DUTCH BIRDING

VOLUME 34 • NO 5 • 2012

Dutch Birding

Internationaal tijdschrift over Palearctische vogels

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De volgorde van vogels in Dutch Birding volgt in eerste instantie een klassieke 'Wetmore-indeling'. Binnen dit raamwerk worden voor taxonomie en naamgeving de volgende overzichten aangehouden: *Dutch Birding-vogelnamen* door A B van den Berg (2008, Amsterdam; online update 2012) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke, Nederlandse en Engelse namen van West-Palearctische vogels); *Vogels van de wereld – complete checklist* door M Walters (1997, Baarn) (Nederlandse namen van overige vogels van de wereld); *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world* (derde editie) door E C Dickinson (redactie) (2003, Londen) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke namen van overige vogels van de wereld); en *Birds of the world: recommended English names* door F Gill & M Wright (2006, Londen; online update 2010) (Engelse namen van overige vogels in de wereld).

Voor (de voorbereiding van) bijzondere publicaties op het gebied van determinatie en/of taxonomie kan het Dutch Birding-fonds aan auteurs een financiële bijdrage leveren (zie Dutch Birding 24: 125, 2001, en www.dutchbirding.nl onder 'Tijdschrift').

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Subscriptions The subscription rate for 2012 is: EUR 39.50 (Netherlands and Belgium), EUR 40.00 (Europe) and EUR 43.00 (countries outside Europe). Subscribers in the Netherlands also receive the DVD year review.
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Dutch Birding is a bimonthly journal. It publishes original papers and notes on morphology, systematics, occurrence and distribution of birds in the Benelux, Europe and elsewhere in the Palearctic region. It also publishes contributions on birds in the Asian-Pacific region and other regions.

The sequence of birds in Dutch Birding basically follows a classic 'Wetmore sequence'. Within this framework, the following lists are used for taxonomy and nomenclature: *Dutch Birding bird names* by A B van den Berg (2008, Amsterdam; online update 2012) (taxonomy and scientific, Dutch and English names of Western Palearctic birds); *Vogels van de wereld – complete checklist* by M Walters (1997, Baarn) (Dutch names of remaining birds of the world); *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world* (third edition) by E C Dickinson (editor) (2003, London) (taxonomy and scientific names of remaining birds of the world); and *Birds of the world: recommended English names* by F Gill & M Wright (2006, London; online update 2010) (English names of remaining birds of the world).

For (preparation of) special publications regarding identification and/or taxonomy, the Dutch Birding Fund can offer financial support to authors (see Dutch Birding 24: 125, 2001, and www.dutchbirding.nl under 'Journal').

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Printed by drukkerij robstolk®, Mauritskade 55, 1092 AD Amsterdam, Netherlands, www.robstolk.nl

Dutch Birding

International journal on Palearctic birds

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www.dutchbirding.nl

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Expansion of Pygmy Cormorant in central and western Europe and increase of breeding population in southern Europe

Łukasz Ławicki, Leander Khil & Peter P de Vries

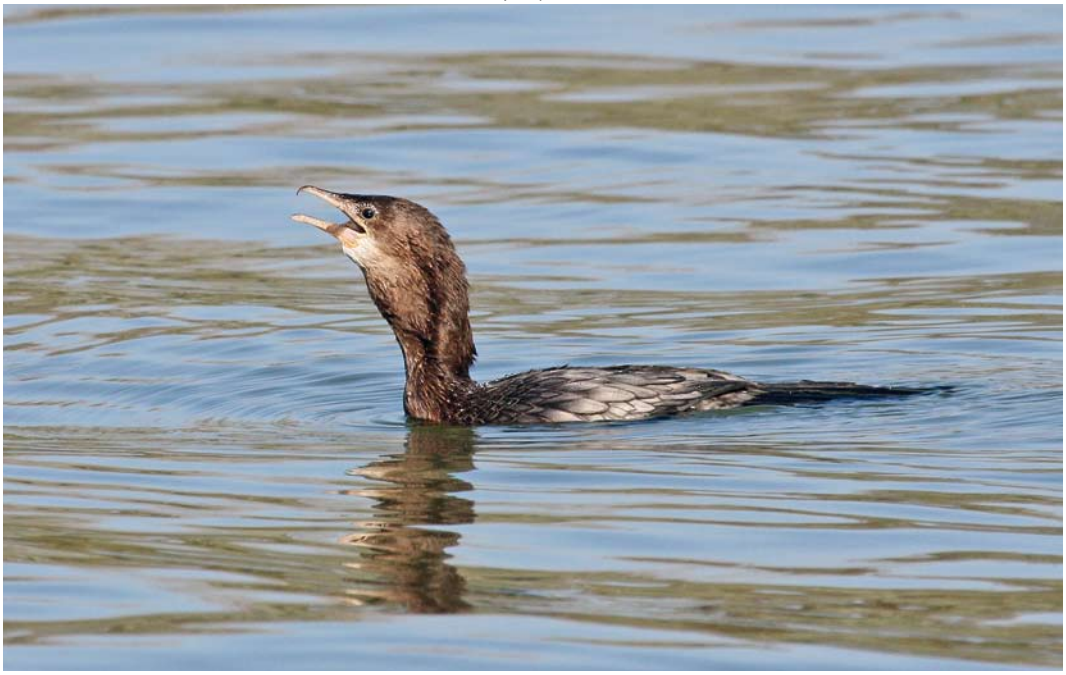
Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* is the smallest of the three cormorant species breeding in Europe (Perrins 1998, Nelson 2005). Its range extends from south-eastern Europe to central Asia (del Hoyo et al 1992). The world population is estimated at 85 000-180 000 individuals (Delany & Scott 2006). In Europe, it breeds patchily in the southern and south-eastern parts, accounting for more than 75% of its global breeding range (BirdLife International 2004). The species occurs mainly in coastal marshes, along rivers and on inland lakes. It breeds in mixed colonies with herons, Great Cormorant *P carbo*, Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* and Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* (Perrins 1998, Nelson 2005). After a sharp decline in the 1950s, the population is now increasing. The species has recolonized some of its former traditional breeding sites in the Danube delta, which now supports the largest breeding population in Europe (Schogolev et al 2005).

In 1999, a Species Protection Plan was prepared to halt the decline of Pygmy Cormorant (Crivelli et al 1996). The principal factors for the decline were the degradation and reduced area of suitable breeding habitat, mainly resulting from drainage of wetlands and the regulation of large, lowland rivers. Further, conflicts with fishery

379 Pygmy Cormorant / Dwergaalscholver *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, Baranda, Serbia, 12 August 2007 *(Maciej Szymański)*

380 Dead and debilitated Pygmy Cormorants / Dwergaalscholvers *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* as result of cold winter weather, Danube river near Vilkove, Ukraine, 5 February 2010 *(Maksim V Yakovlev)*

381 Pygmy Cormorant / Dwergaalscholver *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, Belgrade, Serbia, 11 November 2008 *(Maciej Szymański)*



management include examples (eg, in Greece) of Pygmy Cormorants (especially young birds) drowning in fishing nets set up too close to nesting colonies (Crivelli et al 1996). Moreover, in many countries, fishermen treat Pygmy Cormorants (like other species of cormorants) as a competitor and pest, deliberately scaring the birds nesting in colonies and shooting at them (Danko 1994, Crivelli et al 1996, Kazantzidis & Nazirides 1999, Nelson 2005, BirdLife International 2012a). Also commercial hunting of waterfowl, during which Pygmy Cormorants are killed, is organized in some countries. For example, 83 Pygmy Cormorants were shot in Gilan province in northern Iran between November 2001 and January 2002 (Barati et al 2008). At the wintering grounds in the Middle East, birds are also killed for human consumption. Significant mortality is also caused by very cold and snowy winters: for example, in January 2010, 10s of dead birds were recorded in the Ukrainian part of the Danube delta (Yakovlev & Korzyukov 2010; plate 380). Pygmy Cormorant was placed on the Red List of Globally Threatened Species as 'Near Threatened' (BirdLife International 2004) but in recent years, following its increase in numbers, the category has been reduced to 'Least Concern' (BirdLife International 2012a).

With the recovery of the breeding population in southern Europe, a marked increase of extralimital sightings in central and western Europe has been noted in recent decades, especially after 2000. This paper describes this increase in central and western Europe in the first decade of the 21st century compared with earlier data, against the background of the increasing breeding population.

Material and methods

The analysis includes all records of Pygmy Cormorant in central and western Europe after 2000 provided by national rarities committees and obtained from the literature. We have included only records from countries where Pygmy Cormorant does not breed, with the exception of Austria, where it has been breeding regularly only since 2007; since 2009, records from the area of Neusiedler See, Burgenland, where it now regularly breeds, no longer have to be submitted to the Austrian rarities committee (Ranner & Khil 2012). The analysis covers records up to early 2012 but does not include observations from Slovakia, where Pygmy Cormorant occurs regularly in large flocks throughout the year and where several 100s individuals winter (Kudela & Lengyel 2004, Slabeyová et al 2011; see details below). Comparative data before 2000 have been taken mainly from reports by national rarities committees and other literature. Information on breeding populations in southern Europe was obtained from the literature and unpublished data by ornithologists from different countries.

Records in central and western Europe before 2000

Up to 1999, there were c 75 records in central and western Europe (along with four from Slovakia up to 1980). In the 19th century, the species was recorded at least 14 times in central and western Europe, including c 10 records from Germany and Poland (figure 1). Particularly conspicuous is the influx of 1856. Birds were killed that year in France (one), Germany (three), Poland (small influx to Silesia with at least a few individuals) and Switzerland (one). The large number of records in 1856, at a time when the number of birders was very small, suggests that the scale of the influx was probably much larger. Most of the records up to 1950 refer to birds shot. From 1900 to 1989, there were c 30 records but in the early 1990s numbers increased slightly, mainly in Slovakia, Austria and Poland, although observations in western Europe before 2000 were still very rare. In 1990-99, there were 31 records, including 26 from Austria and Poland (figure 2). In that period, there were one to seven records each year (average three per year; figure 4). By the mid-1990s, the species was wintering regularly in increasing numbers on the Danube river in Austria and Slovakia and it was this increase that probably had an impact on the number of records in subsequent years in western European countries (see details below). Most observations before 2000 were in the autumn and winter (figure 7).

Austria (32 records of 75 individuals)

Naumann (in Bauer & Glutz von Blotzheim 1966) mentioned several records from Neusiedler See from the first half of the 19th century. There are nine records of single individuals before 1980: 1810, 1889, 1920, 1933, 1951, 1961, 1974, 1977 and 1978 (Berg & Samwald 1989). In 1980-89, there were another seven records (21 individuals), with a flock of six on the Danube near Zwentendorf in winter 1989/90 (Ranner et al 1995); 16 further records (45 individuals) originate from 1990-99. The series of nearly annual wintering of up to 11 individuals along the Danube at Tullnerfeld, Niederösterreich, between 1988 and 1999 is noteworthy (Straka 1989, Laber & Ranner 1995, Ranner et al 1995, Ranner 2002, 2003).

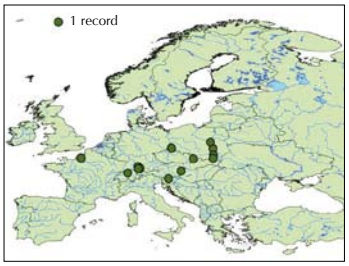


FIGURE 1 Distribution of records of Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* in central and western Europe in 19th century

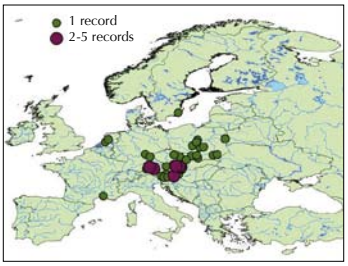


FIGURE 2 Distribution of records of Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* in central and western Europe in 1900-99

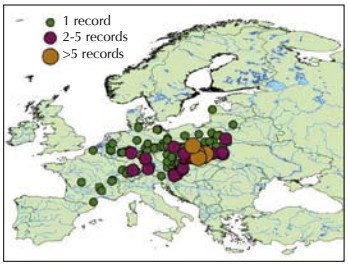


FIGURE 3 Distribution of records of Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* in central and western Europe in 2000-11

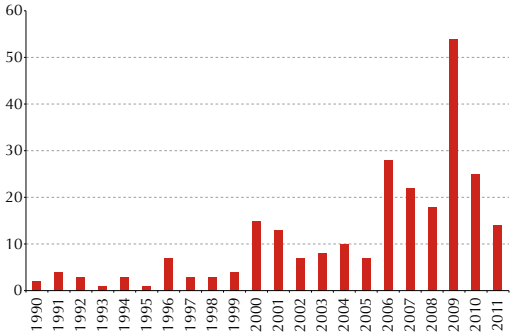


FIGURE 4 Number of records of Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* in central and western Europe in 1990-2011 (excluding records from Slovakia)

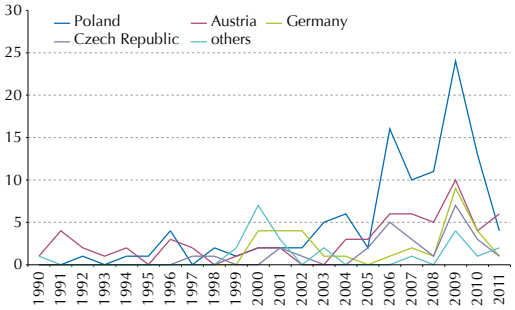


FIGURE 5 Number of records of Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* in Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Poland and countries further west in central and western Europe in 1990-2011

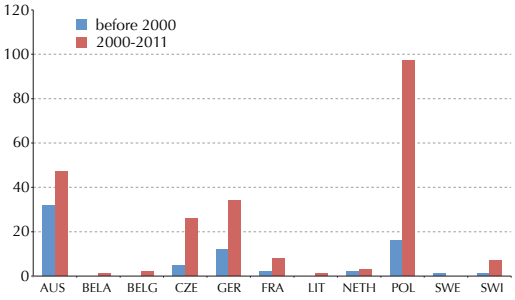


FIGURE 6 Increase in number of records of Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* in various European countries before 2000 and in 2000-11. AUS=Austria, BELA=Belarus, BELG=Belgium, CZE=Czech Republic, GER=Germany, FRA=France, LIT=Lithuania, NETH=Netherlands, POL=Poland, SWE=Sweden, SWI=Switzerland

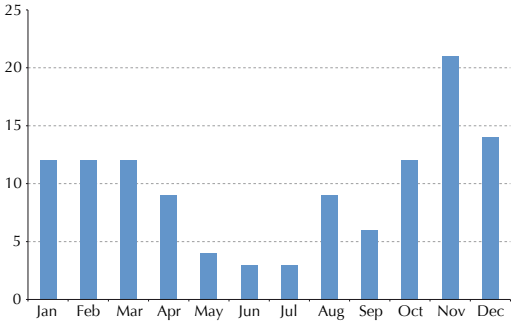


FIGURE 7 Monthly distribution of Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* in central and western Europe before 2000. For individuals remaining longer at same locality, day of arrival is used.

Czech Republic (5)
Records are from 30 September 1951 (shot), 27 May 1959, 17 July 1981, 22 June 1997 and 16 October 1998 (shot) (Nečas & Černý 1953, http://fkcso.cz/druhypos/phapyg.html). There are older records from the 19th century, with specimens in the collections of Schwab. However, these collections are seriously deficient (misidentified specimens, erroneous locations); none of these 19th century records have been accepted (http://fkcso.cz/druhypos/phapyg.html).

France (2)
On 5 November 1856, a young female was shot at Dieppe, Seine-Maritime, and one was observed at Arles, Bouches-du-Rhône, on 24-25 March 1990 (Dubois et al 2008).

Germany (c 12 records of c 35 individuals)
In the 19th century, four individuals were shot: 2 November 1856, 16 November 1856, 1856 (month/date unknown) and October 1857 or 1862. Subsequently, one was shot in 1907 and one observed from 5 July to 2 December 1933. From November 1957 to December 1959, there were a few observations in Bayern, with the largest flock of 13 at Ismaninger Teichgebiet on 22 September 1958 (Bauer & Glutz von Blotzheim 1966).

Netherlands (2)
The first for the Netherlands was on 23-24 January 1999, when one (possibly first-winter) was observed at Montfoort, Utrecht; on 12 June 1999, an adult was recorded at Oostvaardersplassen, Flevoland (Ebels et al 2000, van der Vliet et al 2000).

Poland (16 records of 21+ individuals)
Up to 1999, there were 16 records, including at least six from the 19th century: 1852, 1856 (at least 5), 1861, 1864 and 1899; all records relate to birds collected. After a gap of nearly 100 years, the species was found on the Jeziorsko reservoir on 7 June 1992 and has been seen regularly since. Further sightings were in 1994 (2), 1995 (1), 1996 (4), 1998 (2) and 1999 (2) (Tomiałojć & Stawarczyk 2003).

Slovakia (5 before 1983)
The first record is from April 1926, when one was shot near Senné. Subsequent records were on 30-31 August 1931 (shot), 29 April 1950 (shot), 30 September 1951 (shot) and 17 July 1981 (Danko 1994, Kúdela & Lengyel 2004). Since 1983, the species has been recorded most frequently at the Senné-Iňačovce fishponds in eastern Slovakia, where a single pair attempted to breed in 1992 (Danko 1994). Reports on breeding in Senné in 1993 and 1997 (Voskamp et al 2005) were incorrect (cf Danko 1994; Štefan Danko in litt). In subsequent years, the number of observations in Slovakia increased; for example, there were 16 records in 1996 (Danko et al 2002). The first winter records were from the Danube in 1994; by 1999, already 35 individuals had been recorded there (Danko et al 2002, Kúdela & Lengyel 2004).

Sweden (1)
In early July 1913, an adult male was shot at Ljungbyholm, Småland (Bergström 1946, Breife et al 1990).

Switzerland (1)
On 25 October 1856, one was killed at Dietikon near Zürich (Fatio 1904, Maumary et al 2007).

Records in central and western Europe from 2000

Compared with the 19th and 20th century, there was a large increase in the number of sightings between 2000 and 2011 (figure 3-4). In this period, there were 227 records in central and western Europe (not counting records from Slovakia and the records from Neusiedler See after 2009). This represents an increase of over 200% in the last 12 years compared with the previous 200 years. After 2000, the species was found for the first time in Belarus, Belgium, Latvia and Lithuania. In Germany, it was recorded after a 40-year break and, in Switzerland, after nearly 150 years. The largest increase was in Poland but there were also substantial rises in Austria, the Czech Republic and Germany (figure 5-6). The expansion in Austria resulted in the first breeding in 2007 and, in 2011, almost 150 pairs were breeding in the Neusiedler See region. A large expansion also occurred in Slovakia, where currently up to 700 individuals regularly winter. In 2000-05, the annual number of records in central and western Europe did not exceed 15. A large increase has taken place since 2006, with the largest influx occurring in 2009 (54 records, including 24 in Poland; figure 4).

Pygmy Cormorants have been observed in all months, though mostly from August to January, after which the number of sightings decreased, reaching a minimum in July. The phenology of distribution varies among countries. For example, in Austria, it is most often observed from November to February, which shows clearly that it has found

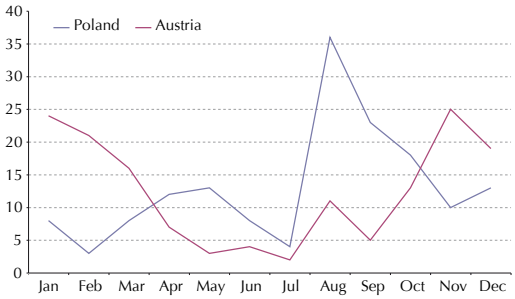


FIGURE 8 Phenology of Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* in Austria and Poland

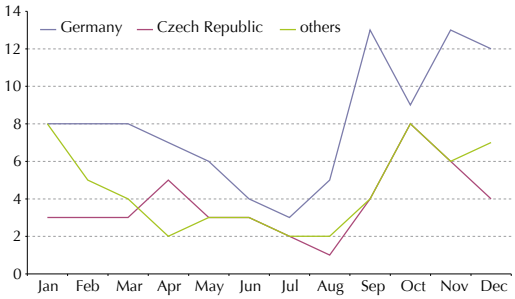


FIGURE 9 Phenology of Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* in Czech Republic, Germany and other countries (Belarus, Belgium, France, Lithuania, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland)

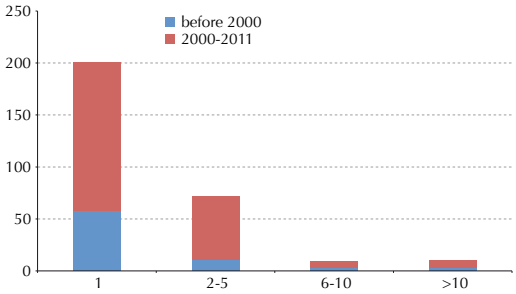


FIGURE 10 Group size of Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* in central and western Europe before 2000 and in 2000-11

wintering grounds there. In Poland, the peak occurs during the post-breeding season, in August-September, and it is very rarely seen in winter (figure 8). The phenology in the Czech Republic, Germany and other countries in western Europe is similar to Austria (figure 9). The majority of the records from central and western Europe concern single birds (figure 10). The following list shows all records in central and western Europe from 2000 to March 2012.

Austria (47 records of c 266 individuals)
Numbers have increased significantly, with almost annual records from seven of the nine provinces in 2000-11: 2000 (2 records/2 individuals), 2001 (2/6), 2004 (3/9), 2005 (3/22), 2006 (6/6), 2007 (6/65), 2008 (5/97), 2009 (10/34), 2010 (4/13), and 2011 (6/12). It must be mentioned that some of the wintering birds are most likely returning individuals, although being counted as a 'new record' every year. Most observations come from the eastern provinces of Steiermark (19), Burgenland (15) and Niederösterreich (6), with Burgenland hosting a new breeding population in recent years (Ranner 2001, Ranner & Khil 2008, 2012; http://birdlife-afk.at). Note that since 2009 records from the Neusiedler See area, where the colony is located, are no longer taken into consideration by the Austrian rarities committee (Ranner & Khil 2012) – the number of records has therefore decreased since then. Nesting was first recorded (14 pairs) at Neusiedler See near the Hungarian border in 2007 (Nemeth 2008). In subsequent years, the number of breeding pairs there increased rapidly: 16 pairs in 2008, 77 in 2009, 52 in 2010, and 146 in 2011 (Erwin Nemeth in litt). Most records away from the breeding colony concern single birds and small flocks of up to 17 individuals in winter, with the majority between November and February (30 records) (Ranner 2001, Ranner & Khil 2008, 2012; http://birdlife-afk.at).

Belarus (1 record of 20 individuals)
Flocks from five to c 20 individuals were observed from mid-August to early September 2009 at the Selets fishponds near Brest. One immature was shot at this locality on 17 August 2009 (Samusenko 2011).

Belgium (2)
From 28 December 2000 to 21 January 2001, an immature was observed at Warneton, Hainaut, and the same individual was recorded during the same period at Lys valley in the French-Belgian border region (fourth for France; Capelle & De Smet 2002). The second record was at Hermalle-sous-Argenteau, Liège, on 3-23 March 2003 (adult). This bird was also seen across the border near Oost-Maarland, Limburg, as the fourth for the Netherlands (De Smet et al 2004, van der Vliet et al 2004).

Czech Republic (26 records of 90 individuals)
Since 2001, the species has been sighted regularly, and since 2005 in each year: 2001 (2 records/4 individuals), 2002 (1/1), 2005 (2/16), 2006 (5/16), 2007 (3/3), 2008 (1/3), 2009 (7/42), 2010 (3/3), 2011 (1/1) and 2012 (1 up to February) (Vavřík 2002, 2003, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011). The largest flocks were seen on 24 November 2005 (15 in Ostrava; Stolarczyk et al 2006) and from 23 October to 13 December 2009 (15 in Chomoutov; Vavřík 2010). Most of the observations were in the eastern and southern parts of the country. They were sighted in each month, with the peak in October-November (details of all records are on: http://fkcso.cz/druhypos/phapyg.html).

France (8)
By the end of 2011, there were eight records, all of single individuals: from 29 October to 1 November 2000; 28 December 2000 to 20 January 2001; 1 April 2001; 4-7 October 2007; 22-23 September 2009; 25 September to 2 October 2009; 21 November 2011; and 28 December 2011 (Capelle & De Smet 2002, Dubois et al 2008, Sébastien Reeber in litt; details of all records are on www.chn-france.org/chn_donnees.php).

Germany (34 records of 41 individuals)
After a 40-year gap, Pygmy Cormorants were again observed in 2000 at four localities (six individuals; Deutsche Seltenheitenkommission 2006). From 2001 to March 2012, they were recorded every year: 2001 (4 records/4 individuals), 2002 (4/4), 2003 (1/1), 2004 (1/1), 2005 (1/1; same individual as in 2004), 2006 (1/2), 2007 (2/2), 2008 (1/1), 2009 (9/12), 2010 (4/5), 2011 (1/1) and 2012 (2 up to March) (Deutsche Seltenheitenkommission 2008, 2009, 2010; Thomas Noah in litt, Christopher König in litt; http://www.club300.de/). Most (22 records) were observed in southern Germany (Baden-Württemberg, Bayern, Hessen and Rheinland-Pfalz); the most northerly records came from Schleswig-Holstein (Flemhuder See, 5 August to 6 October 2001) and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Polder Rodde, Nordvorpommern, 1 May to 10 June 2007, and Polder Große Rosin, Demmin, 18 September 2009). All German records relate to singles or twos. They were seen in all months, although mostly between September and December.

Latvia (1)
A bird stayed on the Uzava river, Ventspils, from 29 January to 2 February 2012 (plate 382; cf Dutch Birding 34: 113, plate 148, 2012); after 2 February, there was a sharp drop in temperature and it probably died or was killed by a White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (Agris Celmins in litt).

382 Pygmy Cormorant / Dwergaalscholver *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, Uzava river, Ventspils, Latvia, 30 January 2012 *(Ainars Mankus)*. First record for Latvia.

Lithuania (1)
A bird stayed in Elektrenai near Vilnius from 25 December 2009 to 21 February 2010 (Morkūnas 2010).

Netherlands (3)
There are three records (all of single individuals): Cranendonck, Noord-Brabant, 6 May 2000; Oost-Maarland, Limburg, 1-26 March 2003 (plate 387); and Ubbergen, Gelderland, 9 May to 12 June 2010 (plate 388) (van der Vliet et al 2001, 2004, Ovaa et al 2011).

Poland (97 records of 211 individuals)
The species is regularly sighted every year, and the number of records has increased substantially since 2006, although the number was low in 2011 (as elsewhere in western and central Europe). The following numbers were recorded in consecutive years: 2000 (2 records/2 individuals), 2001 (2/2), 2002 (2/2), 2003 (5/7), 2004 (6/6), 2005 (2/2), 2006 (16/33), 2007 (10/14), 2008 (11/52), 2009 (24/63), 2010 (13/21) and 2011 (4/7) (Komisja Faunistyczna 2001-2012). It is usually seen from April and May, reaching a very distinct peak in August, after which the number drops to a minimum in winter. They are observed mostly in the southern part of the country (Silesia, Małopolska and Lubelskie – 75% of all records), less frequently in central Poland, and very rarely in the north

(only 7 records). Most records are from the following localities: Jeziorsko reservoir (8 records), Zator fishponds (8), Górki fishponds (7) and Kuźnica Warężyńska reservoir (6). One to three individuals are usually seen; the largest flock was reported from 26 August to 11 September 2008 (22 at Nielisz reservoir; plate 385) and on 10 August 2009 (12 at Przeręb fishponds).

