Noord-Holland, and 13 at Strijen, Zuid-Holland (some referring to the same individuals). During October, seven **Ring-necked Ducks** *Aythya collaris* and 11 **Surf Scoters** *Melanitta perspicillata* were seen in Britain and Ireland. Also in October, the male **Lesser Scaup** *A affinis* in Switzerland (locally regarded as an escape) was present for its seventh winter at Les Grangettes, Lac Léman (cf Dutch Birding 15: 83-84, 1993, 16: 78, 1994, 17: 29, 1995). Three individuals (including two females) turned up at Loch of Spiggie, Shetland, Scotland, on 1-4 November. During October, 10 **American Wigeons** *Mareca americana* were seen in Britain. Last winter's male **Black Duck** *Anas rubripes* at Barrow Harbour, Kerry, Ireland, was again present from 16 August until at least mid October. In the Azores, a male was reported on 26 September. The first for mainland England in more than 30 years was at Stithians reservoir, Cornwall, from 29 October into November. If accepted as a wild bird, a **Marbled Duck** *Marmaronetta angustirostris* near Linz from 29 August into September would be the first for Austria. An adult summer **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* which returned to Rostellan Lake, Cork, Ireland, on 26 July remained into November. Another was seen at Villeneuve-d'Ascq, Nord, France,

on 27-29 September. From 28 October to 1 November, one was present on Bryher, Scilly, England. The second or third **Great-winged Petrel** *Pterodroma macroptera* for North America was photographed on 18 October during a Monterey Bay pelagic trip 10 miles off Point Pinos, California, USA. The first **Cape Verde Shearwater** *Calonectris edwardsii* for the Canary Islands was seen from the Gomera ferry on 13 October. If accepted, a **Cory's Shearwater** *C borealis* flying north past Camperduin, Schoorl, Noord-Holland, on 1 November will be (only) the eighth for the Netherlands. Possibly, the largest influx ever of **European Storm-petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus* for the Netherlands occurred on 26-31 October when at least 50 individuals were seen at various sites, mostly at Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland; during the previous influx, on 21-24 September 1990, 27 individuals were recorded. In November 1996, the first breeding **Leach's Storm-petrels** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* for the Southern Hemisphere were found on Dyer Island, South Africa (Ostrich 69, 1998).

In the Azores, a **Little Blue Heron** *Hydranassa caerulea* was reported on Pico on 5-10 October and a **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*, **Western Reef Egret** *Egretta gularis* and **Great White Egret** *Casmerodius albus* were seen at Ponta Gosdos Taetanos on 26 October. The breeding population of **Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra* in south-eastern Belgium reached c 20 pairs in 1998 with c 65 young being raised (the first confirmed breeding was as recent as 1989). In the Netherlands, an influx of **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* occurred with flocks of three to seven between 4 and 18 October at Eemshaven, Groningen (seven on 4 October), Harlingen, Friesland (five on 4 October), Gaast, Friesland (five on 10-18 October), Den Hoorn, Texel, Noord-Holland (three on 17 October), and De Putten, Camperduin, Noord-Holland (three on 18 October). Exceptional numbers of **Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia* were seen in September in Finland (a flock of 20; only eight previous records), Norway (a flock of 10 in Nord-Trøndelag on 22 September and more than six at three other sites from 20 September into October), Sweden (a flock of 15 in Västerbotten on 16 September and three singles on 17-26 September) and Northern Ireland (at least three first-winters in October; only three previous records). At Fanel, Lac de Neuchâtel, Switzerland, a flock of six juveniles **Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus* was present from 1 September into at least early November; one of these was colour-ringed in the Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, France. The first breeding of **Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* for Catalonia, Spain, concerned two pairs at the Lleida steppes, of which one pair raised two young. As in previous autumns, a **Rüppell's Vulture** *Gyps rueppellii* was seen between Algeciras and Tarifa, Cádiz, on 3 October; three individuals were reported in September. In Sweden, at least 15 **Pallid Harriers** *Circus macrourus* were seen in the second half of September and, in Finland, eight juveniles were recorded in September. During October, there were several reports as well, including an adult at Steigen, Nordland, Norway, on 27 October and a juvenile 30 km from Lund, Skåne, Sweden, on 30 October. A ringed juvenile **Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus* stayed near Aalen at Ostalbkreuz, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, from September into November. If accepted, a juvenile north-east of Malmö, Skåne, on 20 September will be the eighth for Sweden. At Falsterbo, Skåne, at least seven **Lesser Spotted Eagles** *Aquila pomarina* were seen during September; others were, eg, on Öland. If accepted, a female-type **Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni* briefly seen at Kongelunden, København, Nordsjælland, on 1 October will be the ninth for Denmark. In France, two **Eleonora's Falcons** *F eleonorae* were still present on 18 September in the Camargue. In Skåne, one was seen on 30 September. In 1997, the wild population of **Mauritius Kestrel** *F punctatus* had risen to 540 from only four individuals in 1974. In the winter of 1997/98, the number of **Whooping Crane** *Grus americana* at Aransas, Texas, USA, was 171 individuals, including a

**201** Glossy Ibises / Zwarte Ibissen *Plegadis falcinellus*, Gaast, Friesland, Netherlands, 11 October 1998 *(Mark Zekhuis)*

**202** Long-tailed Skua / Kleinste jager *Stercorarius longicaudus*, Altmühlsee, Bayern, Germany, August 1998 *(Thomas Sacher)*

**203** Wilson's Snipe / Wilsons Snip *Gallinago delicata*, Lower Moors, St Mary's, Scilly, England, October 1998 *(Iain H Leach)*

**204** Demoiselle Crane / Jufferkraanvogel *Anthropoides virgo*, adult, Mariahoop, Limburg, Netherlands, 17 September 1998 *(Jan den Hertog)* **205** Least Sandpiper / Kleinste Strandloper *Calidris minutilla*, Rogerstown, Dublin, Ireland, 25 September 1998 *(Paul Kelly)* **206** Buff-breasted Sandpiper / Blonde Ruiter *Tryngites subruficollis*, Oye-Plage, Pas-de-Calais, France, 23 September 1998 *(Roger Tonnel)* **207** Willet / Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*, first-winter, La Belle-Henriette, Vendée, France, 13 September 1998 *(Jean-Yves Frémont)* **208** Long-billed Dowitcher / Grote Grijze Snip *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, Leighton Moss, Lancashire, England, October 1998 *(Steve Young/ Birdwatch)* **209** Terek Sandpiper / Terekruiter *Xenus cinereus*, De Putten, Schoorl, Netherlands, Noord-Holland, 10 October 1998 *(Jan den Hertog)*

**210** Common Nighthawk / Amerikaanse Nachtzwaluw *Chordeiles minor*, adult female, Ouessant, Finistère, France, September 1998 *(Miguel Vergès)*

record 29 young. In Cyprus, flocks of **Demoiselle Crane** *Anthropoides virgo* passed through during 2-10 September with several flocks of over 100 individuals, the largest being 180 at Akrotiri on 2 September. In Israel, one was seen at Kfar Ruppin on 5 September. An adult at Montfoort, Limburg, the Netherlands, from 20 August until at least 25 October was alleged to have missing remiges and was regarded by many as being of doubtful origin. A **Little Bustard** *Tetrax tetrax* stayed at the Quendale area, Shetland, on 4-6 October before being picked up with a broken wing.

