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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 2013, www.dutchbirding.nl/page.php?page_id=228) (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 *IOC world bird names 3.2* door F Gill & D Donsker (2012, www.worldbirdnames.org) (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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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 2013, www.dutchbirding.nl/page.php?page_id=229) (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 *IOC world bird names 3.2* by F Gill & D Donsker (2012, www.worldbirdnames.org) (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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American Hawk-Owl caught off Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, in October 1924

Cosme D Romay & C S (Kees) Roselaar

Northern Hawk-Owl *Surnia ulula* is a circumboreal species of which the nominate subspecies *S u ulula* (hereafter *ulula*) breeds in the taiga belt of northern Eurasia. In the coniferous forests of the mountains of north-central Asia, it is replaced by the subspecies *S u tianschanica*, while in North America the subspecies *S u caparoch* (American Hawk-Owl, hereafter *caparoch*) breeds in taiga forests from Alaska, USA, through Canada east to Newfoundland (König et al 2008). Although mostly sedentary, the species performs dispersive and eruptive movements within and outside its breeding range, triggered by food availability (Tischler 1907, Hagen 1957, Rohner et al 1995, Ehmsen 2004). In Europe, vagrants of nominate *ulula* have reached central Europe, south to Romania and former Yugoslavia and west to Britain and France, while in North America nomadic birds of *caparoch* reach the 40°N parallel as southern vagrancy limit (Cramp 1985, del Hoyo et al 1999, Sibley 2003), and *caparoch* has also been recorded as a vagrant in Britain (Slack 2009, Harrop 2010).

When working on the text of Northern Hawk-Owl for volume 4 of *Birds of the Western Palearctic* (Cramp 1985), Kees (C S) Roselaar noted a previously unrecorded specimen from Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, in the collection of Naturalis Biodiversity Center (Naturalis) in Leiden, the Netherlands. After comparison with the other specimens of the three subspecies available in the collection, the bird was clearly identifiable as

1-3 American Hawk Owl / Amerikaanse Sperweruil *Surnia ulula caparoch* (caught off Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, in October 1924), Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, Netherlands, August 2012 *(Cosme D Romay)*

4 Underside of stand of American Hawk Owl / Amerikaanse Sperweruil *Surnia ulula caparoch* caught off Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, in October 1924: 'caught at Las Palmas aboard ship; Rotterdam Zoo, 7 November 1924'. Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, Netherlands, August 2012 *(Cosme D Romay)*

5 American Hawk Owl / Amerikaanse Sperweruil *Surnia ulula caparoch* (caught off Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, in October 1924), Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, Netherlands, August 2012 *(Cosme D Romay)*. Detail of claws and feathered feet.

6-7 American Hawk Owl / Amerikaanse Sperweruil *Surnia ulula caparoch* (caught off Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, in October 1924), Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, Netherlands, August 2012 *(Cosme D Romay)*. Details of tail from above (plate 6) and below (plate 7).

first-year male *caparoch*. Accordingly, this record from the Canary Islands was mentioned in the section 'Movements' of the species account in Cramp (1985) while its mensural data were similarly included in the section 'Measurements' but no further details were published. Because this specimen represents only the second record of *caparoch* in Europe and the Western Palearctic, we here provide a full account of this record.

Identification

The Las Palmas bird (plate 1-13) is clearly identified as Northern Hawk-Owl by its black upperparts marked with white spots, closely black-and-white barred underparts and long black tail with some narrow white bars. The presence of worn brown tertials contrasting with the black and unworn remainder of the upperparts as well as large white triangular tips to the central tail-feathers show it to be a first-year bird (cf Cramp 1985). The differences between *ulula* and *caparoch* are more subtle: according to the literature, *caparoch* is generally deeper black with smaller white spots on the upperparts, shows relatively broader black bars on the underparts and has narrower white tail-bars (König et al 2008, van Duivendijk 2011). However, these differences are not unequivocallly supported by 20 skins of *ulula* from Eurasia and six of *caparoch* from North America examined in Naturalis: perhaps an average difference is shown

8 American Hawk Owls / Amerikaanse Sperweruilen *Surnia ulula caparoch* (right: caught off Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, in October 1924; left: specimen from Canada), Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, Netherlands, August 2012 *(Cosme D Romay)*

9 American Hawk Owl / Amerikaanse Sperweruil *Surnia ulula caparoch* (caught off Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, in October 1924), right, with Northern Hawk-Owl / Sperweruil *S u tianschanica* (specimen from Central Asia), Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, Netherlands, August 2012 *(Cosme D Romay)*. Note that underpart barring is slightly bolder and darker in *caparoch* than in *tianschanica*.

in characters but the overlap is wide. Some differences between both taxa exist in the pattern of individual feathers on crown, scapulars and chest (eg, Cramp 1985) but even within one individual the variation in feather pattern in each of these feather tracts is large and valid for identification only when exactly the same feather of *ulula* and *caparoch* is compared. The only easy identification character is formed by the colour pattern of the two longest primaries (p7-8; primaries numbered from inside): *ulula* shows 8-10 white spots beyond the longest primary covert on the outer web of these feathers (of which 4-5 on the emarginated part), *caparoch* has 5-7 white spots (2-3 on the emarginated part); moreover, the spots of *ulula* are larger and squarer and of *caparoch* smaller and rounder. This character is useful in the field as well. The Las Palmas bird has only five spots on the outer web of p7-8 (of which two small ones on the emarginated part) and thus clearly belongs to *caparoch*. Measurements of *caparoch* and *ulula* overlap widely. The subspecies *tianschanica* from north-central Asia is also darker than *ulula* but differs from *caparoch* by the longer wing and tail (table 1). The measurements of the Las Palmas bird in table 1 exclude *tianschanica*.

Circumstances

The owl was captured alive on board of a ship steaming off Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, in October 1924 (probably late October). It was apparently exhausted, because the ship's crew would otherwise not have been able to catch it. It was taken into care on the ship when the vessel moved on to Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands, and was handed over to Rotterdam Zoo on arrival, where it died on 7 November 1924. As was usual for rare birds dying in the

10 American Hawk Owl / Amerikaanse Sperweruil *Surnia ulula caparoch* (caught off Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, in October 1924), right, with Northern Hawk-Owl / Sperweruil *S u ulula* (left: specimen from Finland), Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, Netherlands, August 2012 *(Cosme D Romay)*

11 American Hawk Owls / Amerikaanse Sperweruilen *Surnia ulula caparoch* (left: caught off Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, in October 1924; right: specimen from Canada), Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, Netherlands, August 2012 *(Cosme D Romay)*

TABLE 1 Comparison of biometrics of American Hawk-Owl *Surnia ulula caparoch* (bottom) caught off Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, in October 1924 (bottom) with biometrics of other Northern Hawk-Owl specimens. *S u 'pallasi'* refers to specimens from north-eastern Asia, generally included in nominate *S u ulula*. Measurements (in mm) taken by C S (Kees) Roselaar.

sex	wing mean±SD (range; n)	tail mean±SD (range; n)	tarsus mean±SD (range; n)	bill (to skull) mean±SD (range (n)	bill (to cere) mean±SD (range; n)
S u ulula					
♀	239.3±4.3 (232-246; 12)	177.9±6.3 (168-186; 7)	25.5±1.1 (24.4-27.2; 6)	25.6±1.2 (23.1-26.8; 7)	18.8±0.4 (18.1-19.3; 7)
♂	235.1±2.0 (233-239; 10)	179.2±4.8 (174-188; 9)	25.7±1.3 (23.6-27.7; 9)	24.1±0.9 (22.8-25.2; 8)	17.6±1.0 (15.3-18.7; 9)
S u tianschanica					
♀	249 (-; 1)	179.5 (-; 1)	26.8 (-; 1)	23.9 (-; 1)	17.9 (-; 1)
♂	242.8±1.8 (241.5-244; 2)	181.5±9.2 (175-188; 2)	25.9±0.9 (25.2-26.5; 2)	23.6±0.5 (23.2-23.9; 2)	17.6±0.6 (17.1-18.0; 2)
S u 'pallasi'					
♀	239.9±6.5 (229-249; 8)	184.0±9.9 (177-191; 2)	26.4±0.1 (26.3-26.5; 2)	23.9±0.4 (23.6-24.2; 2)	17.8±0.6 (17.4-18.2; 2)
♂	234.8±4.3 (229-240; 7)	174.7±1.8 (173-176.5; 3)	25.6±0.6 (24.9-26.0; 3)	24.4±0.6 (23.8-25.0; 3)	16.9±0.5 (16.6-17.5; 3)
S u caparoch					
♀	238.8±3.8 (235-246; 6)	178.8±4.9 (176-184.5; 3)	26.2±0.9 (25.3-27.0; 3)	25.4±0.8 (24.6-26.2; 3)	19.9±0.6 (19.3-20.4; 3)
♂	231.4±2.9 (226-235; 8)	172.6±2.2 (169.5-175; 4)	26.1±1.2 (24.7-26.8; 3)	24.4±0.7 (23.4-24.9; 4)	18.5±0.5 (17.8-18.9; 4)
***S u caparoch*, juvenile ♂, Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, 1924, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, RMNH 5409**					
	wing 229	**tail** 175	**tarsus** 26.7	**bill (to skull)** 24.8	**bill (to cere)** 18.8

12 American Hawk Owl / Amerikaanse Sperweruil *Surnia ulula caparoch* (caught off Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, in October 1924), right, with Northern Hawk-Owl / Sperweruil *S u tianschanica* (specimen from Central Asia), Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, Netherlands, August 2012 *(Cosme D Romay)*

13 American Hawk Owls / Amerikaanse Sperweruilen *Surnia ulula caparoch* (caught off Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, in October 1924), right, with Northern Hawk-Owl / Sperweruil *S u ulula* (left: specimen from Finland), Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, Netherlands, August 2012 *(Cosme D Romay)*

Amsterdam, The Hague or Rotterdam zoos, it was immediately sent to the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie in Leiden, the predecessor of Naturalis, where it was mounted as *Surnia ulula caparoch* nr 5, register nr 5409.

Discussion

Captains and crew of ships from the Netherlands have a long tradition in sending dead or exhausted birds found on their vessels to Dutch museums or (when still alive) zoos. Naturalis contains many 100s of these birds, mainly taken on one of two routes from the Americas to the Netherlands: ***1*** from New York, USA, across the northern Atlantic (via which route at least three ship-stranded Snowy Owls *Bubo scandiacus* arrived) or ***2*** from a more southerly route directed north-east from the Caribbean or South America to Rotterdam or Amsterdam. The sailors are generally well aware that they should attach coordinates and dates to their specimens to make them scientifically interesting but birds delivered to zoos sometimes bear fewer data. From names of ships or of crew members noted at the zoo, the route of the ship and details of provenance can often be obtained afterwards, even after many years, but for the Las Palmas *caparoch* we have the bad luck that the archives of Rotterdam Zoo burnt during the bombardment of Rotterdam in May 1940. However, a few assumptions can be made: ***1*** The plumage of the bird was in good condition. It clearly had not been in captivity for more than 1-2 weeks before it died on 7 November. This puts the date when it flew aboard in the last week of October 1924 (also based on the suggested speed of the ship between Las Palmas and Rotterdam), which is in accordance with the general peak of irruptive movements of Northern Hawk-Owl (October-November, especially late October; Hagen 1957, Rønnest 1994); ***2*** A ship sailing

along the Canary Islands to Rotterdam is not following a route from New York across the northern Atlantic but a route from the Caribbean or South America north-eastwards (if not even coming from West Africa). The chance that an individual arrived on a ship during the early part of the Atlantic crossing is remote, because the ship then still was in tropical waters, far beyond the known southern range of Northern Hawk-Owl. Thus, a long ship-assisted arrival seems unlikely; ***3*** Favouring genuine vagrancy is the evidence of east-bound remains of 'Hurricane Ten' (or 'Huracán sin Precedentes') that hit Cuba on 19 October 1924, reaching Saffir-Simpson category 5 (with winds of 270 km/h), and subsequently weakened as it moved north-east towards Florida and the center of the Atlantic (extratropical depression by 23 October 1924 when at Bermuda) (Landsea et al 2012, Unisys 2012). 'Hurricane Ten' could have forced Neartic migratory birds eastwards as eastern North American tropical depressions during autumn sometimes do (Elkins 2004); and ***4*** There is another acceptable record for *caparoch* in Europe, in England, under circumstances quite comparable with those of the Las Palmas bird: an exhausted individual that could be caught by hand aboard a ship a few sea miles off Cornwall in March 1830; three other *caparoch* reported in Britain are now considered unreliable and are no longer on the British list (Harrop 2010).

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Casper Kraan, Steve van der Mije (Naturalis) and Lex Noordermeer (Diergaarde Blijdorp/Rotterdam Zoo) provided useful information on this bird. Antonio Sandoval made interesting comments on the assumptions about the origin of this American Hawk-Owl.

Samenvatting
Amerikaanse Sperweruil gevangen bij Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Canarische Eilanden, in oktober 1924 Dit artikel beschrijft de vangst van een eerstejaars mannetje Amerikaanse Sperweruil *Surnia ulula caparoch* op een schip bij Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Canarische Eilanden, in oktober 1924 (waarschijnlijk in de laatste week van oktober). De vogel werd meegenomen naar Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland, waar hij op 7 november 1924 stierf in de dierentuin. De combinatie van veerkenmerken (met name het beperkte aantal witte vlekken op de langste handpennen) en maten sluit andere ondersoorten van Sperweruil uit. De vogel wordt opgezet bewaard in Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden. Het betrof het tweede Europese geval van *caparoch*; het enige andere Europese en West-Palearctische geval was een exemplaar dat in maart 1830 eveneens levend werd gevangen op een schip op zee bij Cornwall, Engeland.

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Snow Bunting: sexing, ageing and subspecies

Rik Winters

During a winter's day birding in the Netherlands, Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* always presents a highlight. Although not a rarity, the species is very uncommon away from the coast, and groups exceeding a few 10s of birds are only regular around the Wadden Sea. In a group flying by, the variation in white patches invariably leaves observers with a sense of beauty but also with a feeling that there was something in there that they did not grasp completely. Studying perched birds, it soon becomes clear there is much variation in whiteness of the head, wing, rump and underparts, but also that most field guides do little in putting a meaning to the variation observed. Digging deeper into the literature reveals that telling what is what is not always simple. Confronted with this situation, various ringers searched for and found solutions to most problems concerning determination of age, sex and subspecies (eg, Banks et al 1989, Jukema & Rijpma 1989, Rae & Marquiss 1989, Smith 1992). Their identification criteria were developed on birds during winter. Taking their findings into the field, I found that, although the methods developed were based on birds in the hand and museum specimens, many of these criteria can be used very well in the field as well, at least when given reasonable views.

When observing a Snow Bunting, it is generally easy to determine whether the bird is a male or a female. Determining the age is rather more difficult. Assigning the subspecies, however, again is not too difficult, although in some cases details need to be observed that are not easy to see under field conditions.

Snow Buntings wintering in the Netherlands belong to two subspecies: nominate *P n nivalis*

14 Snow Bunting / Sneeuwgors *Plectrophenax nivalis*, adult female *P n nivalis*, Lauwersoog, Groningen, Netherlands, 16 February 2008 *(Rik Winters)*. Very pale and large bird, suggesting *vlasowae*.

15 Snow Bunting / Sneeuwgors *Plectrophenax nivalis*, first-winter male *P n insulae*, Lauwersoog, Groningen, Netherlands, 16 February 2008 *(Rik Winters)* **16** Snow Bunting / Sneeuwgors *Plectrophenax nivalis*, male, most likely *P n nivalis*, Eemshaven, Groningen, Netherlands, 6 January 2008 *(Rik Winters)*. Note extensively white rump and contrast between pale mantle fringes and rufous scapular fringes. Very pale plumage and large size suggestive of *vlasowae*.

(hereafter *nivalis)* from Greenland east to western Russia, including Scandinavia, and *P n insulae* (hereafter *insulae*) from Iceland. The two subspecies form mixed flocks on the wintering grounds where their ranges overlap. Little is known about the ratios in which the subspecies occur in the Netherlands. *Insulae* is presumed to be the most numerous subspecies, being about twice as numerous as *nivalis* (Jukema & Fokkema 1992), but this ratio may vary between winters. However, using the identification criteria described hereafter, birds I checked in the Wadden Sea area in autumn (September-October) all proved to be *nivalis*.

In addition, *P n vlasowae* (hereafter *vlasowae*) from Siberia, Russia, may occur in western Europe but its occurrence is obscured by poorly known identification criteria and the presumed occurrence of *vlasowae*-type birds in northern Atlantic populations (Cramp & Perrins 1994).

Sexing

The scapular pattern is diagnostic for sexing but, in case of doubt, there are several other features that can be used.

Males show a broad blunt tip to the black centre of the scapulars, while in females these feathers show a pointed dark brown centre. The difference is least pronounced between first-winter males and adult females but, even then, the difference is usually easily made. In males, these centres may appear to form a black 'belt' between the largely white wing-coverts and the brown- to pale-edged mantle-feathers while, in females, there is no such 'belt' apparent, as the scapulars are similarly patterned as the mantle-feathers (although the colour of the feather edges may differ).

The median and lesser wing-coverts are white in males, while in females these feathers have a dark centre and a white fringe. First-winter males may show a dark feather centre to some lesser wing-coverts. On perched birds, this feature is often best seen as a white band between the dark scapulars and dark alula. Also, the greater wing-coverts are usually whiter in males than in females but there is extensive overlap and this is not a reliable feature.

The wing-tip of males is black or blackish, creating a 'dipped-in-ink pattern' in flight. In females, the dark parts are less black and less well demarcated from the white parts (Svensson 1992). On perched birds, however, this feature is usually of little use.

Other sexing features include biometrics (Banks et al 1989), the pattern of the feathers of the nape, and a formula regarding the whiteness of various wing- and tail-feathers (Jukema & Rijpma 1989) but these characters are of little use in the field. Furthermore, extensively white primary coverts are shown primarily by males but not all males show this. There is variation related to subspecies (see below): some females *nivalis* may also show white on these feathers, and first-winter males *insulae* may show all-dark primary coverts.

The characters can usually be observed quite easily and, given reasonable views, allow for a

failsafe sexing. The result may sometimes be experienced as somewhat 'counter intuitive' as illustrated by plate 14-15, with the pale bird being the female and the brown one the male.

Ageing

Determining the age of a Snow Bunting is most often not straightforward and relies on close views of a number of feathers. The 'classic' key is the shape of the tip of the tail-feathers – pointed in first-winter birds and rounded in adults – but this is generally regarded of little use as the tail-feathers in adults may wear to a more pointed shape. Furthermore, this feature can hardly ever be assessed reliably in the field (although photographs may be of great help).

Smith (1992) used a combination of tertial pattern and wear, inner greater covert pattern and a tail feature. He showed that this combination was almost free of errors. Only in spring, some birds were aged incorrectly, probably as a result of wear of the relevant feather parts.

Of these three features, the tail feature is of little use for field observations but, given reasonable views, the tertials and greater coverts can be studied in sufficient detail. Luckily, the tail feature is the least accurate of the three and leaving it out introduces little additional error (cf Smith 1992).

Tertials of both adult and first-winter birds typically show a broad ginger-coloured or rusty edge and tip but, in adults, the tertials start showing wear only much later in the season. Beware of late winter and early spring birds as, by then, also adults may have lost the fringes. The longest (outer) tertial is the most relevant of the three, as it is much more prone to wear than the inner two.

The inner greater coverts can be used in two ways. They are largely dark with a pale fringe. In juveniles, this fringe is narrow and easily wears off while, in adults, the fringe is wide and less prone to wear. Especially late in the season, interpretation of this feature may become difficult. The telltale sign of age is a moult contrast shown by some first-winter birds. Some have moulted their innermost (rarely two) inner greater covert(s) and replaced the narrowly edged juvenile one(s) by a broadly edged adult-type feather. Any bird showing a broadly edged inner greater covert next to a narrowly edged one certainly is a first-winter (plate 22).