Slovakia
In recent years, the species has been regularly sighted in Slovakia in flocks of up to several 10s. From January 2007 to March 2012, there were 136 records (Birding Slovakia: http://tinyurl.com/8l94rrp). Most records (43%) are from the winter period (December-February). The largest concentration was on 9 January 2010 (720 individuals at Čunovo near the border with Austria and Hungary; Richard Kvetko pers obs). In autumn and spring, the species was seen less frequently (maximum concentrations up to 100 individuals) and is least numerous from June to August (15 records). Most sightings were from southern Slovakia, mainly on the upper Danube; observations in the central and northern part of the country are scarce (Danko et al 2002, Kúdela & Lengyel 2004, Slabeyová et al 2011). A single pair successfully bred in Senné in 2010 (Miloš Balla in litt; plate 386).

Switzerland (7 records of 11 individuals)
All records are from 2000-03: 5-6 October 2000 (3 individuals); 13-15 October 2000 (1); 13 November 2000 to 6 March 2001 (3); 3 December 2000 to 15 January 2001 (1); 19 May 2001 to 22 January 2003 (1 at Bodensee, probably killed on the German part of the lake on 1 February 2003); 15 October 2001 to 26 February 2002 (1); and 12 January to 16 February 2003 (1) (Preiswerk & Knaus 2001, Maumary & Gysel 2002, Preiswerk 2004; Peter Knaus in litt).

Other countries
There are currently no records from Britain (Nigel Hudson in litt), Denmark (Alex Sand Frich in litt), Estonia (Uku Paal in litt), Finland (Aleksi Lehikoinen in litt), Iceland (Gunnlaugur Pétursson in litt), Ireland (Kieran Fahy in litt), Luxemburg (Patric Lorgé in litt), Norway (Tor Olsen in litt), Portugal (João Jara in litt) and Spain (José Luis Copete in litt; cf Copete et al 2011).

Increase of breeding population in southern Europe
The past 20 years have witnessed an increase in the breeding population in southern Europe (cf Michev & Weber 1997, BirdLife International 2004; this paper). A very large increase has taken place in seven countries, while elsewhere the population has remained stable. No decline has been recorded in any country. The largest increases in recent years have occurred in Hungary, Italy, Ukraine and several countries of former Yugoslavia (table 1). The breeding range has also extended northwards (ie, a recent colonization in Austria and sporadic breeding records in Slovakia). In the Danube delta, numbers vary from year to year to a fairly large extent, depending on hydrological conditions, but in the long term there has been a recolonization and a large increase (Peter Shurulinkov in litt; see below).

Albania
According to Birdlife International (2004), the breeding population in 1996-2002 was none to 25 pairs. No data are available for more recent years (Grigor Jorgo in litt).

Bosnia and Herzegovina
There is one breeding site, Hutovo Blato natural reserve, where 573-855 pairs nested in 2007-10 (Stumberger et al 2009, BirdLife International 2012b). Larger numbers in recent years are the result of an accurate census; previous data (cf BirdLife International 2004, Voskamp et al 2005) were only estimates (Dražen Kotrošan in litt).

Bulgaria
The number of nesting pairs decreased by the beginning of the 20th century and the population fell to its smallest size in the 1950s. The decline was intensified by the regular shooting of the species as a (presumed) pest. A gradual increase began after the 1960s (Danko 1994). In the 1980s, the population was estimated at 10-50 pairs, in the early 1990s at 90-150 (Perrins 1998) and in 1997-2001 at 350-400 (BirdLife International 2004, Voskamp et al 2005). In 2006-11, numbers varied between 190 and 790 pairs on the islets in the Danube and the adjacent marshes. Numbers are strongly dependent on water levels in the Danube. The lowest numbers were recorded during the dry year of 2011, when Danube levels were extremely low and many wetlands along the river were without water (Shurulinkov et al 2007; Peter Shurulinkov in litt).

Croatia
In 2001, five to 10 pairs bred at Kopački Rit, while in 2002, breeding of four to eight pairs was con-

383 Pygmy Cormorant / Dwergaalscholver *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, Belgrade, Serbia, 23 November 2008 *(Maciej Szymański)*

384 Pygmy Cormorants / Dwergaalscholvers *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, Belgrade, Serbia, 28 December 2008 *(Maciej Szymański)*

385 Pygmy Cormorant / Dwergaalscholver *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, Nielisz reservoir, Lubelskie, Poland, 12 October 2009 *(Łukasz Bednarz)* **386** Pygmy Cormorants / Dwergaalscholvers, pair with young, Senné fishponds, Slovakia, 6 August 2010 *(Miloš Balla)* **387** Pygmy Cormorant / Dwergaalscholver *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, Oost-Maarland, Limburg, Netherlands, 10 March 2003 *(Ran Schols)* **388** Pygmy Cormorant / Dwergaalscholver *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, Leuth, Gelderland, Netherlands, 16 May 2010 *(Toy Janssen)* **389** Pygmy Cormorants / Dwergaalscholvers *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, Poda, Burgas, Bulgaria, 10 September 2008 *(Leander Khil)*

firmed at the Lonjsko Polje nature park along the Sava river and 11 pairs on Vransko lake in Dalmatia (Voskamp et al 2005). Currently, the species breeds regularly only at Vransko lake (10-30 pairs) (Tutiš et al in press; Jelena Kralj in litt).

Greece
In the 1970s, there were five colonies with c 550 pairs, mostly at Mikra Prespa lake with up to 650 pairs (1971) and 400 pairs (1973) (Perrins 1998). In 1997, 1250-1310 pairs and, in 1998, 1170-1230 were counted at three sites: Prespa national park (650-780 pairs), Kerkini lake (500) and Petron lake (15-30 pairs) (Kazantzidis & Nazirides 1999, BirdLife International 2004, Voskamp et al 2005). During the winter of 1997/98, 38 917 individuals were counted, while the most significant wintering area was Evros delta with 27 000 in November 1997 (Kazantzidis & Nazirides 1999, Gantlett 2001). There are no recent data on the breeding populations (Savas Kazantzidis in litt).

Hungary
The species bred on the Danube and Tisza rivers during the 19th century. After the species' extinction, breeding attempts were noted only occasionally during the second half of the 20th century (Perrins 1998, Szinai 2005). The first recolonization attempt was near Poroszló in 1988 and at Hortobágy in 1991 (Danko 1994). In 1990-97, the breeding population in Hungary was estimated at two to 14 pairs (Eőri 2010). In subsequent years, numbers rose and the distribution expanded. In 2000-08, the population increased from 118 to 624 pairs (Szinai 2005, Eőri 2010); in 2009, it was estimated at 664-748 pairs, mostly in Hortobágy national park and on Balaton lake (Eőri 2010; Péter Szinai in litt). In December 2011, a maximum of 4710 roosting individuals was recorded at Fehertó lake near Szeged, close to the border with Romania and Serbia (Béla Tokody in litt).

Italy
The first two breeding pairs were confirmed in 1981 in Punte Alberete nature reserve near Ravenna in the southern Po delta (Fasola & Barbieri 1981), and birds have been nesting regularly since 1994 (Volponi & Emiliani 1995). In the early 1990s, probable breeding was reported on the lagoon of Venezia, Veneto (Nardo 1994). Since then, the breeding population has risen sharply in both areas. In 2001, the population in north-eastern Italy was estimated at 120-130 pairs (Brichetti & Francasso 2003, BirdLife International 2004) but already in 2004 more than 600 pairs were reported at Po delta (Voskamp et al 2005). In 2004-06, the Italian population was estimated at 570-730 pairs, and at present there are c 800-900 breeding pairs in three to five different sites in Emilia-Romagna and Veneto (Spina & Volponi 2008). In 2010, the first breeding record was reported near Ancona in central Italy (Gambelli et al 2010). On 25 September 2003, 1400 individuals were counted at a single nocturnal roost at Po delta (van den Berg 2003) and, during recent winters, 2500-3000 individuals have been counted at Po delta and Venezia lagoon (Spina & Volponi 2008).

Republic of Macedonia
According to Branko Micevski (in litt), the current breeding population size is unknown, and the data (100-150 pairs) presented by BirdLife International (2004) are not very reliable.

Moldova
The first successful breeding attempt was in 1982 along the Prut river (Voskamp et al 2005). Compared with the 1990s (BirdLife International 2004), the size of the breeding population has not changed: one to 10 pairs are now nesting in Moldova at two sites along the lower Dniestr river (Munteanu 2010; Nicolai Zubcov in litt).

Montenegro
There are currently three breeding sites, all in the southern part of the country: Skadar lake, Paratuk island on the Bojana river and Ada Bojana island. In 2002-05, the number of breeding pairs was estimated at 2200-2500, most of them on Skadar lake (Saveljić 2006). The species used to breed in Bojana delta, although no accurate data are available. In the 1980s and 1990s, the breeding population on Skadar lake was estimated at 1000-2000 pairs (Saveljić 2006).

Romania
In the Romanian part of the Danube delta the largest European breeding population occurs. In 1962, the population here was estimated at 8000 nests in 35 colonies (Perrins 1998). In the 1990s, the population fluctuated from 4000 to 7000 pairs (Marinov & Hulea 1996). The population given by BirdLife International (2004) was probably overestimated, since this assessment applied to the combined Romanian and Ukrainian breeding populations in the Danube delta (Janos Botond Kiss in litt; see table 1). An inventory in 11 colonies in the Romanian part of the Danube delta gave 8140 pairs in 2001 and 8311 in 2002

(Platteeuw et al 2004, 2006, Grinchenko 2004). In the years 2000-08, during winter censuses, 1024 to 7863 individuals were counted, with a maximum in 2001 and 2005. The main wintering grounds are in the Danube delta, on lakes Razim and Golovita and in the valley of the river Olt (www.sor.ro/IWC/specii_phapy.htm; Dan Ionescu in litt).

Serbia

In 2000-02, the population was estimated at 350-550 pairs: 150-250 in Vojvodina province and 200-300 in central Serbia (Puzović et al 2003). The species breeds in the following colonies: Perleska Bara (107 pairs in 2007); Becej fishponds (250-300 in 2007); Dubovacki Rit (340-360 in 1998 but only 50 in 2007); Sutjeska fishponds (86 in 2011); Baranda fishponds (15 in 2010); Obedska Bara (15-20 in 2006); and Mala Vrbica (200-300) (Puzović et al 1999, 2006, Puzović 2001, Gergelj et al 2007, Ham 2007, Ham & Tucakov 2010, Ham in press). The latest overall estimate is 600-1100 pairs (Puzović et al 2009, Marko Tucakov in litt).

Ukraine

The species nests at four localities: Danube delta, Dniestr delta, Dniepr delta and the northern part of the Crimea (eastern Sivach) (Korzyukov & Korzyukov 2000, Ruslev & Korzyukov 2003, Grinchenko 2004, Schogolev et al 2005). 730 pairs nested in the Danube delta in 1998 and 525 pairs in 1999 but, in 1995-96, the species did not nest, presumably because of environmental reasons (during these years the winters were severe) (Korzyukov & Korzyukov 2000, Ruslev & Korzyukov 2003). The most complete census in the Danube delta was undertaken in 2002: in the Ukrainian part of the delta, there were 1030 breeding pairs in three colonies (Grinchenko 2004). In the Dniestr delta (probable first breeding record in 1954), the number of breeding pairs fluctuated from two to 120 between 1975 and 1995, and thereafter started to increase significantly, the highest number of 900 pairs being reached in 2001 (Korzyukov & Korzyukov 2000, Schogolev et al 2005). In the eastern Sivach, there were no more than 15-20 pairs in 1996 (Korzyukov & Korzyukov 2000), but there were 35-40 pairs in the Crimea in 2002 (Grinchenko 2004). In 2000, this species also nested for the first time in the Dniepr delta with 35-40 pairs; a year later, there were already c 360 pairs (Schogolev et al 2005). In 1998-99, the total Ukrainian population was estimated at 700-1000 pairs (Korzyukov & Korzyukov 2000) and, in 2002, the most complete census showed 2120 pairs: 1030 in the Danube delta, over 700 on the Dniestr, 350 pairs on the

TABLE 1 Comparison of breeding population of Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* in European countries in 1990-2002 (BirdLife International 2004) and 2000-11 (data cited in this paper). *No current data available. **Population probably overestimated: this statement applies to breeding populations in both Romanian and Ukrainian parts of Danube delta (Janos Botond Kiss in litt; see text). ***Total population for Serbia and Montenegro. Trend: ↑ = increase, ↑? = probable increase (see text), → = no directional trends, ? = unknown trend/no current data.

Country	BirdLife International (2004)		Data cited in this paper		Trend
	Breeding population size (pairs)	year(s)	Breeding population size (pairs)	year(s)	
Albania	0-25	1996-2002	(0-25)*	(1996-2002)	?
Austria	0		14-146	2007-11	↑
Bosnia and Herzegovina	50-60	1990-2000	573-855	2007-10	↑?
Bulgaria	350-400	1997-2001	190-790	2006-11	↑
Croatia	10-25	2002	10-30	2010	→
Greece	1250-1310	1997	(1250-1310)*	(1997)	?
Hungary	80-190	1998-2001	664-748	2009	↑
Italy	120-130	2001	800-900	2008	↑
Moldova	8-12	1990-2000	1-10	2010	→
Montenegro	2400-2800*** (including Serbia)	2000-02	2200-2500	2002-05	→
Romania	11 500-14 000**	1999-2002	8140-8311	2001-2002	→
Serbia	2400-2800*** (including Montenegro)	2000-02	600-1100	2009	↑
Slovakia	0-1	1990-99	0-1	2000-11	→
Ukraine	550-750	1990-98	2120	2002	↑

Dniepr and 35-40 in the Crimea (Grinchenko 2004).

Conclusion

The recent large increase in the Pygmy Cormorant's breeding population in southern and eastern Europe is probably the most important reason for the very strong increase in the number of sightings in central and western Europe. The greatest rise in numbers has taken place in the Danube delta, while a new, large wintering area has established on the border between Hungary and Slovakia and around Neusiedler See in Austria (which has also become an important breeding area). In future years, we can expect a further rise in the number of sightings, as well as new records in northern Europe (eg, Britain and Scandinavia; cf Gantlett 2001). Breeding may also occur in some countries in central and western Europe north and west of the species' traditional breeding grounds. Similarly, the species has also expanded to the east, into southern Russia and central Asia (Belik 2006, Kreuzberg-Mukhina 2008).

The reasons for the increases during the last 20 years are not completely clear. Eutrophication and the overfishing of large predatory fish resulted in larger numbers of smaller fish, hence food for cormorants. Combined with the better protection of Pygmy Cormorants this may have led to an increase in populations.

The last 40 years have witnessed a rapid and significant increase in the numbers of different species of cormorants around the world. The western population of Continental Great Cormorant *P c sinensis* (North Sea and Baltic Sea) increased in size from several 1000s pairs in 1980 to c 217 000 pairs in 2000, while the eastern European population (Black Sea) rose to 226 000 pairs in 2000 (eg, Bregnballe et al 2003). There has also been a growth in Asian (eg, *P c hanedae*; Ishida et al 2003) and African populations (eg, White-breasted Cormorant *P c lucidus*; Yésou & Triplet 2003). In North America, the population of Double-crested Cormorant *P auritus* has increased enormously (Hatch 1995, Weseloh et al 1995). Not all factors that have caused the worldwide increase in cormorant populations are known. It is difficult to fully explain the fact that this growth has occurred in such different places in the world at the same time. The most important factor responsible for the increasing numbers seems to be the increasing availability of food resulting from eutrophication and fishery management. Moreover, certain factors reducing the populations must have ceased in the early 1970s (eg, the prescription of DDT). The introduction of the legal protection of cormorants was very important in this respect, especially because in the past (early 20th century), destruction of cormorant colonies by fishermen led to total extinctions in many European countries. It is also likely that northern wintering has become less onerous as a result of climate change (Grinchenko 2004, cf Huntley et al 2007).

Acknowledgements

This paper is dedicated to Paweł Kmiecik (1983-2012), an excellent Polish ornithologist, who sadly lost his life while studying birds in the field. Paweł conducted very frequent observations at the Kuźnica Warężyńska reservoir, confirming the presence there of many Pygmy Cormorants. Thanks to his data this reservoir has been taken into consideration as an Important Bird Area.

We are grateful to all those who helped us in working on this article. For providing information about the records of Pygmy Cormorants, unpublished data on breeding populations in southern Europe, and the provision of literature we thank the following persons: Miloš Balla, Viktor Belik, Agris Celmins, José Luis Copete, Victoria Covali, Beata Czyż, Štefan Danko, Jochen Dierschke, Kieran Fahy, Alex Sand Frich, Steve Gantlett, Gleb Gavris, Dick Groenendijk, Nigel Hudson, Dan Ionescu, João Jara, Grigor Jorgo, Vytautas Jusys, Savas Kazantzidis, Christopher König, Janos Botond Kiss, Peter Knaus, Dražen Kotrošan, Jelena Kralj, Jan Król, Richard Kvetko, Aleksi Lehikoinen, Patric Lorgé, Branko Micevski, Joaquim Muchaxo, Erwin Nemeth, Thomas Noah, Tor Olsen, Uku Paal, Gunnlaugur Pétursson, Sébastien Reeber, Irina Samusenko, Darko Saveljić, Peter Shurulinkov, Péter Szinai, Béla Tokody, Marko Tucakov, Alexandre Vintchevski, Mats Wærn and Nicolai Zubcov. We would also like to thank Miloš Balla, Łukasz Bednarz, Toy Janssen, Ainars Mankus, Ran Schols, Maciej Szymański and Maksim Yakovlev, who provided the photographs for this publication. The English was kindly corrected by Peter Senn.

Samenvatting

Toename van Dwergaalscholver in Midden- en West-Europa en groei van broedpopulatie in Zuid-Europa Dit artikel beschrijft de toename van het aantal waarnemingen van Dwergaalscholver *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* in Centraal- en West-Europa in de eerste decade van de 21e eeuw. Dit in vergelijking met eerdere data en met het oog op de toegenomen broedpopulatie in Zuid-Europa. Tot en met 1999 waren er 75 waarnemingen van Dwergaalscholvers in Centraal- en West-Europa. In de

19e eeuw werden 14 keer Dwergaalscholvers in Centraal- en West-Europa vastgesteld (inclusief de grote influx van 1856). Van 1900 tot 1989 waren er ongeveer 30, maar in het begin van de jaren 1990 nam het aantal meldingen toe in voornamelijk Oostenrijk, Polen en Slowakije, hoewel er in West-Europa vóór 2000 nog steeds erg weinig waren. In de jaren 1990-99 waren er 31 waarnemingen, inclusief 26 in Oostenrijk en Polen. In vergelijking met de 19e en de 20e eeuw is het aantal gevallen tussen 2000 en 2011 enorm toegenomen. In deze periode zijn 227 waarnemingen bekend voor Centraal- en West-Europa (zonder Slowakije en de Neusiedler See, Oostenrijk). Dit is een toename van 200% in de laatste 12 jaar, vergeleken met de 200 jaar daarvoor. De grootste toename was afkomstig van Polen; maar ook werden meer exemplaren gezien in Duitsland, Oostenrijk en Tsjechië. De toename in Oostenrijk resulteerde in de eerste broedgevallen in 2007. In 2011 was het aantal broedparen bij de Neusiedler See gestegen tot bijna 150. Een bijzonder grote toename vond plaats in Slowakije; hier overwintert de soort tegenwoordig regelmatig (tot maximaal 700 vogels).

De laatste 20 jaar is de broedpopulatie in Zuid-Europa enorm toegenomen. Deze toename was het sterkst in Hongarije, Italië, Oekraïne en de verschillende landen van voormalig Joegoslavië (tabel 1). De broedpopulatie heeft zich ook noordelijk uitgebreid (sporadisch broeden in Slowakije en kolonisatie van Oostenrijk). De recente uitbreiding van het broedbestand in Zuid- en Oost-Europa is waarschijnlijk de belangrijkste oorzaak voor het toegenomen aantal waarnemingen in Centraal- en West-Europa. De redenen voor de grote toename van Dwergaalscholvers in de laatste 20 jaar zijn niet geheel duidelijk: de toegenomen hoeveelheid voedsel in de vorm van kleinere vissoorten door eutrofiëring en overbevissing van vooral grote roofvis, het verbod op DDT, de betere bescherming van de soort en klimaatverandering worden als mogelijke oorzaken genoemd.

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Influx of Great White Pelicans in Sardinia, Italy, in spring 2008

Marcello Grussu & Alessia Atzeni

In the morning of 7 February 2008, a group of 15 Great White Pelicans *Pelecanus onocrotalus* was found at the pond of Molentargius in the Natural Regional Park near Cagliari, southern Sardinia, Italy. The group stayed in this area for the following days, while in the same period other single birds or small groups were recorded and photographed in other areas of southern and south-eastern Sardinia. On 4 February, one had been seen on a small coastal artificial pond near Castiadas/Muravera along the south-east coast; on 6 February, that bird was found dead after crashing into an electric power line (Luigi Murgioni pers comm). Between 9 and 11 February, another three individuals were found dead or debilitated on the beaches of south-eastern Sardinia. A group of six was recorded at the pond of Sa Praia/Muravera. In the second half of February, two separate groups regularly frequented the ponds of Molentargius and Sa Praia and their numbers progressively increased: at Molentargius, 24 birds were seen on 12 February, 26 the following day, 27 on 21 February and 34 on 6 March; at Sa Praia, six to seven birds were seen from 11 to 15 February, 10 were recorded regularly in the following weeks and c 20 stayed in the first days of March (Corpo Forestale dello Stato pers comm, Ferruccio Zedda pers comm; pers obs). Shortly after, the groups rapidly decreased in number; the group at Sa Praia disappeared around 15 March (Luigi Murgioni pers comm) and the group at Molentargius shrunk from 26 individuals on 7 March to four on 18 March and two in the following days. From April, only one bird was present here and this individual remained for at least four consecutive years, still remaining in the summer of 2012. Altogether, from early February until early March 2008, the south-eastern and southern coasts of Sardinia hosted an influx of at least 60 individuals (figure 1). Almost all the birds were in juvenile/immature plumage (1-2 years old) and only one bird, at Molentargius, was in sub-adult/adult plumage.

Movements and behaviour

The two groups of Great White Pelicans in Sardinia in 2008 flew off and on daily, which was probably related to food availability. The group at Molentargius usually fed locally, in a wetland rich of Common Carp *Cyprinus carpio* and Flathead Grey Mullet *Mugil cephalus*. On various occasions at the end of the morning, the group departed to unknown destinations but in the evening returned to Molentargius and spent the night roosting on embankments, in association with Great Cor-

390 Great White Pelicans / Roze Pelikanen *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, pond of Molentargius, Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy, 23 February 2008 *(Fabio Cherchi)*. Part of group of 27 individuals.

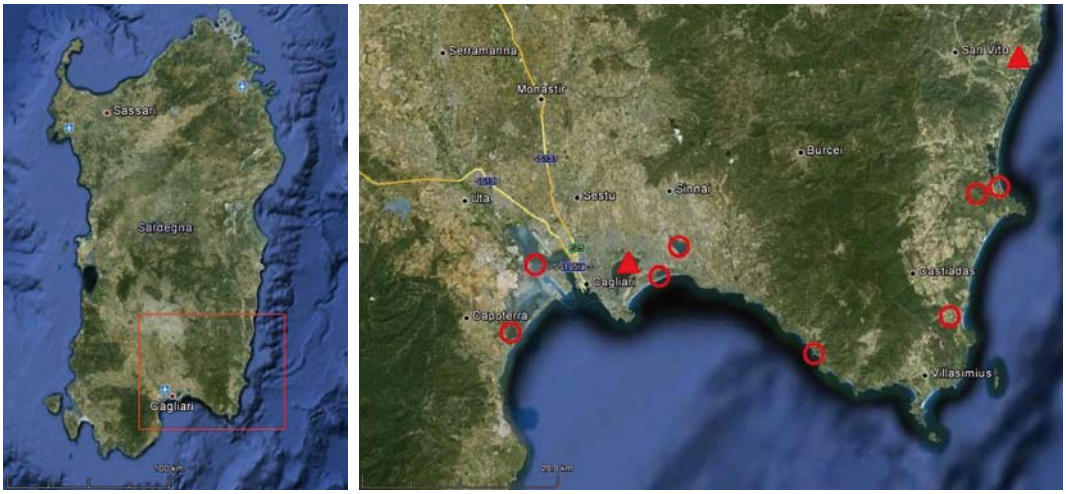

FIGURE 1 Maps of Sardinia with records of Great White Pelicans *Pelecanus onocrotalus* (individuals or groups) in spring 2008 (red circles). Red triangles indicate pond of Sa Praia (south-eastern coast) and pond of Molentargius (southern part of Gulf of Cagliari) where the largest groups stayed (© 2012 Google, © 2012 TerraMetrics)

morants *Phalacrocorax carbo*, herons and gulls. The group probably moved to feeding grounds in other wetlands, inland or along the coastlines (estuaries or coastal waters, lagoons, artificial lakes etc) but there are no other data than sightings of single or up to two birds. In contrast, for the group at Sa Praia, this behaviour was more regular. Almost every morning, this group flew away in small groups towards other coastal wetlands, then returning in the early afternoon to the banks of the pond for the night.

The last Great White Pelican remaining at Molentargius, which was in juvenile plumage in spring 2008 and acquiring adult plumage in 2011, moved regularly among the wetlands of the Gulf of Cagliari and usually returned to Molentargius for the night, where it regularly used the same islets or banks.

Status in Italy

In Italy, Great White Pelican is a rare and irregular migrant and irregular winterer. In recent years, it is

391 Great White Pelican / Roze Pelikaan *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, near Muravera, Sardinia, Italy, 9 February 2008 *(Marco Marci)*. One of several individuals found dead along the south-eastern coast of Sardinia in spring 2008.

392 Great White Pelicans / Roze Pelikanen *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, pond of Sa Praia/Muravera, Sardinia, Italy, February 2008 *(Marco Marci)*. A peak of c 20 individuals was recorded at this site in February-March 2008.

more regular. There are c 90 records, distributed over the year but with greater frequency in June. The regions where the highest numbers were recorded are Sicily (over 25 records of c 100 individuals) and Veneto (at least 15 records). The species has been found in coastal wetlands and at sea shores and inland (lakes, rivers, salt pans, deltas etc). The largest groups, usually recorded after heavy storms, have been in Piemonte in 1858 (c 100), Veneto in 1903 (c 75), Toscana in 1919 (40) and Sicily in 1957 (c 50) (Foschi 1992, Brichetti & Fracasso 2003, Corso 2005). In Sardinia, the species was considered accidental at the end of the 20th century with only one sighting of two individuals (Grussu 2001). Subsequently, Great White Pelicans have been found almost annually with records of single birds and sometimes small groups (Grussu 2003; Gruppo Ornitologico Sardo unpublished data).