The seventh **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus* for the Cape Verde Islands was recorded on São Vincente from 16 September to at least 3 October. On 10-11 October, a **Sociable Lapwing** *Vanellus gregarius* stayed at Étang de Lindre, Moselle, France. In Kent, England, two single first-winters were present during mid October. On 24 October, in Spain, an adult was found at the same spot as last year in Bellvis, Lleida. In the Netherlands, surprisingly, the adult **White-tailed Lapwing** *V leucurus* staying at Assendelft, Noord-Holland, from 21 February to 8 March returned on 4 September and was still present in large flocks of Northern Lapwing *V vanellus* on 9 October. The third **Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus* for Spain was reported at Ensenada da Insúa, La Coruña, on 14-16 September. The second **Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla* for Northern Ireland was an adult summer at Belfast Lough on 13-18 August. During September, at least three juveniles were discovered in Ireland. In England, one stayed in Sussex on 12-23 September. A juvenile was reported on 10 October in La Coruña, Spain. The first **Western Sandpiper** *C mauri* for Iceland was a juvenile at Bakkatjörn, Seltjarnarnes, from 26 August. In France, singles were reported near Marais de Monporteau, Les Sables d'Olonne, Vendée, on 9-12 September and at Guerande Saltern, Loire-Atlantique, on 20 September. A juvenile was at Deerness, Orkney, Scotland, from 28 September to 3 October. The third **Red-necked Stint** *C ruficollis* for Massachusetts, USA, stayed for several weeks at Duxbury in August. From 12 to 27 September, two juvenile **Least Sandpipers** *C minutilla* were at Rogerstown, Dublin, and at Shannon, Clare. In Ireland, four **Baird's Sandpipers** *C bairdii* were seen in September in Cork, Dublin and Wexford. Also during September, one Least was reported for Scilly and five Baird's for England and Wales. The fourth Baird's Sandpiper for Finland and the first twitchable was a juvenile at Hailuoto on 20-22 September. The third for Northern Ireland was at Lough Beg, Londonderry, on 12 October. The first **White-rumped Sandpiper** *C fuscicollis* for Israel was a juvenile at Ma'agan Mikhael on 29 September. In the Azores, a variety of Nearctic waders was reported at Praia da Vitoria, Terceira, on 14-15 October: at least three **American Golden Plovers** *Pluvialis dominica*, at least five **Semipalmated**, one **Western**, at least two **Least**, two **Baird's** and at least four **Pectoral Sandpipers** *C melanotos*, and one **Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*. The first **Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus* for the USA away from Alaska turned up at Jamaica Bay, New York, on 27 August. The second **Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago delicata* for Europe (and the first for Britain) was at Lower Moors, St Mary's, Scilly, from 10 October into November. If accepted, an adult **Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus* at Falguérec, Morbihan, from 27 August to 10 October will be the first for France. On 5-6 September, a juvenile was photographed at Calderra Branca, Flores, Azores (Birding World 11: 337, 1998). A first-winter **Long-billed Dowitcher** *L scolopaceus* at Llobregat delta, Barcelona, from 30 October into November was the seventh for Spain. There were two or more **Upland Sandpipers** *Bartramia longicauda* in Cornwall, England, between 17 September and 2 October. A juvenile **Lesser Yellowlegs** stayed at Seiruga, La Coruña, on 13-16 September. There were five in Britain and one in Ireland during September. The first Wood Sandpiper *T glareola* for Newfoundland, Canada, was found at Renews on 11 November. A Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* at De Putten, Noord-Holland, on 9-11 October constituted the first October record for the Netherlands. The second **Willet** *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* for France (and the first for the 20th century) was a first-winter on 12-13 September at La Belle-Henriette lagoon between La Faute-sur-Mer and La Tranche-sur-Mer, Vendée. In England, a juvenile **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularia* was photographed

**211** Hermit Thrush / Heremietlijster *Catharus guttatus*, Galley Head, Cork, Ireland, 25 October 1998 *(Paul Kelly)*

**212** Blyth's Pipit / Mongoolse Pieper *Anthus godlewskii*, Sein, Finistère, France, October 1998 *(Marc Duquet)*

at Bawdsey, Suffolk, during 9-20 September and another was seen at South Walney, Cumbria, on 27 September. In the second half of September, four single **Wilson's Phalaropes** *Phalaropus tricolor* were seen in Ireland and one in France. On 10-11 September, a juvenile was present in England. A first-year **Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus* was photographed at Altmühlsee, Bayern, in August. The long-staying **Great Skua** *S skua* at Lac Léman, Switzerland, remained through October. A juvenile **Great Black-headed Gull** *Larus ichthyaetus* photographed on 5 September at Altwarmbüchener See, Hannover, Germany, was again seen from 21 September to at least 9 October (cf Dutch Birding 20: 186, plate 147, 1998). On 11-20 October, an adult **Franklin's Gull** *L pipixcan* stayed at Baltray, Louth, Ireland, and (possibly the same bird) at Eglwyss Nunydd, West Glamorgan, Wales, from 28 October to 1 November. The seventh **Ring-billed Gull** *L delawarensis* for the Netherlands, which stayed from 18 January 1998 to 11 February and again from 18 September at Goes, Zeeland, was still present in mid November. In eastern Niedersachsen, Germany, **Baltic Gulls** *L fuscus* were found in a larger number than usual during the first half of October. A first-summer **Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* was seen at Istanbul, Turkey, on 26 September. After conquering the WP in the 1950s, **Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* now seems on its way to do the same in the USA with first state records in 1998 for Delaware and Wisconsin. Single **Common Nighthawks** *Chordeiles minor* were reported from the Lizard, Cornwall, on 7 September, on St Agnes, Scilly, England, on 8-14 September (when it died), and on St Mary's, Scilly, on 12-21 September (Birding World 11: 338-340, 1998). The first for France stayed on Ouessant, Finistère, on 17-28 September. This summer, **Little Swift** *Apus affinis* was again reported from Bolonia, Cádiz, Spain. A female **Belted Kingfisher** *Ceryle alcyon* at Mosfellsdalur, Iceland, on 6-19 September may have been the same bird discovered on 17 May at Hafnir, Gardur, but the one on 19 June at Myrar could be a different individual. A **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *Merops persicus* was seen at Campitello, Corse, France, on 23 September. On 18 September, a **European Roller** *Coracias garrulus* was found at Helsingborg, Skåne.

A **Steppe Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla longipennis* stayed at Malinmore, Donegal, Ireland, on 19-29 October. From 21 August to at least 28 September, a **Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata* stayed at Trondheim, Sør-Trøndelag. In Israel, three **Oriental Larks** *Alauda gulgula* were reported at Kfar Ruppin during early October and two were at the sewage farm north of Eilat on 22-23 October. On Raso, Cape Verde Islands, 45 pairs of **Raso Lark** *A razae* were counted in 1998 (the estimation in 1992 was 250 pairs). If accepted, a **Cliff Swallow** *Hirundo pyrrhonota* on Ouessant on 27 October will be the first for France. The second **Blyth's Pipit** *Anthus godlewskii* for Israel was observed near Kfar Ruppin on 24-25 September. On 16 October, one was briefly seen at Mariensiel, Wilhelmshaven, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. The second for France stayed on Sein, Finistère, on 18-19 October. The 12th for Finland was a first-winter at Hanko on 4-6 November. The second **Olive-backed Pipit** *A hodgsoni* for Switzerland was trapped at Col de Brétolet on 9 October. This species' number in western Europe showed a slight increase compared with the past five years. For instance, the first twitchable for Belgium stayed at Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, on 4-6 November and the first since 1992 for Utsira, Rogaland, Norway, was found on 5 October. In Shetland, **Pechora Pipits** *A gustavi* were seen on Fair Isle on 24-26 September, 1-3 October and 5-6 October and one was on Fetlar on 8 October. In Orkney, one was at Deerness on 10 October. The first **Siberian Accentor** *Prunella montanella* for Lithuania was trapped at Ventės Ragas on 20 October. A **Grey Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis* came

