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Voor taxonomie, volgorde en naamgeving van vogels in Dutch Birding worden de volgende overzichten aangehouden: *Dutch Birding-vogelnamen* door A B van den Berg (2008, Amsterdam; online update 2018, https://tinyurl.com/yam3d3kg) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke, Nederlandse en Engelse namen van West-Palearctische vogels); *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world* (derde editie, door E C Dickinson (redactie) 2003; vierde editie, deel 1, door E C Dickinson & J V Remsen Jr (redactie) 2013) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke namen van overige vogels van de wereld); en *IOC world bird list 7.3* door F Gill & D Donsker (2017, www.worldbirdnames.org) (Engelse en Nederlandse namen van overige vogels in de wereld; Nederlandse namen door P Vercruijsse en A J van Loon).

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For taxonomy, sequence and nomenclature of birds in Dutch Birding the following lists are used: *Dutch Birding bird names* by A B van den Berg (2008, Amsterdam; online update 2018, https://tinyurl.com/yam3d3kg) (taxonomy and scientific, Dutch and English names of Western Palearctic birds); *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world* (third edition, by E C Dickinson (editor) 2003; fourth edition, volume 1, by E C Dickinson & J V Remsen Jr (editors) 2013) (taxonomy and scientific names of remaining birds of the world); and *IOC world bird list 7.3* by F Gill & D Donsker (2017, www.worldbirdnames.org) (English and Dutch names of remaining birds of the world; Dutch names by P Vercruijsse and A J van Loon).

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Daurische Klauwier / Daurian Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 5 september 2010 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

Het voorkomen van Daurische Klauwier *Lanius isabellinus* in Nederland vormt een mooie illustratie van de sterke ontwikkeling van het vogelen gedurende 40 jaar Dutch Birding. Het was pas in 1977 dat Karel Voous 'izabelklauwier' van Grauwe Klauwier *L collurio* splitste (Ibis 119: 223-250, 376-406, 1977). De eerste 'izabelklauwier' werd vastgesteld op Texel, Noord-Holland, in oktober 1985 (maar pas jaren later aan de hand van foto's herkend); de eerste izabelklauwier voor veel vogelaars was de tweede vogel, ook op Texel, in oktober 1993; en de eerste twitchbare izabelklauwier – en eerste Daurische (pas later als zodanig aanvaard) – was wederom op Texel, in mei 1995. In 1996 volgde de tweede Daurische en vanaf 2000 (toen izabelklauwier werd gesplitst in drie soorten en de kennis over de determinatie sterk groeide, mede dankzij een 'special issue' met het uitgebreide artikel van Tim Worfolk; Dutch Birding 22: 323-362, 2000) volgden 14 gevallen. Het is nu een bijna jaarlijkse dwaalgast. De 'zustersoort' Turkestaanse Klauwier *L phoenicuroides* blijft met drie gevallen een stuk zeldzamer. Voor een overzicht van gevallen van izabelklauwieren in Nederland en Europa tot 2008, zie Dutch Birding 30: 78-92, 2008.

The occurrence of Daurian Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* in the Netherlands nicely illustrates how birding has evolved during 40 years of Dutch Birding. 'Isabelline Shrike' sensu lato was split by Karel Voous from Red-backed Shrike *L collurio* as recently as 1977 (Ibis 119: 223-250, 376-406, 1977). Since then, the first 'isabelline shrike' was recorded on Texel, Noord-Holland, in October 1985 (but only identified years later on basis of the photographs); the first isabelline seen by many birders was the second, also on Texel, in October 1993; and the first twitchable isabelline – and first Daurian (only accepted as such later) – was again on Texel in May 1995. In 1996, the second Daurian followed and from 2000 (when isabelline was split into three species and the knowledge about the identification strongly increased, thanks to, among others, the special issue with the elaborate paper by Tim Worfolk; Dutch Birding 22: 323-362, 2000) 14 records followed. It is now an almost annual vagrant. The 'sister species' Red-tailed Shrike *L phoenicuroides* remains much rarer, with three records. For a survey of records of isabelline shrikes in the Netherlands and Europe up to 2008, see Dutch Birding 30: 78-92, 2008.