Origin

Great White Pelican breeds in around a dozen colonies in the Western Palearctic with a population of 7300-10 500 pairs. The colonies nearest to Italy are in Greece (50-100 pairs), Turkey (180-450 pairs) and Romania (3500-4000 pairs) (BirdLife International 2004, Nelson 2006). Every year, 10 000s (c 70 000-80 000 according to Shirihai 1996) move in August/September-November from the breeding areas in south-eastern Europe to winter in the coastal areas of Israel, the Persian Gulf, Indian Ocean and probably also East Africa, with older birds returning in March-April. Most of the juveniles do not return to the breeding sites and non-breeding birds may also summer far away from the colonies (Nelson 2006).

The species is accidental in many European countries, where records of single individuals or small groups are known (eg, Snow & Perrins 1998). Analyzing these records, Crivelli et al (1997) believed that the birds noticed west of Hungary are probably escaped from captivity. In contrast, Jiguet et al (2008), analyzing the distribution and presence in Europe in the last 20 years in relation to different parameters (distance of the usual wintering sites from the colonies, number of birds held in captivity in parks and zoos, size of the colonies, movements of wild populations, climatic conditions at the wintering sites or during migration), underscore the possibility that erratic Great White Pelicans can in some years stray from the usual migration routes and may then be recorded very far away from the usual breeding and wintering sites.

Even if the origin of single individuals or small

393 Pond of Molentargius near Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy, June 2012 *(Rossana Rossi)*. This site hosted the majority of Great White Pelicans staying in southern Sardinia in spring 2008.

394 Great White Pelican / Roze Pelikaan *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, pond of Molentargius, Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy, 25 April 2009 *(Maurizio Azzolini)*. Only individual staying in the Gulf of Cagliari after departure of the group in spring 2008, still being present in spring 2012. **395** Great White Pelican / Roze Pelikaan *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, salt-pan of Macchiareddu, Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy, 14 February 2012 *(Giulio Piras Vaquer)*. Same bird as in plate 394. This individual was still present in summer 2012. **396** Great White Pelicans / Roze Pelikanen *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, pond of Molentargius, Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy, 7 February 2008 *(Fabio Cherchi)*. Part of group of 27 individuals.

groups in western Europe could be largely or partly attributed to escapes, it appears a lot more difficult to do the same for large groups, such as those of 10s of individuals recorded several times in different Italian regions and in France (13 adults in December 2001; Frémont & CHN 2003). In parks and zoos of central and western Europe, only few 100s Great White Pelicans are kept: 636 individuals in 2006 (Jiguet et al 2008) and c 560 in 2010. Besides, every park usually keeps only a few individuals (International Species Information System 2011). Therefore, it is unlikely that a group of 10s of birds can be formed like the one that visited Sardinia in 2008 by escaped birds alone. In spring 2012, an inquiry among the various European zoos has underlined this view (Koen Brouwer pers comm, Fulvio Fraticelli pers comm). Moreover, the c 60 that reached Sardinia in 2008 were almost all immatures while in the European parks and zoos most individuals are adult, with a very small percentage of immatures. This is related to the fact that keeping the species in captivity is very expensive and, therefore, the growth of the present captive population is prevented (Koen Brouwer pers comm). For example, in European parks and zoos at the end of 2010, there were only 12 immatures and at the end of 2011 only 24 (on a total of 803 adults) (International Species Information System 2011). We therefore think that the species' occurrence in 2008 in Sardinia concerned an influx

from eastern Europe which also brought birds to the northern coasts of Sicily. This hypothesis seems to be confirmed by the recovery of one or more immatures found debilitated or dying on Lipari islet north of Sicily between 7 and 9 February (ie, the days of the arrival of the first birds in Sardinia; Andrea Corso pers comm, Maurizio Marchese pers comm), while in the same spring other individuals were also recorded in eastern Sicily (two immatures at the mouth of the Simeto river on 14 April), and in Puglia, south-eastern Italy (a subadult at Capo d'Otranto on 20 April) (Angelo Nitti & Giuseppe Nuovo/EBN Italia and pers comm).

Acknowledgements
We thank Andrea Corso, Maurizio Marchese and Ciccio Palazzolo (Sicily), Francesco Mascia (Cagliari), Luigi Murgioni and Ferruccio Zedda (Corpo Forestale dello Stato), Giuseppe Nuovo (Puglia) and Emin Yoğurtçuoğlu (Turkey) for their information. We also thank Koen Brouwer (Bioparc Valencia, Spain) and Fulvio Fraticelli (Bioparco of Rome, Italy) for discussions and comments on the captive status of Great White Pelicans in Europe. Finally, Alessandra Murgia (Cagliari) improved the English.

Samenvatting
Influx van Roze Pelikanen in Sardinië, Italië, in voorjaar 2008 In het voorjaar van 2008 vond een influx plaats van Roze Pelikanen *Pelecanus onocrotalus* in het zuiden en zuid-oosten van Sardinië, Italië. De eerste waarneming was op 4 februari (deze vogel werd dood gevonden op 6 februari). Op 7 februari werd een groep van 15 ontdekt. Tussen 9 en 11 februari werden drie exemplaren dood of verzwakt gevonden en vervolgens werd een groep van zes waargenomen. Vanaf medio februari bouwden zich op twee locaties groepen op; de eerste groep bij Molentargius piekte op 6 maart met 34 exemplaren en de tweede groep bij Sa Praia begin maart met c 20 (zie figuur 1 voor exacte locaties). In de loop van maart namen de aantallen snel af, met nog twee vogels bij Molentargius na 18 maart en vanaf april nog één (deze ontpopte zich als 'long-stayer' en was in de zomer van 2012 nog aanwezig) en de laatste waarneming bij Sa Praia was rond 15 maart. Het totale aantal vogels dat betrokken was bij de influx werd geschat op ten minste 60; bijna alle waren onvolwassen (1-2 jaar oud) en slechts één arriveerde als (sub)adult.

Beide groepen hadden een min of meer vast dagritme. De groep bij Molentargius verbleef meestal in de baai waar de vogels ook overnachtten en vloog soms aan het eind van de ochtend naar andere bestemmingen om 's avonds terug te keren. De vogels bij Sa Praia verlieten de locatie bijna dagelijks in kleine groepjes in de ochtend om elders langs de kust te gaan foerageren en keerden in de middag terug naar de slaapplek.

Roze Pelikaan is een onregelmatige gast in Italië met c 90 gevallen en een stijgende tendens in recente jaren. Vogels worden het hele jaar door gezien, met het zwaartepunt in juni. De meest waarnemingen komen van Sicilië (25+ gevallen van c 100 exemplaren) en de regio Veneto (ten minste 15 gevallen). Waarnemingen van groepen zijn bekend uit Piemonte in 1858 (c 100), Veneto in 1903 (c 75), Toscana in 1919 (40) en Sicilië in 1957 (c 50). In Sardinië is slechts één geval uit de 20e eeuw bekend maar sinds de eeuwwisseling wordt de soort vrijwel jaarlijks vastgesteld met losse exemplaren of kleine groepjes.

Op basis van het patroon van waarnemingen (met in februari 2008 ook enkele meldingen elders in Italië), de hoge aantallen (in vergelijking met de c 600 bekende Roze Pelikanen in gevangenschap in Europa, verspreid over een groot aantal locaties) en het feit dat het bijna uitsluitend om onvolwassen ging (terwijl de meeste Roze Pelikanen in gevangenschap in Europa adulte betreffen) wordt onderbouwd dat de influx in voorjaar 2008 op wilde vogels betrekking had.

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Adult Smithsonian Gull in Galicia, Spain, in winter 2011/12

Daniel López-Velasco & Peter Adriaens

On 28 December 2011, Daniel López-Velasco was birding together with Guillermo Rodríguez and Fernando Pereiras around Fisterra, the westernmost headland and harbour in Spain, located in A Coruña, Galicia. Recently, the Fisterra area has gained the reputation of being an exciting hotspot for rarities, due to its location and peninsular effect. The north-western part of A Coruña is probably the area with most rarities recorded in the whole country, mostly from North America but also from the east. Although little birded, at least compared with hotspots in other European countries, many exciting rarities have shown up, especially at Ponteceso estuary 70 km east of Fisterra, with, for instance, American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus*, Sora *Porzana carolina*, Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*, Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* and Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus*. The whole area is good for gulls, with annual records of Ring-billed *Larus delawarensis*, Iceland *L glaucoides* and Glaucous Gull *L hyperboreus* (hereafter *hyperboreus*), as well as occasional records of Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* and Laughing Gull *L atricilla*. A metal-ringed adult Ring-billed Gull that DLV saw in winter 2011/12 at the beach had been ringed in New York, USA, in June 1998.

With several sightings of Iceland Gulls and Glaucous Gulls in other areas of Galicia at the same time, and after finding a first-winter hybrid Glaucous x Great Black-backed Gull *L hyperboreus x marinus* at Fisterra beach the previous day, we thought the nearby Lires fish farm and

397 Smithsonian Gull / Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw *Larus smithsonianus*, adult, Lires fish farm, Galicia, Spain, 25 February 2012 *(Juan Sagardía)*. Note long, pale, nearly square-ended tongue on underside of p10, similar to Caspian Gull *L cachinnans*. This is one of the most important features to check when confronted with a *smithsonianus* candidate, although not shown by all.

[*Dutch Birding 34: 294-301, 2012*]

beach deserved a look, with Smithsonian Gull *L smithsonianus* (hereafter *smithsonianus*) on our minds as a possible find too. When we arrived, a small group of gulls was quickly located on a sandbank at the river mouth. We started checking the flock, mainly formed by local Cantabrican Yellow-legged Gulls *L michahellis* (hereafter *michahellis*), with some Lesser Black-backed Gulls *L fuscus* and a couple of Herring Gulls *L argentatus* (hereafter *argentatus*) and Great Black-backed Gulls *L marinus* mixed in. DLV quickly found a striking adult Herring-type gull standing in the middle of the flock. The first thing that came to his mind was *smithsonianus*, based on large size, bulky and powerful structure, very pale *L argentatus argenteus*-like wings, and pale bill with contrastingly yellow tip. GR and FP quickly got onto the bird. Fortunately, the bird started to preen, and a solid, symmetrical and complete black band on p5 (primaries numbered descendantly), one of the most important features when used in combination, was soon noticed. The typical dense and blotchy head streaking associated with adult *smithsonianus* was lacking, with just some streaks on the nape, extending as a necklace towards the upper breast. Initially, we thought this was wrong for a good 'candidate' in Europe, and, although several features clearly suggested *smithsonianus*, we thought the possibility of the bird having some *hyperboreus* influence should also be considered, as that could explain some of its features, such as structure, paleness of the wings and bright pink legs.

Knowing that, either way, the bird was interesting, we decided to wait in order to take some flight shots showing the primary pattern, which would be necessary for a definite identification. The bird did fly off after some time, and went directly to the fish farm, where it started to feed on the water. We managed to take several fairly good flight shots. One photograph showed perfect black 'bayonets' on p7-8, and a hint of this pattern on p6 (see description), a feature more typical of *smithsonianus* but also present in some *argentatus* amongst others. It also exhibited obvious pale tongues on the upper surfaces of p7-9, ending in broad white tongue tips, along with a complete black subterminal band on p10, and a white mirror on p9 mainly concentrated on the inner web, all pro-*smithsonianus* features. Although several of the features described by Adriaens & Mactavish (2004) were clearly shown by the bird, the lack of extensive head streaking and a seemingly atypical tongue on the undersurface of p10 prevented us from claiming it with confidence in the field.

When DLV got back home, he checked the photographs and sent a couple of them to Peter Adriaens and Killian Mullarney. KM was the first to confirm that the full black band on p5 should not be present on *hyperboreus x argentatus* hybrids, and the broad band on p6 would be quite atypical too, so that possibility could be discarded. Together with the obvious bayonets and the other wing features, *smithsonianus* should be fully considered, even though it lacked obvious head streaking and the tongue of p10 of the right wing was not as typical as on some *smithsonianus*. After seeing the photographs, PA quickly replied, saying that in his opinion the bird was definitely an adult *smithsonianus*, representing the first identifiable adult for mainland Europe. Bruce Mactavish agreed, and an interesting discussion took place, with further positive comments made by Klaus Malling Olsen, which led to the definitive identification of the bird.

As soon as the news was advertised on the main Spanish bird forums, local Galician birders realized that this bird was most probably the interesting gull they had been seeing for the past five winters, which they had thought of as most probably a big and odd *argentatus*. The bird was last reported on 25 February 2011.

Description

The description is based on the photographs taken by DLV and by Juan Sagardía, and is completed by notes taken during field observations.

GENERAL IMPRESSION Fully mature, pale grey-mantled, large white-headed gull, easily told from nearby *michahellis* by much paler grey upperparts, bright pink legs, larger size and different structure.

SIZE & STRUCTURE Bigger, bulkier, and more pot bellied than *michahellis,* with shorter and thicker neck, shorter legs and squarer head. Overall compact impression, with rather short primary projection, accentuated by half-grown outer primary when first found.

HEAD Almost completely white, with just a couple of dark smudges present directly above and in front of eye. Dark streaking mainly limited to hindneck and nape, extending, faintly, as a necklace, towards upper breast.

UPPERPARTS Mantle pearl-grey, much paler than *michahellis,* looking as pale as nearby *argenteus*-type.

UNDERPARTS White.

WING Pale grey as mantle. White tertial crescent well marked.

PRIMARY PATTERN P10: large white mirror, covering both inner and outer web, separated from white primary tip by fairly broad and complete black band. Underside with long (c 3/5 of primary length) pale grey tongue, best judged on photographs taken in January 2011, contrasting with dark greyish coloration of rest of primary,

398 Smithsonian Gull / Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw *Larus smithsonianus*, adult, Lires fish farm, Galicia, Spain, 15 January 2012 *(Juan Sagardía)*. Heavy and bull-necked appearance, as well as bright pink legs, were quite striking even when seen in flight. Note also long pale tongue on p7-10. **399** Smithsonian Gull / Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw *Larus smithsonianus*, adult, Lires fish farm, Galicia, Spain, 15 January 2012 *(Juan Sagardía)*. Note long, pale tongue on p7-10. **400** Smithsonian Gull / Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw *Larus smithsonianus*, adult, Lires fish farm, Galicia, Spain, 28 December 2011 *(Daniel López-Velasco)*. When first found in late December, p10 was not fully grown, which made assessment of tongue on underside of p10 somewhat difficult at first. However, complete band on p5, which should be lacking on all hybrids Glaucous x Herring Gull *L hyperboreus x argentatus*, was quickly noticed. **401** Smithsonian Gull / Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw *Larus smithsonianus*, adult, Lires fish farm, Galicia, Spain, 15 January 2012 *(Juan Sagardía)*. Note obvious black bayonet on p7-8, and pointed wedge on outer web of p6, as well as complete black 'W' on p5, all typical *smithsonianus* characters. Dark streaking mainly limited to hindneck and nape, creating distinctive necklace.

appearing little bit longer on right wing, and quite square ended, especially so on left wing; p9: obvious white mirror, equally long as wide, mainly limited to inner web and only barely reaching outer web, and separated from white tip by broad black band. Black mainly restricted to outer web, and not reaching primary coverts. Very striking, long (covering 3/4 of primary length) pale grey tongue on both surfaces, with broad white tongue tip, breaking through into white mirror, almost creating '*thayeri*' pattern; p8: black restricted mainly to outer web, with long bayonet running along outer edge of outer web, not reaching primary coverts. Inner web pale grey, with white tongue tip, and restricted white primary tip; p7: similar to p8, but with less black on outer web, and obvious but shorter, black bayonet. Long pale tongue, as long as those on p8-9, with very striking and broad white crescent, separating tongue from black area of primary; p6: broad, black, asymmetrical, subterminal band, with pointed wedges, on shaft, on inner part of inner web, and longest one on outer part of outer web, forming short bayonet. Broad white crescents separating grey and black elements of

feather; p5: complete, symmetrical, W-shaped black band, formed by two U-shaped black bands on inner and outer web, meeting on shaft. Broad white tip. Rest of primaries pale grey with white tip. Secondaries grey with broad white tip, forming broad white trailing edge to wing.
TAIL White.
BARE PARTS Iris pale yellow, orbital ring orange. Bill noticeably two toned, with pale greenish-yellow base and brighter yellow distal part, with whitish tip. Obvious red gonydeal spot, limited to lower mandible, only with faint black spot on upper part of spot. Leg bright pink.
MOULT Quite late primary moult, with p10 only half grown in last week of December.

Identification

The combination of structure, bright pink legs and pale grey upperparts immediately attracted our attention. Pale grey upperparts and pink legs indicated the bird was either a 'herring' gull (*argentatus* or *smithsonianus*) or a *hyperboreus x argentatus* ('Viking Gull') or *hyperboreus x smithsonianus* ('Nelson's Gull') hybrid, and, from the beginning, the *argentatus* option was almost fully discarded because of the very pale grey upperparts combined with size, structure, and details of the wing pattern. The almost absence of head streaking seemed, at first, wrong for *smithsonianus* but after research, it was clear that a small percentage of adult *smithsonianus* from Newfoundland, Canada, show little or no head streaking in winter. Furthermore, the exact pattern of streaking of the Spanish bird would also be quite atypical for the average adult-winter *argentatus/argenteus* which usually do not show such a strong necklace of streaks reaching forward onto the central breast (cf Adriaens & Mactavish 2004, Olsen & Larsson 2004, Howell & Dunn 2007).

The identification as *smithsonianus* and separation from a hybrid and from *argentatus* was confirmed by the primary pattern. The following combination of characters allows for safe identification as adult *smithsonianus*, and rules out *argenteus*, *argentatus* and *argenteus-argentatus* intergrades (cf Adriaens & Mactavish 2004, Olsen & Larsson 2004, Howell & Dunn 2007): ***1*** long, pale, nearly square ended tongue on the underside of p10, similar to Caspian Gull *L cachinnans*; ***2*** complete, symmetrical, black 'W' across both webs of p5; ***3*** uninterrupted, black subterminal band on p10; ***4*** white mirror on p9 mainly concentrated on inner web; ***5*** long pale tongue on p9, with black on outer web not reaching primary

402 Smithsonian Gull / Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw *Larus smithsonianus*, adult (left), Lires fish farm, Galicia, Spain, 5 January 2012 *(Juan Sagardía)*. Much paler grey upperparts, similar to *argenteus* Herring Gull, compared with nearby Yellow-legged Gulls / *Geelpootmeeuwen L michahellis* made it easy to locate within the gull flock. Note also two-toned bill.

403 Smithsonian Gull / Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw *Larus smithsonianus*, adult, Lires fish farm, Galicia, Spain, 25 February 2012 *(Juan Sagardía)*. Complete, symmetrical, black 'W' across both webs of p5 is well visible here. Also note uninterrupted, black subterminal band on p10, as well as white mirror on p9, mainly concentrated on inner web.

coverts; ***6*** very long pale tongue on p8, of same length as on p7; ***7*** obvious white tongue tip on p6-p9; ***8*** obvious black bayonet on p7-8, and pointed wedge on outer web of p6; and ***9*** pale grey, *argenteus*-like wing.

After some research, the presence of a complete black band on p5, together with the full combination of all visible characters on the primaries rules out *hyperboreus* influence.

Furthermore, the bulky structure of the bird, short and deep pink legs, angular head, fairly parallel-sided and two-toned bill are all typical *smithsonianus* features.

The late moult of the bird, deep-pink legs, greyish-black instead of jet black coloration on the underside of the primaries, and the pattern of the tongue on the underside of p10 indicate that the bird is most likely a northern, Newfoundland-type *smithsonianus,* which is also the most-studied type in Adriaens & Mactavish (2004) and Lonergan & Mullarney (2004).

TABLE 1 Percentage of adult hybrids Glaucous x Herring Gull *Larus hyperboreus x argentatus* from Iceland (n=80) showing respective feature of adult Smithsonian Gull *L smithsonianus* (as described by Adriaens & Mactavish 2004).

Feature	**% of hybrids showing this feature**
p10 with long, rectangular tongue	12.5%
p9 mirror confined to inner web (or less)	12.5%
p8 with broad white tongue-tip	73.8%
p8 with bayonet pattern	13.8%
p7 with bayonet pattern	7.5%
p7-8 both with bayonet pattern	5.0%
p6 with complete black 'W' pattern	18.8%
All combined	0.0%

Hybrids hyperboreus x argentatus as potential pitfall

Adriaens & Mactavish (2004) pointed out the similarity between adult *smithsonianus* and adult hybrids *hyperboreus x argentatus*. However, they underestimated the problem somewhat, as they wrote that 'a few birds at the darkest end can be similar to herring gulls'. In fact, there appear to be a lot of back-crosses (with *argenteus*) in Iceland (cf Ingolfsson 1970), and many birds are similar to *argenteus*. As they have a tendency to show longer and broader pale tongues on the outer primaries than in *argenteus*-type, they may recall *smithsonianus* in some respects. See table 1 for an overview of features often seen in the primary pattern of adult *smithsonianus*, and the respective percentage of hybrids in a sample of 80 adults from Iceland studied by PA that show the same feature. Adult hybrids *hyperboreus x argentatus* tend to show pale grey upperparts, a long pale tongue on the outermost primary (in 61% of birds), a broad white tongue-tip on p8 (in 74% of birds), and quite regularly a black 'bayonet pattern' on

TABLE 2 Pattern of p5 in adult hybrids Glaucous x Herring Gull *Larus hyperboreus x argentatus* from Iceland (n=80) and adult Smithsonian Gull *L smithsonianus* from Newfoundland, Canada (n=208) (cf Adriaens & Mactavish 2004)

p5	**adult *hyperboreus x argentatus***	**adult *smithsonianus***
complete black band	0%	73%
no black	85%	8.2%

404 Presumed hybrid Glaucous x Herring Gull *Larus hyperboreus x argentatus* or Glaucous x Smithsonian Gull *L hyperboreus x smithsonianus*, adult, Ares beach, Galicia, Spain, 21 February 2008 *(Antonio Gutiérrez)*. This huge gull dwarfed all nearby Yellow-legged Gulls *L michahellis*. At first glance, several features looked reasonably good for Smithsonian Gull, such as structure, pale grey upperparts and heavy streaking on head and neck. However, proper views of wing-tip pattern, including lack of black on p5, ruled out that possibility and pointed towards hybrid Glaucous x Herring or Glaucous x Smithsonian instead. **405** Presumed hybrid Glaucous x Herring Gull *Larus hyperboreus x argentatus* or Glaucous x Smithsonian Gull *L hyperboreus x smithsonianus*, adult, Ares beach, Galicia, Spain, 21 February 2008 *(Antonio Gutiérrez)*. Good views of wing pattern were essential for correct identification. Lack of both a black band on p5 and a complete black subterminal band on p10, as well as absence of obvious bayonets on p7-8, ruled out Smithsonian Gull. **406** Presumed hybrid Glaucous x Herring Gull *Larus hyperboreus x argentatus* or Glaucous x Smithsonian Gull *L hyperboreus x smithsonianus*, adult, Ares beach, Galicia, Spain, 8 February 2008 *(Antonio Gutiérrez)*. Very pale grey upperparts, even paler than *argenteus* Herring Gull in direct comparison, were very striking, as well as dense and relatively blotchy streaking on head and neck. In this photograph, slaty-black, instead of jet-black, colour of primaries is evident.

either p7 or p8 (in 16% of birds) – features that may suggest *smithsonianus*. However, as usual, a combination of features will tell such birds from the 'real thing'. Another potentially useful feature is the pattern of p5 (see table 2). None of the documented hybrid *hyperboreus x argentatus* in Iceland showed a complete black band in p5, although on a small minority it could be very faintly marked (then with dark restricted to small spot in inner/outer web) (pers obs; Klaus Malling Olsen pers comm). Also, the white mirror on p10 usually lacks any dark subterminal marks (in 91% of birds), while this is much more rarely the case in adult *smithsonianus* (8% in Newfoundland, even less in other parts of North America).

One pale, adult 'Herring Gull type' seen at Ares, A Coruña, in the winters of 2002 to 2008 is believed to have been most probably a hybrid *hyperboreus x argentatus* or *hyperboreus x smithsonianus* (plate 404-406). It looked quite similar to adult *smithsonianus*, alerting many observers, as it showed a bulky structure, very pale-grey wings, heavy and blotchy head and neck streaking, extending towards the upperbreast, and two-toned bill – and was affectionately dubbed 'Monster Gull' by local birders, because of its huge size compared with local *michahellis*. However, the exact primary pattern would seem wrong for an adult *smithsonianus*, at least for the most typical and acceptable one in the Western Palearctic.

407 Hybrid Glaucous x Herring Gull *Larus hyperboreus x argentatus*, adult, Sandgerði, Iceland, 1 April 2010 *(Peter Adriaens)*. Different individual than in plate 408, but with roughly same features in primary pattern. This bird has even larger white mirror on p9, with very little subterminal black.

408 Hybrid Glaucous x Herring Gull *Larus hyperboreus x argentatus*, adult, Njarðvik, Iceland, 1 April 2010 *(Peter Adriaens)*. As this bird combines pale grey upperparts with long, Caspian Gull *L cachinnans*-like tongue on underside of p10, it may recall Smithsonian Gull *L smithsonianus*. Note, however, absence of black on p5, and very large white mirror on p9-10. This bird has no real 'bayonet pattern' on p7-8 either.

Amongst other things, it lacked a black band on p5, did not have a complete black subterminal band on p10 and lacked obvious bayonets on p7-8). Several of the visible features indicate that this bird is most likely an *argentatus* or *smithsonianus* with *hyperboreus* influence. These features include: overall structure and size, slaty black colour on the outer primaries, especially when compared directly with the jet-black coloration of the primaries of other nearby gulls (although it should be noted that, if seen alone, the colour could seem, at times, more jet-black), very pale grey wings, paler than *argenteus* in direct comparison, lack of any black coloration on p5 and restricted black on p6, would, most likely, indicate *argentatus* or *smithsonianus* with *hyperboreus* influence. This bird addresses well the potential pitfall and illustrates why, when dealing with *smithsonianus* candidates, hybrid *hyperboreus x argentatus* should also be borne in mind. A thorough study of the primary pattern is essential for a correct identification.

'Nelson's Gull' is a little-studied hybrid and information about its characters and variation (and variation in wing pattern of northern *smithsonianus*) is very limited. There is very little or no research on the breeding grounds and there are only few colour-ring projects. However, the few studies available (such as Spear 1987) indicate that 'the pigmentation patterns of the distal primaries in suspected hybrids were similar to those observed by Ingolfsson (1970) in Iceland'. Therefore, like the Icelandic hybrids, adult Nelson's should exhibit reduced black pattern on the outer primaries, and this would be expected to be visible if the Galician bird had any *hyperboreus* influence.

Status

This adult constitutes the first well documented adult *smithsonianus* for mainland Europe, and only the third in the Western Palearctic, after an adult seen in Flores, Azores, in 2005 (Crochet & Adriaens 2007) and a returning bird, first seen as a first-winter in January 2004, and seen every winter since until, as a full adult, February 2011 at Nimmo's Pier, Galway, Galway, Ireland (Derek Charles pers comm). Although there have been several other good candidates, mainly in the Azores, none have been conclusively identified.

Acknowledgements

We thank Killian Mullarney for his initial advice and input on the identification of this bird, as well as Dave Brown, Pat Lonergan, Bruce Mactavish and Klaus Malling Olsen. DLV is grateful too to Guillermo Rodríguez-Lázaro and Fernando Pereiras for their company and discussion during the initial observation.