aboard the Queen Elizabeth II a few km off the USA and remained high up on the heli deck, where it was regularly fed, during the entire voyage in October via England and past Spain east to Corfu, Greece, before it flew off at Malta. Single adult males **Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus* were present at Longstone, Farne Island, Northumberland, England, on 25 September and at Foveran, Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, on 27-28 September. First-winters stayed at Gammelgarn, Gotland, Sweden, on 3-4 October and at St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, Kent, on 18-19 October. Another was at Cuxhaven, Schleswig-Holstein, on 2-6 November. The first **Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina* for Fair Isle stayed from 20 September. One was found at Ardmore, Strathclyde, Scotland, on 26 September. In France, two were present at Campitello, Corse, on 21-23 September and one at Plomeur, Finistère, from 26 September to 3 October. In England, two singles occurred from 26 September to 4 October in North Yorkshire and Suffolk. A **Pied Wheatear** *O pleschanka* was seen at Le Hâble d'Ault, Somme, France, on 6 October. Others turned up in England at Spurn Point, East Yorkshire, on 2-5 October, and in Finland at Hanko from 31 October to 4 November and at Uusikaupunki on 1 November. A male **black-eared wheatear** *O hispanica/melanoleuca* was reported on Öland, Sweden, on 29 September. The ninth **Desert Wheatear** *O deserti* for Finland was a female at Kirkkonummi on 5-6 November. From 29 September to 5 October, a **White's Thrush** *Zoothera aurea* stayed at Leirfjord, Nordland, Norway. In Scotland, one was found dead as a window victim at Ormiston, East Lothian, on 13 October and a second stayed in a garden on Lewis, Outer Hebrides, on 14-27 October. The first **Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus* for Ireland was a first-year at Galley Head, Cork, on 25-26 October. On Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, a **Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus ruficollis atrogularis* was present on 16-17 October. A first-winter male **American Robin** *T migratorius* stayed on St Agnes on 26-28 October.

On Fair Isle, **Pallas's Grasshopper Warblers** *Locustella certhiola* were seen on 30 September, 1-2 October and 3-7 October. Another turned up in Lincolnshire, England, on 3 October. In France, one stayed on Ouessant on 11-15 October. In Shetland, **Lanceolated Warblers** *L lanceolata* were present on Unst on 22 September and five occurred on Fair Isle between 26 September and 10 October. The third **Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola* for Ireland stayed in the only tree of East Town, Tory Island, Donegal, on 21 September; in the same tree, a **Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* was present that day. Both birds were also trapped and ringed; on 30 September, the East Town tree produced a **Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*. In 1998, **Cape Verde Warbler** *A brevipennis* was rediscovered as a breeding bird on São Nicolau, Cape Verde Islands (the only other known breeding population occurs on

**213** Radde's Warbler / Raddes Boszanger *Phylloscopus schwarzi*, Vlieland, Friesland, Netherlands, 11 October 1998 *(Ran Schols)*

Santiago). In Scilly, an **Olivaceous Warbler** *A pallidus* stayed on St Agnes from 23 September to 8 October. If accepted, a **Booted Warbler** *A caligatus* at Fanel on 7 October will be the first for Switzerland. A much debated individual trapped at Revtangen, Jæren, Rogaland, Norway, on 6 October may have been a Sykes's Warbler *A rama* but was identified by many as Paddyfield Warbler. The first **Green Warbler** *P nitidus* for Greece was trapped on Antikythira on 18 September. The third **Arctic Warbler** *P borealis* for Denmark was seen at Blåvands Huk, Esbjerg, Vestjylland, on 28 September. It was the poorest autumn since more than a decade for **Yellow-browed Warbler** *P inornatus* in the Netherlands, while 140 were reported during October in Britain. In Finland, 42 **Pallas's Leaf Warblers** *P proregulus* were seen during October, while there were nine in Britain during 4-9 October (exceptionally early). On 2 November, a **Hume's Warbler** *P humei* was reported at St Margaret's, Kent. Four were found in Finland between 11 and 31 October. The 11th **Radde's Warbler** *P schwarzi* for the Netherlands stayed on Vlieland, Friesland, on 10-11 October and the eighth for Germany was on Helgoland on 24 October. In Norway, a **Siberian Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca blythi* was reportedly trapped at Klepp, Rogaland, on 16 October. The first **Red-throated Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva albicilla* for Sweden (and the first west of its breeding range in Russia) was a first-year at Segerstad Fyr, Öland, on 26 October. The first **Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus* for Shetland was on Out Skerries on 18 October. There are rumours that, since a few years, an established population of **Vinous-throated Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis webbianus* or a related parrotbill species of captive origin is flourishing in reedbeds in northern Italy.

On 7-8 October, a **Short-toed Treecreeper** *Certhia brachydactyla* stayed on Helgoland (where it is about as rare as in Britain). If accepted, two **Eastern Great Grey Shrikes** *Lanius excubitor homeyeri* trapped on Lågskär on 3 October and at Joensuu on 30 October will be the first and second for Finland. A first-year **Steppe Grey Shrike** *L pallidirostris* was present at Munkfors, Värmland, Sweden, on 6-18 October. Two were reported from the Negev area, Israel, on 12-13 October. On 24-27 September, an adult **Daurian Starling** *Sturnus sturninus* stayed at Durness, Highland, Scotland. The male **Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniolensis* present from July 1996 at Waterside, Cumbria, England, remained the entire period. On 13-14 September, a **Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* was seen on Ouessant. A first-winter was found dead on Bardsey, Wales, on 19 September. From 3 November, one stayed at Helston, Cornwall. In Värmland, Sweden, an invasion of **Pine Grosbeaks** *Pinicola enucleator* was reported for late October; apparently, also larger numbers than usual of **Three-toed Woodpecker** *Picoides tridactylus* occurred here. On 8 November, the first four Pine Grosbeaks had reached Skagen, Nordjylland, Denmark. An invasion of **Common Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* took place in Nordsjælland, Denmark, where no less than 5475 were counted migrating in the morning of 3 November at Gilleleje; in November, good numbers were also reported for the Netherlands. The third **Pine Bunting** *E leucocephalos* for Switzerland was a male trapped near Locarno, Tessin, on 4 November. In Israel, a **Rustic Bunting** *E rustica* was seen at Kibbutz Shizzafon on 25 October. If accepted, a **Yellow-breasted Bunting** *E aureola* on Tory Island on 21 September will be the fourth for Ireland. A **Black-headed Bunting** *E melanocephala* was discovered on North Ronaldsay, Orkney, on 27 September. In Scilly, a first-summer male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus* stayed on Bryher from 30 October to 1 November. A **Bobolink** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* was present at Durigarth, Shetland, from 28 September to 5 October.