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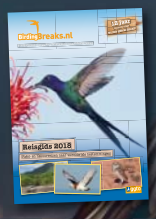

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Occurrence of frigatebirds in the Western Palearctic

Łukasz Ławicki & Peter P de Vries

Frigatebirds Fregatidae are a family of spectacular seabirds which occur mainly in the tropical and subtropical regions of the oceans. There are five species: Lesser *Fregata ariel*, Great *F minor*, Christmas *F andrewsi*, Magnificent *F magnificens* and Ascension Frigatebird *F aquila* (del Hoyo et al 1992). Four of them have been recorded in the Western Palearctic (WP) within the boundaries proposed by van den Berg (2018), which includes Europe and Macaronesia, all the countries bordering the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea, the Arabian Peninsula (sensu lato) and Iran. This paper reviews the extralimital occurrence of this genus in the ('greater') WP (including records of unidentified frigatebirds), together with comments on the relationship between their vagrancy and the occurrence of hurricanes. We have analyzed only records accepted by the relevant rarities committees (plus well-documented records from the Azores in 2016 and the Cape Verde Islands in 2017) or in the absence of a rarities committee, those approved by the relevant national experts. Several records previously published (eg, Snow & Perrins 1998) have not been included in this article for reasons given in the appendix.

Lesser Frigatebird

Distribution and movements

Breeding populations of Lesser Frigatebird (subspecies *F a iredalei* and *F a ariel)* are found in the tropical waters of the Indian and Pacific Oceans (excluding the eastern Pacific). There is also one population of the subspecies *F a trinitatis* occurring on Trinidade and Martim Vaz, off Brazil, in the southern Atlantic (del Hoyo et al 1992) which was recently proposed as a separate species (cf Olson 2017). The species is sedentary but immature and non-breeding individuals disperse all over the tropical seas, even more than 10 000 km from their breeding grounds (Sibley & Clapp 1967, Stokes & Dunn 1989). During or after summer storms and autumn typhoons, it has been regularly recorded from coastal south-eastern China and Taiwan to Japan, exceptionally as far north as Hokkaido and the Amur river mouth, Russia (Brazil 2009). There are also four records from North America: in Maine, Wyoming, Michigan and California (all between July and mid-September). These records may be associated with drift from storms tracking across the northern Pacific (Howell et al 2014).

1 Lesser Frigatebird / Kleine Fregatvogel *Fregata ariel*, adult male, Haitham, Oman, 1 March 2016 *(Jens Eriksen)*. Half of Lesser Frigatebird records in WP are from Oman.

2 Lesser Frigatebird / Kleine Fregatvogel *Fregata ariel*, immature, Zour Port, Kuwait, 10 April 2008 *(Lee Gregory)*. First (and so far only) for Kuwait.

Vagrancy in the WP

There are 13 records, all in the Middle East. Seven of them come from Oman (plate 1), the others from Israel, Jordan, Kuwait (plate 2), Saudi Arabia and Yemen (a report from the United Arab Emirates is not considered proven, see the comment in the appendix). Records are from almost all months between March and December (table 1). Birds were observed in the Arabian Sea (including the Persian Gulf) and in the Red Sea (with northernmost records in the Gulf of Aqaba). There are also three records from the Red Sea on the coast of Eritrea, and one from the Gulf of Aden on the Djibouti coast (Redman et al 2011). Tracking data from GPS transmitters show movements in the Indian Ocean over very long distances, even up to c 12 000 km, eg, between the Mozambique Channel off Madagascar and the Solomon Islands in Oceania (BirdLife International 2016a). Thus, the good number of records in the waters around the Arabian Peninsula is hardly surprising.