Local observers Cosme Damián Romai Cousido, David Martínez Lago, José Ramón Gómez and

Xabi Varela provided us with information and photographs of their previous records of presumably the same gull, and are also acknowledged for their interest in the correct identification of the bird.

Gull enthusiast Antonio Gutiérrez supplied photographs of the 'Monster Gull', and Juan Sagardía did the same with many high quality photographs of the 2010/11 bird.

Samenvatting

ADULTE AMERIKAANSE ZILVERMEEUW IN GALICIA, SPANJE, IN WINTER 2010/11 Op 28 december 2011 vond Daniel López-Velasco een adulte 'zilvermeeuw' *Larus* in de haven van Fisterra, A Coruña, Galicia, Spanje, waarvan hij vermoedde dat het om een Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw *L smithsonianus* kon gaan. Vooral het ontbreken van sterke kopstreping zorgde echter voor twijfel en daarom werden foto's van de vogel doorgestuurd naar Peter Adriaens, Bruce Mactavish, Killian Mullarney en Klaus Malling Olsen. Allen waren het erover eens dat het met zekerheid om een Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw ging. Toen de foto's op het internet gepost werden, realiseerden lokale vogelaars zich dat wellicht dezelfde vogel ook al gedurende de voorgaande vier winters aanwezig was geweest. De laatste waarneming was op 25 februari 2011.

De vogel verschilde van Zilvermeeuw door een combinatie van groot formaat, zware, hoekige bouw, zeer lichtgrijze bovendelen, helderroze pootkleur en typisch handpenpatroon met onder meer een vrij lange, Pontische Meeuw *L cachinnans*-achtige tong op de buitenste handpen (p10) en een volledig zwart bandje in de vorm van een 'W' op p5. Ook de verschillen met hybriden Grote Burgemeester x Zilvermeeuw *L hyperboreus x argentatus* en terugkruisingen worden hier besproken en kwamen nog niet eerder grondig aan bod in de literatuur. Vooral het patroon van p5 en p10 is belangrijk: invloed van Grote Burgemeester zorgt ervoor dat de zwarte tekening op p5 en aan de top van p10 onvolledig is of helemaal ontbreekt, in tegenstelling tot bij de meeste adulte Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuwen. Ook wordt kort ingegaan op de mogelijkheid van een hybride Grote Burgemeester x Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw; dit type hybride zou naar verwachting minder zwart in de handpennen moeten tonen.

De vogel van Fisterra betekent het eerste gedocumenteerde geval van een adulte Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw op het Europese vasteland en het derde geval in het West-Palearctische gebied; eerdere adulte werden vastgesteld in de Azoren en Ierland.

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Bonte Stern langs Maasvlakte in augustus 2012

Ben van den Broek & Enno B Ebels

Op vrijdagmorgen 31 augustus 2012 was ik (Ben van den Broek) vroeg in de ochtend voor zeetrek bij de Maasmond. Mijn favoriete stek is de oostkant van de Oude Stuifdijk op de Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland. Vaak vliegen (zee)vogels hier redelijk dichtbij als de wind gunstig is; op deze dag was dat het geval met een stevige wind (6-7 B) uit NNW en veel bewolking. Rond 09:00 zag ik op flinke afstand (c 300 m) met de verrekijker ter hoogte van de vaargeul een stern met zeer donkere bovendelen laag over het water. Hij vloog in westelijke richting achter een groot schip richting zee. Tijdens de waarneming van c 30 sec viel vooral de zwartachtige bovenkant op. Het leek me belangrijk zo snel mogelijk foto's te maken als bewijsmateriaal. Ik kon zes redelijke plaatjes maken voordat hij uit beeld verdween; de tijdsduur tussen de eerste en laatste foto bedroeg slechts 11 sec. Na een korte check van de foto's kon ik de vogel niet meer terugvinden. Ik wist na raadpleging van mijn vogelgids dat het om een Bonte Stern *Onychoprion fuscatus* of Brilstern *O anaethetus* ging maar moest de bestudering van de foto's thuis afwachten voor meer duidelijkheid. Toen ik de foto's eenmaal rustig kon bekijken en kon uitvergroten werd duidelijk dat het om een Bonte Stern ging. Ik plaatste mijn waarneming rond 13:00 op mijn weblog (http://benvandenbroek.blogspot.nl) en daarna voerde ik de waarneming in via Dutch Bird Alerts en even later werd de waarneming 'doorgepiept'. Ook werd de waarneming doorgegeven aan Waarneming.nl maar dat kostte enige moeite omdat hier de naam Bonte Stern niet in de database aanwezig was en dus niet meteen ingevoerd kon worden. Via 'vogel onbekend' lukte het alsnog en bij 'opmerkingen' werd de juiste soortnaam vermeld. De invoerproblemen zetten me wel aan het denken: kennelijk was het een zeer zeldzame soort! Later begreep ik na raadpleging van de Digitale Avifauna (www.dutchavifauna.nl) dat het om de eerste waarneming voor Nederland zou gaan. Dat het een grote impact had op vogelend Nederland kon ik kort daarna merken aan de vele mailtjes met felicitaties (waarvoor dank) naar mijn e-mailadres en het grote aantal bezoekers aan mijn weblog, de eerste dag zelfs c 3500! Een aantal vogelaars is die middag nog gaan zoeken maar de vogel kon niet meer worden gevonden.

Beschrijving

De beschrijving is gebaseerd op de zes beste foto's en de indrukken in het veld.

GROOTTE & BOUW Typische stern met lange puntige vleugels, slanke rechte snavel en diepgevorkte staart. Formaat vergelijkbaar met Grote Stern *Sterna sandvicensis*.

VERENKLEED Zwarte kopkap, naar mantel toe versmallend. Grote witte voorhoofdsvlek, niet doorlopend tot boven of achter oog. Bovendelen en bovenvleugel zeer donker, zwartachtig met op één foto indruk van vage bruine zweem op bovenvleugel. Geen kleurverschil zichtbaar tussen buitenste handpennen en meer naar binnen gelegen handpennen en armpennen. Witte rand aan voorvleugel. Bovenstaart eveneens zwartachtig. Onderdelen wit. Onderstaart grijs. Ondervleugel wit met scherp afgetekende zwartachtige rand aan armpennen overgaand in overwegend donkere handpennen, duidelijk donkere vleugelpunt vormend.

NAAKTE DELEN Snavel donker. Overige naakte delen niet zichtbaar op foto's.

VLUCHT Zwalkend met regelmatige vleugelslagfrequentie (bij harde wind van opzij). Duidelijk hogere vleugelslagfrequentie vergeleken met bijvoorbeeld Visdief *S hirundo* onder vergelijkbare omstandigheden.

Determinatie

Bonte Stern en Brilstern zijn de enige 'grotere' sterns met zeer donkere bovendelen en lichte onderdelen (moerassterns *Chlidonias* zijn aanmerkelijk kleiner en compacter gebouwd en kunnen alleen al op postuur worden uitgesloten, noddies *Anous* zijn geheel donker en vallen daarom af). De volgende kenmerken van de vogel van de Maasvlakte passen beter op Bonte Stern dan op Brilstern (cf Olsen & Larsson 1994, Svensson et al 2010, van Duivendijk 2011): ***1*** formaat. Het beschreven formaat past goed op Bonte Stern die iets kleiner is dan Grote Stern. Brilstern is een slag kleiner dan Bonte en komt in formaat en postuur meer overeen met Visdief of Noordse Stern *S paradisaea* (dit verschil kan in het veld echter lastig te zien zijn en sommige ondersoorten van Brilstern zijn nauwelijks kleiner dan Bonte); ***2*** kleur van de bovendelen. De bovendelen van Bonte zijn (nog)

[*Dutch Birding 34: 302-305, 2012*]

409-414 Bonte Stern / Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus*, Maasmond, Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, 31 augustus 2012 *(Ben van den Broek)*

donkerder dan die van Brilstern, zwartachtig met een bruinachtige tint in gesleten kleed (de bruine tint wordt in veel literatuur ten onrechte niet vermeld; Killian Mullarney in litt). Bij Brilstern is de kleur afhankelijk van de ondersoort grijs tot donkergrijs (vaak met bruine tint) en is er meer contrast tussen de zwarte kopkap en de donkergrijze bovendelen en bovenvleugel. De bovendelen van de vogel van de Maasvlakte lijken op de foto's waarop de bovenkant is te zien erg donker, wat beter past op Bonte dan op Brilstern; ***3*** koptekening. De grote witte voorhoofdsvlek die niet doorloopt tot voorbij het oog en de smalle donkere teugel (waardoor de voorhoofdvlek bijna doorloopt in het wit van kin en keel) passen goed op Bonte. Brilstern heeft een kleinere en minder opvallende voorhoofdvlek die doorloopt als versmallende witte wenkbrauwstreep tot ruim achter het oog. Hoewel de foto's niet veel details laten zien is voldoende zichtbaar dat er geen sprake is van een doorlopende wenkbrauwstreep; en ***4*** ondervleugeltekening. Bonte heeft meer contrast op de ondervleugel dan Brilstern. Beide soorten tonen een donkere achterrand aan de armpennen en donkere toppen aan de handpennen maar bij Bonte is de donkere tekening zwarter van kleur en op de handpennen uitgebreider, waardoor de hele vleugelpunt donker oogt. Bij Brilstern is de donkere tekening iets lichter en hebben de handpennen over een groot deel van de binnenvlag een licht centrum (vooral zichtbaar op de buitenste handpennen), waardoor de vleugelpunt minder solide donker is en een meer geleidelijke overgang van licht naar donker toont. Hoewel lichteffecten dit patroon op een foto kunnen vertekenen, lijkt hier de kans op vertekening klein omdat het op verschillende foto's is te zien. In combinatie passen deze vier kenmerken goed op Bonte en sluiten ze Brilstern met voldoende zekerheid uit. Er is ook nog een verschil in staartlengte (korter bij Bonte dan bij Brilstern); dat kenmerk is op de foto's moeilijk vast te stellen maar de staart lijkt niet zo lang als bij Brilstern verwacht zou mogen worden en ook dit kenmerk past dus goed op Bonte.

De iets bruinachtige tint op de bovenzijde en de vage begrenzing van het wit op de kop met een schijnbaar ontbrekende zwarte teugellijn kan op een onvolwassen exemplaar duiden (cf Olsen & Larsson 1994). De foto's tonen echter niet genoeg details van de koptekening om dit goed vast te kunnen stellen en de bruine tint past ook op een gesleten adult (Killian Mullarney in litt).

Voorkomen en verspreiding

Bonte Stern is een tropische zeevogel met een groot verspreidingsgebied in de Atlantische, Indische en Grote Oceaan (del Hoyo et al 1996). De soort broedt vooral op pelagische eilandjes en brengt een groot deel van het bestaan op open zee door. In het West-Palearctische gebied ('sensu BWP'; Cramp & Simmons 1977) is het een dwaalgast. In de Azoren is de soort vanaf eind jaren 1980 een regelmatige gast met in de afgelopen jaren een aantal broedpogingen en het eerste geslaagde broedgeval in 2008 (www.birdingazores.com). Er zijn verder gevallen bekend uit Brittannië (25; meeste in de zomermaanden en meest recent in juli 2005); Canarische Eilanden (1: september 1988); Denemarken (1: juni 1989); Duitsland (3: augustus 1843, september 1929 en juli 1957); Frankrijk (11; april tot augustus), Ierland (2: juli 2002 en juli 2005 (zelfde exemplaar als in Brittannië)); IJsland (1: juni 1969); Israël (3: juli-augustus 1980 (maximaal drie), juli 1981 (drie) en juli 1988 (12); Italië (4: oktober 1862, september 1907, augustus 1909 en maart 1926); Spanje (3: juni 1981, juli 1986 en augustus 2001); Tunesië (2: juni 1894 en juni 1993 (broedpaar)); en Zweden (1: juli 1977 (twee exemplaren)). De meeste Europese gevallen komen uit Brittannië en Frankrijk (Lewington et al 1991, Shirihai 1996, Mitchell & Young 1999, Snow & Perrins 1998, de Juana 2006, Dubois et al 2008; Marcel Haas in litt). Indien aanvaard door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) betreft de vogel van de Maasvlakte het eerste geval voor Nederland.

Dankzegging

Marcel Haas was behulpzaam bij het maken van het overzicht van gevallen in het West-Palearctische gebied. Killian Mullarney gaf aanvullende informatie over de kenmerken van Bonte Stern en Brilstern.

Summary

Sooty Tern at Maasvlakte in August 2012 On 31 August 2012 at c 09:00, an adult Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus* was seen and photographed by a single observer at Maasmond, Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands. The bird was seen flying west (out to sea) at c 300 m distance for c 30 sec, and six useful photographs were obtained. The bird was described as similar in size to Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*. The very dark upperparts limited the identification to Bridled Tern *O anaethetus* or Sooty. The identification as Sooty was based on the following characters: ***1*** size: Sooty is almost as large as Sandwich, Bridled is visibly smaller; ***2*** colour of upperparts and upperwing: blackish to black in Sooty (often with brownish wash in first-year or worn adult birds), dark grey in Bridled (with black primaries); ***3*** head

pattern: large white forehead patch with weak loral line seemingly connected to white on underside of head and not extending beyond the eye in Sooty, smaller patch extending as white supercilium beyond the eye and more prominent loral stripe in Bridled; and ***4*** underwing pattern: more contrasting with solidly dark (outer) primaries in Sooty, slightly less contrasting with wingtip more gradually darkening towards tip in Bridled. In addition, the tail does not look very long, which also fits Sooty better than Bridled. The brownish tinge of upperparts and the lack of a distinct black loral line may indicate an immature but the photographs show too little detail of the head pattern to establish the exact pattern and a brownish tinge also occurs in worn adults.

If accepted, this is the first record for the Netherlands; the species is a rare vagrant in the Western Palearctic, almost exclusively in the summer months. Most records in Europe are from Britain and France.

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Langstaartklauwier bij Den Helder in oktober 2011

Johanna van Dillen-Staal & Enno B Ebels

Op maandag 31 oktober 2011 ontdekte Johanna van Dillen-Staal een Langstaartklauwier *Lanius schach* bij de Oude Vuilnisbelt in de duinen tussen Julianadorp en Den Helder, Noord-Holland. Dit gebied is in eigendom en beheer bij Landschap Noord-Holland. De locatie had al eerder bewezen aantrekkingskracht uit te oefenen op zeldzame klauwieren, zoals Roodkopklauwier *L senator* (juni 2010) en Daurische Klauwier *L isabellinus* (september 2010). JvDS zag de vogel voor het eerst rond 09:00 en wist niet om welke klauwierensoort het ging. Daarom riep zij telefonisch de hulp in van anderen, in eerste instantie van Mario Renden. In de loop van de ochtend verzamelden zich Ruud Brouwer, Frans Bruinsma, Marcel Haas, Roelf Hovinga, Henk Post, MR en Tim Zutt op de plek waar de klauwier zich met enige regelmaat liet zien. Aanvankelijk gingen de gedachten uit naar een Daurische Klauwier *L isabellinus* of Turkestaanse Klauwier *L phoenicuroides* maar vrij snel kwam Langstaartklauwier als optie in beeld. Rond 12:00 was de determinatie zeker en werd het nieuws over deze extreme dwaalgast verspreid via Dutch Bird Alerts. Dat leidde tot een stormloop van vogelaars en tot laat in de middag (17:30) werd de klauwier door zeker 300 en mogelijk meer dan 400 vogelaars bekeken. De volgende dag was hij niet meer aanwezig (van Dillen-Staal & Ebels 2011).

Beschrijving

De beschrijving is gebaseerd op foto's van onder anderen Arnoud van den Berg, Jaap Denee, Enno Ebels, Marc Guyt, Eric Menkveld, Harm Niesen en Cock Reijnders (cf Dutch Birding 33: 416, plaat 556, 429, plaat 583-584, 2011; www.dutchbirding.nl, www.waarneming.nl) en op videobeelden van Marc Plomp (Plomp 2012).

GROOTTE & BOUW Typische klauwier door formaat als middelgrote zangvogel, 'stevige' snavel met sterk gekromde boven- en ondersnavel maar zonder duidelijke

haak aan bovensnavel, en lange staart. Staart duidelijk afgerond en zelfs voor klauwier opvallend lang en smal. Vleugelpunt in zit ongeveer samenvallend met langste onderstaartdekveren.

KOP Bovenkop grijs. Zijkop grijs met lichte bruine tint. Zeer smalle lichte wenkbrauwstreep boven oog. Voorhoofd lichter grijs. Zwart masker met wat bruine vlekking van achter oog tot aan snavelbasis, masker smal doorlopend boven snavel. Kin en keel vuilwit.

BOVENDELEN Mantel en rug verlopend van grijze nek naar warmbruine onderrug. Stuit en schouderveren warm bruinoranje. Ten minste aantal onderste schouderveren met smalle donkere subterminale rand.

ONDERDELEN Vuilwit van keel tot buik, geleidelijk overgaand in warm oranje flank en anaalstreek. Achterflank meest warm gekleurde deel van onderdelen.

VLEUGEL Hand- en armpennen bruinzwart met vuilwitte rand aan top. Tertials bruinzwart met smalle lichtbruine zomen en top. Bovenste en middelste tertial met bijna geheel vuilwitte binnenvlag. Grote dekveren bruinzwart met smalle oranjebruine randen. Middelste dekveren donkerder (bijna zwart), als masker, zonder lichte randen of top; kleine dekveren bruingrijs. Handpendekveren zwartachtig met zeer smalle lichte top. Witte bases aan handpennen, in zit als vage handpenvlek zichtbaar, in vlucht opvallend. Onderzijde van hand- en armpennen lichtgrijs; ondervleugeldekveren wit.

STAART Bovenstaart warmbruin. Buitenste staartpen met smalle lichtbruine rand aan buitenvlag. Vage lichte top aan buitenste staartpennen. Onderstaartdekveren bleek oranje, lichter dan flank. Onderstaart bruin met duidelijk lichte rand aan buitenvlag van buitenste staartpen.

NAAKTE DELEN Oog donker. Snavel donkergrijs, met lichtere grijze tekening aan basis van ondersnavel, iets doorlopend op basis van bovensnavel (deel rondom neusgat). Poot donkergrijs. Nagels donker.

GELUID Geen geluid gehoord.

GEDRAG Als typische klauwier, vaak bovenin struik of andere begroeiing zittend. Ook regelmatig meer verstopt in begroeiing zittend en dan soms moeilijk zichtbaar. Vliegend over korte afstanden, meestal 10-30 m. Benaderbaar tot c 20 m. Ten minste eenmaal muis als prooi vastgesteld.

Determinatie

De combinatie van formaat, postuur met zeer lange staart, koptekening en tekening van de onderdelen en bovendelen past alleen op Langstaartklauwier (cf Lefranc & Worfolk 1997). Mannetje Grauwe Klauwier *L collurio* heeft een vergelijkbare koptekening maar verschilt door de donkerbruine mantel en rug, vrijwel witte onderdelen met hooguit een roze zweem en kortere staart. In eerstejaars kleed ontbreekt het duidelijke zwarte masker. Er zijn diverse andere klauwierensoorten of -ondersoorten met een zwart masker en een overwegend bruin en grijs verenkleed, zoals Bruinrugklauwier *L vittatus*, Buffelkopklauwier *L bucephalus*, Birmese Klauwier *L collurioides*, Tijgerklauwier *L tigrinus* en Bruine Klauwier *L cristatus* (cf Lefranc & Worfolk 1997); deze soorten kunnen echter alle worden uitgesloten.

Bruinrugklauwier komt voor in Centraal-Azië en het Indisch Subcontinent westelijk tot West-Iran en is enkele malen als dwaalgast op het Arabisch Subcontinent vastgesteld, in Oman, Saoedi-Arabië en de Verenigde Arabische Emiraten (buiten de WP 'sensu BWP' (Cramp & Simmons 1977, Lefranc & Worfolk 1997)). Deze soort heeft in adult kleed een veel breder zwart masker dat 'hoog' rondloopt over de bovensnavel (als bij Kleine Klapekster *L minor*). Verder heeft hij een geheel bruine mantel, sterk contrasterend met de lichtgrijze bovenkop, en een andere bouw dan Langstaartklauwier met een verhoudingsgewijs grotere kop. In eerstejaars kleed ontbreekt het zwarte masker.

Buffelkopklauwier (nominaat *L b bucephalus*) broedt in het uiterste oosten van Oost-Azië in landen rondom de Chinese Zee en overwintert in Japan, Zuid-Korea en Zuidoost-China (in Gansu, China, komt de zeldzame en weinig bekende ondersoort *L b sicarius* als standvogel voor). De soort is nooit in de WP vastgesteld maar de nominaat is een theoretische dwaalgast op basis van broedgebied en trekgedrag. Hij verschilt van Langstaartklauwier door het smallere zwarte masker (niet of nauwelijks doorlopend boven de snavel) en de langere lichte wenkbrauwstreep (doorlopend tot aan de snavel). De mantel is geheel grijs in adult kleed en warmbruin met een grijs waas in andere kleden. De bovenkop is diep warmbruin in alle kleden en de rug en stuit zijn grijs. De onderdelen zijn bijna volledig warmbruin en alleen de keel en bovenborst en anaalstreek zijn lichter. In postuur verschilt Buffelkopklauwier van Langstaartklauwier door de verhoudingsgewijs grotere kop en kortere staart.

Birmese Klauwier uit Zuidoost-Azië verschilt door de meer uitgebreide bruine mantel en rug en de donkerder grijze bovenkop die een vage overgang heeft naar het donkere masker. De soort is overwegend standvogel in grote delen van Zuidoost-Azië; in de winter is het verspreidingsgebied in westelijke en vooral zuidelijke richting uitgebreid (tot zuidelijk Thailand). Een optreden als dwaalgast in Europa is zeer onwaarschijnlijk.

Bruine Klauwier van de ondersoort *L c lucionensis* broedt in het uiterste oosten van Azië en heeft een grijze bovenkop (bij andere ondersoorten bruin als mantel) maar heeft een donkerbruine mantel en rug en in eerstejaars kleed een onduidelijk donker masker. Er is één geval in Europa van een exemplaar met kenmerken van deze on-

415-417 Langstaartklauwier / Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*, eerste-winter, Oude Vuilnisbelt, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 31 oktober 2011 *(Marc Guyt/Agami)* **418** Langstaartklauwier / Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*, eerste-winter, Oude Vuilnisbelt, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 31 oktober 2011 *(Cock Reijnders)*

TABEL 1 Gevallen van Langstaartklauwier *Lanius schach* in het West-Palearctische gebied 'sensu BWP' / records of Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* in the Western Palearctic 'sensu BWP' (cf Haas 2012)

26 januari tot eind februari 1983, Sede Boqer, Israël, adult mannetje (Shirihai & Golan 1994)
24 september 1987, Birecik, Turkije, eerste-winter mannetje, verzameld (Shirihai & Golan 1994)
11 juni 1999, Stora Karlsö, Gotland, Zweden, tweede-kalenderjaar mannetje (Petersson 1999)
27 oktober tot 4 november 2000, South Uist, Outer Hebrides, Schotland, eerste-winter (Stevenson 2000, 2005)
7 oktober 2004, Jahra Pool reserve, Al Jahra, Koeweit
11-13 april 2004, Aqaba, Jordanië (Dufourny 2006)
14 oktober 2006 tot 9 april 2007 en 3 november 2007 tot 12 april 2008, Sulaibikhat nature reserve, Al Asimah, Koeweit
15-17 oktober 2007, Skallingen, Ribe, Denemarken, eerste-winter mannetje (Kristensen 2008)
31 oktober 2011, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, Nederland, eerste-winter

dersoort (mogelijk uit de overgangszone tussen *lucionensis* en nominaat *L c cristatus* ('*confusus*')), in Ierland in november-december 1999 (Crosher 1999, cf Worfolk 2000). De andere 10+ gevallen van Bruine Klauwier in Europa hebben (hoogstwaarschijnlijk) betrekking op nominaat *cristatus*.

Tijgerklauwier is een broedvogel van Oost-Azië die overwintert in Zuidoost-Azië, de Filippijnen en Indonesië. Op basis van broed- en trekgedrag is het voorkomen als dwaalgast in de WP denkbaar. De soort verschilt van Langstaartklauwier door de geheel donkerbruine mantel en rug en de geheel witte onderdelen (mannetje) of donker geschubde witte onderdelen (vrouwtje).

Ondersoort, geslacht en leeftijd

Langstaartklauwier is een polytypische soort met grote verschillen tussen de ondersoorten. De kenmerken van de vogel van Den Helder passen alleen op nominaat *L s schach* en *L s erythronotus*. Onderscheid tussen beide ondersoorten is alleen goed mogelijk op basis van de maten (nominaat *schach* is duidelijk groter dan *erythronotus*) en in de literatuur worden de verschillen vooral voor adulte mannetjes beschreven maar het kleed van de vogel van Den Helder neigt meer naar *erythronotus* vanwege de meer bruine dan oranje schouderveren. Andere ondersoorten hebben een geheel zwarte bovenkop of een overwegend grijze mantel zonder de duidelijke roestbruine veerpartijen (cf Lefranc & Worfolk 1997). Het ruicontrast tussen de geruide zwarte middelste dekveren en de bruinere overige dekveren en slagpennen, de smalle donkere subterminale rand aan (enkele van) de onderste schouderveren, de lichte randen aan de dekveren en de bruine staart gaven aan dat het een eerstejaars vogel betrof; bij adulte ontbreken de lichte randen en is de bovenstaart donkergrijs (cf Lefranc & Worfolk 1997). De lichaamsveren waren al compleet geruid maar de vleugel was nog juveniel, met uitzondering van de zwart afstekende geruide middelste dekveren. De vergevorderde postjuveniele rui in het najaar is normaal voor soort; Lefranc & Worfolk (1997) geven aan dat jongen uit het eerste legsel eind juli de postjuveniele rui al hebben afgerond. Het lichte voorhoofd en het smalle masker boven de snavel pasten beter op een eerste-winter vrouwtje dan op een mannetje.

Verspreiding en voorkomen

Langstaartklauwier broedt in grote delen van Centraal-Azië, van Iran in het westen tot China in het oosten, op het Indisch Subcontinent en Sri Lanka en in Zuidoost-Azië. Alleen de westelijk broedende *L s erythronotus* (Kazachstan en Afghanistan tot West-India) is een echte trekvogel die overwintert in Zuid-Azië. De andere ondersoorten zijn (overwegend) standvogel. Door het trekgedrag is *erythronotus* als dwaalgast buiten de reguliere gebieden te verwachten. Er zijn gevallen bekend uit Japan en Oman (Lefranc & Worfolk 1997). In het West-Palearctische gebied is de soort acht keer eerder vastgesteld, drie keer in Europa en vijf keer in het Midden-Oosten (cf Haas 2012). Alle WP-gevallen zijn vermeld in tabel 1. In het verleden werd ook in diverse bronnen een geval in Hongarije genoemd (Fehertó, april 1979; cf Lefranc & Worfolk 1997) maar dit betrof een hybride Kleine Klapekster x Roodkopklauwier *L senator* (Hadarics & Schmidt 1997, cf Haas 2012). De waarneming bij Den Helder is aanvaard door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) als eerste geval voor Nederland; het betreft de vierde voor Europa.