For a number of reports, publications in Ardeola, Birding World, Birdwatch, British Birds, Limicola, Ornithos, Vår Fågelvärld, Winging It, Wingspan 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 Rafael Armada (Turkey), David Bigas, Alberto Boto, Mags Brindle, P A Buckley, Alain Chappuis, Rolf Christensen, Tony Clarke (Canarian Nature Tours), Tim Collins, José Luis Copete (Turkey), Andrea Corso (Israel and Italy), Eric Dempsey, Jochen Dierschke (Germany), Guus van Duin, Hugues Dufourny, Marc Duquet, Enno Ebels, Klaas Eigenhuis, Lambart von Essen, Peter Fraser (UK), Gonçalo Elias, Tommy Frandsen (Azores), Jeff Gordon (Cyprus), Detlef Gruber, Marcello Grussu, Morten Günther, Ricard Gutiérrez, Cornelis Hazevoet, Felix Heintzenberg (Sweden), Martin Helin, Ferdy Hieselaar, Steve Howell, Erling Jirle, Adrian Jordi, Vitautas Jusys (Lithuania), Yves Kayser, Chris Kightley, Guy Kirwan (OSME), Pierre Le Maréchal (France), André van Loon, Blake Maybank, Anthony McGeehan, Peter Meininger, Richard Millington, Geir Mobakken, Colm C Moore, Oystein Nilsen, Mika Ohtonen, Gerald Oreel, Gerard Ouweneel, Daniel Petersson, Gunnlaugur Pétursson, Stefan Aki Ragnarsson, Luciano Ruggieri (Italy), Holger Schritt, Bob Scott, Ricardo Tome, Brian Unwin, Martin Vavrik, Roland van der Vliet, Ian Wallace and Arend Wassink (Israel) 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 **augustus-september 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

GANZEN TOT VALKEN Vroege **Dwergganzen** *Anser erythropus* werden gezien op 5 september in de Workumerwaard, Friesland, en op 29 september op de Plaat van Scheelhoek, Zuid-Holland. Eveneens vroeg waren de twee **Witbuikrotganzen** *Branta hrota* die op 26 september gemeld werden langs Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland. De grootste groep **Krooneenden** *Netta rufina* telde 44 exemplaren en verbleef op 12 september in Botshol, Utrecht. **Witoogeenden** *Aythya nyroca* werden gezien van 20 tot 24 september bij Oost-Maarland, Limburg, en op 24 september op het Harderbroek, Flevoland. Voor zeetrek waren er twee periodes met gunstige wind: van 13 tot 29 augustus en van 9 tot 19 september. In de eerste periode werden enkele 10-tallen **Noordse Stormvogels** *Fulmarus glacialis* gemeld. In de tweede periode waren vooral 14 en 15 september buitengewoon, met op enkele telposten 100en tot 1000en exemplaren. Zo vlogen er op 15 september c 3000 langs Camperduin, Noord-Holland, en c 10 000 langs Texel, Noord-Holland. Opvallend is dat er op die dag ten zuiden van Katwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland, slechts enkele 10-tallen per telpost werden gezien. In totaal werden c 170 **Grauwe Pijlstormvogels** *Puffinus griseus* geteld, waarvan c 20 in augustus en de rest in september. **Noordse Pijlstormvogels** *P puffinus* werden gezien op 13 en 21 augustus (totaal acht) en van 10 tot 17 september (c 60). **Vale Pijlstormvogels** *P mauretanicus* vlogen op 13 augustus langs Den Helder, Noord-Holland, en Westkapelle, Zeeland, op 6 september langs Scheveningen, op 9 september langs Terschelling, Friesland, en op 15 september langs de Westerslag op Texel. **Stormvogeltjes** *Hydrobates pelagicus* werden gemeld op 25 augustus langs de Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, op 15 september langs Texel, Westkapelle, en Petten, Noord-Holland, op 16 september langs Den Helder en op 17 september bij Westkapelle en de Blocq van Kuffeler, Flevoland. Behalve vier **Vale Stormvogeltjes** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* tussen 21 en 25 augustus waren er c 155 tussen 13 en 17 september, waarvan het merendeel langs Zuid-Holland en Zeeland. De laatste vloog op 29 september langs Terschelling. **Kuifaalscholvers** *Stictocarbo aristotelis* verbleven op 17 augustus en van 19 tot 25 september bij IJmuiden, Noord-Holland, op 20 augustus bij Scheveningen, van 16 tot 19 september maximaal twee aan de zuidpunt van Texel, op 17 en 18 september vlogern er twee langs Westkapelle en op 19 september werd er één gezien bij de Maasvlakte. Er was een melding van een juveniele **Woudaap** *Ixobrychus minutus* op 27 augustus in de Foppepolder bij Vlaardingen, Zuid-Holland. **Kwakken** *Nycticorax nycticorax* verbleven op 5 en 6 augustus in De Doort ten zuiden van Echt, Limburg, en op 14 augustus bij de visvijvers van Valkenswaard, Noord-Brabant, en twee exemplaren bij Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland. Voorts was er een melding in september bij Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht, Zuid-Holland. **Koereigers** *Bubulcus ibis* pleisterden nog tot 12 augustus (maximaal twee) in het Friese Lauwersmeergebied, Friesland, en na lange tijd van afwezigheid weer bij Camperduin van 6 tot 29 september. **Kleine Zilverreigers** *Egretta garzetta* bleven vooral in Zeeland talrijk met in de omgeving van de Grevelingen minimaal 60. Elders in Nederland werden er slechts enkele gezien. **Grote Zilverreigers** *Casmerodius albus* verbleven van 7 tot 12 augustus in de Lauwersmeer, Groningen, op 5 en 6 september bij Olst, Overijssel, op 17 september bij Delft, Zuid-Holland, op 22 september op de Strabrechtse Heide, Noord-Brabant, en op 26 september bij Bergambacht, Zuid-Holland (drie). Recordaantallen **Zwarte Ooievaars** *Ciconia nigra* deden Nederland aan. Ruim 60 exemplaren werden gemeld, voornamelijk in de eerste helft van augustus. met tot ver in september her en der nog doortrekkers en pleisteraars. De grootste groep telde 13 exemplaren en vloog op 7 augustus langs Katwijk aan Zee. Een groep van 62 **Wespendieven** *Pernis apivorus* werd gezien op 8 september vanaf een trektelpost bij Kerkrade, Limburg. **Zwarte Wouwen** *Milvus migrans* werden opgemerkt op 2 augustus bij Huisduinen, Noord-Holland, op 9 augustus op de Maashorst, Noord-Brabant, op 17 augustus bij Deventer, Overijssel, en op 26 september bij Den Haag, Zuid-Holland. **Rode Wouw** *M milvus* was opvallend schaars met op 11 augustus één over Groningen, Groningen. Een vrijwel adulte **Zeearend** *Haliaeetus albicilla* werd op 22 en 23 september gezien op de Strabrechtse Heide. Er waren weer eens meldingen van **Slangenarenden** *Circaetus gallicus*: op 6 augustus op de Maashorst, op 20 september over Eindhoven, Noord-Brabant, en aan de Praamweg, Flevoland, en op 25 september over Rijswijk, Zuid-Holland. Een grote **arend** *Aquila* werd op 1 augustus gezien in de omgeving van Numansdorp, Zuid-Holland. **Dwergarenden** *Hieraaetus pennatus* werden gemeld op 5 september bij het Vossemeer, Overijssel, op 15 september bij Montfort, Limburg, en op 18 sep-

**214** Zwarte Ooievaar / Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, Texel, Noord-Holland, 14 september 1998 *(Eric Koops)*

**215** Morinelplevier / Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*, Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, 5 september 1998 *(Chris Schenk)*

**216** Hop / Hoopoe *Upupa epops*, Alkmaar, Noord-Holland, 3 oktober 1998 *(Johan van der Louw)*

tember bij Den Haag. **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus* waren opvallend talrijk, met c 90 voornamelijk van eind augustus tot begin september. Verspreid over de periode werden 11 **Roodpootvalken** *Falco vespertinus* gezien.