Great Frigatebird

Distribution and movements

Great Frigatebird breeds in the tropical waters of the Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean, and there is also one population on Trinidade and Martim Vaz islands in the southern Atlantic (del Hoyo et al 1992). The species is predominately sedentary but some individuals disperse over the tropical seas, with the exception of the east and central Atlantic. For instance, there are only three records from North America: two from California and one from Oklahoma (Howell et al 2014). In the Pacific, after the autumn typhoons (mainly between August and November), it has been recorded from Taiwan to the Yellow Sea and Bohai Gulf to Japan (Brazil 2009). Old reports from the southern part of the Russian Far East are regarded as uncertain (Koblik et al 2006, contra Brazil 2009).

Vagrancy in the WP

The sole WP record concerns an immature photographed on Al Fahl island, Oman, on 11-18 June 1982 (Eriksen & Victor 2013; Jens Eriksen in litt). There is one record close to the WP boundaries: off the coast of Socotra on 25-26 September 2007 (cf Bull Afr Bird Club 19: 98, 225, 2012; Richard Porter in litt). The breeding colonies closest to the Arabian Peninsula are in the Seychelles and Chagos Islands (Safford & Hawkins 2013). Tracking data of individuals with GPS transmitters in the Indian Ocean show that the majority of birds are based in the breeding colonies; one individual moved 4400 km from the Mozambique Channel

TABLE 1 Records of Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel* (n=13) in the Western Palearctic (Riddington & Reid 2000, van Welie 2000, Lansdell et al 2008, Aspinall & Stanton 2010, Haas 2012, Eriksen & Victor 2013, 2017; Jem Babbington in litt)

Israel (2)
1 December 1997, North Beach, Eilat, immature male
6 May 1999, North Beach, Eilat

Jordan (1)
1 December 1997, Aqaba, immature male (same individual as in Israel)

Kuwait (1)
10 April 2008, Zour Port, immature

Oman (7)
9 August 1986, east of Ras Mirbat (found dead on 17 August), juvenile (specimen at Natural History Museum, Tring, England)
5-8 July 1993, Masirah Airbase, male
30 October 1997, Ras Al Khabbah, immature
22 September 2002, Ash Shuwaymiyyah, immature
11 October 2002, Sun Farms, Sohar, immature
3 November 2014, Hiql, Masirah, immature
1 March 2016, Haitham, adult male

Saudi Arabia (2)
17 April 2015, Al Lith, juvenile
14 May 2016, Thuwal

Yemen (1)
29 October 2008, Bab al Mandab

3 Magnificent Frigatebird / Amerikaanse Fregatvogel *Fregata magnificens*, female, Boavista, Cape Verde Islands, 19 March 2016 *(Josh Jones)*. In 2016-17, there were only two females left on Cape Verde Islands.

to the Maldives (Weimerskirch et al 2006, BirdLife International 2016a). The much smaller distance of movements of Great Frigatebird compared with Lesser Frigatebird is reflected in the frequency of vagrancy of the two species in the WP.

Magnificent Frigatebird

Distribution and movements

Magnificent Frigatebird's breeding range extends along the Atlantic coast from Florida, USA, south to Brazil, the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea and into the eastern Pacific from California, USA, south to Peru. It is also a resident in the Galapagos Islands, and in the eastern Atlantic it breeds in the Cape Verde Islands. Three subspecies have been distinguished (*F m rothschildi*, *F m lowei* and *F m magnificens*) but the first two are not usually recognized (cf del Hoyo et al 1992, Hazevoet 1995, BirdLife International 2016b). The species is sedentary but some individuals fly long distances; data from individuals fitted with GPS transmitters indicate postbreeding movements over distances up to c 1400 km from the breeding area (Weimerskirch et al 2006). After storms, the species has even been recorded in the North American interior from Nevada to Quebec (Howell 1994); an unprecedented influx in the northern Atlantic took place after Hurricane Wilma in autumn 2005 (Dinsmore & Farnsworth 2006; see details below).