Summary

LONG-TAILED SHRIKE NEAR DEN HELDER IN OCTOBER 2011 On 31 October 2011, a first-winter Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* stayed for a full day near Den Helder, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, and was seen by at least 300 and probably over 400 birders. The bird was identified by the combination of very long brown tail, black mask, strong orange tone on flank and lower belly, grey upperhead and mantle and orange-brown rump, back and lower scapulars. The grey upperhead only fits the migratory western subspecies *L s erythrono-*

419 Langstaartklauwier / Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*, eerste-winter, Oude Vuilnisbelt, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 31 oktober 2011 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*

420 Langstaartklauwier / Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*, eerste-winter, Oude Vuilnisbelt, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 31 oktober 2011 *(Enno B Ebels)*

tus from western Central Asia or *L s schach* from further east and excludes the other mostly resident subspecies from the Indian Subcontinent and South-East Asia. This was the first record for the Netherlands, the fourth for Europe and the ninth for the Western Palearctic 'sensu BWP'. All WP records are listed in table 1.

Dankzegging

Nils van Duivendijk wordt bedankt voor zijn bijdragen aan de tekst over de determinatie en leeftijdsbepaling.

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Cape Verde Shearwater in Selvagens in April 2012

Cape Verde Shearwater *Calonectris edwardsii* is an endemic seabird that breeds in Cape Verde Islands, especially on Brava and on the uninhabited islets of Branco and Raso. It has been split from Cory's Shearwater *C borealis* (Bretagnolle & Lequette 1990, Hazevoet 1995, Porter et al 1997, Robb et al 2008, Sangster et al 2012). The total population has been estimated to number c 10 000 breeding pairs (Hazevoet 1995, Nunes & Hazevoet 2001). The breeding period is between February and November. Recent tracking work using geolocators shows that it winters in the waters off Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay (González-Solís et al 2009); the first records are from the 1990s (Olmos 2002, Lima et al 2002, 2004, Abreu et al 2010). There is at least one record from North Carolina, USA (Patteson & Armistead 2004). The species can be recorded in significant numbers in autumn off the coast of Senegal (Baillon & Dubois 1992, Marr & Porter 1992, Dubois et al 2009).

On 5 April 2012, during the monitoring of the breeding population of Barolo Shearwater *Puffinus baroli* at Baia das Cagarras, Selvagem Grande, Selvagens, we detected a smaller shearwater in the middle of a Cory's Shearwater *C borealis* colony. The bird was similar in plumage compared with Cory's but smaller in size and with a thinner and darker bill. It was resting near several other Cory's and kept quiet and calm; it could easily be trapped. To confirm our initial suspicion that it was a Cape Verde Shearwater we took some measurements: head-plus-bill length (from supra-occipital to front edge of bill) 96.1 mm; bill length (from edge of forehead feathers to most distal part of the hook) 43.5 mm; bill depth (from concave dorsal surface just in front of tubes to base of bill) 14.6 mm; tarsus 47.4 mm; wing length 305 mm; and body mass 435 g. These small measurements together with the bill shape and coloration only fit Cape Verde and exclude Cory's and Scopoli's Shearwater *C diomedea* (cf Cramp & Simmons 1977, Porter et al 1997, Patteson & Armistead 2004).

This was the second record for the Selvagens and Selvagem Grande and the first of a living bird, also for Europe. In June 2005, a dead bird was found in a cliff of Selvagem Grande (Jara et al 2007). Cory's Shearwaters from the breeding colonies on Madeira as well as those on Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, have been recovered from the waters off Brazil in winter (Lima et al 2004). It may well be that the occasional Cape Verde Shearwater wintering off Brazil follows Cory's to the breeding sites of the latter rather than to the Cape Verde Islands.

We would like to thank Magnus Robb for confirming the identification and Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT-Portugal) for funding Filipe Moniz and Cristóbal Pérez through project PEst-OE/MAR/UI0331/2011.

421 Cape Verde Shearwater / Kaapverdische Pijlstormvogel *Calonectris edwardsii*, Selvagem Grande, Selvagens, 5 April 2012 *(Cristóbal Pérez)*

422 Cape Verde Shearwater / Kaapverdische Pijlstormvogel *Calonectris edwardsii*, Selvagem Grande, Selvagens, 5 April 2012 *(Cristóbal Pérez)*

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White-tailed Tropicbird off Santiago, Cape Verde Islands, in May 2011

On 3 May 2011 at c 13:00, Menno Huizinga, Henk Levering, Gerard Ouweneel, Jacques de Raad and Jos Vroege together with Laurens Steijn as leader of an ornithological tour by BirdingBreaks.nl boarded the m/v Plancius for an eight-day seabirding voyage from the Cape Verde Islands to Madeira. After a tasty lunch on board, the ship was heading north along the coast of Santiago in the direction of Razo and Branco, where it would arrive the next morning. The Dutch group, together with c 50 birders from several other countries, was on deck, scanning the sea. In the distance, Red-billed Tropicbirds *Phaethon aethereus* were patrolling the cliffs of Santiago when, at c 15:20, one of the participants shouted 'tropicbird approaching behind the ship'. The bird flew straight towards the group and I (LS) pointed my camera. Through the lens, I saw what looked like a yellow bill, making me think of an immature Red-billed. Few moments later, the bird turned and showed the pattern of the upperparts, with a black diagonal bar across the upperwing, immediately identifying it as an adult White-tailed Tropicbird *P lepturus*. We instantly started photographing the bird (cf Dutch Birding 33: 206, plate 240, 2011), which followed the ship for c 2 min and then headed towards Praia on the mainland of Santiago, leaving the birders behind in surprise and delight. Apart from the yellow bill and dark median-covert bar reaching the innermost tertials, the photographs show additional characters such as the almost completely black outer primaries with white tips and white innermost primaries with black shafts, the dark eye-stripe ('mask') and the yellow-tinged tail-streamers.

White-tailed Tropicbird is a pantropical species, with currently six subspecies recognized: three in the Indian Ocean (*europae*, *fulvus* and nominate *lepturus*), two in the Atlantic Ocean (*ascensionis* and *catesbyi*), and one in the Pacific Ocean (*dorotheae*). The nearest breeding grounds to the Cape Verde Islands are on Boatswainbird Island in the Ascension Islands (boatswain being the local name for White-tailed Tropicbird) in the central Atlantic Ocean (*ascensionis*) at c 2700 km and São Tomé and islets in the Gulf of Guinea at c 3700 km (*catesbyi*), while more distant populations are found in the Caribbean in the Antilles, Bermudas and Bahamas in the western Atlantic (*catesbyi*).

This record represents the second for the Cape Verde Islands and chronologically the second for the Western Palearctic ('sensu BWP'; Cramp 1985) (cf Haas 2012). The first was an adult off Ilhéu de Curral Velho, Boavista, Cape Verde Islands, on 20 May 1999 (Dufourny 1999). The third WP record concerned an adult staying for two weeks in the Azores: at Fajãzinha, Flores, from 14 to 21 October and on 27 October 2011, and at Vila Nova, Corvo, on 25 October (Monticelli & Aalto 2012). On 15-17 September 2012 (and probably during the previous two weeks), an adult was seen and photographed at Horta, Faial, Azores (Dutch Birding 34: 324, 326, plate 446, 2012); possibly, this concerns the same individual as in October 2012. See Harrison (1985), del Hoyo et al (1992), Le Corre & Jouventin (1999) and Monticelli & Aalto (2012)

423-424 White-tailed Tropicbird / Witstaartkeerkringvogel *Phaethon lepturus*, adult, off Santiago, Cape Verde Islands, 3 May 2011 *(Laurens B Steijn/BirdingBreaks.nl)*

for details on two records in Portuguese waters but outside the boundaries of the WP and on identification, morphs and subspecies.

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Eurasian Oystercatcher feeding Common Shelduck chick

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* is one of the few waders which actively feeds its chicks. Most waders leave their young feeding for themselves, while oystercatcher species regularly offer provision to their chicks, normally earthworms, dropping them onto the ground next to the chick to pick up and eat. This behaviour of caring for chicks is probably the best explanation for the few cases of interspecific adoptions reported in Eurasian Oystercatcher. The species has been described adopting chicks of Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (Triplet & Sueur 1983), Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (Hampshire & Russell 1993, Dougall 1996), Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* (Dickson 2003), Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (Suttie 2001) and Common Gull *L canus canus* (Sandison & Okill 2012). Also, many observations are known where Eurasian Oystercatcher shares clutches with other species (especially Northern Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*, Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* and Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, but also Mallard *Anas platy-*

425 Eurasian Oystercatcher / Scholekster *Haematopus ostralegus*, pursuing chick of Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* with worm, Llobregat delta, Barcelona, Spain, 15 June 2012 *(Víctor Cañadas)*

rhynchos) or hijacks the nest of other species and starts brooding the eggs; this usually happens when the oystercatcher's own clutch is lost (Jan Hulscher in litt).

During the breeding seasons of 2008-12, a pair of Eurasian Oystercatcher attempted to breed at Ca l'Arana beach, Llobregat delta, north-eastern Spain. In all seasons, the pair lost their eggs, mainly by predation by foxes and wild boars and on one occasion because of bad weather. In 2011, we observed one of the adults for a few days, after losing its eggs. It was feeding a Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* chick (c two weeks old) with worms by transferring the worm from bill to bill. During June 2012, after their nest had been predated again, a member of the couple with a worm in its bill was persistently pursuing a Common Shelduck duckling in the same area on the beach. The adult Common Shelducks were not reacting to the adoption attempt, despite sitting next to the scene.

This appears to be the first described case of adoption behaviour by Eurasian Oystercatcher towards chicks of wildfowl.

We thank Bruno Ens and Jan Hulscher for supplying useful additional information.

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Dunbekwulp verzameld te Zierikzee in december 1888

Bij de herziening van de Nederlandse avifaunistische lijst 1800-1979 (van IJzendoorn et al 1996) werd het geval van een geschoten Dunbekwulp *Numenius tenuirostris* te Zierikzee, Schouwen-Duiveland, Zeeland, in 1886 (Albarda 1892, 1897, Snouckaert van Schauburg 1908, Eykman et al 1949, Glutz von Blotzheim et al 1977) niet langer aanvaardbaar geacht. De redenen waren onder meer dat onbekend was of het specimen bewaard was gebleven en dat de datum onvoldoende bekend was. Dit exemplaar maakte oorspronkelijk deel uit van de privé-vogelcollectie van Johannes Renier Joseph van der Harten (1852-1925). Zijn collectie van 274 vogels verhuisde in 1910 naar het Missiemuseum in Steijl, Venlo, Limburg (cf Jansen 2012). Hier trof ik op 1 februari 2005 een opgezette Dunbekwulp aan. De determinatie kon ik bevestigen op basis van de tekening van de handpennen (p7-10), de tekening op de onderdelen met geïsoleerde hartvormige vlekken op de witte flank, de slanke, spits eindigende en geheel donkere snavel, de bevedering van de tibia, het staartpatroon en de vage lichte wenkbrauwstreep (cf Corso et al in prep). Op 8 september 2005 vond ik in de collectie van het Missiemuseum een notitieboekje waarin stond dat de vogel afkomstig was uit de 'Coll. v.d.H.' en gelijktijdig was gearriveerd met onder meer twee Steppehoenders *Syrrhaptes paradoxus* verzameld bij Zeelst, Eindhoven, Noord-Brabant, in 1888-89. Bijna een jaar later, op 20 juli 2006, vond ik uiteindelijk ook het collectieboekje van Joseph van der Harten in de kasten van het Missiemuseum. Hierin werd bij de Dunbekwulp vermeld: 'nummer 122 W. Spoor Zierikzee'. Op 29 juni 2010 vond Ruud Vlek in het tijdschrift Ibis van januari 1893 een brief van Hendrik Willem de Graaf (de Graaf 1893) waarin staat vermeld: 'A second specimen I have lately seen in the collection of Mr. Jos. Van Harten, at Eindhoven, in North Brabant. This bird was killed near Zierikzee, in the Isle of Schouwen in Zeeland, December 5th, 1888'.

De vogel werd verzameld door Willem Lodewijk Joost Spoor (1827-1893), die evenals van der Harten afkomstig was uit Stratum, Eindhoven, Noord-Brabant. Spoor verzamelde 57 vogels die eindigden in van der Hartens collectie, waaronder de Dunbekwulp. Spoor woonde geruime tijd in

426 Dunbekwulp / Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris* (verzameld te Zierikzee, Zeeland, op 5 december 1888), Missiemuseum te Steijl, Venlo, Limburg, 9 augustus 2011 *(Justin J F J Jansen)*

Zierikzee en werkte daar bij het gerechtshof.

Op basis van deze informatie werd deze Dunbekwulp op 30 juni 2010 ingediend bij de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) en in juni 2012 werd het geval aanvaard. Er konden geen maten worden genomen van de vogel en daarom is het seksen erg lastig (Corso et al in prep).

Het betreft hier een van negen aanvaarde Dunbekwulpen voor Nederland (van IJzendoorn et al 1996, De Smet 1997). Na het geval van Velserdijk, Noord-Holland, van 5 december 1856 betreft dit de tweede voor Nederland en de eerste voor Zeeland. De laatste in Nederland vastgestelde Dunbekwulp was op 23 januari 1947 in Wieringen, Noord-Holland (van den Berg & Bosman 1999, 2001).

Jan Ewalds en Truus Koppens worden bedankt voor de bereidwillige medewerking om herhaaldelijk toegang te verlenen tot de archieven en collectie van het Missiemuseum in Steijl en Ruud Vlek voor het speurwerk in de literatuur.

Summary

Slender-billed Curlew collected at Zierikzee in December 1888 A lost specimen without proper documentation of Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris* was recently rediscovered at the Missiemuseum at Steijl, Venlo, Limburg, the Netherlands. Details of its provenance were found in old notebooks and publications; it concerns a bird collected at Zierikzee, Schouwen-Duiveland, Zeeland, the Netherlands, on 5 December 1888. This report was previously rejected because the whereabouts of the specimen and the date (month and year) were not known with certainty but it has now been accepted by the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA). This concerns the ninth record for the Netherlands, chronologically the second; all records concern birds which were collected. The last was at Wieringen, Noord-Holland, on 23 January 1947.

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Village Weaver at Abu Simbel, Egypt, in May 2006

On 1 May 2006, Eric Didner, Philippe Geniez and Pierre-André Crochet were sheltering from the heat of midday under the trees of El Faros garden, along the airport road at Abu Simbel, southern Egypt (22.3581°N, 31.6146°E). ED was indulging in his favourite midday occupation (a siesta) while PG and PAC were processing (photographing, tissue sampling) the reptiles found in the morning. While doing this, PAC heard the constant song of an unknown bird in an adjacent clump of tall trees which he first dismissed as coming from a Nile Valley Sunbird *Anthodiaeta metallica*. After a few minutes, PAC realised ED was not asleep since ED asked PAC his thoughts on this strange song. When PAC told ED of his sunbird theory, ED was not wholly convinced. He told PAC he had assumed the song to come from a bird in a cage until the source of the sound moved from one tree to another. PAC and ED agreed that they should locate the source of this song and, since PAC still had several lizards to deal with, ED agreed to leave his car seat and have a look.

Five minutes later, PAC heard ED calling for help, as he had located the bird but was perplexed as to its identity. He briefly described a yellow bird with black head, which sounding really exciting, so PAC and PG hastily dispatched the remaining lizards in a few empty bottles and hurried with telescope and camera to the spot where ED was standing. They quickly found the bird singing from the dense parts of a tall tree but could not identify it immediately. The bird was obviously a *Ploceus* weaver of some sort, with its mostly yellow underparts, black mask and massive bill. None of the observers had any experience with African weaver species so we decided to take as many photographs as possible, in the hope to identify the bird once home with the necessary resources at hand. PAC, ED and PG observed the bird for 20-30 min during which time it spent a lot of time singing, predominantly staying motionless in the dense vegetation of tall trees. Once they had enough photographs, they left the bird, still rather unexcited as they were inclined to think that they had located an escaped cage bird. However, they had taken notes on the bird's plumage and could not see any bare part or feather damage (even to the longest tail feathers), so the bird was unlikely to be a recent escape. Back at home the bird was quickly identified from the photographs as an adult male Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*.

During researches about this sighting, it became apparent that what was probably the same bird had been seen on 2 April 2006 'near the blue factory along lake Nasser 500 m outside Abu Simbel' (apparently the area south of 'airport bay') by Erik Forsyth, leading a Rockjumper birding tour. The sighting was brief and no detailed description or photograph could be taken but EF identified the bird as a non-breeding male Village Weaver, a species he was very familiar with. Compared with the photographs taken on 1 May, the bird (assuming it was the same individual) was noted as less black on the face and not as bright yellow. Note that, given the lack of documentation, this April report remains unconfirmed.

427-428 Village Weaver / Grote Textorwever *Ploceus cucullatus*, male, presumably adult, Abu Simbel, Egypt, 1 May 2006 *(Pierre-André Crochet)*. Compare claw length with plate 430-431.

Description

The following description is based on available photographs (plate 427-429) and notes taken in the field by PAC.

SIZE & STRUCTURE Medium-sized passerine with typical weaver jizz. Tail short, square and slightly notched. Tail-feathers rounded, undamaged. Massive bill with deep base and pointed tip. Stout legs with very long claws.
HEAD Orange with dark mask extending from bill base (middle of upper mandible) above eye to rear cheeks then to throat. Mask black mottled with green feathers. Black feathers present on top of head also but exact extent of black coloration on crown hard to assess.
UPPERPARTS Mantle not visible.
UNDERPARTS Upperbreast orange with scattered white feathers; lower breast to undertail-coverts yellow.
WING Lesser coverts not visible. Median coverts yellow with reduced black centre. Greater coverts dark dull green with narrow poorly marked pale green edges. Tertials black or very dark green with wide contrasting yellow-green edges, flight feathers not that visible but dark green with narrow green edges; primaries grey, worn; primary projection not fully visible but clearly shorter than tertials with at least three primaries visible.
TAIL Uppertail black or blackish. Underside of tail pale greyish green.
BARE PARTS Bill black. Leg pale pink-grey, claws darker. Iris orange. No apparent deformities or damage to bare parts.
BEHAVIOUR Spending most of its time in dense parts of tall trees, singing most of the time.
SONG Not precisely described but very strange-sounding verses with metallic tones, rather unlike any usual European bird. No calls heard.

429 Village Weaver / Grote Textorwever *Ploceus cucullatus*, male, presumably adult, Abu Simbel, Egypt, 1 May 2006 *(Pierre-André Crochet)*. Note broad, rounded tail-feathers showing no sign of abrasion.

Identification and ageing

Species identification is straightforward as no *Ploceus* except Village Weaver shows the combination of characters exhibited in the Abu Simbel bird. Vitelline Masked Weaver *P vitellinus* can be quite similar but has a much smaller bill, as do the other masked weavers (eg, Fry & Keith 2004, Redman et al 2009). Robert Dowsett examined the photographs of our bird and identified it as the subspecies *P c bohndorffi* rather than *P c abyssinicus* based on extent of orange on the underparts. However, the limited extant of black on the rear crown and nape appear better for *abyssinicus* according to Fry & Keith (2004), so the bird might well have been an intergrade between these two subspecies.

Ross McGregor has extensive experience with the species in the hand from his field studies in Nigeria; he aged the bird as an adult male, based on the broad rounded tail-feathers, black bill and bright orange eyes, engaged in pre-nuptial body moult. This fits the timing of moult in Nigeria where the species has a pre-breeding body moult in the late dry to early rainy season and a moult of wing-feathers and tail-feathers post-breeding in the late rainy season (Ross McGregor pers comm).

Origin and status

The plumage (especially the perfect condition of the tail-feathers) excludes a recent escape origin, but we cannot exclude the bird had escaped prior to the moult of its tail-feathers. We were a bit concerned in the field by the very long claws visible in some of the photographs but Ross McGregor (pers comm) confirmed that the species can sometimes show similarly long claws, as illustrated in some photographs he sent to us (cf plate 430-431). Therefore, this does not seem to be outside the variation for a bird of wild origin.

Village Weaver is mostly sedentary but some populations are intra-African local migrants. In Mauritania, the species moves north of the Sahelian area to the Tagant area (around 18°N) during the rainy season (Isenmann et al 2010). According to Fry & Keith (2004), the subspecies *bohndorffi* occurs in south-west (former) Sudan where it intergrades with *abyssinicus*, while *abyssinicus* is found in south-east (former) Sudan. These are the only two subspecies likely to occur naturally in Egypt (although they are also the most likely to be imported from Sudan). According to Fry & Keith (2004), the closest breeding areas in former Sudan are relatively far south but Nikolaus (1987) mentions reports just south of Khartoum,

430 Village Weaver / Grote Textorwever *Ploceus cucullatus*, adult female, Amurum, Jos Plateau, Nigeria (09°52′N, 08°58′E), 27 March 2003 *(Ross McGregor)*. Note long claws, similar to Abu Simbel bird.

431 Village Weaver / Grote Textorwever *Ploceus cucullatus*, adult male, Amurum, Jos Plateau, Nigeria (09°52′N, 08°58′E), 28 November 2001 *(Ross McGregor)*. Note long claws, similar to Abu Simbel bird.

North Sudan. In addition, Tom Jenner (pers comm) informed us that the species is now common in Khartoum itself, and that he has seen the species along the Nile valley up to 100 km north of Khartoum, less than 700 km south of Abu Simbel. TJ has been unable to travel further north, so this probably does not constitute the northern limit of the current range of the species in Sudan. Based on the information listed above, a natural occurrence of the species in southern Egypt is thus perfectly plausible.

There seems to be very little traffic between Abu Simbel and Sudan: there is little road traffic (and the road passes quite far from the village anyway) and the boat ferry does not stop in Abu Simbel (Mindy Baha El Din & Sherif Baha El Din pers comm). Richard Hoath (pers comm) has never seen the species in captivity in Egypt despite visiting pet shops and zoos for the past 20 years, including in Aswan. We never saw any cage bird in Abu Simbel ourselves and there seems to be little bird trading in the area. Therefore the escape possibility is clearly very low.

Finally, there has been a series of other Afrotropical, partial migrant species recorded in southern Egypt, including Abu Simbel (see, eg, De Rouck 2011, De Rouck & Colin 2012 and van der Veen 2011 and recent decisions by the Egyptian Ornithological Rarities Committee (EORC) at www.chn-france.org/eorc). Based on these arguments, the EORC has accepted this sighting as the first record for Egypt and placed the species in category A, based on the sighting of 1 May only; the EORC was unable to accept the April report because no documentation (particularly description or photograph) was available.

Village Weaver has been discussed in Snow & Perrins (1998) based on two records from the Cape Verde Islands, one of which involved a probable breeding attempt by several birds in 1993. However, these records concern presumably introduced birds and the species has not established a viable population (Kees Hazevoet pers comm). So, the species has not been accepted on the Cape Verde list by Hazevoet (1995). The species has also bred in Portugal according to Snow & Perrins (1998) but it has not established a self-sustaining population there according to Matias et al (2007), and is included in Category E of the Portuguese list. The Abu Simbel bird thus constitutes the first record of a presumed wild individual for the Western Palearctic (WP), and the sole record currently admitted to the WP list.

Acknowledgements
Mindy Baha El Din, Sherif Baha El Din, Robert Dowsett, Richard Hoath, Tom Jenner and Ross McGregor provided comments that proved vital in assessing this record. Pierre Defos du Rau and Bram Piot helped us with contacts in Africa.

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CDNA-mededelingen

Recente CDNA-besluiten Op de zomervergadering van de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) op 7 september 2012 op Texel, Noord-Holland, zijn de volgende punten besproken en besluiten genomen. Nils van Duivendijk is geïnstalleerd als commissielid, als opvolger van Frank Neijts. Nils is eerder commissielid geweest en gaat nu dus op voor een nieuwe periode. Hij neemt ook de taak van Frank over als CDNA-regiocoördinator voor Noord-Brabant. Marcel Haas is benoemd als extern archivaris (zonder stemrecht) per 1 januari 2013, als opvolger van Max Berlijn. Deze wisseling markeert tevens een verandering in werkwijze, die nu voor het overgrote deel via het nieuwe digitale systeem zal verlopen. De taken van archivaris staan beschreven in het CDNA-handboek; de betreffende tekst zal geactualiseerd worden na implementatie van het nieuwe digitale systeem.

De eerste Kumliens Meeuw *Larus glaucoides kumlieni* van Nederland (Terschelling, Friesland, 30 januari 2005; Dutch Birding 31: 17-19, 2009) gaat in herroulatie om te beoordelen of dit geval de toets der kritiek nog kan doorstaan nu de kennis over de variatie binnen (donkere exemplaren van) nominaat Kleine Burgemeester *L g glaucoides* sterk is toegenomen. Besloten is om de aanbevelingen over beoordeling van tweede-kalenderjaar Baltische Mantelmeeuw *L fuscus fuscus* in het voorjaar (cf Dutch Birding 33: 304-311, 2011) over te nemen. Dit betekent dat niet langer alleen geringde vogels van bewezen geografische herkomst in aanmerking komen voor aanvaarding, maar ook tweede-kalenderjaar vogels in het voorjaar die voldoen aan de in het genoemde artikel beschreven kenmerken, die fotografisch dienen te zijn gedocumenteerd. Omdat alleen gevallen met gedetailleerde documentatie waarop rui en tekening van individuele slagpennen is te zien in aanmerking komen voor aanvaarding, worden oude gevallen (waarbij de documentatie meestal beperkt was) niet herzien, tenzij waarnemers ze opnieuw indienen dan wel om herbeoordeling verzoeken. Met betrekking tot Iberische Tjiftjaffen *Phylloscopus ibericus* met 'afwijkende' zang is besloten dat er geen nieuwe criteria voor beoordeling worden toegevoegd. Gevraagd wordt om gevallen uitgebreid te documenteren, met opnamen van met name roep en lange opnamen van zang (inclusief variatie), en liefst ook foto's van uiterlijke kenmerken. Er wordt vooralsnog onvoldoende aanleiding gezien voor herroulatie van oude gevallen, al is bekend dat er een geval is dat zonder geluidsopnames is gedocumenteerd en er een aantal gevallen is met mogelijk een te korte geluidsopname. De gevallen van bergfluiter *P bonelli/orientalis* met (alleen) zangopnames (en geen beschrijving of opname van de roep) zijn geanalyseerd en op basis hiervan konden twee gevallen die voorheen als 'bergfluiter spec' waren aanvaard, nu worden gedetermineerd als Bergfluiter *P bonelli*. De conclusies zijn in de vergadering bekrachtigd. Dit betekent dat de gevallen bij Ede, Gelderland, van 23 tot 27 mei 2004 (#8690) en bij Den Helder, Noord-Holland, op 11 mei 2006 (#8808) nu zijn aanvaard als *P bonelli*. De analyse van oude gevallen van Roodsterblauwborst *Luscinia svecica svecica* is vrijwel afgerond en zal worden gevolgd door een advies om bepaalde gevallen wel of niet in herroulatie te brengen.

Er is besloten om de criteria voor de status van beoordeeltaxon niet aan te passen: een taxon wordt beoordeeld wanneer er minder dan 60 gevallen zijn in de laatste 30 jaren (gemiddeld minder dan twee per jaar). Er zijn geen taxa van de beoordeellijst afgevoerd of aan de lijst toegevoegd.