17 Snow Bunting / Sneeuwgors *Plectrophenax nivalis*, adult female *P n insulae*, Katwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 2 November 2012 *(René van Rossum)*. Pointed centre of scapulars typical for female. Extensive coloration on head and underparts and slight contrast between mantle and scapulars indicate *insulae*.

18 Snow Bunting / Sneeuwgors *Plectrophenax nivalis*, adult male *P n insulae*, Eemshaven, Groningen, Netherlands, 6 January 2008 *(Rik Winters)*. Note fringes to mantle-feathers being only slightly paler than fringes of scapulars. **19** Snow Bunting / Sneeuwgors *Plectrophenax nivalis*, male, Lauwersoog, Groningen, Netherlands, 23 February 2008 *(Rik Winters)*. Tertial and inner greater covert edges much abraded, rump invisible, so age and subspecies cannot be told with certainty, but rusty fringes to mantle-feathers and compact appearance suggest *insulae*. **20** Snow Bunting / Sneeuwgors *Plectrophenax nivalis*, first-winter female, Lauwersoog, Groningen, Netherlands, 18 February 2008 *(Rik Winters)*. Tertial and inner greater covert edges abraded and narrow, tail-feathers sharply pointed. Grey mantle and extensive white underparts indicate *P n nivalis*. **21** Snow Bunting / Sneeuwgors *Plectrophenax nivalis*, adult male *P n insulae*, Lauwersoog, Groningen, Netherlands, 23 December 2008 *(Rik Winters)*. Note typical rump pattern with extensive black markings.

In general, adults show more white than first-winter birds of the same sex and subspecies. When both sex and subspecies can (in most cases) be determined, some additional features may be of use when determining the age of the bird.

In *insulae* many first-winter birds show a greyish head, reminiscent of the juvenile plumage. This enables to age these birds at first sight. These birds also show very little white on the secondaries and none on the primaries.

At the other extreme, completely white primary coverts are typical of adult male *nivalis*; first-winter males of this subspecies show a variable amount of black at the tip of these feathers, overlapping with adult male *insulae* in this feature, while on first-winter male *insulae* these feathers may be all dark.

Subspecies

In general, *nivalis* is whiter and slightly larger than *insulae*, with *vlasowae* being even more whiter and larger.

Males of *nivalis* and *insulae* can usually easily be identified to subspecies level by the pattern of

22 Snow Bunting / Sneeuwgors *Plectrophenax nivalis*, first-winter female *P n insulae*, Lauwersoog, Groningen, Netherlands, 23 December 2008 *(Rik Winters)*. Note broad edge to moulted inner greater covert. **23** Snow Bunting / Sneeuwgors *Plectrophenax nivalis*, first-winter female *P n insulae*, De Blocq van Kuffeler, Flevoland, 24 December 1996 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*. Note general rusty appearance and lack of obvious white. **24** Snow Buntings / Sneeuwgorzen *Plectrophenax nivalis*, Katwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 2 November 2012 *(Luuk Punt)*. Male *nivalis* (right): note rump without black; rusty fringes wear with time, leaving rump white. **25** Snow Bunting / Sneeuwgors *Plectrophenax nivalis*, male *P n insulae*, IJmuiden, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 10 November 2003 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*. Note extensive rusty markings and black centres of rump-feathers visible through rusty edges.

the rump. Subspecific identification of females is less straightforward; c 75% can be assigned to subspecies using features not easily observed in the field while, on the other hand, the reliability of visible features is not well known.

Males with a dark centre to the rump-feathers are *insulae*, while males *nivalis* show a completely white rump once the yellowish to rusty edges have worn off. This is a diagnostic feature but it may be difficult to assess in early winter when the centres of the rump-feathers are covered by buffish to rusty fringes.

Females can be identified by the pattern of the second innermost primary, which shows less than 40% white in *insulae* and more than 60% white in *nivalis* (with the basal part of the feather white and the distal part black; Svensson 1992). Only a few birds fall in between these limits and are best left unidentified. The feature is, however, rarely visible in the field and thus of little practical use. Many females can, therefore, be identified only tentatively by the colours of the upperparts and the whiteness of the head and underparts.

In both sexes, *nivalis* in winter often shows a

26 Snow Bunting / Sneeuwgors *Plectrophenax nivalis*, male *P n insulae*, Texel, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 11 October 2010 *(René Pop)*. Extensive rusty markings on head and underparts and little contrast between fringes of scapulars and mantle-feathers indicative of *insulae*. **27** Snow Bunting / Sneeuwgors *Plectrophenax nivalis*, female *P n nivalis*, Katwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 2 November 2012 *(René van Rossum)*. Note extensive white on primaries, second innermost showing more than 60% white, diagnostic of *nivalis*. Also note overall pale appearance and contrast between pale mantle and rusty scapular edges.

28 Snow Bunting / Sneeuwgors *Plectrophenax nivalis*, male *P n nivalis*, Julianadorp, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 23 September 2002 *(René Pop)*. Male *nivalis* as indicated by pale fringes to mantle-feathers, extensive white in primary coverts, white in primaries and overall pale appearance. **29** Snow Bunting / Sneeuwgors *Plectrophenax nivalis*, adult male *P n nivalis*, Texel, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 25 May 2004 *(René Pop)*. Note totally white rump and whitish fringes to mantle-feathers. Lack of white at primary bases indicates second calendar-year.

conspicuous colour difference between the ginger-coloured to brownish feather edges of the scapulars and paler edges of the mantle-feathers. This difference is very weak or absent in *insulae* which shows mantle feathers largely concolorous with the scapulars. On average, *nivalis* shows more white than *insulae* of similar age and sex. These features should, however, be applied with caution: the brownest birds are *insulae* and the palest *nivalis* but intermediate birds may be unsafe to assign to subspecies.

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Samenvatting
SNEEUWGORS: GESLACHTS-, LEEFTIJD- EN ONDERSOORTBEPALING Sneeuwgorzen *Plectrophenax nivalis* zijn aan de hand van kleedkenmerken goed op leeftijd, geslacht en ondersoort te brengen. Kenmerken ontwikkeld door ringers zijn vaak ook in het veld goed bruikbaar. De overwinteraars in Nederland behoren tot de continentale nominaat *P n nivalis* (hierna *nivalis*) en de IJslandse *P n insulae* (hierna *insulae*). Of de Siberische ondersoort *P n vlasowae* (hierna *vlasowae*) ook in Nederland voorkomt is onduidelijk. De geslachten zijn het best te onderscheiden door de vorm van het donkere centrum van de schouderveren: breed en stomp bij mannetjes, puntig bij vrouwtjes. Bij mannetjes zijn deze veren vaak goed te zien als een zwarte band tussen mantel en vleugeldekveren. Wit in de buitenste handpennen en handpendekveren is ook karakteristiek voor mannetjes, maar de hoeveelheid hangt af van leeftijd en ondersoort. Leeftijdsbepaling is vaak lastig. Vogels met een breed gezoomde binnenste grote dekveer naast smal gezoomde juveniele dekveren is zeker een eerste-winter. Ook houden veel eerste-winters een wat grijzige kop. Puntige staartpennen zijn doorgaans een slechte indicator, omdat de toppen van de staartveren snel slijten. De continentale *nivalis* heeft in alle kleden meer wit en heeft lichtere tinten dan de corresponderende kleden van *insulae*. *Vlasowae* is doorgaans nog witter dan *nivalis*. Bij mannetjes is een ongetekende witte stuit diagnostisch voor *nivalis*; *insulae* heeft donkere veren op de stuit. Dit kenmerk kan in vers kleed echter slecht te bepalen zijn wanneer de centra van de stuitveren nog zeemkleurige tot roestbruine randen hebben. Als de leeftijd goed bepaald kan worden, kan de grotere hoeveelheid wit in de vleugel bij *nivalis* behulpzaam zijn bij de ondersoortbepaling. Het diagnostische kenmerk bij vrouwtjes is de hoeveelheid wit en donker op de op een na binnenste handpen. Als deze veer meer dan 60% wit is (basale deel van veer wit, distale deel zwart), dan is het *nivalis*, minder dan 40% wit is diagnostisch voor *insulae*.

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Gironde estuary, France: important autumn stopover site for Aquatic Warbler

Raphaël Musseau & Valentine Herrmann

The Afro-Palearctic migrant Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* has been known as an abundant breeding bird in eastern Europe until the 20th century, after which it began to decrease in a number of countries due to several threats (essentially anthropogenic) changing the ecological functioning of its key sites (de By 1990, Flade & Lachmann 2008, Tanneberger et al 2008).

The drastic decrease of the global population in the last decades has led to a growing awareness of its status and of the importance to develop strategies for the conservation of the species. Hence, Aquatic Warbler was classified as 'threatened' in the IUCN Red List, before becoming 'vulnerable' in 1994 and attributed to the SPEC 1 category, ie, in the category of 'species of global conservation concern' (BirdLife International 2004). Those statuses make the species the most threatened migratory songbird in Europe. In this context, the Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team (AWCT) has been founded in Germany in 1998, under the auspice of BirdLife International, co-ordinating, implementing, gathering data and making available all studies and information about the species. Moreover, an international Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning Conservation Measures for Aquatic Warbler has been concluded in 2003 under the auspice of the Bonn convention (Convention on Migratory Species 2003). It constituted a collective working basis for all the signatory countries, currently 16 (Convention on Migratory Species 2012). In 2008, an International Species Action Plan for Aquatic Warbler was attached to the MoU. It was commissioned by the European Commission and prepared by BirdLife International (Flade & Lachmann 2008). This plan summarized the knowledge on Aquatic Warbler and fixed targets about the global population such as its stabilization and in the longer term, its increase. As Aquatic Warbler is a trans-Saharan migrant, its conservation involves all countries that at any time host the species during breeding, migration and wintering periods. Thus, on the base of studies performed to identify wintering grounds (Schäffer et al 2006) and migration routes (Julliard et al 2006), the signatories of the MoU and the International Species Action Plan have set up studies in all 22 range states to improve the conservation status of Aquatic Warbler (Convention on Migratory Species 2010).

Breeding population size

The current breeding population of Aquatic Warbler is estimated at 11 000-16 000 singing males, corresponding with 22 000-32 000 adult individuals or 33 000-48 000 adults and juveniles (BirdLife International 2012). Seven countries hold breeders (Belarus, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine and, irregularly, Russia) in less than 40 sites together covering only c 1000 km². Moreover, almost 80% of the global population is concentrated in only four sites, essentially in Belarus, Poland and Ukraine (Flade & Lachmann 2008). Four biogeographic populations are known but two of them are likely to disappear within a short period of time because of their very small size and their high geographic and/or genetic isolation: the genetically isolated Pomeranian population (north-western Polish and German population of c 80 males) and the western Siberian (Russian) population, isolated from the core population by c 4000 km (Flade & Lachmann 2008, Gießing 2002). Aquatic Warbler is an extreme habitat specialist. It occurs in open wetlands, like fen mires, characterized by mesotrophic to poor eutrophic level, without any shrub and too much reed vegetation (Kozulin & Flade 1999, Kovács & Végvari 1999, Kloskowski & Krogulec 1999, Tanneberger et al 2008, 2010).

Movements

Post-breeding migration

The departure from the breeding grounds for the wintering areas starts in the last week of June for males (which do not take part in the care of juveniles; Dyrcz et al 2011), first brood juveniles and some adult females not making a second clutch (de By 1990). If the weather permits, second clutches may be started until early July. The major-

30 Aquatic Warbler / Waterrietzanger *Acrocephalus paludicola*, adult, Gironde estuary, Charente-Maritime, France, 23 August 2011 *(Raphaël Musseau)* **31** Aquatic Warbler / Waterrietzanger *Acrocephalus paludicola*, adult, Gironde estuary, Charente-Maritime, France, 15 August 2012 *(Raphaël Musseau)* **32** Aquatic Warbler / Waterrietzanger *Acrocephalus paludicola*, juvenile, Gironde estuary, Charente-Maritime, France, 22 August 2011 *(Raphaël Musseau)* **33** Aquatic Warbler / Waterrietzanger *Acrocephalus paludicola*, juvenile, Gironde estuary, Charente-Maritime, France, 22 August 2012 *(Raphaël Musseau)*

ity of males leave in the second half of July (de By 1990). Birds take a western migratory route mainly along the coastlines to reach north-western Africa in September, western Africa in October and the sub-Saharan winter quarters in November (Flade & Lachmann 2008, Schäffer et al 2006). During post-breeding migration, the species is regularly recorded in Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Portugal, Spain and sometimes in England (Flade & Lachmann 2008). Indirect records (predated individuals discovered in nests of Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonorae*) have also been documented along the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea, in Turkey and Bulgaria (Flade & Lachmann 2008). Habitats used are close to those used in the breeding areas: wetlands with low vegetation composed of *Scirpus*, *Juncus* and/or low reeds (Miguélez et al 2009, Kerbiriou et al 2010, Provost et al 2010). This is also the case for the few birds using a more interior route, through inland wetlands in the Iberian Peninsula (Miguélez et al 2009). Recently, Salewski et al (2012) published results of research in which 30 geolocators were attached to breeding birds of the Supii marshes, central Ukraine, in 2010. Three geolocators with useful data on autumn migration were recovered in 2011. They revealed a previously unknown migration route via south-eastern and southern Europe west to south-western France (including the Gironde estuary) and Spain.

Wintering areas
In Africa, the species has been recorded in nine countries but, since 1980, records are registered from only five countries (Egypt, Ghana, Mauritania, Morocco and Senegal; Schäffer et al 2006). Currently, only two sites are known to be important wintering areas. The first one was discovered around Djoudj National Park, Senegal, in 2007 (Salewski et al 2009), the second one in the Inner Niger Delta, Mali, in 2001 (Poluda et al 2012). Birds use the same habitats as on their breeding grounds (Salewski 2012). They stay from November to March and they begin their spring migration by flying north to the northern Sahel zone in Mauritania (Schäffer et al 2006). Salewski et al (2012) reported a bird fitted with a geolocator in central Ukraine in 2010 which, in winter 2010/11, spent some time well south of the currently known non-breeding areas in western Africa.

Spring migration
Spring migration is not well known. Some records from eastern Spain, southern France, northern Italy, Switzerland and south-western Germany suggest that the birds take a more direct and Mediterranean route (rounding the Mediterranean sea via the west or the east or crossing it), still using the same type of habitats (Atienza et al 2001, Poulin et al 2010, Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team 2012, Poluda et al 2012).

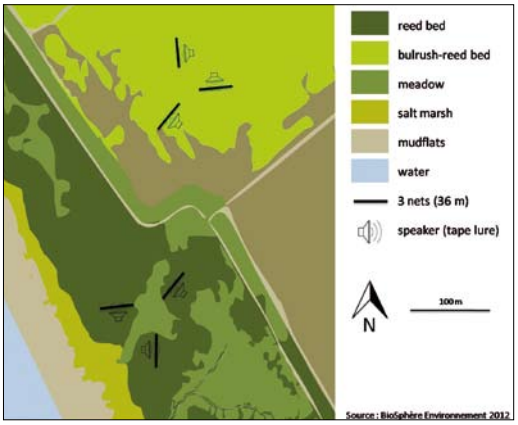
Importance of studying stopover ecology for global conservation
Given that migratory birds spend a quarter of the year on migration (Zduniak & Yosef 2012) and that their survival outside the breeding season has an impact on the number of breeders (Newton 2006), it is worth worrying about the quality of stopover sites. Birds spend more time in these areas than in active migration flight (Zduniak & Yosef 2012) and in these areas they find an opportunity to rest, to wait for better weather conditions to continue migration and to replenish their energy reserves by accumulating fat (Sutherland 1998). Thus, it is crucial to identify migratory stopover sites, the extent of their role and the possibilities to manage landscapes in favour of the species (Sutherland 1998, Chernetsov 2006).

Monitoring scheme developed at Gironde estuary and first results
Probably because France is part of the western limit of continental Europe, birds are concentrated in large numbers along the Atlantic coastline, making this country the European area receiving the highest number of Aquatic Warblers during post-breeding migration (Julliard et al 2006, Jiguet et al 2011). As France plays a very important role in the stopover of the species (Julliard et al 2006, Jiguet et al 2011), studies and management measures in this country are essential for the conservation of the species. In Bretagne, an EU-Life programme 'Acrocephalus Bretagne – Conservation of the Aquatic Warbler in Brittany' was set up in 2004 by the NGO Bretagne Vivante. After this first conservation programme, the French government has scheduled a National Action Plan – the French implementation of the International Plan – from 2010 to 2014 (Le Nevé et al 2009).

The Gironde estuary, Charente-Maritime, region Poitou-Charentes, is one of the best French sites regarding the number of Aquatic Warblers captured during post-breeding migration (Le Nevé et al 2009). Hence, to be able to characterize the stopover ecology of Aquatic Warbler in this area, it is important to know its ecological requirements, ie, which habitats are chosen, how are they used and for how long? The following paragraphs present methods and some results of several studies that have been implemented at the Gironde estuary.

Study sites and methods
After several years of trapping Aquatic Warblers during post-breeding migration at the Gironde estuary, we decided, in 2009, to develop a focused study on this species with a highly standardized trapping protocol during August. The work started with a trapping strategy developed on two sites, c 3 km apart, owned by Conservatoire du Littoral and managed by Conservatoire Regional d'Espaces Naturels de Poitou-Charentes. The first was a reed bed along Chenac-Saint-Seurin-d'Uzet harbour (45°30′08″N, 0°50′26″W, site 1; plate 34), and the second a reed bed near the Conchemarche laguna, along Mortagne-sur-Gironde harbour (former agricultural polder subject to tidal influence since a dam break during winter 1999-2000; 45°28′44″N, 0°49′06″W, site 2; plate 35). On each site, a 108 m long line composed of nine 12 m mistnets was installed and following the French capture protocol proposed by the French Museum of Natural History (Jiguet et al 2012), an Aquatic Warbler playback was installed at every third net in the line. Nets were opened every morning for five hours, from one hour before sunrise. The playback started 1.5 hour before sunrise and ran during the whole capture session.

First results were rather good: 79 captures in 2009 (23 at site 1 and 56 at site 2) and 60 captures



34 Reed bed near Chenac-Saint-Seurin-d'Uzet harbour, Gironde estuary, Charente-Maritime, France (site 1), August 2007 *(Raphaël Musseau)* **35** Conchemarche laguna near Mortagne-sur-Gironde harbour, Gironde estuary, Charente-Maritime, France (site 2), October 2010 *(Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Poitou-Charentes)* **36** Mistnet in bulrush-reed bed, Gironde estuary, Charente-Maritime, France, August 2011 *(Raphaël Musseau)* FIGURE 1 Map showing mistnet arrangement at Conchemarche laguna, Gironde estuary, Charente-Maritime, France, since 2011

in 2010 (29 at site 1 and 31 at site 2). Despite these encouraging first results, a first analysis showed a low number of recaptured birds, hampering the study of stopover ecology (eg, fattening rate of birds, stopover duration). Therefore, in 2011, we decided to concentrate all capture effort around the Conchemarche laguna (site 2), which had proved to be the best of both sites for the species. In this area, we developed a trapping strategy in the two main habitats: reed bed (dominated by *Phragmites australis*) and bulrush-reed bed (dominated by *Bolboschoenus maritimus* and low *Phragmites australis*). In each habitat, three lines of three 12 m mistnets (with a playback in the centre of each line) separated by c 45 m were installed in different orientations (figure 1, plate 36). The protocol (net opening duration and playback starting time) was the same as in 2009-10.

In order to complement the stopover survey, we decided to employ a radio-tracking scheme to study home ranges and habitat choice. This was done during August 2010 and August 2011. During this survey, 20 birds had been tagged with radio-transmitters glued on back feathers.