RALLEN TOT STERNS **Kwartelkoningen** *Crex crex* werden gezien op 4 september bij Budel-Dorplein, Noord-Brabant, en op 27 september bij Katwijk aan Zee. Een groepje van 19 **Kraanvogels** *Grus grus* was op 19 september aanwezig bij Arcen, Limburg, en één exemplaar verbleef op 25 september in de Eemshaven, Groningen. Vanaf 20 augustus tot in oktober bevond zich een adulte, ongeringde **Jufferkraanvogel** *Anthropoides virgo*, van dubieuze oorsprong maar door velen bezocht, tussen Montfort en Mariahoop, Limburg. Op 16 augustus verbleef er ook één (of dezelfde) bij Puth, Limburg. Tot 12 augustus verbleven maximaal twee **Steltkluten** *Himantopus himantopus* bij het Oudeland van Strijen, Zuid-Holland. De **Vorkstaartplevier** *Glareola pratincola* van het Stinkgat bij het Rammegors, Zeeland, bleef daar tot 1 augustus. Op die dag werd ook een exemplaar waargenomen bij de Oesterdam, Zeeland. Op 16 augustus was er één aanwezig in het gebied De Blikken bij Groede, Zeeland. Er werden c 45 **Morinelplevieren** *Charadrius morinellus* gemeld, voornamelijk in de eerste helft van september. De groep op de Maasvlakte groeide van 7 tot 9 september aan tot 18. De **Aziatische Goudplevier** *Pluvialis fulva* van De Putten van Camperduin, Noord-Holland, werd daar alleen op 1 augustus nog gezien. Een **Amerikaanse Goudplevier** *P dominicus* verbleef van 20 tot 24 september langs de Muidenweg bij het Veerse Meer, Zeeland. De **Steppekievit** *Vanellus gregarius* van Spaarndam, Noord-Holland, bleef daar tot ten minste 17 augustus. Voor enkele waarnemers die begin dit jaar in het buitenland verbleven was het een opluchting dat de **Witstaartkievit** *V leucurus* vanaf 4 september terug was bij Assendelft, Noord-Holland. De zesde en zevende **Grijze Strandloper** *Calidris pusilla* voor Nederland werden, zij het soms op grote afstand, gezien van 5 tot 12 augustus op de Slikken van Bommenede, Zeeland, en van 8 tot 22 augustus in de Ezumakeeg, Friesland. **Gestreepte Strandlopers** *C melanotos* in deze periode waren de volgende: op 3 en 4 augustus bij Neer, Limburg, van 1 tot 12 september bij 't Zand, Noord-Holland, op 7 september in de Eemshaven en van 9 tot 11 september bij Assendelft. De Ezumakeeg leverde ook de tweede en derde **Siberische Strandloper** *C acuminata* voor Nederland op. Van 6 tot 8 augustus liepen ze er allebei en daarna tot 23 augustus nog één. De traditionele Texel-week leverde een **Blonde Ruiter** *Tryngites subruficollis* op die van 16 tot 19 september in Polder Eijerland verbleef. De enige verifieerbare **Poelsnip** *Gallinago media* verbleef, eveneens tijdens de Texel-week, op 18 en 19 september nabij de Horsmeertjes op Texel. **Poelruiters** *Tringa stagnatilis* pleisterden nog tot 22 augustus (maximaal vijf) in de Ezumakeeg, tot 12 september maximaal twee op het Rammegors, tot 16 september op Texel, op 3 augustus bij de Lepelaarsplassen, Flevoland, op 8 augustus bij Spaarndam en bij Sint-Maartensvlotbrug, Noord-Holland, op 9 augustus in De Putten van Camperduin en op 2 september op de Westplaat bij de Maasvlakte. Van half augustus tot half september werden ruim 40 **Grauwe Franjepoten** *Phalaropus lobatus* gemeld. Een **Rosse Franjepoot** *P fulicaria* vloog op 24 september langs Scheveningen. Slechts enkele 10-tallen **Middelste Jagers** *Stercorarius pomarinus* werden vooral tussen 13 en 19 september gemeld. Meer dan 50 gemelde **Kleinste Jagers** *S longicaudus* kwamen, zoals zoveel zeevogels, in twee pieken door: 25 van 22 tot 29 augustus en 28 van 12 tot 18 september. **Grote Jagers** *S skua* werden vooral gemeld tussen 13 en 19 september (in totaal ruim 250). Bij **Vorkstaartmeeuw** *Larus sabini* waren er eveneens de twee pieken: 13 tussen 23 en 29 augustus en 24 tussen 13 en 18 september. Een adulte **Ringsnavelmeeuw** *L delawarensis* was wederom aanwezig bij Goes, Zeeland, en wel vanaf 18 september. Enigmatische **Baltische Meeuwen** *L fuscus* werden geclaimd van 22 tot 27 augustus langs de Gooimeerdijk in Zuidelijk-Flevoland, op 29 augustus en 5 september bij Westkapelle, van 2 tot 26 september bij Arcen, op 18 september twee bij Huizen, Noord-Holland, van 24 tot 28 september te IJmuiden en op 27 september twee in het Rutbekerveld, Overijssel. De belangrijkste plaatsen om zowel **Geelpootmeeuwen** *L michahellis* als **Pontische Meeuwen** *L cachinnans cachinnans* te bestuderen waren de Gooimeerdijk, en de grindgaten langs de Maas in Limburg. Een **Kleine Burgemeester** *L glaucoides* werd op 22 augustus gemeld op het strand van Texel. Het lijkt er zeer sterk op dat er nog steeds een adulte **Ross' Meeuw** *Rhodostethia rosea* rondhangt in onze continentale wateren, getuige de waarneming op 21 augustus vanaf de boot naar Texel. De bloembollenvelden in de omgeving van 't Zand leverden tot 25 augustus weer waarnemingen van **Lachsterns** *Gelochelidon nilotica* op, met een maximum van 18 tussen 2 en 10 augustus. Ook was er nog een melding op 29 augustus bij

Termunterzijl, Groningen. De Friese IJsselmeerkust leverde grote aantallen **Reuzensterns** *Sterna caspia* op: op 11 augustus 25 in de Workumerwaard en op 6 september 23 eveneens in de Workumerwaard of de directe omgeving daarvan. Daarnaast werden er nog 35 elders gemeld, voornamelijk in augustus. Er werden 16 **Witvleugelsterns** *Chlidonias leucopterus* gemeld, voornamelijk vóór 23 augustus en nog enkele tot half september.