De eerder gemelde herzieningen van Bronskopeend *Anas falcata*, Roze Pelikaan *Pelecanus onocrotalus* en Jufferkraanvogel *Grus virgo* (in verband met status/omgekeerde bewijslast) zijn nog gaande.

Eleonora's Valk *Falco eleonorae* (Oostvaardersplassen, Flevoland, 17 september 2011; Dutch Birding 33: 377-381, 2011) is bekrachtigd als nieuwe soort voor Nederland. De Nederlandse lijst staat daarmee (inclusief de reeds eerder bekrachtigde Langstaartklauwier *Lanius schach*) nu op 503 soorten. Roy Slaterus & Dick Groenendijk

WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic mainly from **August-September 2012**. The reports are largely unchecked and their publication here does not imply future acceptance by a rarities committee. Observers are requested to submit their records to each country's rarities committee. Corrections are welcome and will be published.

SWANS TO GEESE In Ornis Polonica 53: 69-85, 2012, the expansion of the breeding populations of **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus* in central and western Europe was presented with totals for 2005-11, when there were (from east to west) 70-100 pairs in Estonia, 260 in Latvia, 60-80 in Lithuania, c 30 in Belarus, 80-90 in Poland; c 20 in Germany and a few pairs in Hungary, Belgium, the Netherlands, Britain and Ireland. In addition, various mixed pairs with Mute Swan *C olor* were described for Poland. A detailed study on the dramatically increasing summer population of Canada Geese *Branta canadensis* in Greenland shows that all concern **Todd's Canada Geese** *B c interior*, which has been present in West Greenland since at least 1864 (Dansk Orn Foren Tidsskr 106: 87-92, 2012); surprisingly, a study of museum skins confirms that all specimens labelled as **Intermediate**

432 Crested Honey Buzzard / Aziatische Wespendief *Pernis ptilorhyncus*, adult female (right), with European Honey Buzzard / Wespendief *P apivorus*, male, and Booted Eagle / Dwergarend *Aquila pennata*, Batumi, Georgia, 4 September 2012 *(Albert de Jong)* **433** Cory's Shearwater / Kuhls Pijlstormvogel *Calonectris borealis*, with Sandwich Tern / Grote Stern *Sterna sandvicenis*, Frederikshavn, Nordjylland, Denmark, 11 July 2012 *(Terje O Nordvik)*

434 Little Bustard / Kleine Trap *Tetrax tetrax*, Machnówek, Lubelskie, Poland, 8 September 2012 *(Marcin Przepiórka/www.lto.org.pl)*

435 Harlequin Duck / Harlekijneend *Histrionicus histrionicus*, male, Persfjorden, Vardø, Finnmark, Norway, 28 July 2012 *(Jürgen Steudtner)*

436 Eastern Imperial Eagle / Keizerarend *Aquila heliaca*, subadult, Sturup, Skåne, Sweden, 25 July 2012 *(Lasse Olsson)* **437** Rüppell's Vulture / Rüppells Gier *Gyps rueppellii*, Vila Velha De Rodão, Portugal, 4 August 2012 *(Vincent Legrand)* **438** Hybrid Lesser Spotted x Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina x clanga*, juvenile, Biebrza marshes, Poland, 7 September 2012 *(Marcin Przepiórka/www.lto.org.pl)*

Canada Geese *B c parvipes* turned out to be Todd's Canada as well, implying that Intermediate Canada has not yet been recorded for Greenland with certainty (contra Auk 113: 231-233, 1996). Observations and specimens also confirmed the presence of **Hutchins's Cackling Goose** *B hutchinsii hutchinsii* as a rare summer visitor in Greenland, mainly between Disko Bay and Thule, with two recent records from East Greenland.

DUCKS TO GROUSE In Norway, a male **Harlequin Duck** *Histrionicus histrionicus* was seen at Hamburgbukta, Svalbard, on 16 July; the male at Persfjorden, Finnmark, from 24 June was still present until at least 30 July. In Iceland, the long-staying male **Steller's Eider** *Polysticta stelleri* at Borgarfjörður first seen in April 2000 was still present on 22 July. A male **American Scoter** *Melanitta americana* was reported from Achill Island, Mayo, Ireland, on 7-10 September. After it was last seen at Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands, on 26 May 2012, the adult male **Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola* returned in eclipse plumage on 12 September for its ninth winter. The **American Black Duck** *Anas rubripes* on Achill Island was seen again on, eg, 20 September. A distribution map of an estimated 1000-1500 pairs of **Reeves's Pheasant** *Syrmaticus reevesii* in France shows a presence in more than 20 departments all over the country (Ornithos 19: 238, 2012).

SEABIRDS An immature female **Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross** *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* was killed by a long-line fishing boat c 110 nautical miles north-west of the Faeroes on 22 July (see Birding World: 25: 328, 2012); there have been three previous records in the WP (adults in Norway in April 1994 and June-July 2007 and an immature in England and Sweden in June-July 2007) and two records in Greenland (in August 1944 and August 1963). On six days in August alone, **soft-plumaged petrels** *Pterodroma deserta/feae/madeira* were watched off Estaca de Bares, Galicia, with two together on 31 August. On 26 August, an individual photographed 17 nautical miles off Malpica de Bergantiños, A Coruña, was tentatively identified as **Fea's Petrel** *P feae*. A **Zino's Petrel** *P madeira* photographed at Fortune Bank, c 21 nautical miles east of Graciosa, on 1 August concerned the first sight record for the Azores (all previous ones were recorded by geolocators). The Taxonomic Sub-committee (TSC) of the British Ornithologists' Union's Records Committee (BOURC) formally decided to treat not only **Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris borealis*, **Scopoli's Shearwater** *C diomedea* and **Cape Verde Shearwater** *C edwardsii* as specifically distinct but also **Cape Verde Storm Petrel** *Oceanodroma jabejabe*, **Madeiran Storm Petrel** *O castro* and **Monteiro's Storm Petrel** *O monteiroi* (Ibis 154: 874-883, 2012); monotypic Madeiran Storm Petrel provisionally includes cool-season breeders, **Grant's Storm Petrel**, in the Azores, Madeira, the Selvagens, and islands off Portugal. A **Scopoli's Shearwater** photographed north of Lanzarote on 30 June was the second for the Canary Islands. Remarkably, a **Great Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis* was found moribund at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Michigan, USA, on 9 September; the c fourth for Alaska and c 10th for the Pacific coast of the USA was photographed near Kodiak on 25 August. In Norway, one flew past Ravn, Vestfold, on 14 September. A **Black-bellied Storm Petrel** *Fregetta tropica* photographed c 45 nautical miles north of Lanzarote at the Banco de la Concepción area on 18 August was the third for the WP and the second for this area (with a previous bird on 10 September 2011). A **Swinhoe's Storm Petrel** *O monorhis* photographed at Fortune Bank on 1 August was the first for the Azores. The c 33rd for the WP was watched by several observers at Banco de la Concepción north of Lanzarote on 15 September. In Portugal, the second **Madeiran Storm Petrel** for Berlenga (where **Grant's Storm Petrel** is a regular breeding bird) was sound-recorded in the night of 14/15 September; it was also the second Madeiran to be identified by a sound-recording outside Macaronesia. An adult **White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus* at Horta harbour, Faial, on 15 and 17 September may have been present the previous two weeks as well, constituting the second for the Azores (unless it concerns the same individual as the one on Flores and Corvo between 14 and 27 October 2011; see Dutch Birding 34: 100-104, 2012). An immature **Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula* perched twice aboard HMS Protector off Tenerife, Canary Islands, on 23-24 September.

CORMORANTS TO HERONS A **Pygmy Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* stayed at Étang d'Urbino, Haute-Corse, France, on 6-13 August. An individual at Freienbach, Schwyz, from 17 September onwards was the c 10th for Switzerland. **Great White Pelicans** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* were seen, eg, at Birzai, Lithuania, on 11 August and Grenoble, Isère, France, from 17 August. In northern France, a **Dalmatian Pelican** *P crispus* was seen at Étang de Lindre, Moselle, on 8 August. An adult **Chinese Pond Heron** *Ardeola bacchus* was photographed near Oulu, Finland, on 4 August (in the WP, curiously, the species is not regarded as genuine despite previous records in England, Finland, Hungary and Norway, and a status as vagrant in Alaska, USA). The adult **Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* at Lagoa das Furnas, São Miguel, Azores, from 24 June stayed until 15 July. A **Western Reef Heron** *E gularis* was seen at the Straits of Messina, Italy, on 6-8 September. In the Azores, a juvenile **Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* was found on Corvo on 28 September.

IBISES TO GREBES The remarkable life history for 2011 of a **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* colour-ringed (white V02) as a nestling on Illa de Buda, Tarragona, Spain, on 19 June 2010 includes a stay in Brandenburg, Germany, from 20 April to 1 May 2011: at Klaipėda, Lithuania, on 19-26 May: on Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, the Netherlands, on 10-11 July: on Texel, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, on 14-17 August: at Lauwersmeer, Friesland, on c 1-14 September: and at Urdaibai biosphere reserve, Bizkaia, Spain, on 17 September (ie, just a few days after it disappeared from Friesland). In Sardinia, the species was probably breeding this summer with several being present in heronries at Gulf of Oristano and also

439 Swinhoe's Storm Petrel / Chinees Stormvogeltje *Oceanodroma monorhis*, Fortune Bank, c 21 nautical miles east of Graciosa, Azores, Azores, 1 August 2012 *(Harro H Müller)* **440-441** Swinhoe's Storm Petrel / Chinees Stormvogeltje *Oceanodroma monorhis*, Fortune Bank, c 21 nautical miles east of Graciosa, Azores, 1 August 2012 *(Vincent Legrand)* **442** Black-bellied Storm Petrel / Zwartbuikstormvogeltje *Fregetta tropica*, Banco de la Concepción, c 45 nautical miles north of Lanzarote, Canary Islands, 18 August 2012 *(Juan Sagardía)* **443** Pallas's Gull / Reuzenzwartkopmeeuw *Larus ichthyaetus*, first-year, Swinoujscie, Poland, 22 August 2012 *(Zbyszek Kajzer)* **444** Bonaparte's Gull / Kleine Kokmeeuw *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*, adult (left), Blåvandshuk, Vestjylland, Denmark, 4 August 2012 *(Per Poulsen)*

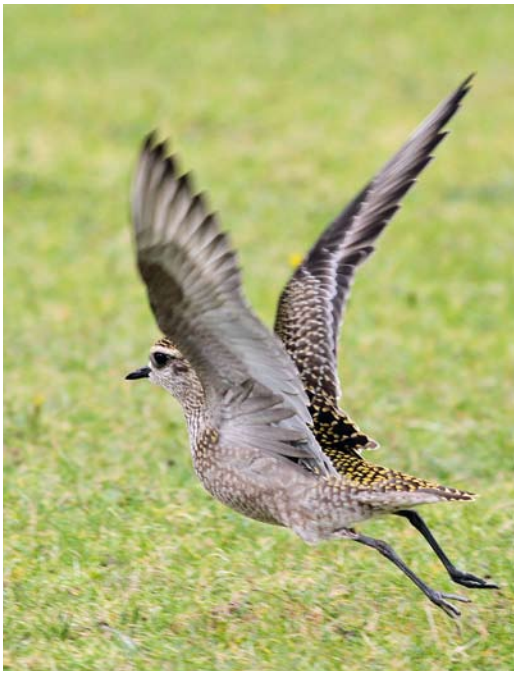
445 Zino's Petrel / Freira *Pterodroma madeira*, Fortune Bank, c 21 nautical miles east of Graciosa, Azores, 1 August 2012 *(Harro H Müller)*

446 White-tailed Tropicbird / Witstaartkeerkringvogel *Phaethon lepturus*, adult, Horta, Faial, Azores, 17 September 2012 *(Erik van Ommen)*

at Gulf of Cagliari. In 2011, the feral breeding population of **African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus* in France numbered 660-710 pairs (from 1700 pairs in 2006), mostly in Loire-Atlantique (Ornithos 19: 238-239, 2012). At the Dutch-German border, three fledgling **Chilean Flamingos** *Phoenicopterus chilensis* were ringed at Zwillbrocker Venn colony where this (and occasionally other) flamingo species has been thriving since 1982. In the Azores, long-staying **Pied-billed Grebes** *Podylimbus podiceps* remained through at least mid-September at Lagoa Azul, São Miguel, at Angra do Heroismo, Terceira, and at Lagoa Branca, Flores.

RAPTORS On 4 and 11 September, respectively, two and three **Crested Honey Buzzards** *Pernis ptilorhyncus* flew past Batumi, Georgia; at this site, a record 179 342 individuals **European Honey Buzzards** *P apivorus* (nearly all adults) were counted on 3 September. An adult **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* at Mana on 15 August was the first for Slovakia and one at Csákvár, Fejér, on 22-27 August the first for Hungary. In Finland, a total of 199 **Pallid Harriers** *Circus macrourus* was recorded in the five months from 10 April to 18 September; the first oversummering bird for the Netherlands, a second calendar-year male near Exloo, Drenthe, first seen on 13 May, was last reported on 5 September. If accepted, a **Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates* seen briefly between Lajares and La Oliva, Fuerteventura, on 22 July will be the first for the Canary Islands. A **Shikra** *Accipiter badius* trapped at Aras ringing station, Iğdır, in early September was the second for Turkey (www.kuzeydoga.org/index.php/tr/enson/309-shikra); the first was at Gölbelen, Çıldır Gölü, Ardahan, at the borders with Georgia and Iran on 12 April 2006. Up to a handful **Atlas Long-legged Buzzards** *Buteo rufinus cirtensis* in Cádiz, Spain, during August included a juvenile at Tarifa on 6 August and two together at Algeciras on 29 August. A good breeding season for **Greater Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga* in Biebrza marshes, Poland, in 2012 involved nine pairs of which seven produced young. In addition, there were four mixed pairs of Greater Spotted (or hybrids) with **Lesser Spotted Eagle** *A pomarina*, two of which producing young (cf Dutch Birding 32: 384-397, 2010). In July 2012, seven Greater Spotted chicks, 11 Lesser Spotted chicks and a hybrid chick were marked with colour rings. Most Greater Spotted chicks were also given satellite transmitters or GPS loggers; for details on their migration, see http://en.orlikgrubodzioby.org.pl. The **Eastern Imperial Eagle** *A heliaca* at Havgårdssjön, Skåne, photographed on 16 July was tracked migrating across southern Sweden at, eg, Göteborg, Västergötland, on 24 July and in Halland on 25 July (cf Dutch Birding 34: 256, 2012). In Poland, a first-year was found at Gościecin, Kędzierzyn-Koźle, Opole, on 6 September.

447 Hudsonian Whimbrel / Amerikaanse Regenwulp *Numenius hudsonicus*, Cabo da Praia, Terceira, Azores, 29 July 2012 *(Vincent Legrand)* **448** Stilt Sandpiper / Steltstrandloper *Calidris himantopus*, adult, Le Teich, Gironde, France, 11 August 2012 *(Joris Grenon)* **449** American Golden Plover / Amerikaanse Goudplevier *Pluvialis dominica*, Achill Island, Mayo, Ireland, 16 September 2012 *(Richard Bonser)*



450 Little Crake / Klein Waterhoen *Porzana parva*, Kruibeke, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium, 6 September 2012 *(Erik Van Boogaert)* **451** Booted Eagle / Dwergarend *Aquila pennata*, Walem, Antwerpen, Belgium, 18 July 2012 *(Johan Buckens)* **452** Short-billed Dowitcher / Kleine Grijze Snip *Limnodromus griseus*, juvenile, Lodmoor, Dorset, England, 6 September 2012 *(Dave Perrett)* **453** Terek Sandpiper / Terekruiter *Xenus cinereus*, Cabo da Praia, Terceira, Azores, 29 August 2012 *(Richard Bonser)* **454** Greater Sand Plover / Woestijnplevier *Charadrius leschenaultii*, Hauke-Haien-Koog, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, 25 August 2012 *(Johannes Honold)* **455** Semipalmated Plover / Amerikaanse Bontbekplevier *Charadrius semipalmatus*, first-year, South Uist, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, 7 September 2012 *(Steve Duffield)*

FALCONS **Eleonora's Falcons** *Falco eleonorae* were seen at Porthgwarra, Cornwall, on 11 August (dark morph), near the Dutch border at Viersen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, on 15 August, and at Lebrade, Schleswig-Holstein, on 22 August. A second-year female at Gedser Odde, Falster, flying out to sea towards Germany on 18 August was the third for Denmark. In southern France, an influx of c 50 individuals occurred in Languedoc-Roussillon and also along the Atlantic coast during August. A juvenile **North African Lanner Falcon** *F biarmicus erlangeri* stayed at Rolão, Castro Verde, Portugal, from 18 June to at least 25 July and four Lanner were seen in southern Spain during August. In Germany, a **Saker Falcon** *F cherrug* stayed near Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg, from 29 July to 12 August. A juvenile was seen at La Neuville, Nord, France, on 12 August. In Limicola 26: 21-43, 2012, the identification of four large European *Falco* species, **Lanner Falcon**, **Saker Falcon**, **Gyrfalcon** *F rusticolus* and **Peregrine Falcon** *F peregrinus*, and their hybrids is discussed with 43 photographs of mounted specimens. The photographs demonstrate that these hybrids often make field identification of large falcons impossible. By use of artificial insemination, several 1000s of such large falcon hybrids are produced each year by falconers in Europe; many of these hybrids escape and some hybridise with wild falcons, as has been proven for Saker in central Europe. In Germany, the production of hybrid native falcons will be prohibited from 2015 onwards but in many other European countries there are no restrictions, not even in the near future.

RAILS TO BUSTARDS Late news in England concerned the presence of at least seven singing male **Baillon's Crakes** *Porzana pusilla* at three sites this summer, suggesting that, like in the Netherlands, it should be regarded as a breeding bird rather than a vagrant. In June, more than 200 singing **Corn Crakes** *Crex crex* were counted in the Netherlands, mostly in the north-east (in 2011, there were only just over 100). On 24 August, 225 **Demoiselle Cranes** *Grus virgo* flew over Paphos, Cyprus. Two **Little Bustards** *Tetrax tetrax* at Machnówek, Lubelskie, on 8-9 September were the first for Poland since 1950. An adult at Länsikylä, Pyhtää, on 10 September was the 20th for Finland. In Germany, one turned up near Hamburg on 30 September.

COURSERS TO LAPWINGS A pair of **Cream-colored Coursers** *Cursorius cursor* with two begging young in Albacete on 10-21 August constituted the species' second breeding record for Spain and Europe; an earlier report on 1 August of a pair with one juvenile at 4 km distance in the same area indicates the presence of a second pair. The TSC of the BOURC decided to treat (polytypic) **Somali Courser** *C somalensis* as specifically distinct from (polytypic) Cream-colored Courser (Ibis 154: 874-883, 2012). A flock of 75 000 **Black-winged Pratincoles** *Glareola nordmanni* was found at Manych wetlands in Stavropol region, southern Russia, in late August. The third **Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus* for Britain was a juvenile at Glendale on South Uist, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, on 6-11 September. In the Azores, up to two adults were seen at Cabo da Praia, Terceira, through August-September. The second **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* for Madeira was photographed on 30 June. A juvenile **Sociable Lapwing** *Vanellus gregarius* at Ciesznów, Silesia, on 8 September was the 30th for Poland; others were seen at Łódź, Poland, on 22 September; east of Mühlberg, Brandenburg, Germany, on at least 13-16 September; and at Apaj, Hungary, from 29 September.

SANDPIPERS In Birding World 25: 346-349, 2012, a paper with photographs described a hybrid **Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris* or **Red Knot** *C canutus* x **Surfbird** *Aphriza virgata* in San Diego Bay, California, USA, on 27-31 August 2009 and 14-15 July 2012. On 19 September, a sandpiper tentatively identified as **Western Sandpiper** *C mauri* was found at Hoylake, Cheshire, England. A summer-plumaged **Red-necked Stint** *C ruficollis* at Longarini, Siracusa, Sicily, from 29 July to 1 August was the second for Italy. A **Least Sandpiper** *C minutilla* turned up at Carrahane Strand, Kerry, Ireland, on 13 August; either this or another individual stayed at the very same site in 2011. In France, an adult was found at Lac de Machet, Vendée, on 25 August. In the Azores, one stayed on Terceira on 15-26 July. Good numbers of **Baird's Sandpipers** *C bairdii* were seen: eg, at Marais d'Orx, Landes, on 15 August (adult); at Smerwick Harbour, Kerry, on 16-17 August (adult); at West Angle Bay, Pembrokeshire, Wales, on 20-26 August (juvenile); at Meijendel beach, Zuid-Holland, on 27-30 August (juvenile); at Marazion, Cornwall, England, on 31 August (adult); at Seaton Snook, Cleveland, England, on 3-12 September (juvenile); at Birsay, Orkney, Scotland, on 8-9 September (juvenile); at Titchwell, Norfolk, England, on 10-11 September (juvenile) and 19-24 September; at Teste-de-Buch, Gironde, France, on at least 11 September; at Pennington Marsh, Hampshire, England, on 14 September; at Kilcoole, Wicklow, Ireland, on 14-18 September (juvenile); on Tresco, Scilly, on 16 September; in Iceland on 16 and 25 September; on Farne Islands, Northumberland, England, on 26 September (adult); on Öland, Sweden, on 29 September; and at Groote Keeten, Noord-Holland, on 29 September. A **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *C acuminata* on Westray on 20-23 July was the first for Orkney. Adult **Stilt Sandpipers** *C himantopus* stayed at Low Newton-by-the-Sea, Northumberland, on 5-9 August and Le Teich, Gironde, on 8-15 August. From the end of July, good numbers of **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** *Tryngites subruficollis* were seen in Europe, not only in countries bordering the Atlantic but also, eg, in Poland with adults at Swinoujście, Szczecin lagoon, on 12 July; at Wiejkowo near Wolin on 14-17 August; at Otmuchowski reservoir, Silesia, on 17-20 August; and at Siemianówka reservoir, Podlaskie, from 17 August (there were c 25 previous records). The first for Greece was photographed near Athens on 1 September. Five monotypic genera have been shown to be part of the *Calidris* clade (*Aphriza, Philomachus, Limicola, Eurynorhynchus and Tryngites*) and, as a consequence, the TSC of the BOURC decided to expand *Calidris* with these five spe-

456 European Bee-eater / Bijeneter *Merops apiaster*, Malta, April 2012 *(Michael Sammut)* **457** Little Swift / Huisgierzwaluw *Apus affinis*, juvenile, New Brighton, Merseyside, England, 22 June 2012 *(Ashley Powell)* cf Dutch Birding 34: 264, 2012 **458** Magnolia Warbler / Magnoliazanger *Setophaga magnolia*, Fair Isle, Scotland, 23 September 2012 *(Jason Moss)* **459** Magnolia Warbler / Magnoliazanger *Setophaga magnolia*, Fair Isle, Scotland, 23 September 2012 *(Steve Arlow)* **460** Yellow-breasted Bunting / Wilgengors *Emberiza aureola*, Falsterbo, Skåne, Sweden *(Stephen Menzie)* **461** Dusky Warbler / Bruine Boszanger *Phylloscopus fuscatus*, Nodebais, Brabant Wallon, Belgium, 30 August 2012 *(Vincent Bulteau)*

cies (Surfbird '*C virgata*', Ruff '*C pugnax*', Broad-billed Sandpiper '*C falcinellus*', Spoon-billed Sandpiper '*C pygmeus*' and Buff-breasted Sandpiper '*C subruficollis*') (Mol Phylogen Evol 64: 66-72, 2012, Ibis 154: 874-883, 2012). Juvenile **Short-billed Dowitchers** *Limnodromus griseus* at Lodmoor, Dorset, from 3 to at least 30 September and on Tresco from 9 to at least 21 September were the second and third for Britain. The first for Sweden was a juvenile at Utlängan, Blekinge, on 6-7 September. In the Azores, a juvenile stayed at Cabo da Praia, Terceira, on 15-19 August. In China, 1899 **Asian Dowitchers** *L semipalmatus* were counted at Lianyungang, Jiangsu, on 8 August. If accepted, a **Little Curlew** *Numenius minutus* reportedly flying past Jahnshof, Ostholstein, Schleswig-Holstein, on 24 August would be the first for Germany. Into September, up to two **Hudsonian Whimbrels** *N hudsonicus* remained on Terceira and one on Madeira. A **Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* at Cabo da Praia, Terceira, from 28 August through mid-September was the first for the Azores. On 10-21 July, an adult was back at Saltvandssøen, Sønderjylland, Denmark, for its fifth consecutive summer. In continental Europe, **Spotted Sandpipers** *Actitis macularius* occurred, eg, on Gotland, Sweden, on 18-20 July and from 20 September, and at Ochsenfurt, Bayern, Germany, on 25-27 July, and at Lommatzsch, Sachsen, Germany, from 27 September. In the Azores, single **Solitary Sandpipers** *Tringa solitaria* were seen off Graciosa on 3 August (during a pelagic), at Cova do Areão, Santa Maria, from 16 August to at least 10 September, and at Lagoa dos Espraiados, São Miguel, on 1 September. In Highland, Scotland, the long-staying **Greater Yellowlegs** *T melanoleuca* first seen in Northumberland on 12 November 2011 and then in Aberdeenshire and Highland, where it was last reported at Loch of Mey on 28 May 2012, reappeared at St John's Loch from 25 July to at least late September. In the Azores, one stayed at Lagoa Azul, São Miguel, on 28-31 August. **Wilson's Phalaropes** *Phalaropus tricolor* stayed at Rosscarbery, Cork, Ireland, from 24 August into September and at Ría de la Villa, Villaviciosa, Asturies, Spain, on 25 August.

JAEGERS TO GULLS On 4 August, a **South Polar Skua** *Stercorarius maccormicki* was seen past Estaca de Bares, Galicia, Spain, where pale morphs were also seen in 2011 on 13 August and 10 September (cf Dutch Birding 33: 338, 2011). **Bonaparte's Gulls** *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* occurred, eg, at Add Estuary, Argyll, Scotland, on 1-12 August (adult); Blåvandshuk, Vestjylland, on 4-5 August (adult); at Eastbourne, East Sussex, England, on 5-6 August; and at Cabanes de Fleury, Hérault, France, on 23 August. The adult at Whitburn, Durham, England, was back for its third autumn from 16 August to at least 9 September. The adult at Larne, Antrim, Northern Ireland, was back from 14 September. In Ireland, a first-summer **Franklin's Gull** *Larus pipixcan* was found at Gormanstown, Louth, on 16 August. If accepted, a first-year **Audouin's Gull** *L audouinii* at Ennsstau Thaling, Oberösterreich, on 18 September would be the first for Austria.