Captures distribution: habitats and chronology

For the two years 2011 and 2012, the average number of trapped Aquatic Warblers was 160.5 per year (182 birds in 2011 and 139 in 2012). The 'Acrola index', defined as the percentage of the

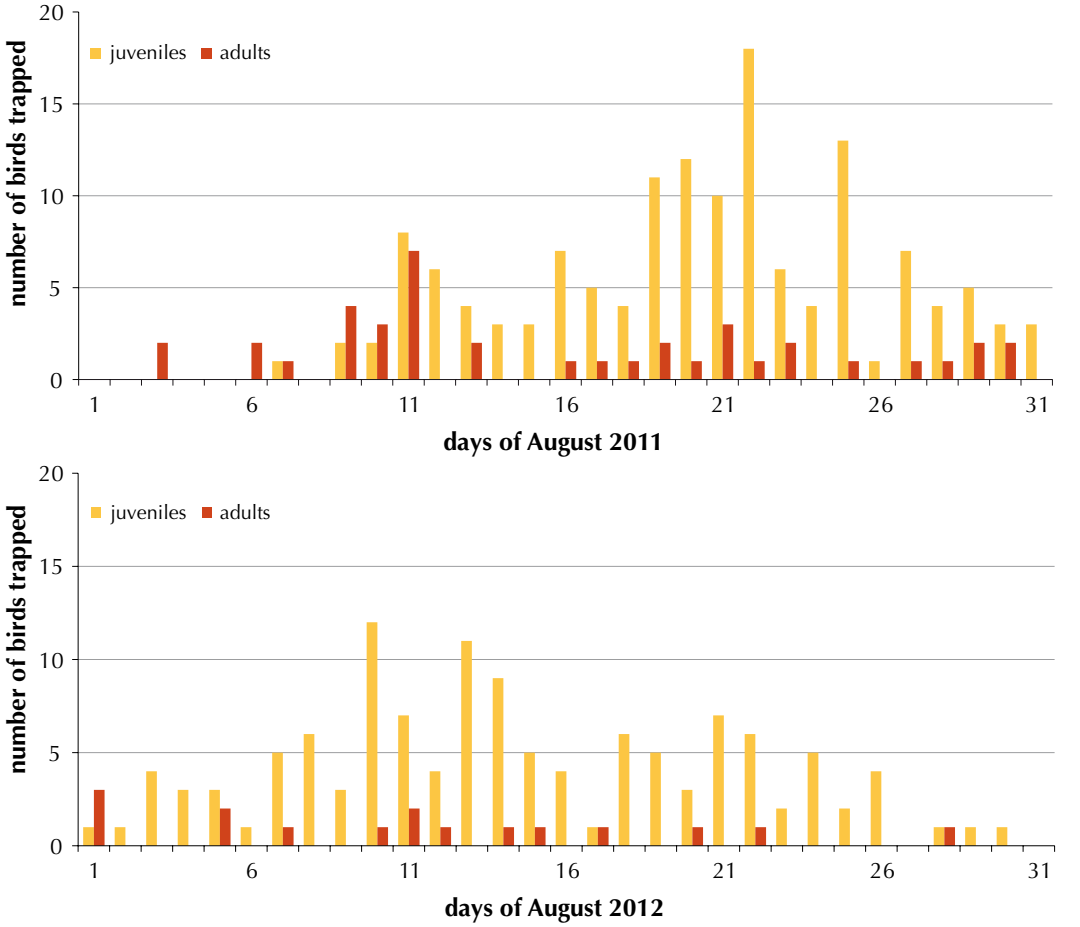


FIGURE 2 Capture chronology of Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* at Conchemarche laguna, Gironde estuary, Charente-Maritime, France, in 2011 (above) and 2012 (below)

number of Aquatic Warblers out of the total number of *Acrocephalus* warblers (Julliard et al 2006), was 7.5% (8.5% in 2011 and 6.5% in 2012). This index was much higher in the bulrush-reed bed (13.1%, with 15.1% in 2011 and 11.2% in 2012) than in the reed bed (3.2%, with 3.3% in 2011 and 3.0% in 2012). This habitat comparison was made with intraseasonal recaptures excluding intraday recaptures.

For the cumulated two years, the threshold of 50% of Aquatic Warbler captures (ie, median date) was reached on 18 August (22 August in 2011 and 11 August in 2012). The maximum number of captures was reached on 22 August in 2011 (19 captures in the morning, ie, 10.4% of the captures of the month) and on 10 August in 2012 (13 captures in the morning, ie, 9.3% of the captures of the month).

Age ratio was highly biased among captures: 82.6% of birds caught were juveniles (78.0% in 2011 and 88.5% in 2012) and the capture chronology showed an earlier passage for adults than for juveniles (figure 2). For the aggregated two years, the median date for juveniles was 19 August, whereas for adults it was 11 August.

Local recaptures and stopover duration

The number of local recaptures was rather high (average: 10.9% for the aggregated two years, 10.4% in 2011 and 11.5% in 2012). Following the methods by Schaub et al (2001), the evaluation of survival and seniority rates allowed to assess an average stopover duration of c six days.

37 Typical habitat used by Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* during stopover at Gironde estuary, Charente-Maritime, France, August 2011 *(Raphaël Musseau)*. Bulrush-reed bed at low tide at Conchemarche laguna. **38** Typical habitat used by Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* during stopover at Gironde estuary, Charente-Maritime, France, August 2010 *(Benoit Laval)*. Low wet vegetation around hunting pond along Gironde shore at Mortagne-sur-Gironde. **39** Dike restoration works at Conchemarche laguna, Gironde estuary, Charente-Maritime, France, integrating maintaining of favourable water level for low wet vegetation, July 2011 *(Raphaël Musseau)* **40** Dike restoration works at Conchemarche laguna, Gironde estuary, Charente-Maritime, France, integrating maintaining of favourable water level for low wet vegetation, October 2011 *(Raphaël Musseau)*

Home range and habitats

For two years, 2010 and 2011, 17 individuals out of 20 were successfully radio-tracked and a total of 926 positions were collected. Only data collected on 14 birds allowed determination of home range characteristics. Analyses showed that birds explored areas measuring c 6 ha but in fact exploited restricted areas (core areas) together covering c 1 ha. Analyses of habitat selection/rejection (following Ivlev index, Kenward 1992) achieved with the 926 positions revealed that bulrush-reed bed regularly inundated by tides (in the laguna; plate 37) or with permanent water (around hunting ponds built along the Gironde shore; plate 38) were the main habitats exploited.

Conclusions

The change in the trapping strategy has allowed for an increase in the number of recaptures at the Gironde estuary, strongly improving the possibilities of stopover duration assessment. The results thus obtained (in terms of number of trapped birds and length of time spent on the site) demonstrate the importance of the Gironde estuary for post-breeding migration. Similar trends are observed at Loire estuary (Foucher 2010, Foucher et al 2011)

and Baie de l'Aiguillon (Gonin & Mercier 2011), highlighting the important role of huge estuaries and bays along the Bay of Biscay for Aquatic Warbler stopovers.

Concerning habitat exploitation, the results obtained from the radio-tracking schemes show the importance of low wet vegetation like bulrush-reed bed. This corroborates results obtained in northern France at Seine estuary (Provost et al 2010). Given the possibilities of soil and vegetation dynamics in coastal areas, those results reveal the necessity to expand management plans to maintain low wet grasslands at stopover sites. For instance, at Conchemarche laguna, most of the favourable habitats are subject to a significant siltation and overgrowing with the development of high dense reed beds or dry meadows due to rising soil level. This observation obliges to develop a conservation strategy in order to preserve favourable wetlands for Aquatic Warbler. As a reaction, in 2011, the Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels de Poitou-Charentes, with the financial support of the Conseil Général de la Charente-Maritime, took advantage of the dike restoration managed in 2011 to lower the soil level in parts of the laguna. This arrangement has been set up on the basis of our results to maintain a favourable water level and to permit low wet vegetation to develop (plate 39-40). More works are planned for the end of 2013 with the digging of ponds and small channels in areas with dry meadows and dense reed bed. Those works will increase the habitat heterogeneity and avoid the disappearance of favourable areas for Aquatic Warbler.

Habitat evolution also appears to be one of the most important issues for Aquatic Warbler conservation on breeding sites (Kloskowski & Krogulec 1999). Management is revealed as very successful since, during spring 2012, the Biebrza National Park in Poland did not record a population decrease while the number of breeders suffered a drastic decline of c one-third in other countries (Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team 2012).

On a larger scale, Aquatic Warbler uses endangered areas throughout its whole range. In Europe, wetlands are used too intensively and in Africa, they are threatened by overgrazing or by the setup of rice fields (Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team 2012). Thus, habitat management all over the Aquatic Warbler range is the key to preserving the species and to counter the drastic population decreases measured since the beginning of the 20th century. We hope that the world economical crisis will not slow down local dynamics that can emerge on key sites. For instance, at the Gironde estuary, despite the fact that it is one of the most important areas for Aquatic Warbler during post-breeding migration, the National Action Plan has not been implemented due to lack of funding.

Acknowledgements

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Samenvatting

GIRONDE-ESTUARIUM, FRANKRIJK: BELANGRIJKE NAJAARSPLEISTERPLAATS VOOR WATERRIETZANGER Veel Waterrietzangers *Acrocephalus paludicola* trekken in het najaar vanuit de overwegend Oost-Europese broedgebieden eerst westwaarts naar West-Europa om vervolgens via de Atlantische kustgebieden en Spanje Afrika te bereiken. Het gebied aan de noordzijde van het Gironde-estuarium, Charente-Maritime, regio Poitou-Charentes, Frankrijk, herbergt vanouds belangrijke aantallen Waterrietzangers tijdens de najaarstrek. Om habitatkeuze en verblijfsduur beter in beeld te krijgen, werd in 2009-10 een eerste poging gedaan om gericht Waterrietzangers te vangen op twee locaties langs de Gironde. Er werden in deze twee jaren respectievelijk 79 en 60 vogels gevangen. Het aantal terugvangsten was echter beperkt en de vangstinspanning werd in 2011-12 geheel geconcentreerd op de beste van de twee locaties, de Conchemarche lagune nabij Mortagne-sur-Gironde, met iets aangepaste mistnetopstellingen en lokgeluid in twee habitattypen (rietveld gedomineerd door Riet *Phragmites australis* en zeebies-rietveld gedomineerd door Heen (of Zeebies) *Bolboschoenus maritimus* en laag riet).

In 2011-12 werden respectievelijk 182 en 139 Waterrietzangers gevangen, waarbij met name in mistnetten in de zeebies-rietvelden de verhouding Waterrietzanger vs andere *Acrocephalus*-zangers hoog was. De mediane vangstdatum (50% van het seizoenstotaal gevangen) was 22 augustus in 2011 (met maximum van 19 op 22 augustus) en 11 augustus in 2012 (met maximum van 13 op 10 augustus). Het percentage eerstejaarsvogels in beide jaren was respectievelijk 78.0% en 88.5%. De

mediane datum (over beide jaren) voor eerstejaars was 19 augustus, voor adulte 11 augustus. Analyse van de terugvangsten leverde een gemiddelde verblijfsduur van zes dagen op. Een aantal Waterrietzangers kon worden voorzien van radiotransmitters. Hieruit bleek dat ze een gebied van tot 6 ha konden bestrijken, maar dat de meeste in een beperkter gebied van c 1 ha verbleven.

Veel van de typen gebieden waarin Waterrietzangers tijdens de trek pleisteren worden bedreigd doordat de bodem ophoogt en minder nat wordt en de daarmee samenhangende verdere ontwikkeling van de vegetatie. Er zijn verschillende beheerplannen opgesteld om tot verbetering van dergelijke gebieden te komen maar op sommige plekken zijn die door geldgebrek (vooralsnog) niet uitgevoerd.

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New information on Three-banded Plover in Egypt

In the Western Palearctic, Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* has to date only been recorded in Egypt. The first record was on 5-26 March 1993 at a freshwater lake near Jabel al Asfar (Gebel Asfar), Cairo (Hoath 2000). Subsequently, there have been records at Aswan (14 December 1997), Wadi el Natrun (20 September 2000) and El Gouna (13 March 2003; cf Davidson & Kirwan 1998, Haas 2011). Since January 2006, there have been continuous sightings from Aswan and, in late April 2009, breeding was recorded near Aswan at Tut Amon fishponds (Haas et al 2010, Haas 2011, www.osme.org/tripreports/egtrip33.shtml, http://tinyurl.com/adqbgta; Sherif Baha El Din, Dick Hoek, Daniel López-Velasco, Marry Megalli, David Monticelli & Annie Sevin in litt). Breeding was again recorded in this area in 2010, 2011 and 2012 (cf Dutch Birding 33: 201-211, 2011; Haitham Ibrahim and Tomas Haraldsson in litt).

In April-May 2012, during a project researching the breeding occurrence of Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* in Egypt, we were also able to establish the presence of Three-banded Plover at Abu Simbel. There are no previous records from this part of southern Egypt. On 1-2 May 2012, on the muddy shore of a brackish water lake immediately south of Abu Simbel airport (22°21'N 31°36'E, 179 m above sea level), we observed two not too shy Three-banded Plovers behaving in a manner suggestive of breeding (plate 43-48). Display behaviour by the male towards the female was recorded on a number of occasions. This included the male pressing its fanned tail-feathers on the ground. As the observers approached, the plovers scurried away a number of times in a 'crouch run' (cf Simmons 1955). Sound-recordings of the warning calls were obtained (figure 1; voucher recording at Animal Sound Archive Berlin, file ID Charadrius_tricollaris_DIG0154_01, www.animalsoundarchive.org). The search for a nest or chicks, however, was unsuccessful. As the plovers were not stationary at one location but occasionally flew to other sites up to 200 m distant, we assumed that this was an early stage of territory occupation. On 3 May, we trapped both individuals with a mistnet to take their biometrics and blood samples and to ring them (Vogelwarte Helgoland

41 Three-banded Plovers / Driebandplevieren *Charadrius tricollaris*, Abu Simbel, Egypt, 3 May 2012 *(Jens Hering)*

42 Three-banded Plover / Driebandplevier *Charadrius tricollaris*, Abu Simbel, Egypt, 3 May 2012 *(Jens Hering)*

43 Three-banded Plover / Driebandplevier *Charadrius tricollaris*, Abu Simbel, Egypt, 1 May 2012 *(Jens Hering)*

44 Three-banded Plover / Driebandplevier *Charadrius tricollaris*, Abu Simbel, Egypt, 1 May 2012 *(Jens Hering)*

45-47 Three-banded Plover / Driebandplevier *Charadrius tricollaris*, Abu Simbel, Egypt, 1 May 2012 *(Jens Hering)*
48 Three-banded Plover / Driebandplevier *Charadrius tricollaris*, Abu Simbel, Egypt, 2 May 2012 *(Jens Hering)*
49-50 Location of lek of Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* on eastern shore of brackish lake south of Abu Simbel airport, Egypt, 3 May 2012 *(Jens Hering)*

rings T002816 and T002818; plate 41-42). Neither of the birds had a breeding patch. The measurements, including wing lengths of 111.5 mm and 115.5 mm, respectively, are consistent with the published values for the species (Urban et al 1986). All plumage characteristics indicated that the birds were of the nominate subspecies *C t tricollaris*. The subspecies *C t bifrontatus* occurring in Madagascar differs by the presence of a grey band between the white forehead and the bill and is also darker on the face and throat (cf del Hoyo et al 1996). On 13 May, both ringed birds were seen in the same area by Graeme Joynt (www.osme.org/tripreports/egtrip33.shtml).

The Three-banded Plovers were observed only on the eastern shore of the brackish water lake, which measures c 1700 m in length and 350 m in width (plate 49-50). The birds were observed on muddy soil, partly between small islands of rushes *Juncus*. In addition to a great deal of dead wood on the shore, single beds of bulrushes (or reedmace) *Typha* were particularly evident. The area bordering the lake mostly had little vegetation cover due to sheep grazing. On the muddy areas and the salty zone of the lake, the following accompanying bird species were recorded: Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* (breeding), Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus payesii* (possibly breeding; Hering et al in prep), Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*, Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*, Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*, Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* (possibly breeding), Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* (breeding), Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, Green Sandpiper *T ochropus*, Egyptian Wagtail *Motacilla cinereocapilla pygmaea* (possibly breeding), Sedge Warbler *A schoenobaenus*, Eurasian Reed Warbler, Clamorous Reed Warbler *A stentoreus* (breeding; Hering et al in prep) and House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*.

Three-banded Plover probably also occurs in other suitable wetlands in southern Egypt. Shorelines with shingle beds or mudflats, also on freshwater lakes, are preferred by the species (Urban et al 1986, del Hoyo et al 1996). Such habitats exist in the area around Abu Simbel, for instance at the fish ponds north-west of town, as well as on the shores of Aswan lake. A search near the fish farm at Abu Simbel on 1 May 2012 ended without success as there was too much water in the ponds at that moment. If open mudflats are available here, these ponds could be particularly attractive for the species.

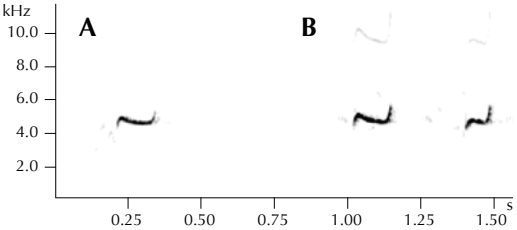

FIGURE 1 Warning calls of Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*, Abu Simbel, Egypt, 1 May 2012 *(Wieland Heim)*. **A** monosyllabic call, **B** disyllabic call (made with Avisoft SASLab Pro, Sample rate 24 kHz, FFT-Length 512, Frame 50%, Window Hann, Overlap 87,5%). Sonagram by Karl-Heinz Frommolt.

The studies of Three-banded Plover were conducted in the course of a European Reed Warbler research programme sponsored by the German Ornithological Society and Carl Zeiss Sports Optics. We received further assistance from David Conlin, Gerd Fanghänel, Karl-Heinz Frommolt, István Moldován and Dieter Saemann.

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Western Palearctic list updates: re-evaluation of five species from continental Mauritania

A number of Afrotropical species have been included on the Western Palearctic (WP) list by Snow & Perrins (1998) on the basis of alleged occurrence in Mauritania within the limits of the WP (sensu Cramp & Simmons 1977), ie, north of 21°N. However, no precise information has been provided for many of these species, and as part of our on-going efforts to revise the WP list, we have attempted to find actual records to substantiate their occurrence in the WP. The species added by Snow & Perrins (1998) to the WP list based on occurrence in continental Mauritania are: Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii*, Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*, Kordofan Lark *Mirafra cordofanica*, Cricket Warbler *Spiloptila clamans* and Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*.

The distribution maps in Snow & Perrins (1998) were prepared by Mike Wilson and Dorothy Vincent based on an impressive amount of published data and unpublished information provided by country correspondents. For Mauritania and Mali, the data on distribution were sent by Bruno Lamarche (MW pers comm, BL pers comm). However, as previously discussed (see Haas et al 2010), BL had only incomplete and partly misleading information on the exact location of the WP border in Mauritania when he contributed to Snow & Perrins (1998). This makes it crucial to precisely locate records for these species. We have corresponded directly with BL, have made extensive use of the information provided by Isenmann et al (2010) and have sought unpublished information as well. The results of these investigations are presented below.

Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii*

This species breeds on savannahs of sub-Saharan Africa, from southern Mauritania and Senegal to Chad, discontinuously across the Sahel to Ethiopia, and south through Central Africa to northern South Africa (del Hoyo et al 1996, Borrow & Demey 2001, Sinclair & Ryan 2010). We could not locate any record in Mauritania north of 21°N, although Lamarche (1988) mentions winter records north to the Sahara. The closest records from the WP border that we could locate are in the terrestrial part of the Banc d'Arguin National Park and near Ouadane (see Isenmann et al 2010). Both sites are very close to the WP border, which makes it conceivable that the species could occur in the WP on the islands of the Banc d'Arguin or further north inland. The northernmost records in Mauritania are associated with northward occasional dispersal in winter. However, we are not aware of any current record of the species in the WP part of Mauritania or in other WP countries and the species should be deleted from the WP list until a documented record is available.