Breeding population in the WP

An isolated relict population of Magnificent Frigatebird occurs in the Cape Verde Islands, currently only on Ilhéu de Curral Velho, off the southern coast of Boavista (plate 3). At the turn of the century, it also bred on Ilhéu de Baluarte, off the eastern coast of Boavista, and previously on Ilhéu dos Pássaros, off São Vicente, and on Ilhéu de Rabo-de-Junco, off Sal (Hazevoet 1995). During recent decades, the breeding population has declined rapidly, probably from c 100 pairs at the end of the 19th century to 10-12 pairs in 1965 and no more than five pairs in 1988-92 (Hazevoet 1995). In 2000-10, only three to six adults were reported, and in 2011-17 just two to three adults remained on Ilhéu de Curral Velho (López Suárez et al 2007, 2012, Hazevoet 2014, García-del-Rey 2016, Jones 2016; Cornelis Hazevoet in litt). This indicates that the extinction of this species in the Cape Verde Islands (and the WP) is imminent.

4 Magnificent Frigatebird / Amerikaanse Fregatvogel *Fregata magnificens*, adult female, Hårkjær, Midtjylland, Denmark, 22 March 1968 *(© Finn Salomonsen/Dansk Ornithologisk Forenings Tidsskrift)*. First (and so far only) Danish frigatebird, found dead c 40 km from North Sea coast. According to Salomonsen (1969), it was quite fresh and must have succumbed during the previous night. It had been killed by collision with telephone wires, under which it was found.

Vagrancy in the WP

Outside the Cape Verde Islands, there are 10 records of Magnificent Frigatebird in the WP (table 2; plate 4-9; see also the appendix for records not included). Three records come from the Azores, two from Spain, and single ones from Britain, Isle of Man, Denmark, France and the north-eastern Atlantic (photographed from a vessel at 46°27'N, 16°24'W; de Bruijne 1968). The identity of an individual found in France in 1902 (plate 10), for many years labelled as a Magnificent Frigatebird (Snow & Perrins 1998, Dubois et al

TABLE 2 Records of Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* (n=10) in the Western Palearctic outside the Cape Verde Islands (de Bruijne 1968, Salomonsen 1969, Gantlett 1999, Eaton et al 2005, CAF 2006, Bradbury et al 2008, Dubois et al 2008, Jiguet 2008, de Juana & Garcia 2015; Jørgen Staarup Christensen in litt, Frédéric Jiguet in litt, Staffan Rodebrand in litt, Miguel Rouco in litt)

Atlantic (1)
9 June 1968, north-eastern Atlantic at 46°27'N, 16°24'W (c 650 km off Cape Finisterre, Spain), juvenile

Azores (3)
November, before 1903, São Miguel, adult, captured (specimen at Carlos Machado Museum, Ponta Delgada, São Miguel)
8 October 2008, Madalena, Pico; 12 October 2008, Praia da Vitória, Terceira; 18 October 2008, Corvo; 25-29 October 2008, Flores, male (probably same individual)
9 April 2016, Monte Brasil, Terceira; 12 April 2016, Praia da Vitória, Terceira; 13 April 2016, São Mateus, Terceira, found exhausted and died on 15 April 2016 (same individual)

Britain (1)
7 November 2005, near Whitchurch, Shropshire, England, adult male, found exhausted (taken into care at Chester Zoo and died on 9 November 2005; specimen at Natural History Museum, Tring)

Denmark (1)
22 March 1968, Hårkjær, Midtjylland, adult female, found dead (specimen in private collection)

France (1)
October 1852, Saumur, Maine-et-Loire, male, collected (specimen at Saumur museum)

Isle of Man (1)
22 December 1998, Scarlett Point, Castletown, adult female, found exhausted (taken into care and died in October 1999)

Spain (2)
22 October 2000, Torremolinos, Málaga, subadult female
8 November 2008, off Santander, Cantabria, adult female

5 Magnificent Frigatebird / Amerikaanse Fregatvogel *Fregata magnificens*, adult (captured on São Miguel, Azores, in November, before 1903), Carlos Machado Museum, Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Azores, September 2009 *(Museu Carlos Machado/Staffan Rodebrand)*. First for the Azores. Exact year is unknown; according to Bannerman & Bannerman (1966), it was already in the museum before 1903.