HOPPEN TOT GORZEN **Hoppen** *Upupa epops* verbleven van 5 tot 7 september bij Egmond aan Zee, Noord-Holland, op 22 september in de Eemshaven en op Terschelling, van 26 tot 28 september weer op Terschelling, van 28 tot 30 september op Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, en vanaf 29 september in Alkmaar, Noord-Holland. C 50 **Draaihalzen** *Jynx torquilla* werden gezien, voornamelijk tussen 24 augustus en 20 september. **Kortteenleeuweriken** *Calandrella brachydactyla* werden gemeld op 19 september op de noordpunt van Texel en op 24 september op de Maasvlakte. Een **Roodstuitzwaluw** *Hirundo daurica* vloog op 13 september langs Breezanddijk, Friesland. Vanaf 20 september werden 17 **Grote Piepers** *Anthus richardi* opgemerkt en vanaf 15 augustus c 50 **Duinpiepers** *A campestris*, waarvan het merendeel in de eerste helft van september. Daarnaast werden 17 **Roodkeelpiepers** *A cervinus* doorgegeven. Een **Citroenkwikstaart** *Motacilla citreola* werd gemeld van de Maasvlakte op 23 augustus. **Noordse Nachtegalen** *Luscinia luscinia* werden gevangen op 16 september op Vlieland, Friesland, en op 20 september bij Castricum aan Zee, Noord-Holland. Een mannetje **Roodsterblauwborst** *L svecica svecica* werd op 22 en 23 september waargenomen op Terschelling. Van 10 augustus tot ten minste 27 september werd een **Cetti's Zanger** *Cettia cetti* regelmatig gehoord en soms gezien bij de Ventjagersplaten, Zuid-Holland. Maar liefst 12 juveniele **Waterrietzangers** *Acrocephalus paludicola* werden van 3 tot 20 augustus gevangen te Castricum, Noord-Holland, en één op 3 augustus in de Kennemerduinen, Noord-Holland. Er waren waarnemingen op 5 augustus op de Westplaat, op 12 augustus op Schiermonnikoog, op 14 augustus bij het Rammegors, op 16 augustus in de 's-Gravenhoekinlaag, Zeeland, op 19 augustus in de Kollumerwaard, Friesland, en bij Den Oever, Noord-Holland, en op 30 augustus bij Benthuizen, Zuid-Holland. Een **Kleine Spotvogel** *A caligatus* werd op 27 september gefotografeerd te Westkapelle, Zeeland. Al op 11 augustus werd de eerste **Sperwergrasmus** *Sylvia nisoria* gevangen in de Kennemerduinen. Tussen 3 en 21 september werden nog 12 waarnemingen en twee vangsten verricht. In de lastige bosjes bij Hargen, Noord-Holland, werd op 30 augustus een **Grauwe Fitis** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* gemeld. Een ander exemplaar werd op 12 september gevangen op Vlieland. Vanaf 13 september werden al weer 19 **Bladkoningen** *P inornatus* gezien. Gelukkig werd de Texel-week ook

**217** Noordse Nachtegaal / Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*, Castricum, Noord-Holland, 20 september 1998 *(André J van Loon)*

**218** Bergfluiter / Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*, Texel, Noord-Holland, 15 september 1998 *(Jan van Holten)*

**219** Dwerggors / Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*, Terschelling, Friesland, 21 september 1998 *(Arie Ouwerkerk)*

dit jaar weer opgevrolijkt door een **Bergfluiter** *P bonelli*, ditmaal van 14 tot 16 september in de fameuze tuintjes bij De Cocksdorp. Na een vroege melding op 21 augustus in Haren, Groningen, waren er **Kleine Vliegenvangers** *Ficedula parva* op 15 en 16 september in het Oostduinpark bij Den Haag, op 19 september op Vlieland, op 23 september bij de Westplaat, op 25 september bij Den Helder en Katwijk aan Zee, op 26 september in het Noord-Hollands Duinreservaat, Noord-Holland, en bij Petten en op 27 september bij Maasdam, Zuid-Holland. **Taigaboomkruipers** *Certhia familiaris* werden gezien op 13 september op Breezanddijk en op 28 september bij Lauwersoog, Groningen. De meeste **Buidelmezen** *Remiz pendulinus* op doortrek werden gezien vanaf eind augustus. De **Huiskraai** *Corvus splendens* van Kollumeroord, Friesland, werd daar gezien van 15 tot 19 augustus en mogelijk hetzelfde exemplaar verbleef van 20 tot 22 september bij Winsum, Groningen. De vier van Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland, bleven daar de gehele periode. Juveniele **Roze Spreeuwen** *Sturnus roseus* waren van 10 tot 30 september aanwezig in het Westduinpark te Den Haag, van 19 tot 27 september op de Maasvlakte en op 28 september op Terschelling. De weinige **Roodmussen** *Carpodacus erythrinus* betroffen exemplaren op 2 augustus bij de Eemshaven en op 13 september op Terschelling, en vangsten op 31 augustus op Schiermonnikoog en op 17 en 20 september op Vlieland. C 60 **Ortolanen** *Emberiza hortulana* werden gemeld, voornamelijk na 28 augustus. Een **Bosgors** *E rustica* zat op 26 september op de Maasvlakte. **Dwerggorzen** *E pusilla* werden waargenomen op 18 september bij de Horsmeertjes en op 18 september (één) en op 20 en 21 september (twee) op Terschelling.

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## België

EENDEN TOT VALKEN Van 14 augustus tot 24 september verbleef een mannetje **Witoogeend** *Aythya nyroca* te Obourg, Hainaut. Op 20 september was er weer een mannetje present bij Dendermonde, Oost-Vlaanderen. Tengevolge van de overstromingen half september moeten er heel wat watervogels ontsnapt zijn want opeens doken er **Kokardezaagbekken** *Lophodytes cucullatus* op te Geel, Antwerpen (twee) en bij Lier, Antwerpen; dat belooft wat de komende winter... **Rosse Stekelstaarten** *Oxyura jamaicensis* verbleven te Moerbeke-Waas, Oost-Vlaanderen, vanaf 20 juni tot 18 augustus en op Blokkersijk, Antwerpen, op 14 augustus. Op een achttal plaatsen werden **Roodhalsfuten** *Podiceps grisegena* waargenomen. Vanaf 23 september verbleef een **Kuifduiker** *P auritus* te Kallo-Doel, Oost-Vlaanderen. Op 13 september werden 686 **Noordse Stormvogels** *Fulmarus glacialis* geteld langs Oostende, West-Vlaanderen. Op 22 augustus vloog hier een grote **pijlstormvogel** *Puffinus/Calonectris* langs. Een **Grote Pijlstormvogel** *P gravis* vloog op 13 september langs Nieuwpoort, West-Vlaanderen. Er werden in totaal 216 **Grauwe Pijlstormvogels** *P griseus* geteld met als maximum 81 langs Oostende op 13 september. Voor **Noordse Pijlstormvogels** *P puffinus* lag dat totaal op 271 en het dagmaximum op 53 op diezelfde topdag. **Vale Pijlstormvogels** *P mauretanicus* trokken langs De Panne, West-Vlaanderen, op 2 augustus, langs Oostende op 23 en 26 augustus en langs Nieuwpoort op 13