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*

This species breeds in the Sahelian belt from coastal south-western Mauritania and Senegal east to eastern Africa where it is distributed from southern Sudan to central Tanzania (del Hoyo et al 2001). Contrary to the other species mentioned in this paper, a precise location (but no date/year) was provided by Snow & Perrins (1998) for Blue-naped Mousebird: Akhmakou, a small oasis located in a deep valley dissecting the north side of the Adrar Plateau and situated inside the WP borders (21.213°N, 11.891°W). The species has been relocated at this locality by Dirk Colin, Kris De Rouck and Hugues Dufourny in January 2005 (up to 10 birds on 1-3 January, all probably belonging to the same group, HD pers comm; Dutch Birding 27: 64, plate 69, 2005; plate 51) but not during subsequent visits to the same place in January 2006 by Chris Batty, Andrew Holden, Tom Lowe and Stuart Piner or in September 2006 by Pierre-André Crochet and Julien Renoult. The only other record of the species that we could locate in the WP was also in Mauretania, in a densely vegetated wadi south of Choum on 13 December 2007 by Hannu Palojärvi, Ilkka Sahi and Keijo Wahlroos (plate 52). In addition, Isenmann et al (2010) mention a record further north at Kediet Ej Jill (a mountainous area between Fderick and Zouérat) without providing any source. If confirmed, this record would open the possibility to find the species across the border in southern Western Sahara, Morocco. In conclusion, Blue-naped Mousebird should remain on the WP list.

Kordofan Lark *Mirafra cordofanica*

The distribution of Kordofan Lark as shown in Snow & Perrins (1998) covers large areas of the WP in Mauritania and Mali, even abutting on the border with Western Sahara. BL confirmed that he recorded the species in many areas north of the Adrar Plateau in the WP (see also Lamarche (1988), where he stated the species to be widespread in Saharan habitats). However, all subsequent visits to these areas have failed to record the species and visitors have found Dunn's Lark *Eremalauda dunni* in the area instead. Indeed, it is striking that Snow & Perrins (1998) do not show

51 Blue-naped Mousebird / Blauwnekmuisvogel *Urocolius macrourus*, Akhmakou, Mauritania, 2 January 2005 *(Kris De Rouck)*

52 Blue-naped Mousebird / Blauwnekmuisvogel *Urocolius macrourus*, near Choum, Mauritania, 13 December 2007 *(Keijo Wahlroos)*

Dunn's Lark in the area, where the species is in fact widespread (Crochet 2007), occurring north to Morocco in southern Western Sahara (Awserd area, see Copete et al 2008) and even Tafilalt (Albegger et al 2010; http://maroc.observado.org/waarneming/view/67994098).

The only records of Kordofan Lark accepted by Isenmann et al (2010) for Mauritania were obtained much further south in Sahelian habitats, so in very different ecological conditions. In Niger, the species is only recorded in the southern, Sahelian areas as well (http://tinyurl.com/aeyzgvj). In Africa, the species is a typical Sahelian species distributed from southern Mauritania discontinuously to central Sudan (del Hoyo et al 2004), where it seems to be strongly associated with red sands habitats (Fishpool et al 2000, Isenmann et al 2010). As this habitat is lacking in the WP areas of Mauritania, occurrence of Kordofan Lark there is probably not very likely. Given the lack of reliable information on the identification of Kordofan Lark and Dunn's Lark (pers obs), we believe that past confusion between these species cannot be excluded and that occurrence of Kordofan Lark in the WP areas of Mauritania should be rejected pending conclusive evidence. As we have been unable to locate any substantiated record of Kordofan Lark in the WP areas of Mali or Niger either, the species should be deleted from the WP list for the time being.

Cricket Warbler *Spiloptila clamans*

Cricket Warbler has been found to be well present in the WP areas of northern Mauritania (cf Dutch Birding 27: 64, plate 71, 2005; Crochet 2007, Isenmann et al 2010) and southern Morocco (Awserd area in Western Sahara, see Bergier et al 2010, 2011, 2012, Amezian et al 2011, Castell et al 2011, Charlton 2011). The species is thus even more widespread in the WP than suggested by Snow & Perrins (1998).

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*

This species was probably included in Snow & Perrins (1998) on the basis of information from BL, as Lamarche (1988) listed the species from southern Sahara to southern Sahel, mostly in the east of the country. However, there has been no other record for the whole of Mauritania (cf Isenmann et al 2010), and it is unknown from, eg, Senegal (Morel & Morel 1990) and Niger (www.nibdab.org/db). Borrow & Demey (2001) mention it for Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Central African Republic, but with question marks on the map for southern Mauritania and central Mali. In fact, the presence of Grey-backed Fiscal in Mali is also based on BL's work (Lamarche 1980, 1981). As a consequence, Isenmann et al (2010) did not accept the species on the Mauritanian list, and the species should be deleted from the WP list.

Conclusion

Among the five species that were added to the WP list by Snow & Perrins (1998) based on Lamarche (1988, and direct communication with the BWP Concise team), only two have been confirmed by other sources: Blue-naped Mousebird and Cricket Warbler. There is no solid ground to accept occurrence of the three other species in the WP, and Temminck's Courser, Kordofan Lark and Grey-

backed Fiscal should be removed from the WP list, even if the courser could well occur occasionally, especially during winter dispersal.

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Birds of Kazakhstan: new and interesting data, part 4

After three previous editions of *Birds of Kazakhstan: new and interesting data* (Wassink & Oreel 2008, Wassink 2009, 2010) and the publication documenting four new species for Kazakhstan (Wassink et al 2011), another selection of new data for Kazakhstan is presented here, including the first records of Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*, Japanese Waxwing *Bombycilla japonica*, Plumbeous Water Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosus* and Arctic Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni*.

Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
On 12 and 13 May 2012, two males (one photographed, plate 53) and a female, respectively, were observed at Korgalzhyn, Aqmola province (Koshkin 2011, Robbe 2012; Ignaas Robbe in litt). This is the first record outside the known migration range, ie, south-eastern and eastern Kazakhstan, although a hybrid female Crested x European Honey Buzzard *P apivorus* was photographed at the same location by Klemens Steiof on 18 May 2010 (Johannes Kamp in litt). For a discussion about the latter bird, see 'ID issues' on www.birdsofkazakhstan.com.

Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*
On 18 September 2011, an immature was observed at the Aktolagay mountain in Aqtöbe province (Saraev 2012), one of the most north-western records ever.

53 Crested Honey Buzzard / Aziatische Wespendief *Pernis ptilorhynchus*, adult male, Korgalzhyn, Aqmola province, Kazakhstan 12 May 2012 *(Ignaas Robbe)*

54 Red-necked Stint / Roodkeelstrandloper *Calidris ruficollis*, juvenile, Sorbulak lake, Almaty province, Kazakhstan, 23 September 2012 *(Machiel Valkenburg)*

Macqueen's Bustard *Chlamydotis macqueenii*
On 3 August 2011, one was photographed in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Koshkin 2012). This is the fourth record for central Kazakhstan.

Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*
On 5 November 2012, a first calendar-year was photographed north of Fort Shevchenko, Mangghystau province (Kadirov 2012). This is the latest record in Kazakhstan ever.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius atrifrons*
On 23 May 2011, an adult male was observed at Temirastau lake, Aqmola province (Kamp 2011, Koshkin 2012; Johannes Kamp in litt). For a full description, see 'News' on www.birdsofkazakhstan.com. After the first record on 4 July 2009 (Koshkin 2010), this is the second in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region. Between 9 May and 10 June 2012, three birds were photographed at Sorbulak lake, Almaty province (Dyakin 2012, Fedorenko 2012, Fokina 2012). On 28 July 2012, an adult was photographed at Sorbulak lake, Almaty province (Dyakin 2012). Formerly regarded a vagrant, the species seems to be a rare passage migrant in Kazakhstan.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*
On 8 July 2010, three adults were found at Tuzkol lake, Almaty province (Ridzon 2010; Jozef Ridzon in litt). On 30 May 2011, six birds were found at Aktogay, East Kazakhstan province (Jérôme Dubos et al/NARC-IFHC in litt). These are the fourth and fifth record for Kazakhstan.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*
On 23 September 2012, a juvenile was identified and photographed (plate 54) at Sorbulak lake, Almaty province. This is the ninth record, totalling 12 birds, for Kazakhstan.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*
On 19 September 2006, one was observed at eastern Kushmurun lake, Qostanay province (Erokhov et al 2011). This is a new species for Kazakhstan.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*
On 16 January 2009, a second-winter was photographed at the Caspian coast at Aqtau, Mangghystau province (Kovshar 2009; Victoria Kovshar in litt). This is the fourth record for Kazakhstan.

Daurian Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*
On 26 October 2012, a first-winter was photographed in the western Betpak-Dala desert, 50 km north-west of Zhuantobe, South Kazakhstan province. This is the latest record in Kazakhstan ever.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*
On 22 May 2012, one was found at Fetisovo (Judas/NARC-IFHC 2012). This is the second record for Mangghystau province.

Pale Martin *Riparia diluta*
On 18 May 2011, one was observed at Karazhar, Korgalzhyn nature reserve (Koshkin 2012). This is the second record for central Kazakhstan.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*
On 2 May 2012, one was observed at Fetisovo

(Gouraud/NARC-IFHC 2012a). This is the second record for Mangghystau province.

Japanese Waxwing *Bombycilla japonica*
On 3 January 2013, a first-winter male showing no signs of captivity was trapped from a flock of Bohemian Waxwings *B garrulus* at the Astronomical Observatory, Ili-Alatau national park, Almaty province (Afanasiev 2013). This record is likely to be part of an invasion of this species, bringing them far west of their usual wintering range, for instance Lake Baikal, Russia (Igor Feletov in litt to Axel Braunlich). Japanese Waxwing is a new species for Kazakhstan.

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes tianschanicus*
In June 2012, two singing territorial males were found in the Altai foothills near Buktharma (Jochen Roeder/Heidelberg Cement in litt). This constitutes a considerable northward extension of the breeding range. Previously, this species was known to breed up to the Tarbagatai, Manrak and Saur mountains (Wassink & Oreel 2007).

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*
On 10 October 2012, a first calendar-year male/female or adult female was found in the Betpak-Dala desert, 50 km north-west of Zhuantobe, South Kazakhstan province (Villaeiev/NARC-IFHC 2012a). This is only the fourth record outside the Altai, where the species breeds.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*
On 29 May 2011, one was photographed at Korgalzhyn (Johannes Kamp & Ruslan Urazaliev in litt) and, on 2 June 2011, one was found at Karazhar, Korgalzhyn nature reserve (Koshkin 2012), both in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region. These are the 10-11th record for Kazakhstan.

Plumbeous Water Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*
On 9 June 2011, a male was photographed at the Ayaguz river near Qopa, East Kazakhstan province (Papp/NARC-IFHC 2011; Gabor Papp in litt). This is a new species for Kazakhstan.

Western Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltariensis*
On 1-3 April 2012, one adult and two second calendar-year males were found at Karazhar, Korgalzhyn nature reserve, Aqmola province (Koshkin 2012). These records confirm the recent eastward expansion of this taxon (Wassink 2011).

Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata*
On 27 April 2010, a male was found at Fetisovo, Mangghystau province (Jacky Judas/NARC-IFHC in litt). A first-summer male was observed at Fetisovo on 6-7 and 21 May 2012. Presumably, the same bird was present at the Caspian shore, 30 km away from Fetisovo, on 25 May 2012 and at the Kenderli-Kayasan plateau on 3-4 June 2012 (Gouraud/NARC-IFHC 2012b, Villaeiev/NARC-IFHC 2012b). After a first-summer female on 17-24 May 2009 (Le Nevé et al/NARC-IFHC 2010, Wassink 2010), it seems that this species is a very rare annual spring migrant at this coastal site.

Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*
On 12 June 2012, a singing first-summer male was photographed at Nurly, Almaty province (Holmstedt 2012; Michael Westerbjerg Andersen in litt, www.birdsofkazakhstan.com). On 14 June 2012, a singing first-summer male was found in low pine and willow forest at Buktharma lake, c 4 km south-west of Buktharma, East Kazakhstan province (Jochen Roeder/Heidelberg Cement 2012 in litt). These are the first documented records of this species outside the Altai.

Semicollared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata*
On 23-24 April 2012, a male and a first-summer female were photographed at Fetisovo, Mangghystau province (Gubin 2012, Gouraud/NARC-IFHC 2012c). The species is a very rare but regular spring migrant at this coastal site.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*
On 18 May 2011, one was found at Karazhar, Korgalzhyn nature reserve (Huijzers 2011, Koshkin 2012). It concerns the first spring record for central Kazakhstan.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*
On 7 October 2012, a Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit *A r japonicus* was photographed at Maly Sorbulak lake, Almaty province (Isabekov 2012). On 20 October, another one was photographed at Sorbulak lake (Kovalenko 2012). These are the 12-13th record for Kazakhstan and the first two documented field records. All previous records referred to birds identified in the collection of the Zoological Institute in Almaty.

Arctic Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni*
In December 2011, an adult male was photographed in the Zailiyskiy Alatau foothills at Almaty, Almaty province (Ottaviani 2012; Ottaviani in litt). It concerns the first documented record for

Kazakhstan. Previous records (Dolgushin 1974, Wassink and Oreel 2009) were all undocumented and, therefore, rejected. This includes a skin of a first-winter male collected at Katon-Karagay and retained in the collection of Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, the Netherlands, since it is without year.

Desert Finch *Rhodopechys obsoleta*
After four previous records there between early April and mid-June (Balmer & Betton 2005, Heinicke et al 2006, Koshkin 2007, 2011, Wassink 2009), an invasion took place in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region in 2011, starting in mid-May with flocks of up to 11 birds, totalling 10s of birds (Huijzers 2011, Koshkin 2012). This resulted in a breeding pair at Korgalzhyn but unfortunately the nest with 4-5 eggs was predated by a cat (Ullman 2011, Koshkin 2012; Johannes Kamp in litt).

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*
On 13-17 September 2012, one was observed at an artesian well in the Betpak-Dala desert, 50 km north-west of Zhuantobe, South Kazakhstan province (Kovalenko 2012, Villaeiev/NARC-IFHC 2012c). On 29 September 2012, one was found at Kyzylkol lake, South Kazakhstan province (Mats Waern in litt). These are the 11-12th record for Kazakhstan.

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Brieven

Green Heron in the Netherlands in 2006-09

In the paper on the Green Heron *Butorides virescens* in Amsterdam and Zaandam, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, in 2006-09 (van den Berg 2011), it was suggested that the bird spent several summers in the Netherlands. However, it should be pointed out that, in fact, in none of these years there were sightings from mid-July to mid-September, the period in which the northernmost breeders of the species in Canada are nesting. In 2006, in its first summer, the bird reappeared on 14 September at Noorder IJ-Plas, Amsterdam, after having been seen at De Nieuwe Meer, Amsterdam, until 24 June. The last sighting in the Netherlands in 2007 dated from 18 July at Zaandam. In 2008 there was no sighting at all and, in 2009, the bird was not seen after 19 July at Zaandam. This means that, as an adult, in 2007-09, it was never seen later than 19 July in the Amsterdam/Zaandam region. It returned to the Mediterranean coast of France from 31 October onwards in 2006-08, staying there into May each year. Although it is a matter of speculation, these dates do not rule out the possibility that the Amsterdam/Zaandam area was used as stopover site during the bird's travel between its wintering site along the Mediterranean coast and another, unknown locality, possibly further north. It may mean that the total distance that the bird migrated back and forth through Europe in 2006-09 was longer than the data suggested in the paper.

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Varia

Code Red for Orange-bellied Parrot

One of the most threatened bird species in the world is Orange-bellied Parrot *Neophema chrysogaster*, one of Tasmania's two migrating parrot species (the other being Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*). The only remaining wild population breeds around Melaleuca, located in the wilderness of the Southwest National Park in Tasmania, Australia. Melaleuca is a tiny settlement with no more than a couple of buildings, in the middle of vast buttongrass plains intersected by tea-coloured streams and bordered by eucalypts *Eucalyptus*. The house of the local legend Deny King (1909-91), who lived here for 50 years, can be found in Melaleuca. He was a keen bird observer and the first to signal the decrease of Orange-bellied Parrot in Tasmania. His field observations date back to 1959 (Mattingley 2001). He started building nest boxes for the parrots, which are being used to this day, and supplemented food. On 29-31 January 2011, my wife Maartje van Kregten and I visited Melaleuca. The place can be accessed by boat, on foot or by plane. Access over land involves a walk of over 65 km through rugged terrain, the so-called Overland Walk, which takes at least five days. The option we chose was flying from Cambridge Airport with a small plane.

During our stay, we observed a total of 12-13 Orange-bellied Parrots. Identification is easy: adult birds have bright grass-green upperparts, a yellow-green face and breast, a largely blue outer and green inner wing, green lores (in contrast with the yellow lores of the rather similar Blue-winged Parrot *N chrysostoma* and Elegant Parrot *N elegans)* and a blue frontal band. Adults of both sexes have a clear orange patch on the belly. It is difficult to reliably identify the sexes in the field. In Juniper & Parr (1998), the female is mentioned to have a duller, uniformly coloured frontal band and a smaller orange belly-patch. The upperparts of both adult females and juveniles are duller green than the upperparts of adult males. Young birds have a less conspicuous frontal band and a pale bill (Juniper & Parr 1998, Simpson & Day 2004, Slater et al 2009). The rapid buzzing alarm call of Orange-bellied is diagnostic (Simpson & Day 2004).

The entire breeding area lies within a radius of c

55 Orange-bellied Parrot / Oranjebuikparkiet *Neophema chrysogaster*, adult, Melaleuca, Tasmania, Australia, 30 January 2011 *(Peter Lindenburg)*

56 Orange-bellied Parrot / Oranjebuikparkiet *Neophema chrysogaster*, juvenile, Melaleuca, Tasmania, Australia, 29 January 2011 *(Peter Lindenburg)*

57 Orange-bellied Parrot / Oranjebuikparkiet *Neophema chrysogaster*, adult, Melaleuca, Tasmania, Australia, 29 January 2011 *(Peter Lindenburg)*

58 Orange-bellied Parrot / Oranjebuikparkiet *Neophema chrysogaster*, juvenile, Melaleuca, Tasmania, Australia, 29 January 2011 *(Peter Lindenburg)*

59 Orange-bellied Parrot / Oranjebuikparkiet *Neophema chrysogaster*, adult, Melaleuca, Tasmania, Australia, 29 January 2011 *(Peter Lindenburg)*

TABLE 1 Numbers of Orange-bellied Parrot *Neophema chrysogaster* at Melaleuca, Tasmania, Australia, in breeding seasons of 2010-11 and 2011-12 (Pritchard 2012)

breeding season	**2010-11**	**2011-12**
minimum adult males returned in spring	13	14
minimum adult females returned in spring	8	8
minimum breeding pairs	8	8
female breeding participation rate (%)	100	100
total juveniles	27	14
fledglings from nest boxes	11	11
fledglings from natural nests	16	3
number of captured birds	21	0
total presumed to have migrated from Melaleuca in autumn	27	36
total known to be alive in the wild	48	36

20 km from Melaleuca in the Tasmanian South-west Wilderness World Heritage Area (Pizzey & Knight 2007, Simpson & Day 2004, Slater et al 2009, Forshaw 2010, Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery Team 2012). The breeding habitat is a mosaic of eucalypt forest, rainforest and extensive fire-dependent moorland and sedgeland plains, intersected by wooded creeks, rivers and estuaries. Nesting occurs predominantly in hollows of live Smithton Peppermint *E nitida* in patches of forest.