TERNS TO AUKS The first **Sooty Tern** *Onychoprion fuscatus* for the Netherlands was photographed at Maasvlakte, Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland, on 31 August by just one lucky observer. In the Azores, the returning bird at Ilheu da Praia, Graciosa, was still present on 9 September. From late July to mid-September, more than half (16 out of 30) of the juvenile **Gull-billed Terns** *Gelochelidon nilotica* colour-ringed at Elbe mouth, Schleswig-Holstein, in north-western Europe's last remaining colony, were encountered in the Netherlands and two colour-ringed ones were observed in Spain in early September; this year, there were 38 pairs producing 40 chicks of which about half survived bad weather. These results are in contrast with those in 2007, when 67 out of 91 chicks were colour-ringed in late June but nearly all supposedly died during a storm at the colony, and only one was seen later in the Netherlands. Europe's north-westernmost colony of **Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida* at Kropswolderbuitenpolder, Foxhol, Groningen, the Netherlands, numbered 28 pairs, which had produced c 60 juveniles by late August. A juvenile **American Black Tern** *C niger surinamensis* photographed at Eccleston Mere, Lancashire, England, from 30 August to at least 5 September was the third for Britain since August 2009. In Benghazi, Libya, 199 nestlings of **Lesser Crested Tern** *Sterna bengalensis* were ringed in August on Jeliana islet, a breeding site that became known in 2007. An adult **Forster's Tern** *S forsteri* occurred at Soldier's Point, Dundalk, Louth, from 29 August through September. Also in Ireland, a skimmer *Rynchops* flying south past offshore Annagh Head, Mayo, on 30 August at 10:00 was thought to be a **Black Skimmer** *R niger* by its single observer; if accepted, it would be the first for the WP. The ninth **Thick-billed Murre** *Uria lomvia* for the Netherlands (and first twitchable) was swimming along the Wadden Sea coast east of Lauwersoog, Groningen, on 28-29 July and, on 11 August, it was rediscovered more than 120 km to the west along the North Sea coast of Den Helder, Noord-Holland, where it was seen dying while swimming on 13 August. Possibly, some of its features, such as the broad white tips of inner secondaries, indicated a far-eastern origin ('*eleonorae*'). Previous summer records south of Scandinavia in continental Europe included one found inland in Germany in August 1987 and an adult picked up alive from a meadow between Beerse and Lille, Antwerpen, Belgium, on 4 August 2006 and released on 15 August (cf Seabirds 21: 16-31, 2008).

SANDGROUSE TO OWLS In Finland, a **Pallas's Sandgrouse** *Syrrhaptes paradoxus* was briefly seen at Povarivaara on 10 September; if accepted, it would be the ninth for Finland, following a record in July 2010. A **Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura* discovered in the mouth of a cat at Heimaey, Vestmannaeyjar, on 6 September was the second for Iceland; it survived and was taken into care. In Ireland, two **Snowy Owls** *Bubo scandiacus* were present: the female on Termon Hill, Blacksod, Mayo, until at least 27 July (it was first seen here in September 2006) and a male on Arranmore Island, Donegal, from 18 July to at least 10 September. Another one remained on St Kilda, Scotland, at least from July into September.

462 Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters / Groene Bijeneters *Merops persicus*, Delfía, Girona, Spain, 24 August 2012
(Fran Trabalon)

463 Citrine Wagtail / Citroenkwikstaart *Motacilla citreola*, first-year, Malta, 15 August 2012
(Raymond Galea)

A **Eurasian Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium passerinum* photographed at the Wadden Sea ferry harbour parking near Holwerd, Friesland, on 2 August was the seventh for the Netherlands and the sixth for the northernmost provinces. From 18 August, a southbound movement of **Northern Hawk-Owls** *Surnia ulula* became apparent in Norway with records on Værøy and Røstlandet, Nordland, and the first for Smøla, Møre og Romsdal. On Utsira, Norway, one was trapped with seven **Boreal Owls** *Aegolius funereus* in the night of 23/24 September. In Denmark, a Northern Hawk-Owl was photographed at Store Hareskov, Sjælland, on 30 September.

SWIFTS TO ROLLERS Analysis of specimens of *Apus* swifts taken in south-western Oman or southern Yemen, previously identified as Common Swift *A apus pekinensis* or Pallid Swift *A pallidus*, revealed all of them to be **Forbes-Watson's Swifts** *A berliozi*, probably from the subspecies *bensoni* which was formerly only known from coastal Somalia and south-eastern coastal Kenya (Bull Br Ornithol Club 132: 194-206, 2012); recent sight records confirm that the species is a locally common summer visitor along the southern Arabian coast and a few offshore islands. A **Pallid Swift** seen on Ingøya, Finnmark, Norway, on 31 August. In Spain, up to 21 adult **Little Swifts** *A affinis* were counted at a coastal colony in Cádiz, where chicks were still seen on 1 August. In the Azores, a juvenile **Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon* was present on Santa Maria from 3 to at least 21 September. Two **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** *Merops persicus* presumably of the North African subspecies *chrysocercus* at Delfiá, Girona, on 24-26 August constituted the second record for Catalunya and sixth for Spain. After an absence of two years, another successful breeding record of **European Bee-eater** *M apiaster* occurred in Malta this summer. Three **Northern Carmine Bee-eaters** *M nubicus* stayed on Rügen, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany, on 26-30 August. If accepted as a genuine vagrant, the one in June in Sweden on Öland and in Skåne would be the first for the WP. The numbers of **European Roller** *Coracias garrulus* in Poland decreased from at least 60 pairs in 2006 and 47 in 2010 to 35 in 2011; nowadays, the species only breeds in three areas in the east of the country. In 1977-80, there were still c 1000 pairs, by 1985 560 and in 1993-98 at least 112.

VIREOS TO SWALLOWS A **Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* on Unst on 12-15 September was not only the first for the WP this autumn but also the first for Shetland, Scotland. In the Netherlands, a remarkable influx of **Coal Tits** *Periparus ater* occurred from 30 August onwards with until 17 September 10 329 individuals (see www.trektellen.nl) and numbers still increasing with, for instance, at Ketelbrug migration site, Flevoland, 103, 404, 310 and 137 flying past on 15, 16, 17 and 19 September, respectively. An **American Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* was found in south-western Greenland on 5 September.

WARBLERS The autumn's first **Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus* was seen at Pietarsaari, Finland, on 28 August; the next 100 were found until 21 September. A remarkably early **Dusky Warbler** *P fuscatus* was trapped at Nodebais, Brabant Wallon, Belgium, on 30 August. The TSC of the BOURC decided that **Arctic Warbler** *P borealis* should be treated as three species: Arctic Warbler (monotypic), **Kamchatka Leaf Warbler** *P examinandus* and **Japanese Leaf Warbler** *P xanthodryas*. In Norway, the autumn's first **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella certhiola* was trapped on Røstlandet, Nordland, on 23 September. On 26 September, three were found on the east coast of Britain. A **Lanceolated Warbler** *L lanceolata* trapped at Pape on 2 September was the first for Latvia. The first for Scotland this autumn was on Out Skerries on 21 September. In Ornithos 19: 242, 2012, a distribution map of the c 5000 breeding pairs of **Red-billed Leiothrix** *Leiothrix lutea* in France shows a presence in three corners of the country: in Île-de-France in the north, in Béarn in the south-west and in Alpes-Maritimes in the extreme south-east. The species has become scarce as a cagebird in recent years, which explains why in the Netherlands the provenance of one trapped at Bloemendaal on 2 August has been a matter of discussion but dispersal of French birds has not yet been substantiated. Migrant **Barred Warblers** *Sylvia nisoria* occurred in higher than usual numbers in Denmark (after a first on 26 July, 16 juveniles were seen in August alone), the Netherlands (many 10s) and Britain (60 on 12-30 August alone). The TSC of the BOURC formally decided to treat **Balearic Warbler** *S balearica* and **Marmora's Warbler** *S sarda* as specifically distinct (Ibis 154: 874-883, 2012). A first-year **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** *Iduna pallida* was trapped at Utklippan, Blekinge, Sweden, on 21 September. Apart from the first successful breeding of four pairs of **Booted Warbler** *I caligata* discovered in Latvia (Dutch Birding 34: 264, 2012), there were also six singing males and the first successful breeding for Belarus in June. A **Sykes's Warbler** *I rama* stayed on Foula, Shetland, from 23 September onwards. **Paddyfield Warblers** *Acrocephalus agricola* were trapped, eg, at Ottenby, Öland, on 30 July; at Cap du Hode, Seine-Maritime, France, on 7 August; at Conchemarche, Mortagne-sur-Gironde, Charente-Maritime, France, on 13 August (adult); at Zandvoort, Noord-Holland, on 4 September; at Ythan Estuary, Aberdeenshire, on 8 September; at Zichem, Vlaams-Brabant, Belgium, on 8 September; at Falsterbo, Skåne, on 16 September (28th for Sweden); and on Fair Isle, Shetland, on 24-26 September. An adult trapped at Uebersyren ringing station on 5 September and a first-year on 18 September were the first and second for Luxembourg. From 15 June to 31 July, a pair of **Blyth's Reed Warblers** *A dumetorum* producing three juveniles at Hvidovre, København, constituted (only) the first breeding record for Denmark. Others were trapped, eg, at Meijendel on 11 August, at Loon Plage, Nord, on 13 August and at Hamme, Oost-Vlaanderen, on 2 September. The eighth for Iceland was photographed at Melrakkanes on 25 September.

NUTHATCHES TO THRUSHES The TSC of the BOURC formally decided to treat (monotypic) **Siberian Nuthatch** *Sitta arctica* (from north-eastern Siberia) and (polytypic)

Eurasian Nuthatch *S europaea* as specifically distinct, and stated that the latter may include additional species (Ibis 154: 874-883, 2012). The **Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus* at Gibraltar from 24 February to 26 March 2012 was relocated at Algeciras, Cádiz, on 7 August and still present on 23 August. A **Rufous-tailed Robin** *Larvivora sibilans* on St Paul, Alaska, on 7 September was the fourth for North America. If accepted, a female **Siberian Rubythroat** *Calliope calliope* seen by one observer at Karskär, Söderarm, Uppland, will be the first for Sweden. **White's Thrushes** *Zoothera aurea* were found on Farne Islands on 24 September and South Ronaldsay, Orkney, on 27 September. A **Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus* was found on Foula on 23 September. Censuses show that, in the past 30 years, 40 million **Common Starlings** *Sturnus vulgaris* have disappeared from northwestern Europe and, in Britain, annual wintering numbers have fallen by 80% since 1979 (Br Birds 105: 550-551, 2012). The British Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) presented a list of species that declined by more than 50% since 1994 which includes, in order of percentages, apart from Common Starling also **European Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur* (-80%), **Willow Tit** *Poecile montana* (-79%), **Wood Warbler** *P sibilatrix* (-65%), **Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* (-57%), **Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix* (-55%), **Common Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos* (-52%), **Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca* (-50%), **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* (-50%) and **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flavissima* (-50%). Except for the partridge, starling and tit, all these birds are migrants from Africa. Additionally, all over western Europe, species of agricultural lands have decreased by more than half. In the Netherlands, for instance, the combined number of breeding pairs of a selection of 27 species have decreased 61-73% in the past 50 years; the hardest hit are **Skylark** *Alauda arvensis* (at least 96% decrease), **Grey Partridge** (93%), **Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* (93%), **European Turtle Dove** (92%) and **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa limosa* (68%) (Sovon factsheet 10 September 2012).

464 Paddyfield Warbler / Veldrietzanger *Acrocephalus agricola*, adult, Conchemarche, Charente-Maritime, France, 13 August 2012 *(Raphaël Musseau/BioSphère Environnement)*

SPARROWS TO BOBOLINK A male **Spanish Sparrow** *P hispaniolensis* at Landguard, Suffolk, England, from 24 August was still present on at least 27 September. In Malta, an adult male **Trumpeter Finch** *Bucanetes githagineus* was seen on 27 July. The autumn's first **Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni* and **Pechora Pipit** *A gustavi* for Norway were found on Røstlandet on 14 and 10 September, respectively. The first Pechora for Scotland this autumn was reported on Out Skerries on 21 September. This autumn's first **American Buff-bellied Pipit** *A rubescens rubescens* was found at Rubha Ardvula, South Uist, Outer Hebrides, on 19 September. Juvenile **Citrine Wagtails** *M citreola* photographed on 12-15 August and 10 September were (only) the first for Malta. Another one stayed at Höfn, Iceland, on 5-10 September. In the Azores, a juvenile was reported at Lagoa do Junco, Terceira, on 14 September. Also in the Azores, a **Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis* was photographed on São Miguel on 25 August. A first-winter **Magnolia Warbler** *Setophaga magnolia* photographed on Fair Isle in the afternoon of 23 September was the second for Britain and at least the fifth for the WP (one in Scilly in 1981, two in Iceland in 1995 and one or more in the Azores in 1999). In the Baltic Sea, a **White-throated Sparrow** *Zonotrichia albicollis* was photographed at a covered vegetated pool on a cruise ship, *Jewel of the Seas*, on 10 August; the bird was only occasionally seen but remained aboard during the entire trip from Harwich, Essex, via Stockholm, Sweden, to Talinn, Estonia, and back to England. It appeared that the ship had left the USA in late June and was scheduled to return to the USA in September, probably keeping the sparrow as a stowaway. On 13 September, a **Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica* was photographed on Vlieland, Friesland, and it or another was seen 4 km further east on 14 September. On 25 August, a **Yellow-breasted Bunting** *E aureola* was trapped at Falsterbo, Skåne. If accepted, one at Sigri, Lesbos, on 16 September will be the fourth for Greece. A male **Red-headed Bunting** *E bruniceps* at Rize on 7-8 September was (only) the first for Turkey. **Black-headed Buntings** *E melanocephala* were photographed on Christiansø, Bornholm, Denmark, on 26 July (second calendar-year female) and on North Ronaldsay, Orkney, from 5 August (male). The autumn's first **Bobolink** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* turned up on Corvo, Azores, on 22 September.

For a number of reports Birding World, Birdwatch, Ornithos, www.azoresbs.weebly.com, www.birdguides.com, www.netfugl.dk, www.rarebirdalert.co.uk and www.trektellen.nl were consulted. We wish to thank Peter Alfrey, Max Berlijn, Richard Bonser, Rolf Christensen, José Luis Copete, Steve Copsey, Andrea Corso (Limosa Holidays), Pierre-André Crochet, Klaas van Dijk, Hugues Dufourny, Enno Ebels, Lee Evans, Tommy Frandsen, Raymond Galea, Steve Gantlett, Martin Garner, Barak Granit, Jeff Gordon, Geert Groot Koerkamp, Marcello Grussu, Klaus Günther, Ricard Gutiérrez, Abdulmaula Hamza (Libya), Chris Harbard, Gerrit Kiekebos, Guy Kirwan, Johannes Jansen, Justin Jansen, João Jara (www.birds.pt), Frédéric Jiguet, Günther Klaus, Michel de Lange, Łukasz Ławicki (www.clanga.com), André van Loon, Ferran López Sanz, Karlis Millers (Latvia), Richard Millington, Dominic Mitchell, Geir Mobakken (Norway), Killian Mullarney, Harro Müller, Eric van Ommen, Gerald Oreel, Gert Ottens, Yoav Perlman, Julia Piccardo Valdemarín, Marcin Przepiórka, Magnus Robb, Luciano Ruggieri, Antonios Saltos, Michael Sammut, Roy Slaterus, Steven Wytema and Emin Yoğurtçuoğlu 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 beslaat voornamelijk de periode **juli-augustus 2012**. 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, p/a Duinlustparkweg 98A, 2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid, Nederland, e-mail cdna@dutchbirding.nl. Hiertoe gelieve men gebruik te maken van CDNA-waarnemingsformulieren die verkrijgbaar zijn via de website van de DBA op www.dutchbirding.nl of bovenstaand adres.

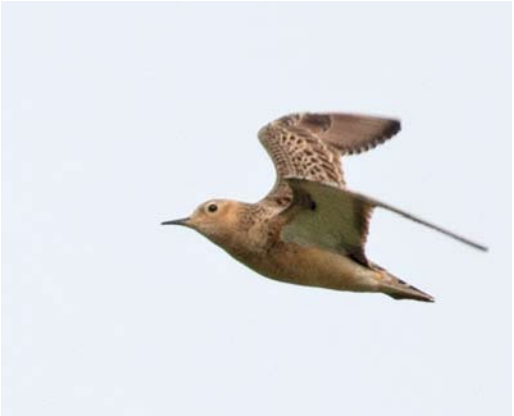
EENDEN TOT IBISSEN Zomerse **Witbuikrotganzen** *Branta hrota* verbleven van 4 tot 10 juli op Texel, Noord-Holland, op 20 juli bij Lauwersoog, Groningen, en op 7 en 9 augustus opnieuw op Texel. Op 10 juli werden maar liefst 773 **Casarca's** *Tadorna ferruginea* geteld op de traditionele ruiplek op het Eemmeer bij Huizen, Noord-Holland. **Witoogeenden** *Aythya nyroca* werden gemeld op 5 juli bij Wilp, Gelderland, op 15 juli bij Almere, Flevoland, en van 21 tot 23 juli in de Ezumakeeg, Friesland. In augustus werden in de Ooijse Graaf bij Nijmegen, Gelderland, 35 **Kwartels** *Coturnix coturnix* gevangen, waaronder een exemplaar dat een jaar eerder bij Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland, was geringd. Door trektellers langs de kust werden in de tweede helft van augustus negen **Noordse Stormvogels** *Fulmarus glacialis*, 12 **Grauwe Pijlstormvogels** *Puffinus griseus* en zes **Noordse Pijlstormvogels** *P puffinus* genoteerd. Daarnaast waren er vanaf 12 juli 14 meldingen van langsvliegende **Vale Pijlstormvogels** *P mauretanicus*, waarvan zes langs Camperduin, Noord-Holland. Op maar liefst c 25 plekken verspreid over het land werden **Kwakken** *Nycticorax nycticorax* opgemerkt, waaronder bij Grubbenvorst, Limburg, waar twee exemplaren door veel vogelaars werden bezocht tussen 27 juli en 19 augustus. Het aantal **Koereigers** *Bubulcus ibis* viel – naar moderne maatstaven – tegen, met exemplaren op 7 juli langs Almere; op 3 augustus in de Groene Jonker bij Zevenhoven, Zuid-Holland; op 4 augustus opnieuw bij Almere; en op 24 augustus in de Dordtse Biesbosch, Zuid-Holland. Een recordaantal van 333 **Purperreigers** *Ardea purpurea* trok in de avond van 31 augustus over telpost Dordtse Biesbosch; het oude record betrof 304 exemplaren op 30 augustus 2011 over dezelfde locatie. Op maar liefst c 25 plekken werden **Zwarte Ibissen** *Plegadis falcinellus* gezien. De Kropswolderbuitenpolder bij Foxhol, Groningen, was een van de plekken waar langdurig exemplaren verbleven, in augustus zelfs meerdere keren vier tegelijk.

SPERWERS TOT RALLEN Trektellers verspreid over het land meldden in deze periode ruim 500 **Wespendieven** *Pernis apivorus*, 10 **Zwarte Wouwen** *Milvus migrans*, negen **Rode Wouwen** *M milvus*, 18 **Grauwe Kiekendieven** *Circus pygargus*, 74 **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus*, vier **Roodpootvalken** *Falco vespertinus* en zeven **Smellekens** *F columbarius*. Op 5 juli werden vier **Vale Gieren** *Gyps fulvus* gemeld bij Tzummarum, Friesland. De volgende twee dagen waren hier nog drie exemplaren aanwezig. Daarna volgden meldingen op 7 juli over het Dwingelderveld, Drenthe, over Hoogezand, Groningen, en over Weerselo, Overijssel; op 9 juli op drie plekken in Noordoost-Groningen, en bij Steenderen, Gelderland; op 18 juli bij Hasselt, Overijssel; op 26 juli over Renkum, Gelderland; en op 27 juli boven Veenendaal, Utrecht, en bij Lochem, Gelderland. Op 31 juli trok een exemplaar veel bekijks bij Volkel, Noord-Brabant; de volgende dag werd deze vogel nog door een enkeling gezien. Daarna volgde opnieuw een reeks meldingen, namelijk op 3 augustus over Kloosterhaar, Overijssel; op 9 augustus boven Leiden, Zuid-Holland; op 10 augustus boven Maasland, Zuid-Holland; op 15 augustus bij Doesburg, Gelderland; op 18 augustus bij Staphorst, Overijssel; en op 27 augustus over Tubbergen, Overijssel, en Hengelo, Overijssel. **Slangenarenden** *Circaetus gallicus* verbleven van ten minste 23 juni tot 1 augustus op het Dwingelderveld, van 6 juli tot 1 september op De Hoge Veluwe, Gelderland, en van 12 juli tot in september op het Fochteloërveen, Drenthe/Friesland. Op deze drie loca-

465 Dwerguil / Eurasian Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium passerinum*, eerstejaars, Holwerd, Friesland, 3 augustus 2012 *(Ruurd Jelle van de Leij)*

466 Bairds Strandloper / Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*, juveniel, Noordzeestrand, Meijendel, Zuid-Holland, 29 augustus 2012 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

467 Vale Gier / Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*, Tzummarum, Friesland, 7 juli 2012 *(Kees de Vries)* **468** Bairds Strandloper / Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*, juveniel, Noordzeestrand, Meijendel, Zuid-Holland, 29 augustus 2012 *(Ben van den Broek)* **469** Vale Gier / Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*, Odiliapeel, Noord-Brabant, 31 juli 2012 *(Toy Janssen)*



470 Blonde Ruiter / Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*, Prunjepolder, Zeeland, 22 augustus 2012 *(Thomas Luiten)* **471** Blonde Ruiter / Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*, Utopia, Texel, Noord-Holland, 3 augustus 2012 *(Jos van den Berg)* **472** Amerikaanse Goudplevier / American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*, Schelphoek, Burgh-Haamstede, Zeeland, 25 juli 2012 *(Harm Niesen)* **473** Aziatische Goudplevier / Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*, Mariëndal, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 4 juli 2012 *(Harm Niesen)*

ties waren voor langere tijd twee exemplaren aanwezig. Ook op een handvol andere plekken werd de soort gemeld. Het tweede-kalenderjaar mannetje **Steppekiekendief** *Circus macrourus* dat vanaf 13 mei bij Exloo, Drenthe, verbleef, werd voor het laatst op 5 september gemeld. Het betrof de eerste overzomeraar voor Nederland. Intrigerend waren de meldingen rond half juli van twee adulte en twee juveniele **Visarenden** boven het Veluwemeer bij Biddinghuizen, Flevoland. Een donkere valk *Falco* die op 17 augustus werd gefotografeerd in Nationaal Park de Meinweg bij Roermond, Limburg, betrof mogelijk een **Eleonora's Valk** *F eleonorae*; opmerkelijk was dat twee dagen eerder een donkere vorm Eleonora's Valk werd gemeld over de Duitse grens bij Viersen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, c 20 km naar het noordoosten. Het was een goed najaar voor **Porseleinhoen** *Porzana porzana*. Op diverse plekken doken vooral in augustus groepjes op, zoals minstens 16 bij Zevenhuizen, Zuid-Holland, en minstens 15 in de Groene Jonker. Op zes plekken in vijf provincies werden vanaf 25 juli bovendien meer dan 40 exemplaren geringd, waaronder 13 in Meijendel, Zuid-Holland, en drie op Vlieland, Friesland. Zekere broedgevallen van **Kleinste Waterhoenders** *P pusilla* vonden plaats in Noord-Holland en Noord-Brabant. Daarnaast werd de soort ook op enkele andere plekken waargenomen, zoals meerdere in De Onlanden bij Peize, Drenthe, en de Groene Jonker.

KLUTEN TOT STRANDLOPERS Op c 15 plekken verspreid over het land verbleven solitaire of kleine groepjes **Steltkluten** *Himantopus himantopus*; na juli namen de aantallen snel af. Een **Woestijnplevier** *Charadrius leschenaultii* werd op 20 juli kortstondig gezien in de Prunjepolder bij Serooskerke, Zeeland. Op maar liefst c 35 plekken verspreid over het land werden vanaf 9 augustus **Morinelplevieren** *Charadrius morinellus* gemeld.

474 Grote Burgemeester / Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*, tweede-zomer, Osdorp, Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, 6 september 2012 *(Michel Veldt)* **475** Kleinste Jager / Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*, juveniel, Kinderdijk, Zuid-Holland, 22 augustus 2012 *(Adri Clements)* **476** Lachsterns / Gull-billed Terns *Gelochelidon nilotica*, juveniele, Keinsmerbrug, Noord-Holland, 28 augustus 2012 *(Arnold W J Meijer)*

Vooral twee tamme juveniele van 28 tot 31 augustus op een parkeerplaats bij Hargen aan Zee, Noord-Holland, trokken veel bekijks. Een **Amerikaanse Goudplevier** *Pluvialis dominica* verbleef van 17 juli tot 18 augustus in de omgeving van Serooskerke. **Aziatische Goudplevieren** *P fulva* werden gemeld op 3 en 4 juli in Mariëndal bij Den Helder, Noord-Holland; op 8 en 10 juli bij De Cocksdorp op Texel; van 21 tot 23 maximaal twee in de Slufter op Texel; op 31 juli en 1 augustus opnieuw twee in Waal en Burg op Texel; en op 16 augustus in de Ezumakeeg, Friesland. Het is onduidelijk hoeveel vogels er in het spel waren. Een **Bonapartes Strandloper** *Calidris fuscicollis* verbleef op 28 juli in de Sophiapolder bij Oostburg, Zeeland. Een tamme juveniele **Bairds Strandloper** *C bairdii* die op 27 augustus werd gefotografeerd op het strand bij Wassenaar, Zuid-Holland, was daar tot groot genoegen van veel vogelaars ook op 29 en 30 augustus te zien. Het betrof alweer de derde twitchbare binnen een jaar. Op zeven plekken in het noorden en westen werden **Gestreepte Strandlopers** *C melanotos* waargenomen en op vier plekken **Breedbekstrandlopers** *Limicola falcinellus*. Vooral de maximaal vier juveniele 'Breedbekken' van 17 tot 28 augustus in en rond de Prunjepolder zijn het vermelden waard. Er werden ongekend veel **Blonde Ruiters** *Tryngites subruficollis* aangetroffen, namelijk van 31 juli tot 3 augustus in Utopia op Texel; op 9 en 11 augustus bij Numansdorp, Zuid-Holland; van 17 tot 24 augustus bij Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland; op 20 augustus op Schiermonnikoog, Friesland; op 21 en 22 augustus in de Prunjepolder; van 24 tot 30 augustus bij Hoorn op Terschelling, Friesland; van 13 augustus tot 1 september in de Ezumakeeg; en op 31 augustus langs Westkapelle, Zeeland. Van 25 juni tot 8 juli verbleef een **Kleine Geelpootruiter** *Tringa flavipes* bij Weesp, Noord-Holland, maar dit werd pas na 8 juli bekend gemaakt. Vanaf half juli werden op meer dan 10 plekken in het noorden en westen **Poelruiters** *T stagnatilis* waargenomen; bijzonder was een langsvliegende

477 Huiskraai / House Crow *Corvus splendens*, Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland, 26 augustus 2012 *(Chris van Rijswijk/birdshooting.nl)*. Exemplaar met kenmerken van *C s zugmayeri*.