6 Magnificent Frigatebird / Amerikaanse Fregatvogel *Fregata magnificens*, adult male, Chester Zoo, 8 November 2005 *(Mark Eaton)*. Found exhausted in field near Whitchurch, Shropshire, England, on 7 November 2005, taken into care at Chester Zoo, but died on 9 November 2005. This record was doubtlessly associated with Hurricane Wilma in Atlantic; see text for details. **7** Magnificent Frigatebird / Amerikaanse Fregatvogel *Fregata magnificens*, male (collected at Saumur, Maine-et-Loire, France, October 1852), Saumur museum, France *(Thierry Printemps/Archives of Commission de l'Avifaune Française, CAF)*. First for France and for WP outside Cape Verde Islands. Specimen deposited in 'Noël Mayaud' collection in castle museum at Saumur.

8 Magnificent Frigatebird / Amerikaanse Fregatvogel *Fregata magnificens*, male, Santa Cruz, Flores, Azores, 27 October 2008 *(Tim Inskipp)*. Second for the Azores, observed during October 2008 on Pico, Terceira, Corvo and Flores (see table 2). **9** Magnificent Frigatebird / Amerikaanse Fregatvogel *Fregata magnificens*, adult female, off Santander, Cantabria, Spain, 8 November 2008 *(Álvaro Díaz Pastor)*. Second for Spain, photographed from deck of schooner 'Cantabria Infinita' at sea, 10-12 km north of Mouro island. **10** Unidentified frigatebird / ongedetermineerde fregatvogel *Fregata*, male (found exhausted at Aytré, Charente-Maritime, France, March 1902), Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de la Rochelle, France, September 2016 *(Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de la Rochelle)*. For over 100 years, this specimen was labelled as Magnificent Frigatebird *F magnificens* but reassessment of skin of head allowed it to be identified as *Fregata* species. Future DNA research may identify this specimen.

2008; cf table 3), has since been rectified on the basis of skin of the head to *Fregata* 'species' (CAF 2006, Jiguet 2008; Frédéric Jiguet in litt); a future DNA study may lead to its identity being reassessed (Pierre-André Crochet in litt). WP records are from October (three), November (three), December (one), March (one), April (one) and June (one). Most concern individuals found dead or exhausted (table 2). Records in 1998, 2000, 2005 and 2008 undoubtedly concerned transatlantic vagrants associated with hurricanes (see table 4 and below).

Ascension Frigatebird

Distribution and movements

Ascension Frigatebird breeds on Boatswainbird islet, off the north-eastern coast of Ascension in the Atlantic Ocean. The population is estimated at 25 000-32 000 individuals. The species is classified as 'vulnerable' because it breeds on one tiny island where invasion by feral cats is a concern (BirdLife International 2016b). In November 2012, after a successful project to get rid of cats, two pairs returned to nest on Ascension (Pitches 2013). It is a sedentary species, rarely wandering more than 150 km from the breeding grounds. Some individuals (data from GPS transmitters) have dispersed over distances of more than 1500 km, reaching waters near the western coast of Africa (Ratcliffe et al 2008, BirdLife International 2016ab). The first for the Americas was documented by satellite telemetry; it concerned a juvenile tracked for 3.5 months over 45 000 km, entering Brazilian waters between 23 June and 17 July 2014 before transmissions ceased close to the waters off Sierre Leone (Williams et al 2017).

11 Ascension Frigatebird / Ascensionfregatvogel *Fregata aquila*, juvenile, Curral Velho, Boavista, Cape Verde Islands, 25 June 2017 *(Samir Martins)*. First for Cape Verde Islands and third for WP.