After breeding, Orange-bellied Parrots leave Melaleuca to migrate to south-eastern mainland Australia. Migration includes crossing Bass Strait, a 600 km flight over sea. They spend the winter in saltmarshes, dunes, beaches, pastures and shrubland close to the coast, where they feed on the ground or in low vegetation. Feeding is almost exclusively on seeds and fruits, mainly of sedges, and salt-tolerant coastal and saltmarsh plants (Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery Team 2006). The preferred habitat has been degraded and lost throughout the species' range; however, the majority of this impact has occurred within the wintering areas. The major contributing factor is habitat loss due to

60 Breeding habitat of Orange-bellied Parrot *Neophema chrysogaster*, Melaleuca, Tasmania, Australia, 31 January 2011 *(Maartje van Kregten)*

drainage of wetlands for grazing, alteration and destruction of saltmarshes for industrial and urban development, grazing of native vegetation, vegetation clearance for agricultural purposes, changes to land use practices, inappropriate fire regimes, weed invasion and recreational activities (Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery Team 2012).

In 1983, the Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery Team was founded, which aims to preserve the species in the wild in two ways: by improving conditions in the wild and via a captive breeding programme started in 1986. At the end of the breeding season of 2010-11, 21 individuals were captured by the team (just after we left Melaleuca) to strengthen the gene pool of the captive breeding programme. This was a drastic action, because it reduced the number of wild birds from 48 to only 27 individuals (BirdLife International 2012, Pritchard 2012).

The captive breeding programme, which takes place at various locations in Australia (amongst others Melbourne Zoo, Taronga Zoo (Sydney) and Adelaide Zoo), targets to have a captive population of 350 birds in 2016-17. Currently, this population stands at 208. Last breeding season, 48 juveniles were successfully reared and, importantly, the birds that were captured at the end of the previous breeding season were involved in the production of a large proportion of these juveniles (31 out of 48). This means that the gene pool of the captive population was successfully enriched. Currently, the Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery Team is considering the release of a small number of birds at Melaleuca to strengthen the wild population (Garnett et al 2011, BirdLife International 2012, Pritchard 2012).

Of the 27 individuals that were presumed to migrate to the wintering areas in 2011, 22 (eight females and 14 males) returned the following spring. The proportion of ringed adults that left Melaleuca in autumn 2011 and returned in spring 2011 was 94%, which exceeded the average for the last 10 years (65%). This positive result might be related to the ending of a 13-year's draught in mainland Australia. All the returned females participated in breeding and a total of 11 juveniles fledged from the nest boxes. An overview of the changes in the wild population at Melaleuca over the breeding seasons of 2010-11 and 2011-12 is given in table 1.

It can be concluded that, leaving out the capturing of 21 individuals for the breeding programme, the wild population has not declined in the last completed breeding season. This is a reason to be somewhat optimistic. However, the overall population is so small that incidents such as sudden change in weather conditions during migration over Bass Strait or another draught in mainland Australia can easily push the remaining wild population over the brink of extinction.

Other birds encountered at Melaleuca during our stay included six species endemic to Tasmania: Green Rosella *Platycercus caledonicus*, Scrubwren *Sericornis humilis*, Yellow-throated Honeyeater *Lichenostomus flavicollis*, Strong-billed Honeyeater *Melithreptus validirostris*, Tasmanian Black Currawong *Strepera fuliginosa* and Dusky Robin *Melanodryas vittata*. Other noteworthy species were Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*, Blue-winged Parrot, Eastern Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus*, Southern Emu-Wren *Stipiturus malachurus*, Striated Fieldwren *Calamanthus fuliginosus*, Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*, Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea*, Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans* and Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella*.

I would like to thank Justin Jansen for his useful additions to this paper.

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Redactiememededelingen

Naamgeving van taxa in Dutch Birding

Voor taxonomie, naamgeving en volgorde van in Nederland waargenomen taxa houdt Dutch Birding zich aan de beslissingen van de Commissie Systematiek Nederlandse Avifauna (CSNA) (Sangster et al 1999, 2003, 2009). Dit is een gevolg van afspraken tussen Dutch Birding Association (DBA), Nederlandse Ornithologische Unie (NOU) en Sovon Vogelonderzoek Nederland die werden gemaakt in het kader van de publicatie van *Avifauna van Nederland* (van den Berg & Bosman 1999, 2001, Bijlsma et al 2001).

Voor taxonomie van niet in Nederland vastgestelde taxa wordt de derde editie van 'Howard and Moore' (Dickinson 2003) gevolgd, behoudens aanvullingen en wijzigingen gepresenteerd in redactiememededelingen in de eerste nummers van Dutch Birding-jaargangen. In de in 2008 door DBA gepubliceerde lijst van vogelnamen (van den Berg 2008) zijn alle redactiememededelingen van Dutch Birding jaargang 19-30 (1997-2008) verwerkt en in de digitale versie tevens die van 2009-12 (Redactie Dutch Birding 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012) en 2013 (www.dutchbirding.nl/page.php?page_id=228).

In tabel 1 staan nieuwe wijzigingen in de naamgeving van West-Palearctische taxa vermeld die per 1 januari 2013 in Dutch Birding worden doorgevoerd.

De taxonomische volgorde van de genera van Galliformes en Charadriiformes en de volgorde van *Calidris*-soorten is herzien op basis van nieuwe inzichten over hun evolutionaire verwantschappen (zie Sangster et al 2012).

Aan de lijst van vogelsoorten binnen het door van den Berg (2008) gedefinieerde WP-gebied (Europa met inbegrip van Macaronesië plus alle landen die grenzen aan de Dode, Middellandse of Zwarte Zee) kan een aantal worden toegevoegd, zoals Koningstiran / Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus* (Ierland), Ussurifitis/Japanse Fitis / Pale-legged/Sakhalin Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes/borealoides* (Engeland) en Prairiezanger / Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor* (Azoren). Over waarnemingen van Amerikaanse Schaarbek *Rynchops niger* (Ierland), Karmijnrode Bijeneter *Merops nubicus* (Duitsland, Zweden) en Citroenzanger *Prothonotaria citrea* (op zee ten westen van IJsland) worden de beslissingen van betreffende dwaalgastencommissies afgewacht. Zie Redactie Dutch Birding (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012) voor andere recentelijk toegevoegde soorten.

Voor Engelse vogelnamen volgt Dutch Birding sinds 1 januari 2008 de aanbevelingen van het Internationaal Ornithologisch Congres (IOC) (Gill & Wright 2006, Gill & Donsker 2012), met enkele uitzonderingen (Olson & Banks 2007, Redactie Dutch Birding 2009, 2010, 2011). Aanvullingen en wijzigingen worden door het IOC op internet gepubliceerd en deze veranderingen in Engelse namen worden overgenomen door Dutch Birding, zoals sinds 1 januari 2012: Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* (in plaats van Greater Painted Snipe) en Streaked Scrub Warbler *Scotocerca inquieta* (in plaats van Scrub Warbler).

De redactie dankt Pierre-André Crochet, Kees Roselaar en George Sangster voor hun assistentie.

Summary

Taxa names in Dutch Birding From 1 January 2013, Dutch Birding will use revised names or new taxonomic treatments for taxa listed in table 1. For English vernacular names, updates by the International Ornithological Congress are followed. New species documented for a WP region defined as Europe with Macaronesia and all countries bordering the Black, Dead or Mediterranean Sea include Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus* (Ireland), Pale-legged/Sakhalin Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes/borealoides* (England) and Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor* (Azores).

The taxonomic sequence of the genera of Galliformes and Charadriiformes and the sequence of *Calidris* species is revised based on new insights into their evolutionary relationships.

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TABEL 1 Vanaf 1 januari 2013 door Dutch Birding gebruikte gewijzigde wetenschappelijke namen van West-Palearctische (WP) taxa / Revised scientific names for Western Palearctic (WP) taxa used in Dutch Birding from 1 January 2013

Dubbelspoorfrankolijn / Double-spurred Francolin *Pternistis bicalcaratus* (was *Francolinus bicalcaratus*)
Erckels Frankolijn / Erckel's Francolin *Pternistis erckelii* (was *Francolinus erckelii)*

Phylogenetische analyse van moleculaire en uiterlijke kenmerken maakt aannemelijk dat het genus *Francolinus* niet monophyletisch is (Crowe et al 1992, 2006, Bloomer & Crowe 1998). Derhalve werden door Crowe et al (2006) vijf genera voorgesteld waarvan twee in de WP voorkomen: *Pternistis* (Dubbelspoorfrankolijn *P bicalcaratus* en de geïntroduceerde Erckels Frankolijn *P erckelii*) en *Francolinus* (Zwarte Frankolijn *F francolinus*).

Phylogenetic analysis of molecular and morpho-behavioural characters shows that the genus *Francolinus* is not monophyletic (Crowe et al 1992, 2006, Bloomer & Crowe 1998). A re-arrangement of five genera (Crowe et al 2006) has been proposed, two of which occur in the Western Palearctic, *Pternistis* (*P bicalcaratus* and *P erckelii*) and *Francolinus* (*F francolinus*).

Phasianidae (was Tetraonidae, Phasianidae)

Een aantal moleculaire phylogenetische studies laat zien dat Tetraonidae dienen te worden gerekend tot Phasianidae, waarbinnen de genusvolgorde is gewijzigd (Crowe et al 2006, Sangster et al 2012). (Voor korhoenders blijft het genus *Tetrao* in gebruik in plaats van *Lyrurus* (contra Dickinson 2003, contra Svensson et al 2010).)

A number of molecular phylogenetic studies demonstrate that Tetraonidae are part of Phasianidae, in which the generic sequence has been revised (Crowe et al 2006, Sangster et al 2012). (For black grouse, the genus *Tetrao* remains to be used instead of *Lyrurus* (contra Dickinson 2003, contra Svensson et al 2010).)

Aziatische Wespendief / Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* (was *Pernis ptilorhyncus*)

Voous (1973) hanteerde de spelling *ptilorhyncus*. Dickinson (2012) legde echter uit dat vóór de publicatie van Temmincks tekst met de naam *ptilorhyncus* (in Temminck & Laugier 1823) de spelling *ptilorhynchus* werd gebruikt door Temminck op de wikkel van de achtste aflevering ('livraison') van de kleurplaten van Temminck & Laugier (1821). De originele spelling is derhalve *ptilorhynchus*. In een latere aflevering gebruikte Temminck overigens weer *ptilorhynchus* (Temminck & Laugier 1839). De eerste 20 afleveringen van de kleurplaten bevatten behalve de Franse namen geen tekst en de wikkels van de afleveringen bevatten als enige de wetenschappelijke namen van de afgebeelde taxa. Hoewel van veel van deze wikkels het bestaan bekend was, zijn ze pas recent teruggevonden (Dickinson 2012).

Voous (1973) used the spelling *ptilorhyncus*. Dickinson (2012) explained that before the publication of Temminck's text with the name *ptilorhyncus* (in Temminck & Laugier 1823), the spelling *ptilorhynchus* was used by Temminck (1921) on the wrapper of the eighth part ('livraison') of the colour plates by Temminck and Laugier. The original spelling is thus *ptilorhynchus*. In a later part, Temminck used again *ptilorhynchus* (Temminck & Laugier 1839). The first 20 parts of the colour plates contained no text other than the French names and only the wrappers of these parts contained the scientific names of the depicted taxa. Although the existence of many of these wrappers was known, they have only been retraced recently (Dickinson 2012).

Oorgier / Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos* (was *Torgos tracheliotus*) (cf Rookmaaker 1986, Gill & Donsker 2012)

Kemphaan / Ruff *Calidris pugnax* (was *Philomachus pugnax*)
Breedbekstrandloper / Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus* (was *Limicola falcinellus*)
Lepelbekstrandloper / Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmeus* (was *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*)
Blonde Ruiter / Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis* (was *Tryngites subruficollis*)

Een recente moleculaire fylogenie gebaseerd op mitochondriaal en nucleair DNA bewijst dat het huidige genus *Calidris* parafyletisch is en dat vijf monotypische genera tot *Calidris* dienen te worden gerekend (*Aphriza, Philomachus, Limicola, Eurynorhynchus, Tryngites*) (Banks 2012, Gibson & Baker 2012, Sangster et al 2012). De taxonomische volgorde binnen Charadriiformes en die van de *Calidris*-soorten is gewijzigd (Sangster et al 2012).

A recent molecular phylogeny based on mitochondrial and nuclear DNA sequences provides strong evidence that the present genus *Calidris* is paraphyletic, and that five monotypic genera are part of the *Calidris* clade (*Aphriza, Philomachus, Limicola, Eurynorhynchus, Tryngites*) (Banks 2012, Gibson & Baker 2012, Sangster et al 2012). The taxonomic sequence within Charadriiformes and that of the *Calidris* species has been revised (Sangster et al 2012).

Aziatische Boomklever / Asian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea asiatica* (was Siberische Boomklever / Siberian Nuthatch)

Siberische Boomklever wordt de naam voor *Sitta arctica* uit noordoostelijk Siberië die nu als monotypische soort wordt beschouwd (Red'kin & Konovalova 2006, Zink et al 2006, Collar & Pilgrim 2007, Sangster et al 2012).

Siberian Nuthatch is used for *Sitta arctica* from northeastern Siberia which is now treated as a monotypic species (Red'kin & Konovalova 2006, Zink et al 2006, Collar & Pilgrim 2007, Sangster et al 2012).

Nile Valley Sunbird / Palestijnse Honingzuiger *Hedydipna metallica* (was *Anthodiaeta metallica*) (contra Mann & Cheke 2006, contra del Hoyo et al 2008, contra Redactie 2010; Pierre-André Crochet in litt)

Bruine Vliegenvanger / Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa latirostris* (was *Muscicapa dauurica*) (cf Mlíkovsky 2012)

Armeense Roodborsttapuit / Armenian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus variegatus* (was *Saxicola maurus armenicus*)
Kaspische Roodborsttapuit / Caspian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus hemprichii* (was *Saxicola maurus variegatus*)

Bot et al (2012) en Svensson et al (2012) leggen uit dat de naam *variegatus* is gegeven aan een specimen uit een gebied waar Armeense Roodborsttapuit voorkomt. Beide ondersoorten kunnen ook samen worden gevoegd (Urquhart & Bowley 2002) en dan krijgt *variegatus* als oudste naam voorrang terwijl Kaspische Roodborsttapuit de beste Nederlandse naam voor Armeense en Kaspische samen is.

Bot et al (2012) and Svensson et al (2012) explain that the naam *variegatus* was given to a specimen out of the range of Armenian Stonechat. Both subspecies can be seen as synonyms (Urquhart & Bowley 2002), *variegatus* becoming the name of the two together (and Caspian Stonechat seems to be the most appropriate English name for the two together).

Stejnegers Roodborsttapuit / Stejneger's Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri* (was *Saxicola maurus stejnegeri*) (cf Wink et al 2002, Zink et al 2009, Gill & Donsker 2012; CSNA in litt)

Gele Zanger / American Yellow Warbler *Setophaga aestiva* (was *Setophaga petechia*)

Mangrovezanger *Setophaga petechia* betreft thans onder meer de zuidelijke *erithachorides*- en *petechia*-groepen (eg, Klein & Brown 1994, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001, Hilty 2003).

Mangrove Warbler *Setophaga petechia* now includes, eg, the southern *erithachorides* and *petechia* groups (eg, Klein & Brown 1994, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001, Hilty 2003).

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Aankondigingen & verzoeken

Avifaunistische Kring Nederland Op 4 november 2012 is de Avifaunistische Kring Nederland (AKN) opgericht als nieuwe sectie van de Nederlandse Ornithologische Unie (NOU). Doel van de AKN is om ervaren waarnemers te (ver)binden die een brede belangstelling hebben voor avifaunistiek en systematiek. Samenwerking binnen de NOU en met Dutch Birding en SOVON is daarbij essentieel. De AKN zal ook optreden als intermediair tussen NOU en CDNA/CSNA. De activiteiten van de AKN zijn op hoofdlijnen: ***1*** themasessies over complexe soortgroepen; ***2*** binnenlandse excursies; ***3*** buitenlandse studiereizen; en ***4*** projectmatige initiatieven voor duurzame ontsluiting van het Nederlandse ornithologische erfgoed.

In 2013 is de intentie om tijdens de Landelijke Dag van SOVON op 30 november een themasessie 'meeuwen' te houden. Een themasessie over de tjiftjaf-groep wordt dit jaar in voorbereiding genomen. In een themasessie zijn de volgende vragen leidend: wat zijn de historische en actuele inzichten in de systematiek van de soortgroep?; welke populaties van de betreffende soorten trekken door Nederland of overwinteren hier?; wat zijn de criteria geweest voor beslissingen van CDNA en CSNA?; wat is de impact van de genomen beslissingen?; waar zitten de leemtes in onze kennis?; en in hoeverre ondersteunt ecologisch onderzoek de huidige inzichten in de systematiek? Verslagen van de sessies worden eens per jaar of per twee jaar gebundeld.

In geselecteerde gebieden gaan we een- of meerdaagse excursies organiseren, in eerste instantie gericht op Ameland, Zuidwest-Friesland en het Utrechts-Hollands Veenweidegebied. Elk van deze gebieden bevat voor Nederland kenmerkende habitats, is interessant voor kenmerkende soortgroepen en heeft een belangrijke functie voor zowel broedvogels als niet-broedvogels. Doel is om waarnemingen in kwetsbare en schaarse habitats te monitoren en in historisch perspectief te plaatsen. In directe relatie tot themasessies kunnen ook specifieke excursies worden georganiseerd. Op 26-28 april 2013 is de eerste AKN-excursie gepland naar Ameland.

Het is de intentie om voor de leden buitenlandse studiereizen te organiseren. Criteria voor deze reizen zijn dat de bestemming en de daaraan gekoppelde inhoudelijke vragen over avifaunistiek en systematiek dienen te passen bij de doelstellingen van de AKN en/of dat de reis en eventuele vervolgreizen naar een locatie zinvol kunnen bijdragen aan een nieuw of al bestaand monitoringprogramma.

De ornithologische gemeenschap heeft belang bij behoud van het ornithologische erfgoed en de gegevens(reeksen) over binnen- en buitenland die daar onderdeel van zijn. Waar vogelorganisaties met een leger van vrijwilligers zich grote inspanningen getroosten om actuele gegevens te verzamelen, is er bij diezelfde organisaties nauwelijks interesse om deze gegevens goed te archiveren en voor de toekomst veilig te stellen. De AKN wil hierin verantwoordelijkheid nemen, in eerste instantie door een project waarin landelijk de verschillende belangen van vogelorganisaties en (regionale) musea worden geïnventariseerd en beleidscriteria voor conservering en ontsluiting worden ontwikkeld, en vervolgens om te stimuleren dat het beoogde beleid wordt ingebed in de verschillende organisaties. In dit project zullen naast het bestuur van de AKN ook Peter Dieleman, Ed Veling en Ruud Vlek deelnemen.

Het lidmaatschap van de AKN staat open voor iedereen die zich opgeeft bij secretaris Martin Lok via AKNNOU@hotmail.com. De jaarcontributie bedraagt EUR 15.00. Deelname van Dutch Birding-begunstigers wordt toegejuicht omdat het gedachtegoed van Dutch Birding past bij de kennisvermeerdering die de AKN nastreeft. Frank de Miranda, Martin Lok, Kees Scharringa & Rob Honing

Birds of the Moroccan Atlantic Sahara A book on the birds of the Moroccan Atlantic Sahara with an annotated checklist is in preparation. Ornithologists are requested to send their unpublished records to Patrick Bergier, pbergier@yahoo.fr.