september. Op 16 september zagen meerdere waarnemers te Oostende de eerste mogelijke **Yelkouan Pijlstormvogel** *P yelkouan* voor België. Een **Kleine Pijlstormvogel** *P assimilis* passeerde hier op 11 september voor het oog van vier waarnemers. Op 13 september werden **Stormvogeltjes** *Hydrobates pelagicus* herkend te Nieuwpoort en te Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen. De eerste **Vale Stormvogeltjes** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* trokken langs Oostende op 22 augustus, in september volgden er nog eens 39 met maximaal 13 op 16 september. Langs Oostende vlogen, verspreid over zes septemberdagen, zeven **Kuifaalscholvers** *Stictocarbo aristotelis* en de soort werd ook gezien te Zeebrugge op 11 en 22 september. **Kwakken** *Nycticorax nycticorax* waren aanwezig te Doornzele, Oost-Vlaanderen; Dudzele-Zeebrugge (vijf); Gent, Oost-Vlaanderen; Lokeren, Oost-Vlaanderen; Mechelen, Antwerpen; en Vinderhoute, Oost-Vlaanderen (twee). Bij het Zwin te Knokke, West-Vlaanderen, pleisterde nog tot ten minste 11 september een **Koereiger** *Bubulcus ibis*. Vanaf 22 augustus verbleef er één bij Kruibeke, Oost-Vlaanderen. Er waren waarnemingen van **Kleine Zilverreigers** *Egretta garzetta* op verschillende plaatsen met als maxima 19 te Knokke en acht te Dudzele-Zeebrugge. Er werden verrassend veel **Grote Zilverreigers** *Casmerodius albus* gezien: te Zonhoven, Limburg, maximaal drie van 2 tot 27 september; te Bokrijk, Limburg, maximaal twee van 2 tot 13 september; te Harchies op 6 september; bij Tournai, Hainaut, op 13 september; te Willebroek, Antwerpen, op 24 september; over Bredene, West-Vlaanderen, op 25 september; op Blokkersdijk op 26 september; over Oostende op 28 september en bij Genk, Limburg, op 30 september. De Limburgse waarnemingen hebben vermoedelijk betrekking op dezelfde vogels. Er werden in totaal 29 **Purperreigers** *Ardea purpurea* waargenomen, waaronder een groep van 14 te Tienen, Vlaams Brabant, op 12 september. Tussen 6 en 16 augustus trokken **Zwarte Ooievaars** *Ciconia nigra* over Brecht, Antwerpen (twee); Galmaarden, Oost-Vlaanderen; Kalmthout, Antwerpen; Kontich, Antwerpen; Melsen, Oost-Vlaanderen; Weier, Limburg; Woumen, West-Vlaanderen; en Zonhoven. Op 23 augustus zaten er drie bij Turnhout, Antwerpen. Op 10 september vloog er één over Leuven, Vlaams-Brabant, tussen 5 en 20 september vlogen er 10 over Torgny, Luxembourg, en op 27 september zat de laatste bij Schulen, Limburg. In Wallonië waren er tijdens het broedseizoen van 1998 16-17 territoria maar slechts zeven geslaagde broedgevallen. Voor **Ooievaars** *C ciconia* totaliseerde België minimaal 274 exemplaren; de grootste groepen telden 53 te Wuustwezel-Nieuwmoer, Antwerpen, op 10 augustus, 40 te Brussel, Brussels Gewest, op 11 augustus; 34 te Marche-en-Famenne, Luxembourg, op 27 augustus en vermoedelijk dezelfde 21 te Achel, Limburg; Zelen, Limburg; Ransberg, Vlaams-Brabant; en Sauvenière, Namur, tussen 1 en 8 september. Op 31 augustus trok een **Zwarte Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* over de Voorhaven van Zeebrugge. Over Torgny vlogen op 31 augustus 114 **Wespendieven** *Pernis apivorus*. Op 11 augustus trok een **Zwarte Wouw** *Milvus migrans* langs Viersel, Antwerpen; op 9 september vloog er één over Sohier, Luxembourg; op 11 september over Neerijse, Vlaams-Brabant; en op 19 september over Sint-Martens-Latem, Oost-Vlaanderen. Een **Rode Wouw** *M milvus* vloog over Wevelgem, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 8 augustus. Te Ursel, Oost-Vlaanderen, was er in 1998 een mislukt broedgeval (pullus dood in nest). In september kwamen 11 waarnemingen van diverse locaties. Bovendien trokken er 10 over Torgny op 28 september. In totaal werden acht **Grauwe Kiekendieven** *Circus pygargus* opgemerkt. Voor **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus* werd een mooi totaal van 113 bereikt. Vrouwtjes **Roodpootvalk** *Falco vespertinus* vlogen op 11 augustus over Brecht, op 13 augustus over Wommelgem, Antwerpen, en op 18 september over Knokke. Het enige juveniele exemplaar werd op 26 september waargenomen te Drongen, Oost-Vlaanderen. Er werd een 17-tal **Slechtvalken** *F peregrinus* gemeld.

RALLEN TOT SPECHTEN Er werden 22 **Porseleinhoenders** *Porzana porzana* gezien. Op 18 augustus verbleef een **Kwartelkoning** *Crex crex* te Genk-Bokrijk; op 1 september te Heist, West-Vlaanderen; op 5 en 21 september te Raversijde, West-Vlaanderen; op 5 september te Oostende (vondst) en op 26 september te Blankenberge, West-Vlaanderen. De twee **Steltkluten** *Himantopus himantopus* van Fontenoy, Hainaut, bleven tot 4 augustus ter plekke, daarna was er weer één op 7 en 8 augustus. **Morinelplevieren** *Charadrius morinellus* werden waargenomen te Angre, Hainaut (twee); Angreau, Hainaut (zes); Audregnies, Hainaut; Boneffe, Namur (twee); Donstiennes, Waals-Brabant (vier); Kallo-Melsele (acht); Oostmalle-Zoersel, Antwerpen; Raversijde (twee); Sohier (11); Taviers-Ramillies, Namur (zeven); en Zeebrugge-Voorhaven (twee). **Temmincks Strandlopers** *Calidris temminckii* bereikten een totaal van 21 exemplaren. Het eerste hoogtepunt van het najaar werd gevormd door de adulte **Bonapartes Strandloper** *C fuscicollis* die op 2 en 3 augustus te Moerbeke-Waas vertoefde. Een juveniele **Bairds Strandloper** *C bairdii* te Gentbrugge, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 21 september bleek al snel vertrokken te zijn. In het Zwin te Knokke pleisterde op 17 september een **Breedbekstrandloper** *Limicola falcinellus*. Op 29 augustus liep daar een **Poelruiter** *Tringa stagnatilis* en op 3 september werd er één gezien bij Doornzele. Een verraderlijk moeilijke maar zekere adulte **Kleine Geelpootruiter** *Tringa flavipes* verbleef op 6 en 7 augustus in de Achterhaven te Zeebrugge. Bovendien was er één aanwezig bij Muizen, Antwerpen, op 19 en 21 september. Langstrekkende **Grauwe Franjepoten** *Phalaropus lobatus* werden op 23 augustus en 13 september waargenomen te Oostende. Juveniele pleisterden te Longchamps, Namur, van 2 tot 25 september; te Genappe, Wals-Brabant, op 16 en 17 september; bij Bredene van 19 tot 25 september; te Knokke op 23 en 24 september; en te Schulen, op 25 september. Op 15 en 27 september passeerde er telkens één **Rosse Franjepoot** *P fulicaria* langs Oostende. In augustus passeerden 62 **Middelste Jagers** *Stercorarius pomarinus*. Augustus telde 47 **Kleinste Jagers** *S longicaudus* met een maxi-