478 Kortbekzeekoet / Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia*, Huisduinen, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 12 augustus 2012 *(Michel Veldt)*

479 Struikrietzanger / Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*, adult, Meijendel, Zuid-Holland, 11 augustus 2012 *(Vincent van der Spek/Vrs Meijendel)* **480** Duinpieper / Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*, eerstejaars, Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht, Zuid-Holland, 26 augustus 2012 *(Martin van der Schalk)* **481** Waterrietzanger / Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*, Lentevreugd, Wassenaar, Zuid-Holland, 13 augustus 2012 *(René van Rossum)*

op 13 augustus bij IJmuiden, Noord-Holland. Op c 18 plekken in het noorden en westen werden **Grauwe Franjepoten** *Phalaropus lobatus* waargenomen; in de meeste gevallen ging het om solitaire exemplaren. Een juveniele op 22 augustus in Polder Hardenhoek in de Brabantse Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant, is het vermelden waard. **Rosse Franjepoten** *P fulicarius* werden waargenomen op 16 augustus aan beide zijden van de grens bij Losser, Overijssel; op 21 augustus bij Westhoek, Friesland; op 22 augustus op de Waddenzee bij Schiermonnikoog; op 29 augustus bij Zwarte Haan, Friesland; en op 31 augustus langs Schiermonnikoog.

JAGERS TOT ALKEN Behalve 26 **Middelste Jagers** *Stercorarius pomarinus*, ruim 250 **Kleine Jagers** *S parasiticus* en 18 **Grote Jagers** *S skua* werden maar liefst 49 **Kleinste Jagers** *S longicaudus* genoteerd op telposten. Daarvan vlogen er zes op 25 augustus langs Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland, en negen op 31 augustus langs Westkapelle. Een kwart van de meldingen kwam van telposten in het binnenland, met alleen al op 22 augustus vier langs De Horde bij Lopik, Utrecht, drie langs Kinderdijk, Zuid-Holland, en één langs Kwintelooijen bij Veenendaal. Een adulte **Vorkstaartmeeuw** *Xema sabini* vloog op 31 augustus enkele uren boven het IJmeer bij Muiden, Noord-Holland; zowel locatie als kleed waren opmerkelijk. Een tweede-kalenderjaar **Kleine Burgemeester** *Larus glaucoides* werd op 3 augustus gemeld op Neeltje Jans, Zeeland, en een adulte op 10 augustus langs De Vulkaan bij Den Haag, Zuid-Holland. Een tweede-kalenderjaar **Grote Burgemeester** *L hyperboreus* overzomerde van 9 juli tot in september in Slotervaart in Amsterdam, Noord-Holland. Op 1 augustus werd hij gefotografeerd op het strand bij IJmuiden. Op 10 augustus werd een exemplaar gemeld langs Bergen aan Zee, Noord-Holland. Spectaculair was de eenmanswaarneming van een langsvliegende **Bonte Stern** *Onychoprion fuscatus* op 31 augustus boven de Maasmond bij de Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland. Indien aanvaard betreft het een nieuwe soort voor Nederland. Jammer genoeg werd de vogel na bekendmaking van het nieuws nergens meer opgepikt (zie Dutch Birding 34: 302-305, 2012). Op de traditionele slaapplaats op het Balgzand, Noord-Holland, werden op 5 augustus 23 adulte en acht juveniele **Lachsterns** *Gelochelidon nilotica* geteld. In de eerste helft van augustus verbleven ook nog eens maximaal 14 exemplaren in de omgeving van Alteveer, Groningen. Tijdens een gerichte slaapplaatstelling op 24 augustus werden maar liefst 111 **Reuzensterns** *Hydroprogne caspia* geteld, merendeels in het Lauwersmeergebied, Friesland/Groningen, en langs de Friese IJsselmeerkust. In eerdere jaren schommelde het maximum meestal rond 90. Behalve in en rond de kolonie in de Kropswolderbuitenpolder waar 28 paren c 60 jongen uitbroedden werden **Witwangsterns** *Chlidonias hybrida* ook op vier andere plekken aangetroffen. Een groep van maximaal acht verbleef bijvoorbeeld van 27 juli tot 4 augustus op het Gooimeer bij Huizen, Noord-Holland. Net als in andere jaren werden bij Den Oever en op De Kreupel in Noord-Holland enkele **Witvleugelsterns** *C leucopterus* waargenomen. Ook op zes andere plekken werd de soort gemeld; een juveniele van 15 tot 21 augustus bij Wissenkerke, Zeeland, trok de nodige bekijks. Geheel onverwacht kwam de ontdekking van een **Kortbekzeekoet** *Uria lomvia* op 28 juli bij de haven van Lauwersoog, Groningen. De volgende dag werd hij 6 km oostelijk teruggevonden en door velen bekeken; het was de eerste twitchbare. Tot opluchting van vogelaars die eind juli met vakantie waren volgde er een herkansing toen hij op 11 augustus werd herontdekt bij Den Helder, waar hij op 13 augustus dood ging; een poging om hem uit het water te vissen mislukte helaas. Dit betreft het negende geval en de derde die (ook) levend werd gezien. De **Zwarte Zeekoet** *Cepphus grylle* die vanaf 7 april bij 't Horntje op Texel verbleef, werd voor het laatst op 3 juli gemeld. Op 12 juli zwom vermoedelijk dezelfde vogel bij De Cocksdorp op Texel. Op 28 augustus vloog een exemplaar langs Schiermonnikoog. Een dode **Papegaaiduiker** *Fratercula arctica* werd op 15 juli opgeraapt op Vlieland.

UILEN TOT BOSZANGERS Een opmerkelijke ontdekking was die van een **Dwerguil** *Glaucidium passerinum* op 2 augustus op de pier bij Holwerd, Friesland. Helaas verdween de vogel al snel uit beeld. Dit betreft het zevende geval; het eerste dateert van 4 oktober 2002. Naar verluidt vond een broedgeval van **Bijeneters** *Merops apiaster* plaats bij Staphorst, Overijssel. Daarnaast werd de soort nog op c zeven andere plekken verspreid over het land gemeld. In De Hamert, Limburg, bracht een paar **Hoppen** *Upupa epops* ten minste één jong groot. Andere exemplaren werden waargenomen van 24 juli tot 3 augustus bij Doetinchem, Gelderland; op 26 juli bij Ritthem, Zeeland; van 19 tot 28 augustus op Vlieland; en op 27 augustus bij Wissenkerke. In augustus werden weer talloze **Draaihalzen** *Jynx torquilla* ontdekt, op meer dan 60 plekken verspreid over het land. Vanaf 13 augustus werden er bovendien zeker 28 exemplaren geringd, waarvan alleen al acht bij Bloemendaal. Op 19 augustus was er een terugvangst van een vogel met een Belgische ring bij Castricum, Noord-Holland. Van 7 tot 14 juli verbleef een **Roodkopklauwier** *Lanius senator* langs het Eemmeer bij Bunschoten, Utrecht, en op 10 augustus werd een exemplaar gemeld bij Westkapelle. Vanaf ten minste 6 mei verbleef een opvallend licht gekleurde **Huiskraai** *Corvus splendens* in Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland; mogelijk betrof het een recent per boot gearriveerd exemplaar van de ondersoort *C s zugmayeri*. Ook opmerkelijk was een paar vanaf ten minste 5 juli in de wijk Morgenstond in Den Haag. Twee **Kuifleeuweriken** *Galerida cristata* vertoefden de gehele periode nog bij Venlo, Limburg, en één in Haverleij bij 's-Hertogenbosch, Noord-Brabant. Op 20 juli en 14 augustus werden in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen bij Zandvoort, Noord-Holland, de enige **Cetti's Zangers** *Cettia cetti* van deze periode geringd. Daarnaast waren er op de bekende plekken weer talloze veldwaarnemingen. Een **Grauwe Fitis** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* zong van 26 tot 30 juli in het Noordhollands Duinreservaat bij Bergen, Noord-Holland. Op 21 augustus volgde er een melding van een zingende op Schiermonnikoog. De **Bergfluiter** *P bonelli* die vanaf 10 juni op de Veluwezoom

bij Arnhem, Gelderland, verbleef en ten minste twee jongen grootbracht, werd voor het laatst gemeld op 9 juli.

GRASMUSSEN TOT GORZEN Na een erg vroege vangst op 5 augustus in Meijendel werden tot 31 augustus nog 18 **Sperwergrasmussen** *Sylvia nisoria* geringd, waarvan zeven op Vlieland en vijf bij Bloemendaal. Op een handvol plekken langs de kust werd de soort in het veld waargenomen. Een **Krekelzanger** *Locustella fluviatilis* zong nog van 21 juni tot 2 juli bij Haren, Groningen, en op 12 augustus werd een exemplaar opgemerkt op de noordpunt van Texel. Een **Orpheusspotvogel** *Hippolais polyglotta* werd op 21 juli geringd bij Castricum; deze soort hing hier eenmaal eerder in het net, op 18 juli 2007. Een adulte **Struikrietzanger** *Acrocephalus dumetorum* werd op 11 augustus geringd in Meijendel. De eerste **Waterrietzanger** *A paludicola* van het jaar dook op 27 juli op in Lentevreugd bij Wassenaar. Tot 14 augustus waren hier vrijwel continu exemplaren aanwezig, tot maximaal drie tegelijk. Ook van andere bekende plekken kwamen waarnemingen, zoals bij Bakkersdam, Noord-Holland, in de Groene Jonker en zelfs weer eens op de vroegere toplocatie voor deze soort, de Westplaat, Zuid-Holland. Bij Castricum werden tussen 1 en 15 augustus zeven exemplaren geringd, waaronder een adulte op 5 augustus. Andere opmerkelijke waarnemingen werden onder meer gedaan op 28 juli bij Wageningen, Gelderland, en op 24 augustus in De Kampina bij Oirschot, Noord-Brabant. Vanaf 23 juli werden op vijf ringstations in totaal zeven **Grote Karekieten** *A arundinaceus* gevangen. In dezelfde periode in zowel 2010 als 2011 werd er slechts één geringd. **Graszangers** *Cisticola juncidis* werden alleen gemeld in het Verdronken Land van Saeftinge, Zeeland. Een **Roodbuikwaterspreeuw** *Cinclus cinclus aquaticus* bevond zich op 23 augustus langs de Worm bij Kerkrade, Limburg. Er werden deze zomer ongewoon veel **Kramsvogels** *Turdus pilaris* waargenomen. Ook opmerkelijk voor de tijd van het jaar was een **Koperwiek** *T iliacus* die op 15 juli werd gefotografeerd bij Midsland op Terschelling en op 27 juli volgde nog een melding op Vlieland. Trektellers noteerden in augustus ruim 50 **Duinpiepers** *Anthus campestris*, merendeels in de zuidelijke helft van het land. Erg bijzonder was de melding van minstens 19 exemplaren op 29 augustus bij Puth, Limburg, waarvan c 10 ter plaatse en de rest overtrekkend. Op enkele andere plekken werden er twee of drie samen gezien. Langs de kust verschenen voor deze tijd van het jaar opmerkelijk veel **Europese Kanaries** *Serinus serinus*: van ten minste 10 tot 17 juli bij de Kooiplaats op Schiermonnikoog (mannetje en vrouwtje); op 25 juli op Texel; op 11 augustus bij IJmuiden; op 16 augustus op Vlieland; en op 18 augustus bij Castricum (vangst). Tot in juli werden zingende **Roodmussen** *Carpodacus erythrinus* waargenomen op Texel en Vlieland. Op 29 juli werd nog een juveniele gevangen bij Bloemendaal en op 28 augustus volgde een waarneming op Schiermonnikoog. Vanaf half augustus werden op telposten 29 **Ortolanen** *Emberiza hortulana* waargenomen. Voor huidige begrippen is dat een hoog aantal; in dezelfde periode in zowel 2010 als 2011 waren het er slechts vier. Op 18 augustus was er bovendien een vangst bij Castricum. Veel bekijks trokken eerst één en later tot maximaal zes exemplaren die van 27 augustus tot in september bij Hoenderloo, Gelderland, verbleven.

We bedanken Joost van Bruggen, Paul Ruiters en Pim Wolf voor hun hulp bij het samenstellen van dit overzicht.

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DB Actueel

Kortbekzeekoet bij Lauwersoog en Den Helder Op zaterdag 28 juli 2012 keerden Atze Witteveen en Merel Zweemer per boot terug van Schiermonnikoog, Friesland. Vlak voordat ze rond 16:40 de haven van Lauwersoog, Groningen, binnenvoeren ontdekte AW een 'zeekoet', een soort die ze kenden van hun tochten in Schotland. MZ maakte snel drie foto's. Omdat de bovendelen zwart in plaats van bruin waren twijfelde ze aan de determinatie als Zeekoet *Uria aalge*. Later pakte ze de ANWB-vogelgids erbij en streepte de soorten af – en toen bleef eigenlijk alleen een Kortbekzeekoet *U lomvia* in zomerkleed over. Ze plaatste de waarneming op het forum van Waarneming.nl. Die werd opgepikt door Frank Neijts en hij bevestigde de determinatie en vroeg of ze de waarneming wilde uploaden. Later op de avond werd de melding verspreid via Dutch Bird Alerts en na aanvankelijk wat ongeloof (vooral vanwege de onverwachte midzomer-datum) als 'zeker' doorgegeven.

De volgende ochtend stonden er al ruim voor het eerste licht vogelaars in de haven van Lauwersoog. Zodra het licht het toeliet, werden de haven en de Waddenzee buiten de haven afgezocht – maar zonder resultaat. Meerdere mensen besloten om de dijken langs de Waddenzee af te gaan zoeken; anderen twijfelden en opteerden voor de 'oude-plekken-theorie'. Om c 06:30 vonden Jeroen de Bruijn, Nils van Duivendijk en Han Zevenhuizen de zeekoet terug langs de Waddendijk bij de Kustweg, c 6 km ten oosten van Lauwersoog. Het nieuws werd direct bekend gemaakt. De vogel dook veel en was langdurig onder water dus het duurde even voordat de toegesnelde vogelaars hem in beeld hadden.

482 Kortbekzeekoet / Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia*, Kustweg, Lauwersmeer, Groningen, 29 juli 2012 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

Hoewel hij op enige afstand zwom, waren de belangrijkste kenmerken van Kortbekzeekoet goed te zien, zoals de zwarte bovendelen (bruiner bij Zeekoet), de kortere snavel met het karakteristieke witte lijntje op de zijkant, de compactere bouw vergeleken met Zeekoet, de in een scherpe punt oplopende witte borsttekening en het ontbreken van donkere tekening op de flanken. Na enige tijd zwom hij verder de zee op en ging actief duiken, waarbij het afwachten was waar hij weer boven zou komen. Na een uurtje begon hij aan een grondige poetsbeurt en liet zich toen rustig bekijken. Steeds meer vogelaars kwamen de dijk opgerend en wierpen een blik door de opgestelde telescopen: de soort was binnen – en voor verbazend veel, ook zeer reislustige, vogelaars was het nog een 'lifer' ook.

Rond 09:00 brak het zonnetje door en kwam de vogel langzaam richting dijk zwemmen. De vogelaars wachtten af, hij zou toch niet?!... En ja! – de vogel wipte de kant op en de fotografen stationeerden zich met het zonnetje in de rug. Hij schudde zich uit, klapte af en toe met zijn vleugels en ging ook enige tijd op zijn buik liggen. Tijdens deze show was zichtbaar dat hij wat olie in de nek had. Na een klein uurtje besloot hij weer het water in te gaan. Hier bleef hij de rest van de dag op enige afstand dobberen en duiken. Na 15:00 werd de afstand steeds groter en rond 16:30 was hij alleen nog als stipje door de telescoop zichtbaar op 3-4 km afstand. De rest van de dag en de volgende dag werd hij niet meer gezien. Aanvankelijk was er nog hoop (vooral bij vogelaars die van vakantie terugkwamen) dat hij ergens langs de Groninger noordkust weer zou opduiken maar dat gebeurde niet en de vrees was dat dit het einde was – van de waarneming of misschien zelfs van de vogel...

Dat pakte echter anders uit: op zaterdagmiddag 11 augustus zat Kees Rebel op zijn vaste stek bij Den Helder, Noord-Holland, over zee te kijken. Zijn telling was om 06:30 begonnen en zou – na een weinig opwindend dagje – om 15:30 eindigen. Vlak voor zijn vertrek, om 15:15, zag hij voor de dijk bij de kustwachttoren van Huisduinen op c 100 m afstand een alk/zeekoet zwemmen. De kleine kijker werd snel verruild voor de grotere kijker (20x80) en het was KR duidelijk dat het vrijwel zeker om een zomerkleed Kortbekzeekoet ging; de determinatie was niet moeilijk omdat hij enkele dagen eerder op Natuurbericht.nl het relaas van de vogel bij Lauwersoog had gelezen. Hij meldde het nieuws snel aan Fred Geldermans en die berichtte Mario Renden. FG en MR waren snel ter plekke en bevestigden de determinatie en MR maakte de eerste bewijsfoto's. Rond 16:00 verspreidde MR het nieuws via Dutch Bird Alerts. Dat veroorzaakte paniek bij heel wat vogelaars die de vogel bij Lauwersoog hadden gemist. De Noord-Hollanders snelden toe en konden snel bevestigen dat de vogel er nog zat en dat veel mensen een herkansing leken te krijgen, was het niet voor de levenslijst, dan wel voor de maandlijst of Noord-Hollandlijst... Hoewel niet zo massaal als twee weken eerder stroomden weer veel vogelaars uit geheel Nederland toe. De vogel dobberde langzaam met de ebstroom naar het zuiden voor en tussen de pieren, aanvankelijk actief duikend en vanaf c 18:30 tot zonsondergang rustig dobberend tussen de pieren, soms op minder dan 20 m van de waarnemers of

nietsvermoedende badgasten.

Op zondag 12 augustus werd om 06:18 al de eerste melding via DB Alerts verstuurd; de vogel zwom weer op de 'oude' plek bij de vuurtoren. Bijna de hele dag liet hij zich hier fraai bekijken door vele 10-tallen vogelaars, vaak actief duikend en regelmatig een prooi vangend. De duikacties duurden vaak meer dan 1 min en er werden zelfs duikbeurten van 4 min getimed. Omdat de vogel soms erg dicht onder de kant zwom konden de fotografen zich uitleven; de vogel zelf moest echter uitkijken voor in het water zwemmende honden die tot tweemaal toe angstig dichtbij kwamen... In de middag kwam RTV Noord langs om een reportage te maken. 's Avonds zwom of dreef hij verder het Marsdiep op en na 19:15 was hij niet meer zichtbaar. Op maandag 13 augustus bleek hij in de loop van de ochtend toch weer aanwezig langs de dijk bij de vuurtoren. Deze dag werd hij niet meer duikend waargenomen en in de loop van de middag verslechterde zijn conditie zienderogen. Na c 15:00 zakte hij met de kop in het water en het laatste teken van leven was om 16:03. Daarna was duidelijk dat de vogel was overleden. Het lijk dreef vrij snel met de stroom mee naar het oosten. Een poging om met een vissersbootje de vogel op te vissen mislukte omdat hij in het woelige water niet meer kon worden gevonden, ondanks coördinatiepogingen vanaf de dijk.

Omdat de vogel op beide locatie uitgebreid werd gedocumenteerd, kan aan de hand van de foto's de leeftijd en ondersoort worden onderzocht. Pallas' Kortbekzeekoet *U l arra* uit het Pacifische gebied lijkt een onwaarschijnlijke dwaalgast in West-Europa maar gezien het feit dat er inmiddels acht gevallen van Pacifische alkachtigen in Europa zijn (verdeeld over vijf soorten) is dit een optie die serieus onderzocht moet worden. Het belangrijkste ondersoortkenmerk wordt gevormd door de lengte en vorm van de witte toppen aan de armpennen maar verschillende bronnen spreken elkaar tegen wat dat verschil precies is, waarbij ook de onduidelijkheid over de kenmerken en verwantschappen van de Siberische ondersoort *U l eleonorae* een rol speelt). De uitkomsten van dit onderzoek zullen worden beoordeeld door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) en worden gepubliceerd in Dutch Birding. Op basis van de foto's en de daarop zichtbare olie of vervuiling in de nek was duidelijk dat het bij beide waarnemingen om hetzelfde exemplaar ging. Of de vogel de afstand van c 130 km tussen Lauwersoog en Den Helder alleen zwemmend en drijvend heeft afgelegd of ook vliegend zal voor altijd een vraag blijven (hoewel de vleugels compleet waren is hij op beide plekken nooit vliegend gezien).

Dit was de negende waarneming van een Kortbekzeekoet in Nederland; zes gevallen betreffen vondsten en slecht drie exemplaren zijn levend gezien (waarvan twee uiteindelijk zijn overleden). De eerdere gevallen dateren van december 1919, december 1924, januari 1969, maart 1974, februari 1979, januari 1981, april 1992 en oktober 2005. Alleen de vogels van 1979 (Brouwersdam, Zuid-Holland) en 2005 (Schiermonnikoog) zijn in levende lijve gezien, zij het door een zeer beperkt aantal vogelaars. De vogel van 2012 was dus de eerste twitchbare voor Nederland en werd door zeker 500 vogelaars waargenomen. Merel Zweemer, Atze Witteveen, Kees Rebel & Enno B Ebels

Thick-billed Murre On 28-29 July 2012, a summer-plumaged Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia* was seen near Lauwersoog, Groningen, the Netherlands. On 11-13 August, the same bird stayed at Den Helder, Noord-Holland, c 130 km to the west. On the last day, the bird died while on the water (the corpse could not be collected). At both sites, the bird could be observed at close range and extensively photographed and videoed. The detailed documentation may suffice to identify the subspecies. This was the ninth record, the third of a live bird (two of which eventually also died), the first in summer and the first twitchable.

483 Kortbekzeekoet / Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia*, Huisduinen, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 12 augustus 2012 *(Marco Eerkes)*

DBA-nieuws

Bestuur op volle sterkte en klaar voor de toekomst! Namens het bestuur van Dutch Birding Association ben ik verheugd om te kunnen melden dat alle huidige bestuursfuncties zijn ingevuld. Per 1 augustus 2012 heeft Toy Janssen de taken 'automatisering, websites en Dutch Bird Alerts' overgenomen van Wietze Janse, die ruim acht jaar in het bestuur zitting heeft gehad. Namens het bestuur wil ik Wietze bedanken voor zijn tomeloze inzet. Als medewerker (webredactie en Dutch Bird Alerts) blijft Wietze bij Dutch Birding betrokken.

Thierry Jansen (penningmeester) heeft aangegeven zijn lopende termijn niet te verlengen. Kees de Vries heeft zich gemeld om zijn taken over te nemen; het is de bedoeling dat dat per 1 januari 2013 gebeurt. De komende periode wordt hard gewerkt aan de overdracht. Han Zevenhuizen (secretaris, marketing) heeft aangegeven zijn functie met een tweede termijn te willen verlengen.

Om de continuïteit binnen het bestuur te waarborgen is enkele jaren geleden de richtlijn geïntroduceerd dat een bestuurslid maximaal twee termijnen van elk drie jaar zitting kan hebben. Gezien de vele mutaties binnen het bestuur de afgelopen twee jaar is nu voorgesteld om een derde termijn mogelijk te maken.

Alle bovengenoemde benoemingen en termijnverlengingen zijn bekrachtigd tijdens de bestuursvergadering op donderdag 19 juli 2012 te Santpoort-Zuid, Noord-Holland.

Het zeskoppige bestuur wordt gecomplementeerd door Rob Gordijn (evenementen) en de kernredactie die met één zetel vertegenwoordigd is. Arjan van Egmond, voorzitter Dutch Birding Association

Dutch Avifauna: compleet digitaal overzicht van zeldzame vogels in Nederland Eind augustus 2012 is door Dutch Birding een nieuwe website gelanceerd: Dutch Avifauna, voor zeldzame vogels in Nederland (www.dutchavifauna.nl of www.nederlandseavifauna.nl). Het is een onlinearchief met alle waarnemingen die sinds 1800 tot en met 'de dag van vandaag' beoordeeld en aanvaard zijn door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA).

Tot voor kort werden alle aanvaarde waarnemingen ('gevallen') bewaard in een 'papieren' archief van de CDNA. Rond de eeuwwisseling werden ze gebundeld en geanalyseerd in een grootse publicatie, *Zeldzame vogels van Nederland – Rare birds of the Netherlands. Avifauna van Nederland 1* (1999, herziene druk 2001), en sindsdien kwamen daar in het tijdschrift Dutch Birding publicaties over opmerkelijke gevallen en CDNA-jaarverslagen bij. Op de Dutch Avifauna wordt al deze informatie plus nog niet eerder gepubliceerd materiaal gepresenteerd.

Vrijwilligers van Dutch Birding zijn de afgelopen twee jaar intensief bezig geweest met het opzetten van de database en het up-to-date brengen van informatie en het toevoegen van beelden, geluiden en teksten. Meer documentatie blijft echter welkom, waarbij het oordeel van de CDNA leidend is om iets al dan niet toe te voegen. Mocht u zelf nog foto's, geluiden, krantenknipsels of een beschrijving in een oud notitieboekje vinden, stuur dan een bericht naar info@dutchavifauna.nl of ga naar www.dutchavifauna.nl. Bestuur Dutch Birding Association

Dutch Avifauna: complete digital overview of rare birds in the Netherlands In August 2012, Dutch Birding launched a new website: Dutch Avifauna, for rare and scarce birds in the Netherlands (www.dutchavifauna.nl or www.nederlandseavifauna.nl). This website is an online archive with all records of rare birds from 1800 up to 'the present day' that have been considered by the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA).

Until recently, all records were filed in the 'paper archives' of CDNA. Around the turn of the century, the data were compiled, analysed and published in a milestone publication, *Zeldzame vogels van Nederland – Rare birds of the Netherlands. Avifauna van Nederland 1* (1999, revised edition 2001). Since then, new records and annual rarity reports have been published in the journal Dutch Birding. On the website Dutch Avifauna all this information and other original, unpublished material is presented.

During the last two years, volunteers of Dutch Birding have worked hard to compile the database, updating the information and adding photographs, video images, sound recordings and text. However, additional documentation is more than welcome, whilst CDNA will decide whether received information is suitable to be added to the web contents or not. If you have any information available, such as images, sound recordings, newspaper articles or a forgotten description in an old notebook, please send a message to info@dutchavifauna.nl or visit www.dutchavifauna.nl. Board Dutch Birding Association

Corrigenda

In the paper 'Azure Tits and hybrids Azure x European Blue Tit in Europe' (Dutch Birding 34: 219-231, 2012) the following corrections should be made:

p 221, right column, 10-11th line from below: amend 'c 119 records' to read 'c 116 records'

p 222, table 1 (records of Azure Tit *Cyanistes cyanus*): delete the three records from Hungary (these dates concern hybrids, see table 2 on p 225)

p 222, right column, 12th line from below: amend 'only 29 records' to read 'only 28 records'

p 222, right column, 6-7th line from below: amend 'October (15), November (17) and December (15)' to read 'October (14), November (16) and December (14)'

In de samenvatting zijn door bovenstaande de volgende correcties nodig:

p 228, rechter kolom, laatste regel: verander '119 gevallen in 'c 116 gevallen'

p 229, rechter kolom, derde regel: verander 'slechts 29' in 'slechts 28'

In het bijschrift bij plaat 371 (Dutch Birding 34: 268, 2012) werd per ongeluk tweemaal een datum en een fotograaf vermeld. De laatstgenoemde is de juiste: de foto werd op 28 juni 2012 gemaakt door Lennart Verheuvel.

In the caption of plate 371 (Dutch Birding 34: 268, 2012) a date and photographer were mentioned twice by mistake. The second mention is correct: the photograph was taken on 28 June 2012 by Lennart Verheuvel.

REDACTIE / EDITORS