DBA-nieuws

Nieuwe penningmeester Het bestuur van Dutch Birding is verheugd om te kunnen melden dat Kees de Vries is toegetreden tot het bestuur. Kees is voor velen geen onbekende binnen Dutch Birding. Behalve al jarenlang begunstiger, is hij de laatste jaren ook als medewerker bij het Dutch Bird Alerts-team actief geweest. Na een intensieve inwerkperiode heeft hij per 1 januari 2013 de functie van penningmeester overgenomen van Thierry Jansen. Hiermee is binnen het bestuur een cruciale functie ingevuld die door de groeiende activiteiten binnen de stichting steeds belangrijker aan het worden is. Kees heeft de afgelopen maanden gebruikt om zich in te werken en de migratie naar een nieuw administratiesysteem voor te bereiden. Zijn enthousiasme en gedrevenheid hebben ervoor gezorgd dat wij hierin al grote stappen hebben kunnen maken. Wij wensen hem veel succes met de invulling van deze voor Dutch Birding Association belangrijke taak. Bestuur Dutch Birding Association

Corrigenda

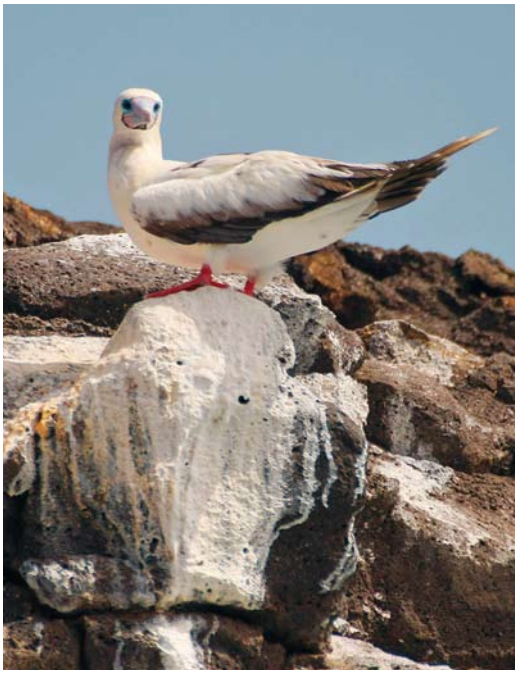
Per ongeluk werd in WP reports in het vorige nummer (Dutch Birding 34: 397, plaat 540, 2012) een eerder gebruikte foto van een Amerikaanse Blauwe Kiekendief *Circus hudsonius* uit 2010 geplaatst (zie Dutch Birding 32: 405, plaat 559-560, 2010). De datum bij de foto's in dat nummer was ook niet correct en moest zijn: 31 oktober 2010 / accidentally, in last issue's WP reports (Dutch Birding 34: 397, plaat 540, 2012) a photograph of a 2010 record was used again, see Dutch Birding 32: 405, plate 559-560, 2010). The date in the 2010 issue was also incorrect and should have read: 31 October 2010. Redactie / Editors

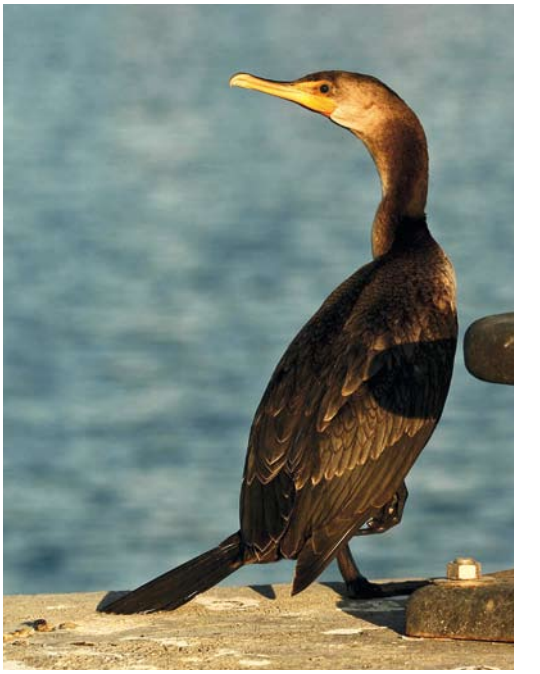
WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic mainly from **December 2012 to late January 2013**. 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.

Geese to ducks If accepted, a **Lesser Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna javanica* at Al Baleed Archaeological Park, Salalah, on 4 January would be the third for Oman. The third ring recovery of a **Bar-headed Goose** *A indicus* from Finland in the Netherlands concerned one ringed at Kemijärvi, Lappland, on 11 August 2007 and found at Wijk bij Duurstede, Utrecht, on 15 January 2011; it suggests that the wintering numbers of this species in the Netherlands may originate from further away than often assumed (Op het Vinkentouw 126: 20, 2012). Up to three **Barnacle Geese** *Branta leucopsis* at Qawra on 11-12 December constituted the second record for Malta. From December until at least 21 January, a female **White-headed Duck** *Oxyura leucocephala* stayed c 14 km from Lyon near Miribel and Saint-Maurice-de-Beynost, Ain, France. The c 10th for Austria was seen at Aldrianteich, Steiermark, on 3 January. In spring 2012, after an eradication program that started 12 years ago, c 60 **Ruddy Ducks** *O jamaicensis* remained in England compared with c 6000 in 2000. A male **Common Eider** *Somateria mollissima* off Grand Harbour on 19 December was the first for Malta. Also in Malta, an immature **Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra* turned up off Xghajra on 23 December. In Gwynedd, Wales, a male **American Scoter** *M americana* was found off Black Rock Sands on 16 January. In Denmark, a returning adult male was still seen at Røsnæs, Sjælland, in late January. A male **American White-winged Scoter** *M deglandi deglandi* discovered at Blåvands Huk, Esbjerg, Denmark, on 23 January was the first for Denmark. The third **Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola* for Spain was an adult male at Sopeira reservoir, Noguera-Ribagorzana river, Huesca, on 1 December. A male **Falcated Duck** *Anas falcata* stayed at Farmoor reservoir, Oxfordshire, England, on 9-13 December. Males **American Black Duck** *A rubripes* were found at Strontian, Highland, Scotland, from 23 December and at Sørvági, Vágar, Faeroes, on 30 December; the bird on Achill Island, Mayo, Ireland, returned on 5 January. A male **Northern Pintail** *A acuta* photographed on Santo Antão on 28 November was a rarity for the Cape Verde Islands; despite wearing a ring, it could not be established whether it was a transatlantic arrival.

Seabirds An adult **Pacific Loon** *Gavia pacifica* at Mount's Bay, Cornwall, England, on 5-13 December was probably a returning bird first seen on 17 February 2007. A **Yellow-billed Loon** *G adamsii* at Steinbach, Attersee, Oberösterreich, on 29 December was the eighth for Austria. A shearwater *Puffinus* photographed between La Gomera and Tenerife on 14 December showed characters of either **Boyd's Shearwater** *P boydi* or **Audubon's Shearwater** *P lherminieri* which would be the first for the Canary Islands (cf http://birdingbytrain.





61 Red-footed Booby / Roodpootgent *Sula sula*, Raso, Cape Verde Islands, 9 October 2012 *(Gerard Bota)* **62** Double-crested Cormorant / Geoorde Aalscholver *Phalacrocorax auritus*, first-year, La Restinga, El Hierro, Canary Islands, November 2012 *(Marcel Gil Velasco)* **63** Slaty-backed Gull / Kamtsjatkameeuw *Larus schistisagus*, adult, Hrodna, Hrodna Oblast, Belarus, 30 December 2012 *(Mikalay Hulinski/www.birdwatch.by)*

64 Western Reef Heron / Westelijke Rifreiger *Egretta gularis*, Ribeira Grande, Santo Antão, Cape Verde Islands, 28 November 2012 *(René Pop/The Sound Approach)*

65 Lesser Yellowlegs / Kleine Geelpootruiter *Tringa flavipes*, first-winter, Mindelo, Santo Antão, Cape Verde Islands, 3 December 2012 *(René Pop/The Sound Approach)*

66 Semipalmated Plover / Amerikaanse Bontbekplevier *Charadrius semipalmatus*, Mindelo, Santo Antão, Cape Verde Islands, 3 December 2012 *(René Pop/The Sound Approach)*

67 American Golden Plover / Amerikaanse Goudplevier *Pluvialis dominica*, first-winter, Po del Sol, Santo Antão, Cape Verde Islands, 28 November 2012 *(René Pop/The Sound Approach)*

68 Greater Yellowlegs / Grote Geelpootruiter *Tringa melanoleuca*, juvenile, Skillinge, Skåne, Sweden, 4 January 2013 *(Magnus Ulmann)*

69 Long-billed Dowitcher / Grote Grijze Snip *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, adult winter, with Black-tailed Godwits / Grutto's *Limosa limosa*, Our Lady's Island Lake, Wexford, Ireland, 14 January 2013 *(Killian Mullarney)*

70 Pallid Harrier / Steppekiekendief *Circus macrourus*, second calendar-year male, Barbate, Andalucía, Spain, 8 December 2012 *(Javier Elorriaga)*

wordpress.com/2012/12/17/interesting-shearwater). Along the Mediterranean coast of Israel, a **Leach's Storm Petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* was seen off Akhziv on 8 December. On Santo Antão, Cape Verde Islands, several **Cape Verde Storm Petrels** *O jabejabe* were sound-recorded at Fontainhas on 27-30 November and (one) at Boca de Ambas as Ribeiras, c 3 km inland, on 2 December; breeding is not known from Santo Antão although the species has been reported in the past. If accepted, a **White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus* found dead on the tideline at Mawbray Bank, Cumbria, England, on 6 January would be the first for Britain. A white-morph **Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula* was photographed on Raso, Cape Verde Islands, on 9 October. On 13 December, a **Masked Booby** *S dactylatra* turned up on Curral Velho off Boa Vista, Cape Verde Islands. The first-winter **Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus* on El Hierro, Canary Islands, from 22 October was still present on 30 November.

HERONS TO GREBES From 28 November to 1 December, a **Western Reef Heron** *Egretta gularis* stayed at Ribeira Grande, Santo Antão. The numbers of **Western Great Egret** *Casmerodius albus* wintering in the Netherlands increased from 2550 in the winter of 2010/11 to 2900 in 2011/12 and, in October 2012, a total of 1900 was already 200 higher than that of October 2011; however, just 160 breeding pairs were found in 2011 while ring recoveries originated from, eg, France, Hungary, Latvia, Poland and Ukraine; this suggests that most winterers come from various other countries in central Europe (Sovon-nieuws 25 (4): 14, 2012). In Sardinia, a record 450 were counted at Gulf of Oristano in late November. A **White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia* on São Vincente on 20-21 December was the first for the Cape Verde Islands. In the Canary Islands, an unringed, shy **Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumenifer* was seen on Fuerteventura on 7 December and on Lanzarote on 15 December. On 27 December, an adult **Northern Bald Ibis** *Geronticus eremita* was found at Boujdour, Western Sahara, Morocco, 680 km south of the species' Agadir colony. The **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* at Loch Smerclate, South Uist, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, from 26 November stayed until 8 December. In France, one was seen at Saint-Martin-de-Crau, Bouches-du-Rhône, on at least 20 January.

RAPTORS The number of breeding pairs of **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* in France increased from 14 in 2005 to 50 in 2010 and 74-87 in 2011, all in the south-western corner (Ornithos 19: 298, 2012). In Scotland, a **White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* on Unst, Shetland, appeared to be a genuine vagrant as it had been ringed as a chick in Norway in 2011. In the Netherlands, four pairs (all of wild origin) produced a record five fledglings in 2012. Two adults and two immatures **Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus* near Tarrafal, Santo Antão, in late November may be the last individu-

als for the Cape Verde Islands. The juvenile female **Northern Harrier** *Circus hudsonius* at Tacumshin, Wexford, Ireland, from 19 October was still present on 13 January. A few **Pallid Harriers** *C macrourus* remained in Portugal and Spain through December. In the Cape Verde Islands, five to seven **Cape Verde Buzzards** *Buteo bannermani*, including a leucistic male, were present in the northern mountains of Santo Antão. A **Rough-legged Buzzard** *B lagopus* at Urim, Negev, from 30 November to 2 December was the second for Israel; the previous one occurred in the winter of 1984/85. The first breeding attempts of **Lesser Spotted Eagle** *Aquila pomarina* for the Iberian peninsula in 2011 and 2012 were in Catalunya and unsuccessful (Vogelwelt 133: 89-97, 2012). In France, **Lesser Kestrels** *Falco naumanni* showed an increase in the number of breeding pairs from 151 in 2005 to 355 in 2011 (Ornithos 19: 302-303, 2012). In Israel, three **Saker Falcons** *F cherrug* wintered at Urim through December. A first-winter **Cape Verde Falcon** *F madens* was seen at Fontainhas, Santo Antão, on 29-30 November.

RAILS TO CRANES The seventh **Allen's Gallinule** *Porphyrio alleni* for the Azores was a first-winter picked up at Praia, Graciosa, on 10 December. A **Ruddy-breasted Crake** *Porzana fusca* at Wadi Darbat on 23 November and still present on 4 December was the first for Oman and the Middle East. The **American Coot** *Fulica americana* at Murloch, Ballyconneely, Galway, Ireland, from 28 November remained through January (accompanied by a Green-winged Teal *A carolinensis*). In the Netherlands, a record five breeding pairs of **Common Crane** *Grus grus* in Drenthe/Friesland produced nine young in 2012.

WADERS In the Cape Verde Islands, two **Semipalmated Plovers** *Charadrius semipalmatus* were found at Mindelo,

71 Northern Pintail / Pijlstaart *Anas acuta*, male, Ribeira Grande, Santo Antão, Cape Verde Islands, 28 November 2012 *(René Pop/The Sound Approach)* **72** Forster's Tern / Forsters Stern *Sterna forsteri*, first-winter, Our Lady's Island Lake, Wexford, Ireland, 20 January 2013 *(Killian Mullarney)* **73** Marabou Stork / Afrikaanse Maraboe *Leptoptilos crumenifer*, Lanzarote, Canary Islands, 15 December 2012 *(Jouni Riihimäki)* **74** Black-throated Thrush / Zwartkeellijster *Turdus atrogularis*, male, Vust Holme, Vejlerne, Thisted, Denmark, 28 December 2012 *(Hans Henrik Larsen)*

São Vicente, on 3 December; other Nearctic waders on São Vicente included at least three **Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* and a **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* at Mindelo on 3 December. On Santo Antão, a first-winter **American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica* stayed at Ponta do Sol on 28-30 November. In Israel, a flock of 20 **Sociable Lapwings** *Vanellus gregarius* wintered at Urim through December. In France, a **Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla* was present from 12 December to at least 21 January on Noirmoutier, Vendée. In Ireland, a late juvenile **Baird's Sandpiper** *C bairdii* stayed at Black Rock Strand, Kerry, from 30 November to 12 December. The third **Greater Yellowlegs** *T melanoleuca* for Sweden was photographed at Skillinge, Skåne, on 4 January. An adult **Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* was photographed at Our Lady's Island Lake, Wexford, on 14 January; it was still present in late January. On 9-16 December, a **Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* was photographed at Salinas de Bonanza, Sanlúcar de Barrameda, Cádiz, Spain. A **Spotted Sandpiper** on Öland on 2-3 December was the seventh for Sweden.

GULLS TO TERNS Photographs of a second-winter hybrid **Brown-headed x Slender-billed Gull** *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus x genei* at Bang Pu, Samut Prakan, Thailand, on 9 November 2011, 6 January 2012 and 11 March 2012 were published in BirdingAsia 18: 86-89, 2012. Adult **Bonaparte's Gulls** *C philadelphia* stayed, eg, at Dawlish Warren, Devon, England, from 21 October into January; off Pembroke on 11 November (first-winter; first for Malta); at Larne, Antrim, Northern Ireland, from 24 November into January (adult); at Colmenar Viejo dump, Madrid, Spain, on 6 December (first-winter); at Cambrils, Tarragona, Spain, from 27 December (adult); at Getxo harbour, Bizkaia, Spain, from 23 December; at Bilbao, Bizkaia, from 5 January; at Ogmore Estuary, Glamorgan, Wales, from 5 January to late at least late January (adult); at Cardiff Bay, Glamorgan, from 12 January (adult); at Padstow, Cornwall, from 14 January (adult); and at Tarnos, Landes, France, until at least 20 January (adult). In Scotland, a second-winter **Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla* at Rosehearty on 19-31 December was the first for Aberdeenshire, while a first-winter was found at Olhão, Algarve, Portugal, on 2 January. **Franklin's Gulls** *L pipixcan* turned up at Lessingham, Norfolk, England, on 9 December and at Torino, Piemonte, Italy, from 2 January (first-winter). The second **Pallas's Gull** *L ichthyaetus* for Sweden was a (sub)adult at Vaken, Oset, Närke, on 4-5 January; the first was an adult photographed on Gotland on 20 July 2008. On 11 December, the ringed (red PAA3) **Ring-billed Gull** *L delawarensis* turned up at Ostróda, Poland; the bird was ringed in Szczecin, Poland, in December 2005 and then observed in Olsztyn, Poland, in December 2006, November-December 2007 and November 2011 and in the eastern border area of Belgium and the Netherlands in February-March 2012. In Spain, the adult **Smithsonian Gull** *L smithsonianus* returned to winter at Muxía, A Coruña, Galicia, on 2 December (cf Dutch Birding 34: 294-301, 2012). The second **Iceland Gull** *L glaucoides* for Latvia was a first-winter photographed at Vaide, Dundaga, on 13 January. The first **Slaty-backed Gull** *L schistisagus* for Belarus (and fifth for the WP) was an adult photographed along the Neman river (15 km from the Polish border) at Hrodna, Hrodna Oblast, from 26 December to at least 4 January. An adult **Kelp Gull** *L dominicanus vetula* and nine **Great Black-backed Gulls** *L marinus* were seen at Khnifiss lagoon in south-western Morocco on 24 December. The number of **Gull-billed Terns** *Gelochelidon nilotica* breeding in France increased sharply from 489 pairs in 2010 to 643-730 pairs in 2011 (Ornithos 19: 312, 2012). A **Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida* on São Vicente on 20-30 December was the first for the Cape Verde Islands. In Malta, a first-winter **Lesser Crested Tern** *Sterna bengalensis* turned up off Grand Harbour on 2 December. In Ireland, the adult **Forster's Tern** *S forsteri* stayed at Nimmo's Pier, Galway, until at least 17 January and a first-winter bird appeared at Our Lady's Island Lake, Wexford, on 20 January; the fifth for Spain was seen at Enseada da Insua, Ponteceso, A Coruña, on 15 December. The number of **Roseate Terns** *Sterna dougallii* in France reached the lowest level ever with 9-11 breeding pairs in 2011 (in 2005, there were 76 pairs).

75 Black-throated Thrush / Zwartkeellijster *Turdus atrogularis*, adult male, Espoo Nöykkiö, Finland, 23 December 2012 *(Petteri Hytönen)*

DOVES TO LARKS In Egypt, a **Mourning Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens* was seen again at Abu Simbel on at least 12 January (cf Dutch Birding 33: 55-56, plate 62, 2011). **Rufous Turtle Doves** *S orientalis meena* occurred

76 Hornemann's Redpoll / Groenlandse Witstuitbarmsijs *Acanthis hornemanni hornemanni*, first-year, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, England, 16 December 2012 *(Steve Arlow)*

77 Caspian Stonechat / Kaspische Roodborsttapuit *Saxicola maurus hemprichii*, adult male, Ebro delta, Catalunya, Spain, 16 January 2013 *(Cristian Jensen/Audouin Birding Tours)*

78 Rufous Turtle Dove / Meenatortel *Streptopelia orientalis meena*, first-winter, Wabern, Hessen, Germany, 2 December 2012 *(David Monticelli)*

79 Richard's Pipit / Grote Pieper *Anthus richardi*, first-winter, Warta mouth, Poland, 8 December 2012 *(Mateusz Matysiak)*

at Carlshem, Umeå, Vasterbotten, Sweden, on 5 December (taken into care and released and still present from 6 January) and at Surnadal, Møre og Romsdal, Norway, on 10-17 December. The first-winter at Wabern, Hessen, Germany, from 28 October was still present on 17 December. In the Netherlands, at least 10 breeding pairs of **Eurasian Eagle-Owl** *Bubo bubo* were found in 2012. The second **Northern Hawk-Owl** *Surnia ulula* this autumn/winter for Denmark turned up at Porsmose, Sjælland, on 6 January; many were staying in southern Norway during December and one at Adazi, Latvia, on 3-14 December was trapped and ringed. The increase of **Middle Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos medius* in the Netherlands continued in 2012, when a total of 375 breeding pairs were found in Gelderland, Limburg and Overijssel (Twente); the species was absent as a breeder until as recently as 1996. In Denmark, the first-winter **Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus* at Årslev Engsø, Aarhus, Midtjylland, from 4 November stayed until 2 December. Along the road to Awserd in southern Western Sahara, Morocco, many 10s of **Dunn's Lark** *Eremalauda dunni dunni* were seen from late December through January, and on c 11 January four nests were found.