mum van 11 op 28 en 19 op 24 augustus te Oostende; in september werd dat totaal nog eens vermeerderd met 15. Naast de 48 kustwaarnemingen van **Grote Jagers** *S skua* zijn de verzwakt op een kapvlakte te Hotton, Luxembourg, opgeraapte vogel op 23 augustus en de juveniele vogel van Marche-en-Famenne van 27 tot 31 augustus zeker het vermelden waard. Verder was er een binnenlandwaarneming te Kallo-Doel van 18 tot 22 september. Er werden 38 **Zwartkopmeeuwen** *Larus melanocephalus* gezien. Te Oostende werd op 3 en 12 september een eerste-winter **Dwergmeeuw** *L minutus* met donkere bovenvleugels waargenomen. De eerste **Vorkstaartmeeuwen** *L sabini* vlogen langs Nieuwpoort op 22 augustus en langs Oostende op 25 augustus. Op 6 september volgde er nog één te Zeebrugge; tussen 12 en 19 september 15 te Oostende (met vier op 17 september) en op 18 september één te Sint-Idesbald, West-Vlaanderen. Het maximumaantal **Geelpootmeeuwen** *L michahellis* (20) werd op 17 augustus geteld te Rotem-Stokkem, Limburg. Tot 8 september pleisterde de **Pontische Meeuw** *L cachinnans cachinnans* nog te Pommeroeul, Hainaut. Op 17 augustus verbleef er één te Rotem-Stokkem. Op 13 augustus vloog een adulte **Grote Burgemeester** *L hyperboreus* langs Oostende en mogelijk dezelfde vogel werd daar op 10 september gezien. Eveneens langs Oostende vloog telkens één **Lachstern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* op 26 augustus en 17 september. Een adulte en een juveniele **Reuzenstern** *Sterna caspia* werden op 18 augustus gezien tussen Nieuwkerke en Diksmuide, West-Vlaanderen. Op 12 september vloog er één langs Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, op 13 en 14 september zaten er twee te Knokke-Zwin en op 15 september zaten hier twee nieuwe. Op 19 september vlogen er twee langs Harelbeke, West-Vlaanderen. Een adult zomer **Witwangstern** *Chlidonias hybridus* trok op 24 augustus langs Oostende. Een adulte en een juveniele **Witvleugelstern** *C leucopterus* pleisterden op 3 september kortstondig te Kluizen, Oost-Vlaanderen, en op 15 september vloog een adulte langs Hasselt, Limburg. De overzomerende **Zeekoet** *Uria aalge* van Kallo-Doel bleef de gehele periode ter plaatse. Op 25 augustus trok een **Papegaaiduiker** *Fratercula arctica* langs Oostende. In september werden slechts twee **Velduilen** *Asio flammeus* opgemerkt. Op 11 september trok een **Alpengierzwaluw** *Apus melba* over Blankenberge. Vanaf 11 augustus werden in totaal 62 **Draaihalzen** *Jynx torquilla* waargenomen.

PIEPERS TOT GORZEN Op 28 september werden de eerste twee **Grote Piepers** *Anthus richardi* gezien te Oostmalle-Zoersel, daarna bleef het wachten tot oktober. De trek van **Duinpiepers** *A campestris* kwam op gang vanaf 9 augustus; in die maand werden er 16 opgemerkt en in september kwamen daar nog 198 bij. Alleen al over Sohier vlogen in totaal 100 exemplaren. Tussen 19 en 28 september werden 10 **Roodkeelpiepers** *A cervinus* gemeld. Van 16 tot 18 augustus pleisterde een eerste-winter **Citroenkwikstaart** *Motacilla citreola* in de Voorhaven van Zeebrugge. Op 30 augustus werd een **Noordse Nachtegaal** *Luscinia luscinia* gevangen te Bocholt, Limburg. De eerste drie **Beflijsters** *Turdus torquatus* doken op 26 en 27 september op aan de kust maar in oktober zouden er nog vele volgen. Op 24 september werd een **Cetti's Zanger** *Cettia cetti* gevangen en geringd te Raversijde en op 19 september vloog daar een **Krekelzanger** *Locustella fluviatilis* in de netten, die zorgde voor het eerste najaarsgeval van deze soort. Te Froyennes, Hainaut, was op 19 augustus een **Orpheusspotvogel** *Hippolais polyglotta* aanwezig. Op 26 en 27 september werd een **Struikrietzanger** *Acrocephalus dumetorum* geringd te Bocholt. **Waterrietzangers** *A paludicola* waren er te Raversijde en Zeebrugge op 8 augustus, op de Kuifeend, Antwerpen, op 12 augustus, te Willebroek op 14 augustus en te Bokrijk op 6 september. Een late veldwaarneming gebeurde te Lier op 27 september. **Sperwergrasmussen** *Sylvia nisoria* werden geringd te Geel op 16 augustus; Meetkerke, West-Vlaanderen, op 25 augustus; Assenede, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 29 augustus; en veldwaarnemingen gebeurden te Heist op 4 september en twee op 26 september. Op 24 augustus werd een **Grauwe Fitis** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* geringd te Sint-Laureins, Oost-Vlaanderen, en op 30 augustus werd er één ontdekt bij Blankenberge. Deze vogel kreeg van 31 augustus tot 5 september gezelschap van een tweede exemplaar. Op 11 september werd kortstondig een **Noordse Boszanger** *P borealis* gemeld te Tienen maar alle versterking kwam te laat. Er waren weinig **Bladkoningen** *P inornatus* te bespeuren: te Heist op 20 en 29 september en te Raversijde op 23 september. **Buidelmezen** *Remiz pendulinus* deden het met 91 exemplaren wel behoorlijk goed. De grootste groep (13) vloog over Tienen op 28 september. Op 15 augustus verbleef een juveniele **Grauwe Klauwier** *Lanius collurio* te Genk-Bokrijk, in september volgden er nog acht verspreid over heel België. Vanaf 19 september werd een 10-tal **IJsgorzen** *Calcarius lapponicus* waargenomen. Op 30 augustus arriveerden de eerste **Sneeuwgorzen** *Plectrophenax nivalis* in de Voorhaven van Zeebrugge. In totaal werden 41 overtrekkende **Ortolanen** *Emberiza hortulana* gemeld.

Deze waarnemingsrubriek kwam tot stand met medewerking van Luc Bekaert (Oost-Vlaanderen), Peter Collaerts (Tienen), Frank De Scheemaeker (Mergus), 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.

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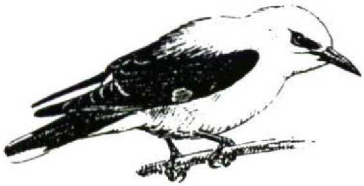

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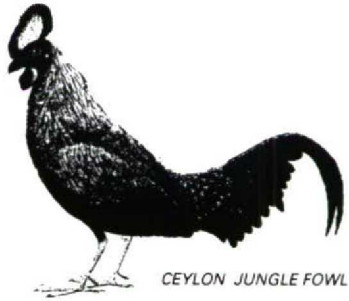

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The sequence of birds in Dutch Birding basically follows a classic 'Wetmore sequence'. Within this framework, the following lists are used for taxonomy and nomenclature: *Lijst '98 Nederlandse vogelsoorten* by A B van den Berg & C A W Bosman (1998, Santpoort-Zuid) (taxonomy and scientific and Dutch names of birds recorded in the Netherlands); *List of birds of the Western Palearctic* by British Birds (1997, Blunham) (English names of Western Palearctic birds); the list compiled by C S Roselaar in *Geïllustreerde encyclopedie van de vogels* by C M Perrins (1991, Weert), with modifications and additions by A J van Loon in *Vogels van de wereld – complete checklist* by M Walters (1997, Baarn) (Dutch names of remaining birds of the world); and *Birds of the world* door C G Sibley (1996, Version 2.0, Cincinnati) (taxonomy and scientific and English names of remaining birds of the world). Deviations from and additions to these lists are based on CSNA decisions (cf Dutch Birding 19: 21-28, 1997; 20: 22-32, 1998).

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