WARBLERS In the Netherlands, a total of three **Hume's Leaf Warblers** *Phylloscopus humei* was wintering: at Katwijk, Zuid-Holland, from 21 December (at the same spot as in winter 2011/12, so probably a returning bird), at Groningen, Groningen, from 22 December, and at Den Haag, Zuid-Holland, from 26 December (also, two **Dusky Warblers** *P fuscatus* were still present in mid-January). A **Yellow-browed Warbler** *P inornatus* ringed on Rodkallen, Luleå, Sweden, on 15 September 2012 was retrapped at Westenschouwen, Zeeland, the Netherlands, on 22 September 2012 at a distance of 1850 km to the south-west; it concerned the first recovery of this species outside the country for Sweden (Op het Vinkentouw 126: 22, 2012). In Morocco, one was found at the Anezi hotel in Agadir on 29 October. In the Canary Islands, the one found at Costa Calma, Fuerteventura, on 24 December was still present on 5 January. A **Western Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans cantillans/inornata* remained through December and mid-January at St Just, Cornwall. The long-expected paper by Urban Olsson, Paul Leader, Geoff Carey and others on taxonomy and phylogeny of **Lesser Whitethroats** *S curruca* sensu lato has been published (http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2012.12.23). It shows that cytochrome b recovers six major clades, revealing genetically identifiable populations corresponding to previously named taxa, and the proposed names for these are *althaea*, *blythi*, *curruca*, *halimodendri*, *margelanica* and *minula*. Whether these six should be treated as subspecies or species is largely a matter of species definition. *Margelanica* has a more extensive distribution than previously known, including both *telengitica* and a population in eastern Mongolia. By contrast, *minula* has a more restricted range than previously believed, only breeding in

80 Cape Verde Buzzard / Kaapverdische Buizerd *Buteo bannermani*, Corda, Santo Antão, Cape Verde Islands, 30 November 2012 *(René Pop/The Sound Approach)*

81 Pomarine Skua / Middelste Jager *Stercorarius pomarinus*, Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania, 7 December 2012 *(Hans Verdaat)*

82 Hornemann's Redpoll / Groenlandse Witstuitbarmsijs *Acanthis hornemanni hornemanni*, first-year, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, England, 15 December 2012 *(Bill Baston)*

83 Rose-breasted Grosbeak / Roodborstkardinaal *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, first-winter male, Hugh Town, St Mary's, Scilly, England, 29 December 2012 *(Martin P Goodey)*

China. Dating analysis suggests that a basal divergence separating *curruca* and *minula* from the other four taxa occurred between 4.2 and 7.2 million years ago, and these two then diverged between 2.3 and 4.4 million years ago. The splits between *althaea*, *blythi*, *halimodendri* and *margelanica* occurred later, between one and 2,5 million years ago. For information on taxa identified in the Netherlands (Siberian *blythi*, European *curruca* and Central Asian *halimodendri*), see www.dutchbirding.nl/news.php?id=768. The second **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** *Iduna pallida* for Utsira, Rogaland, Norway, was seen on 1 October (not 1 November) and was not trapped (contra Dutch Birding 35: 404, 2012). In Western Sahara, three family groups of **Cricket Warbler** *Spiloptila clamans* were found west of Awserd in late December and early January.

WAXWINGS TO ACCENTORS A first-winter male **Japanese Waxwing** *Bombycilla japonica* trapped at Almaty on 3 January in a flock of Bohemian Waxwings *B garrulus* was the first for Kazakhstan. As far south as Spain, several **Bohemian Waxwings** were found in Asturias, Navarra and Salamanca in December, staying into January. **Black-throated Thrushes** *Turdus atrogularis* occurred at Loch of Benston, South Nesting, Shetland, on 1 December; at Signilskär bird observatory, Åland, Finland, on 6 December; at Lacka, Södermanland, on 4 December; at Målilla kyrka, Målilla, Småland, Sweden, on 15-24 December; at Espoo, Finland, from 21 December until at least 17 January (male); and at Vust Holme, Vejlerne, Thisted, Denmark, from 28 December until at least 11 January (male). In France, a **Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus* was present at Toulon, Var, from 24 December to at least 4 January; the first for Canada (and second for mainland North America) stayed at New Westminister, British Columbia, from 15 January. In Western Sahara, a first-winter **Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva* was seen 115 km north-west of Awserd on 30 December. In the second half of November, three females and two males **Moussier's Redstart** *Phoenicurus moussieri* were seen in Malta. The first **Caspian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus hemprichii* for Spain was a male at Erms de la Tancada, Delta de l'Ebre, Tarragona, on 12-19 January. Records of **Variable Wheatear** *Oenanthe picata opistholeuca* in February 1986 and **Black Wheatear** *O leucura* in December 1982 in Israel were reviewed and the birds were reidentified as **Basalt Wheatears** *O lugens warriae* (Bull Br Ornithol Club 132: 226-235, 2012). In Aberdeenshire, Scotland, a female **Desert Wheatear** *O deserti* remained through December-January at Rattray Head. In the south of Malta, an **Alpine Accentor** *Prunella collaris* turned up on 10 December.

PIPITS In Denmark, one of two **Blyth's Pipits** *Anthus godlewskii* at Grenen, Skagen, from 24 November onwards

84 Fox Sparrow / Roodstaartgors *Zonotrichia iliaca*, Haapsula, Estonia, 14 December 2012
(David Monticelli)

85 Fox Sparrow / Roodstaartgors *Zonotrichia iliaca*, Korpoo, Utö, Finland, 20 December 2012
(Jorma Tenovuo)

86 American Buff-bellied Pipit / Amerikaanse Waterpieper *Anthus rubescens rubescens*, Queen Mother Reservoir, Berkshire, England, 15 December 2012 *(Chris Baines)*

87 American Buff-bellied Pipits / Amerikaanse Waterpiepers *Anthus rubescens rubescens*, Queen Mother Reservoir, Berkshire, England, 26 December 2012 *(Marek Walford)*

was last seen on 2 December. The remainder of the largest influx of **Olive-backed Pipits** *A hodgsoni* in western Europe were three birds still present in the Canary Islands at Costa Calma, Fuerteventura, from 19 November to 30 December; one in France at Saint-Chamas, Bouches-du-Rhône, from 22 November to 9 December; one at Almada, Setúbal, Estremadura, Portugal, on 3 December; and one at Cabriz, Sintra, Portugal, until 9 December (where up to two had been seen from 21 November) (cf Dutch Birding 34: 408-410, 2012). **American Buff-bellied Pipits** *A rubescens rubescens* were seen at Tyrell, Down, Northern Ireland, from 13 until 28 November (up to two) and on 27-29 December; at Kolnes, Rogaland, Norway, from 15 November to 1 December; and in Berkshire, England, commuting between Queen Mother Reservoir and Kingsmead Quarry from 12 December (two from 26 December) through mid-January.

SPARROWS TO BUNTINGS In Western Sahara, two **Sudan Golden Sparrows** *Passer luteus* were seen at Awserd on 12 January. A confiding **Hornemann's Redpoll** *Acanthis hornemanni hornemanni* at Aldeburgh, Suffolk, on 8-19 December was a true rarity for England, attracting many birders; it followed an unprecedented influx bringing 17 individuals to Shetland, Scotland, mainly in November and with one still being reported on Unst on 15 January (cf Birding World 25: 500-516, 2013). A first-winter male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus* frequented feeders in gardens at Hugh Town, St Mary's, Scilly, England, on 18-29 December. On 2-17 December, a **Fox Sparrow** *Passerella iliaca* was photographed at Haapsalu, constituting the first for Estonia (and third for the WP), if accepted as a genuine vagrant; previous records were in Iceland in November 1944 and in Northern Ireland in June 1961 (records from Italy in December 1936 and from Germany in May 1949 and April 1977 have not been accepted as their origin was in doubt). Remarkably, on 20 December, the same bird was rediscovered on Utö, Finland (c 155 km to the north-west), where it stayed until at least 20 January. On 28 October, a **White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys* was discovered in a mixed flock of Mealy Redpolls *A flammea*, Arctic Redpolls *A hornemanni*, Pallas's Rosefinches *Carpodacus roseus* and Long-tailed Rosefinches *C sibiricus* at Yakeshi Wuerqihan, Inner Mongolia.

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 Patrick Bergier, Max Berlijn, Richard Bonser, Bert de Bruin, Rolf Christensen, José Luis Copete, Andrea Corso, Pierre-André Crochet, Hugues Dufourny, Enno Ebels, Tobias Epple, Lee Evans, Tommy Frandsen, Raymond Galea, Steve Gantlett, Geert Groot Koerkamp, Marcello Grussu, Ricard Gutiérrez, João Jara (www.birds.pt), Jesper Hornskov, Łukasz Ławicki (www.clanga.com), André van Loon, Erik Maassen, Krister Mild, Richard Millington, Dominic Mitchell, Geir Mobakken (Norway), Eckhard Möller, Javier Elorriaga Navarro, Yoav Perlman, Thomas Petterson, René Pop (The Sound Approach), Ton van Ree, Jouni Riihimäki, Magnus Robb (The Sound Approach), Luciano Ruggieri, Michael Sammut, George Sangster, Roy Slaterus, Peter de Vries, David Walsh, Arend Wassink, 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 **november-december 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 STORMVOGELTJES Het hoogste aantal **Dwergganzen** *A erythropus* bijeen bedroeg 'slechts' 45 op 16 december bij Strijen, Zuid-Holland. Ook op c 20 andere plekken verspreid over het land werd de soort gemeld. Op meer dan 30 plekken verbleven **Roodhalsganzen** *Branta ruficollis*, zoals op Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, waar nog regelmatig tot acht exemplaren werden gemeld. Door trektellers werden in deze periode 37 **Witbuikrotganzen** *B hrota* gemeld. Vanaf 12 december werd bij Ter Heijde, Zuid-Holland, een familiegroep van vier waargenomen, waaronder een geringde vogel die hier in de meeste jaren overwintert (wit T1). De vogel werd op 16 februari 1991 als eerste-winter geringd op Holy Island, Lindisfarne, Northumberland, Engeland, en is inmiddels 22.5 jaar oud. Ook een exemplaar op 11 november en 11 december bij Waverveen, Utrecht, is het vermelden waard. In totaal werden c 250 waarnemingen van **Zwarte Rotgans** *B nigricans* ingevoerd op www.waarneming.nl, uitsluitend op bekende plekken in het Waddengebied en de Delta. Op c 10 plaatsen in de

zuidelijke helft van het land werden **Witoogeenden** *Aythya nyroca* waargenomen. Een tam maar ongeringd paartje in Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland, trok veel bekijks, evenals een eenling bij Grave, Noord-Brabant. Een eerstejaars vrouwtje **Brilzee-eend** *Melanitta perspicillata* zwom van 18 tot 21 december langs de Brouwersdam, Zeeland. Er werden door trektellers vanaf de kust 22 **IJseenden** *Clangula hyemalis* waargenomen. Nergens werden er meer dan drie bij elkaar gemeld. Het mannetje **Buffelkopeend** *Bucephala albeola* verbleef de gehele periode op de Gaatkensplas bij Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland. Late **Kwartels** *Coturnix coturnix* werden gezien op 15 november bij Rilland, Zeeland, en op 23 november bij Bellingwolde, Groningen (twee). Vanaf de laatste decade van november verbleven weer grote aantallen zeevogels voor de kust van met name Zuid-Holland. Zo werden vanaf vaak bemande telposten zoals Katwijk, Zuid-Holland, en De Vulkaan in Den Haag, Zuid-Holland, vrijwel dagelijks verplaatsing van honderden **Roodkeelduikers** *Gavia stellata* waargenomen. Opgeteld kwam het najaarstotaal uit op meer dan 100 000, met al ruim 30 000 vogels langs De Vulkaan. Op 21 december werd hier het imposante aantal van 3244 langsvliegende geteld. Tussen al deze Roodkeelduikers werden 76 **Parelduikers** *G arctica* opgemerkt. Van 25 november tot 16 december zwom een bij fotografen populaire vogel in Geestmerambacht en op het nabij gelegen Noordhollandsch Kanaal bij Alkmaar, Noord-Holland. Trektellers meldden verder nog negen **IJsduikers** *G immer*. Daarnaast werden van zes locaties nog eens 10 exemplaren gemeld, met op 9 december drie langs Lauwersoog, Groningen, en vanaf 11 december één ter plaatse nabij Heel, Limburg. Slechts 29 **Noordse Stormvogels** *Fulmarus glacialis*, 13 **Grauwe Pijlstormvogels** *Puffinus griseus* en drie **Vale Stormvogeltjes** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* verdwenen in de notitieboekjes van trektellers. Een **Kuhls Pijlstormvogel** *Calonectris borealis* werd op 30 november op de kade van een containerterminal van de Maasvlakte geraapt. De verder ogenschijnlijke gezonde vogel werd op 1 december geringd losgelaten op de Tweede Maasvlakte. Een langsvliegende **Kuhls/Scopoli's Pijlstormvogel** *C borealis/diomedea* werd op 25 november zowel bij Castricum, Noord-Holland, als Egmond aan Zee, Noord-Holland gemeld. Twee **Vale Pijlstormvogels** *P mauretanica* werden op 18 november vanaf Vlieland, Friesland, waargenomen. **Stormvogeltjes** *Hydrobates pelagicus* werden op 12 november gemeld bij Camperduin, Noord-Holland, en op 30 december bij Bloemendaal aan Zee, Noord-Holland.

REIGERS TOT STRANDLOPERS Alleen in het zuidwesten werden op een handvol plekken **Koereigers** *Bubulcus ibis* gemeld. Een late eerstejaars **Purperreiger** *Ardea purpurea* werd op 30 november en 2 december gezien in Mariëndal bij Den Helder, Noord-Holland. Op 10 november was er tevens een melding bij Lopik, Utrecht. De **Zwarte Ooievaar** *Ciconia nigra* die al sinds medio augustus op Texel pleisterde, bleef nog tot ten minste 24

88 Kuhls Pijlstormvogel / Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis* (verzwakt gevonden te Europoort, Zuid-Holland, op 30 november 2012), Tweede Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, 1 december 2012 *(Chris van Rijswijk/Birdshooting.nl)*

89 Brilzee-eend / Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*, eerste-winter vrouwtje, met Brilduikers / Common Goldeneyes *Bucephala clangula*, Brouwersdam, Zeeland, 18 december 2012 *(Pim A Wolf)*

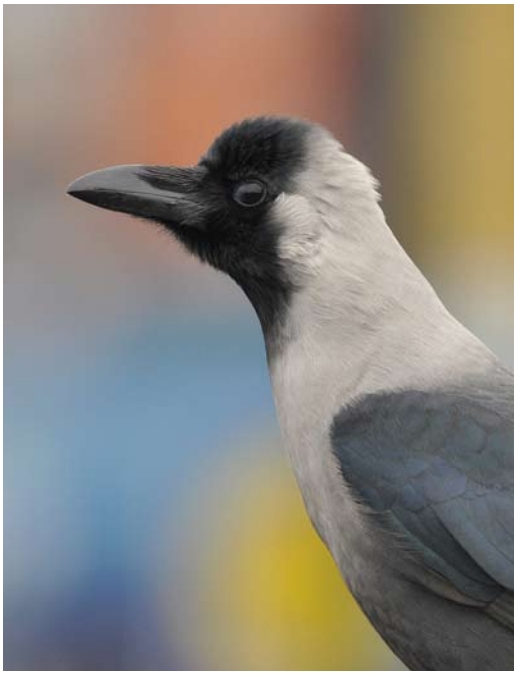
90 Zwarte Zeekoet / Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*, adult winter, Oudeschild, Texel, Noord-Holland, 16 december 2012 *(René Pop)*

november hangen. Waarschijnlijk dezelfde vogel vloog op 8 december achtereenvolgens over Callantsoog, Bergen aan Zee en Egmond in Noord-Holland. Tot ten minste 1 januari werd nog af en toe een **Zwarte Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* gezien op Schiermonnikoog. Op 11 november was er bovendien een melding bij Paesens, Friesland. Trektellers registreerden nog 18 **Rode Wouwen** *Milvus milvus*, twee **Zeearenden** *Haliaeetus albicilla*, 147 **Blauwe Kiekendieven** *Circus cyaneus*, 14 **Ruigpootbuizerds** *Buteo lagopus*, een **Visarend** *Pandion haliaetus*, 51 **Smellekens** *Falco columbarius* en 68 **Slechtvalken** *F peregrinus*. De ongeringde maar niet puntgave **Jufferkraanvogel** *Grus virgo* die zich vanaf augustus van dichtbij liet bekijken bij Maurik, Gelderland, trok tot 2 december bezoekers. Een late **Morinelplevier** *Charadrius morinellus* werd op 27 november nabij Pieterburen, Groningen, gezien. In totaal 16 **Rosse Franjepoten** *Phalaropus fulicarius* werden door trektellers opgemerkt; aanzienlijk minder dan in het goede najaar van 2011, toen in dezelfde periode 81 exemplaren werden geteld. Daarnaast werden van c zeven locaties nog c 10 exemplaren doorgegeven. Een **Grote Grijze Snip** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* verbleef van 10 tot 21 november in de Bantpolder bij Anjum, Friesland.

JAGERS TOT ALKEN Door trektellers werden 25 **Middelste Jagers** *Stercorarius pomarinus*, 71 **Kleine Jagers** *S parasiticus* en 110 **Grote Jagers** *S skua* waargenomen. In Zeeland overwinterden weer enkele **Grote Sterns** *Sterna sandvicensis*, met name langs de Brouwersdam, waar tot negen exemplaren werden geteld. **Vorkstaartmeeuwen** *Xema sabini* vlogen op 3 november langs De Vulkaan in Den Haag, op 6 november langs Terschelling en op 8 november langs Camperduin. Naast veel duikers werden vanaf de kust ook ruim 170 000 **Drieteenmeeuwen** *Rissa tridactyla* geturfd, met alleen langs Camperduin al ruim 58 000. **Kleine Burgemeesters** *Larus glaucoides* werden gemeld op 17 november langs Bergen aan Zee (adult); op 8 december in Vlissingen, Zeeland (eerste-winter); op 12 december in Alkmaar (eerste-winter); en op 26 december opnieuw in Vlissingen (tweede-winter). De **Grote Burgemeester** *L hyperboreus* van Slotervaart in Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, die daar sinds 9 juli verbleef, werd tot 28 november waargenomen. Mogelijk dezelfde vogel vertoefde vanaf 21 december tot in januari regelmatig in Vlaardingen, Zuid-Holland. Verder was de soort schaars, met exemplaren op 25 november langs de Eemshaven, Groningen; op 30 november bij Leek, Groningen; op 26 december langs De Vulkaan in Den Haag; en op 28 en 29 december bij Den Oever, Noord-Holland (eerste-winter). De bekende **Zwarte Zeekoet** *Cepphus grylle* van Texel verbleef tot in januari bij 't Horntje of in de haven van Oudeschild. Andere exemplaren werden gemeld op 18 november langs Schiermonnikoog en op 8 december langs Egmond aan Zee. **Zeekoeten** *Uria aalge* waren volop aanwezig: er werden bijna 325 000 genoteerd. Vijf van de 10 beste dagen ooit voor zeetrektellers stammen uit deze periode. De 14 739 die op 28 november langs Camperduin vlogen, zorgden zelfs voor een landelijk telpostrecord. Het vorige record stond op naam van Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland, met 13 614 op 20 januari 2005. **Alken** *Alca torda* werden nauwelijks opgemerkt, met slechts iets meer dan 200 langsvliegende. Trektellers zagen verder nog 49 **Kleine Alken** *Alle alle* en 31 **Papegaaiduikers** *Fratercula arctica*, waarvan alleen al 13 langs Camperduin.

GIERZWALUWEN TOT ZWALUWEN Een verse platgereden **Gierzwaluw** *Apus apus* werd op 29 november gevonden in Ooltgensplaat, Zuid-Holland. **Hoppen** *Upupa epops* werden gemeld op 15 november bij Hoogeveen, Drenthe, en op 21 november in Midwolda, Groningen. Op 2 en 21 december werd een exemplaar in Assendelft, Noord-Holland, waargenomen; waarschijnlijk dezelfde vogel werd hier op 21 januari dood gevonden. De tweede **Middelste Bonte Specht** *Dendrocopos medius* voor Zeeland werd vanaf 27 december waargenomen bij Clingem (de eerste was op 28 oktober 2005 bij Haamstede). Bijzonder was ook de melding op 2 november in het Robbenoordbos bij Den Oever. Een late **Grauwe Klauwier** *Lanius collurio* verbleef van 18 tot en met 25 november bij Wageningen, Gelderland. De eerste-winter **Steppeklapekster** *L lahtora pallidirostris* die op 27 oktober werd ontdekt bij Den Hoorn op Texel bleef tot 9 november. Nadat begin december bekend werd dat provincie Zuid-Holland vergunning had afgegeven voor het elimineren van de populatie **Huiskraaien** *Corvus splendens*, werden de vogels in Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland, dagelijks door veel vogelaars

91 Zugmayers Huiskraai / Zugmayer's House Crow *Corvus splendens zugmayeri*, Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland, 14 december 2012 *(John van der Graaf)*



92 Humes Bladkoning / Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*, Beijum, Groningen, Groningen, 25 december 2012 *(Ipe Weeber)*

93 Bruine Boszanger / Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*, Geestmerambacht, Noord-Holland, 15 december 2012 *(Cock Reijnders)*

94 Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaart / Eastern Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides*, eerstejaars mannetje, Rolde, Drenthe, 9 november 2012 *(Jurriën van Deijk)*

95 Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaart / Eastern Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides*, eerstejaars mannetje, Paesens, Friesland, 12 november 2012 *(Rob Olivier)*

96 Steppeklapekster / Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius lahtora pallidirostris*, eerstejaars, Buitendijk, Texel, Noord-Holland, 5 november 2012 *(René Pop)*

en overige belangstellenden bezocht. In totaal werden c 25-30 exemplaren geteld, waaronder de bekende lichte vogel met kenmerken van **Zugmayers Huiskraai** *C s zugmayeri* (een noordwestelijke ondersoort). Tegenstanders van de bestrijdingsactie tekenden met succes bezwaar aan; de rechter besloot om voorlopig niet tot eliminatie over te gaan, omdat de Huiskraai is aangewezen als beschermde inheemse soort. De enige telpost waar **Bonte Kraaien** *C cornix* werden gemeld was de Eemshaven, met zeven exemplaren. Het Zuid-Hollandse paar **Raven** *C corax* werd de gehele periode rondom Meijendel waargenomen. Vanaf 4 november bevonden zich weer overwinterende **Buidelmezen** *Remiz pendulinus* rondom Vockestaert, Zuid-Holland, ditmaal maximaal twee. Net als vorige winter was een van de vogels geringd. Op 22 november werden er nog liefst vijf geringd in het Verdronken Land van Saeftinghe, Zeeland, waar op 17 december ook nog een veldwaarneming werd verricht. De twee **Kuifleeuweriken** *Galerida cristata* van Venlo, Limburg, bleven de gehele periode. Met slechts 19 gemelde langstrekkende **Strandleeuweriken** *Eremophila alpestris* bleef de soort uitermate schaars. Een late **Oeverzwaluw** *Riparia riparia* verbleef op 9 november bij het Zuidlaardermeer, Groningen. Tot eind november werden nog verscheidene **Boerenzwaluwen** *Hirundo rustica* waargenomen. Op 16 december volgde ten slotte nog een melding bij Puttershoek, Zuid-Holland. Er was een serie waarnemingen van late **Huiszwaluwen** *Delichon urbicum*, met meldingen op 14 plekken. De laatste werd op 25 november waargenomen bij Terneuzen, Zeeland.

BOSZANGERS TOT RIETZANGERS De enige **Pallas' Boszanger** *Phylloscopus proregulus* verbleef op 2 en 3 november in het Robbenoordbos. Tot 21 november werd nog een handvol **Bladkoningen** *P inornatus* doorgegeven, waaronder een vangst in Castricum op 19 november. Het was de tweede goede winter op rij voor **Humes Bladkoning** *P humei*, met een melding op 29 en 30 november in Hulsberg, Limburg; vanaf 21 december in Katwijk aan Zee op dezelfde locatie als een winter eerder; vanaf 22 december in en rond de tuin van een vogelaar in de wijk Beijum in Groningen, Groningen; en vanaf 26 december in de Bosjes van Poot in Den Haag. Op 19 november werd een dode **Bruine Boszanger** *P fuscatus* gevonden nabij Castricum. Een overwinteraar verbleef van 8 december tot in januari in Geestmerambacht. **Siberische Tjiftjaffen** *P collybita tristis* werden gemeld op 10 november bij Almere, Flevoland (vangst); op 12 november bij Katwijk en op Westenschouwen (vangst); op 14 november in Meijendel bij Wassenaar, Zuid-Holland (vangst); op 17 november bij IJmuiden, Noord-Holland; op 18 november bij Heerlen, Limburg, op Texel en op Schiermonnikoog; op 19 november op Rottumerplaat, Groningen, en in Berkheide, Zuid-Holland; op 24 november in Meijendel; op 8 december bij Spijkenisse, Zuid-Holland; en op 30 december bij het Valkenburgse Meer bij Leiden, Zuid-Holland. Late **Fitissen** *P trochilus*

werden nog waargenomen op 3 en 4 november op Texel en op 12 november op Vlieland (vangst). De laatste **Sperwergrasmus** *Sylvia nisoria* ooit voor Nederland werd op 28 november in Castricum geringd. Een late **Braamsluiper** *S curruca*, mogelijk van Aziatische afkomst, verbleef op 4 november op Vlieland. Een late **Tuinfluiter** *S borin* werd op 11 november geringd in de Eemshaven. De tweede **Struikrietzanger** *Acrocephalus dumetorum* van het jaar voor de ringbaan bij Castricum hing op 3, 6 en 9 november in een mistnet.

PESTVOGELS TOT GORZEN Er voltrok zich een stevige invasie van **Pestvogels** *Bombycilla garrulus*, met vele 10-tallen waarnemingen uit het gehele land; meer dan 3500 waarnemingen werden ingevoerd op www.waarneming.nl. Groepen van meer dan 100 bevonden zich in de eerste helft van november in Hoorn, Noord-Holland, en in Vlissingen. Op 14 november werd in Barendrecht een jonge vogel gefotografeerd die op 3 november hemelsbreed op 740 km afstand in Hasvøy, Noorwegen, was geringd. Alleen trektellers meldden er al ruim 400, met op 14 november een landelijk dagrecord van 146 langs De Vulkaan in Den Haag: ruim een verdubbeling van het vorige dagrecord van dezelfde locatie, waar er 61 passeerden op 9 januari 2006. Op drie locaties langs de kust werden er ook nog eens 17 geringd. Van 24 oktober tot 14 november verbleef een juveniele **Roze Spreeuw** *Pastor roseus* in een woonwijk in Bussum, Noord-Holland. Een gekleurringde tweede-kalenderjaar **Zwartbuikwaterspreeuw** *Cinclus cinclus cinclus* (ringnummer 7816612) verbleef van 31 oktober tot 2 november langs het Eemskanaal bij Ten Boer, Groningen; de vogel bleek te zijn geringd op 5 februari 2012 bij Aumühle in Schleswig-Holstein en werd daar drie weken later nog eens afgelezen. Andere exemplaren lieten zich zien op 9 en 10 november bij Huizen, Noord-Holland en bij Ruurlo, Gelderland, op 20 november in Vorden, Gelderland, en van 15 december tot in januari bij Eibergen, Gelderland. Een **Roodbuikwaterspreeuw** *C c aquaticus* werd op 30 december gefotografeerd bij Kerkrade, Limburg. Voorts was er nog een melding van een **Waterspreeuw** op 18 november bij Roermond, Limburg. Een mannetje **Zwartkeellijster** *Turdus atrogularis* vloog op 11 november langs De Puinhoop bij Katwijk. Eerstejaars mannetjes **Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaarten** *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides* trokken veel bekijks van 8 tot 12 november bij Rolde, Drenthe, en van 9 tot 12 november bij Paesens. Het enige eerdere geval betreft een eerstejaars mannetje van 21 tot 23 oktober 2003 bij IJmuiden; een waarneming op 13 november 2011 bij Oosterend op Terschelling is nog in behandeling bij de CDNA. Late **Paapjes** *Saxicola rubetra* werden gefotografeerd bij Westkapelle, Zeeland, op 10 november en in Lentevreugd bij Wassenaar op 14 november. Tot eind november waren er van c 20 locaties meldingen van **Grote Piepers** *Anthus richardi*, met onder andere van 15 tot 17 november een twitchbare vogel bij de Hondsbossche Zeewering, Noord-Holland. Voorts werden door trektellers nog zeven overvliegende gemeld en op 11 november was er een vangst bij Castricum. Van 31 oktober tot 4 november bevonden zich maximaal vier **Siberische Boompiepers** *A hodgsoni* in het Robbenoordbos. Daarna volgden nog meldingen van overvliegende vogels op 10 november bij de Nolledijk bij Vlissingen (geluid opgenomen) en op 11 november bij Katwijk – de laatste in een ongekend lange reeks waarnemingen. In de zuidelijke helft van het land werden op negen plekken nog 16 doortrekkende **Europese Kanaries** *Serinus serinus* gemeld. Er werden 268 doortrekkende **Fraters** *Linaria flavirostris* genoteerd, met onder andere 80 langs de Eemshaven op 25 november. Door trektellers werden 333 **Sneeuwgorzen** *Plectrophenax nivalis* en 103 **IJsgorzen** *Calcarius lapponicus* gemeld. **Dwerggorzen** *Emberiza pusilla* werden gezien op 4 november in het Noordhollands Duinreservaat, op 10 november langs de Nolledijk bij Vlissingen en op 14 november langs De Vulkaan in Den Haag. Op 11 november vloog een **Grauwe Gors** *E calandra* over De Hamert, Limburg. Overwinterd werd er met maximaal 34 exemplaren bij Doenrade, Limburg, en met maximaal vijf bij Sibbe, Limburg.

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DB Actueel

New bird species described in 2012 In 2012, six new bird species have been formally described. Also, yet another species published in late 2011 is mentioned below, as well as two species described early 2013.

Brilliant Sunangel / Glanszonnekolibrie *Heliangelus splendidus* (Weller, A A 2011. Geographic and age-related variation in the Violet-throated Sunangel (*Heliangelus viola*, Trochilidae): evidence for a new species and subspecies. Ornitología Neotropical 22: 601-614). This new hummingbird is proposed from a study of the geographic and age-related variation in Violet-throated Sunangel *Heliangelus viola* occurring from central Ecuador to northern Peru. The populations from Ecuador and north-western Peru are considered to represent *H splendidus*, which is also immediately split into two subspecies in the same paper (nominate *H s splendidus* in northern Peru and *H s pyropus* in Ecuador and north-western Peru), while *H viola* is restricted to north-eastern

Peru. However, the validity of both new taxa has been questioned already, see for instance some critical remarks by members of the South American Classification Committee at http://tinyurl.com/aczd4vr.

Alta Floresta Antpitta / Alta-Florestamierpitta *Hylopezus whittakeri* (Carneiro, L S, Gonzaga, L P, Rêgo, P S, Sampaio, I, Schneider, H & Aleixo, A 2012. Systematic revision of the Spotted Antpitta (Grallariidae: *Hylopezus macularius*), with description of a cryptic new species from Brazilian Amazonia. Auk 129: 338-351). This analysis of the polytypic Spotted Antpitta *Hylopezus macularius*, involving morphometric, plumage, vocal and molecular (mtDNA) data, revealed an undescribed taxon, which is formally described as Alta Floresta Antpitta *Hylopezus whittakeri*. It is restricted to the Madeira-Xingu interfluvium in Brazilian Amazonia. The new species is named after the well-known neotropical ornithologist Andrew Whittaker. The authors also recommend that *H dilutus* and *H paraensis* are treated as full species. The paper can be downloaded at: http://tinyurl.com/b6t9fyc.

Antioquia Wren / Antioquiawinterkoning *Thryophilus sernai* (Lara, C E, Cuervo, A M, Valderrama, S V, Calderón-F, D & Cadena, C D 2012. A new species of wren (Troglodytidae) from the dry Cauca river canyon, northwestern Colombia. Auk 129: 537-550). In February 2010, Carlos Lara discovered an unknown wren in the Cauca river canyon in Antioquia, north-western Colombia. Subsequently, a total of six localities along a stretch of c 150 km along this river valley were found. In this paper, they describe this wren as a new species in the genus *Thryophilus*, based on the study of its biology, distribution, vocalizations (recordings available at www.xeno-canto.org), morphology and genetic variation. It is named after the late Marco Antonio Serna Díaz (1936-1991), a local Antioquia ornithologist. This new wren species is uncommon and already threatened because of ongoing transformation of natural habitats in the Cauca river canyon and especially because of the planned construction of a major dam in the region; immediate conservation actions are thus imperative. The paper is available at: http://tinyurl.com/b252y7n. See also http://tinyurl.com/bg2p9nt.

Sira Barbet / Sirabaardvogel *Capito fitzpatricki* (Seeholzer, G F, Winger, B M, Harvey, M G, Cáceres A, D & Weckstein, J D 2012. A new species of barbet (Capitonidae: *Capito*) from the Cerros del Sira, Ucayali, Peru. Auk 129: 551-559). The first individual (a female) of this new barbet, which is apparently closely related to Scarlet-banded Barbet *Capito wallacei*, was discovered in early October 2008, during an expedition in the isolated Sira mountain range, an outlying ridge of the Andes in central Peru. Later that month, the barbet was found c 18 km away from the first location and where a preliminary study of its ecology and behaviour could be made. It is now known from three localities in the Sira mountain range. It is named after John W Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The paper can be viewed at: http://tinyurl.com/b5ppy2e (note the preliminary page numbers in this version). See also the discussion on http://tinyurl.com/bzpkn4e.

Camiguin Hawk-Owl / Camiguinvalkuil *Ninox leventisi* and **Cebu Hawk-Owl / Cebuvalkuil** *Ninox rumseyi* (Rasmussen, P C, Allen, D N S, Collar, N J, DeMeulemeester, B, Hutchinson, R O, Jakosalem, P G C, Kennedy, R S, Lambert, F R & Paguntalan, L M 2012. Vocal divergence and new species in the Philippine Hawk Owl *Ninox philippensis* complex. Forktail 28: 1-20). An analysis of especially the vocalizations of the Philippine Hawk Owl *Ninox philippensis* complex revealed that this group consists of seven allopatric species. Although specimens had been in museum collections for many years, two of these species and one subspecies had remained undescribed, and these taxa are formally described here. The seven species are: Luzon Hawk-Owl *N philippensis*, Mindanao Hawk-Owl *N spilocephala*, Mindoro Hawk-Owl *N mindorensis*, Sulu Hawk-Owl *N reyi* and Romblon Hawk-Owl *N spilonota* (including the newly described subspecies *N s fisheri*), and the newly described Camiguin Hawk-Owl *N leventisi* and Cebu Hawk-Owl *N rumseyi*. The paper can be downloaded at: http://tinyurl.com/adygd3r.

Cipo Cinclodes / Cipowipstaart *Cinclodes espinhacensis* (Freitas, G H S, Chaves, A V, Costa, L M, Santos, F R & Rodrigues, M 2012. A new species of *Cinclodes* from the Espinhaço Range, southeastern Brazil: insights into the biogeographical history of the South American highlands. Ibis 154: 738-755). This new taxon was discovered at c 1500 m in the southern Espinhaço Range, Minas Gerais, south-eastern Brazil. Diagnostic morphological, genetic and vocal characters are presented, separating it from its closest relative Long-tailed Cinclodes *C pabsti*. Its range is quite restricted, estimated to be only c 490 km^2, based on the nine presently known localities. The authors suspect the species to be threatened with extinction already and propose to list it as 'Endangered' according to IUCN criteria. The paper can be viewed at: http://tinyurl.com/br3k3ns (note the preliminary page numbers in this version). See also http://tinyurl.com/bcvvdsl for a further discussion whether this taxon should rather be treated as a subspecies of *C pabsti* or not.

Pincoya Storm Petrel / Pincoyastormvogeltje *Oceanites pincoyae* (Harrison, P, Sallaberry, M, Gaskin, C P, Baird, K A, Jaramillo, A, Metz, S M, Pearman, M, O'Keeffe, M, Dowdall, J, Enright, S, Fahy, K, Gilligan, J & Lillie, G 2013. A new storm petrel species from Chile. Auk 130 in press). On 4 February 2009, at Seno de Reloncaví, south of Puerto Montt, Chile, a group of six birders on a seabirding voyage observed c 50 unfamiliar storm petrels *Oceanites* that did not match any known storm petrel species. They published a note on their observations, tentatively calling the birds 'Puerto Montt storm petrel' (Jim Dowdall et al, Dutch Birding 31: 218-223, 2009). Independently, Peter Harrison suspected the existence of un undescribed *Oceanites* species, based on the examination of two museum skins, originally collected at El Bolsón, Rio Negro province, Argentina (just 80 km east of Puerto Montt), in February 1972 and November 1983. Triggered by the note in Dutch Birding, suspecting that the 'Puerto Montt storm petrels' were the same taxon as the museum specimens, he set up a short

expedition into the Seno de Reloncaví in mid-February 2011, during which more than 3000 sightings were recorded, over 2000 images were taken and several individuals could be trapped for the collection of measurements and blood and feather samples for genetic analysis. One bird was collected, which is now the holotype. Strangely, a press release on the internet in late February 2011 about the expedition and the discovery of this new species already gave a scientific name '*Oceanites australis*', which obviously can be considered a *nomen nudum*. Nevertheless, all of the work finally resulted in the formal description of this new species: Pincoya Storm Petrel *Oceanites pincoyae*. The paper was, beside others, also co-authored by all six authors of the Dutch Birding note. The breeding grounds are yet unknown but are expected to be somewhere in the Seno de Reloncaví area, although an inland site amongst the mountains can not be excluded. Based on the observations in February 2011, the population is estimated at c 3000 individuals. Regarding the name of the new species, the authors state: 'Pincoya, from Chilotan mythology, is the spirit of the Chilotan Sea, good and helpful to fishermen, and comes to the aid of shipwrecked Chiloe Islanders. It is hoped that by naming the new species after a local Chilean entity, the residents of the area will be encouraged to adopt the storm petrel as a symbol for the conservation of their marine environment'.

Delta Amacuro Softtail / Amacurocanastero *Thripophaga amacurensis* (Hilty, S L, Ascanio, D & Whittaker, A 2013. A new species of softtail (Furnariidae: *Thripophaga*) from the delta of the Orinoco river in Venezuela. Condor 115 in press). The myriad of countless branches forming the Orinoco delta, Venezuela, almost entirely only accessible by boat, has produced yet another new species of furnariid and probably a Venezuelan endemic, Delta Amacuro Softtail *Thripophaga amacurensis*. It was discovered in 2004 in the southern part of the delta and is restricted to a presently estimated 32-48 km^2 (four locations known) of flooded forest near the Brazo Imataca, a closed loop branch of the Río Grande. It is most similar to Orinoco Softtail *T cherriei* from the upper Río Orinoco and Striated Softtail *T macroura* from southeastern Brazil but differs from both in plumage, vocalizations and measurements. Its name refers to the Amacuro delta, which is in turn derived from a local language, with 'amacuro' meaning 'quilt of rivers'. André J van Loon