Vagrancy in the WP

There are three records in the WP, including two in Argyll, Scotland. A juvenile female was found moribund (and died) on Tiree on 10 July 1953 (plate 12); at first it was labelled as a Magnificent Frigatebird (Anonymous 1954) but after almost 50 years it has been re-identified as an Ascension Frigatebird (Walbridge et al 2003). The second

12 Ascension Frigatebird / Ascensionfregatvogel *Fregata aquila*, juvenile female (found moribund on Tiree, Argyll, Scotland, 10 July 1953), National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland, August 2006 *(© National Museums Scotland)*. First for Scotland and WP. This exhausted frigatebird was captured in a net and identified at that time as Magnificent Frigatebird *F magnificens*. This identification went unquestioned for almost 50 years until reassessment of the skin led to re-identification as Ascension Frigatebird.

13-14 Ascension Frigatebird / Ascensionfregatvogel *Fregata aquila*, juvenile, Bowmore, Islay, Argyll, Scotland, 5 July 2013 *(Tor Egil Matre)*. Second for Scotland and WP. Remarkably, both Scottish records relate to juveniles from Argyll in July.

record concerns a juvenile photographed at Bowmore, Islay, on 5 July 2013 (Bonarjee et al 2013, Dickson 2013; plate 13-14). The Scottish records are amazing, considering the enormous distance from the breeding colony (c 7400 km) and also the fact that the species is normally sedentary. The first for the Cape Verde Islands and third for the WP was a juvenile staying at Curral Velho, Boavista, on 24-27 June 2017 (Samir Martins in litt; plate 11).

Unidentified frigatebirds

There have been 32 records (involving 33 birds) of unidentified frigatebirds *Fregata* in the WP (table 3; see also the appendix). It is highly probable that six records (of seven birds) from Oman are of Lesser Frigatebirds (or possibly Great Frigatebirds). The other records from western Europe and Morocco are probably of Magnificent Frigatebirds (perhaps also some Ascension Frigatebirds). Most records of unidentified frigatebirds are from Britain, France, Ireland and Norway (table 3). An intriguing report is that of a frigatebird (originally reported as a Magnificent but the description is insufficient to determine the species) observed from a vessel in the Atlantic at 51°04'N, 13°05'W (c 200 km off the south-western coast of Ireland), on 24 May 1953 (Richmond 1953), particularly in the context of the Ascension Frigatebird recorded in Scotland a month and a half later (Walbridge et al 2003; see above).

Spatial distribution

Records of frigatebirds in the WP are limited to two areas. One relates to the sea areas around the Arabian Peninsula, where 21 frigatebirds have been recorded (Lesser Frigatebird, Great Frigatebird and one unidentified), including 15 in Oman (figure 1). The other concerns the eastern coast of the northern Atlantic (figure 2) with 39 frigatebirds (Magnificent Frigatebird, Ascension Frigatebird and unidentified frigatebirds), not only in the Atlantic but also in adjacent seas, including several from the North Sea and even two from the Mediterranean (Camargue, France, and Málaga, Spain; see also Grussu (2009) for a report off Sardinia, Italy).

Inland records

There are three amazing inland records of Mag-

TABLE 3 Records of unidentified frigatebirds *Fregata* (n=32) in the Western Palearctic (Richmond 1953, Eaton et al 2005, CAF 2006, Bradbury et al 2008, Dubois et al 2008, Jiguet 2008, Romano et al 2010, Eriksen & Victor 2013, García-del-Rey & García Vargas 2013, de Juana & Garcia 2015; Patrick Bergier in litt, Catarina Correia-Fagundes in litt, Wouter Faveyts in litt, Nigel Hudson in litt, Frédéric Jiguet in litt, Staffan Rodebrand in litt, Miguel Rouco in litt)

Atlantic (1)
24 May 1953, north-eastern Atlantic at 51°04'N, 13°05'W (c 200 km off south-western coast of Ireland)

Azores (2)
31 July 2007, off São Mateus, Pico, adult
24 October 2011, Lagoa, São Miguel

Belgium (2)
18 July 1975, Nieuwpoort, Oost-Vlaanderen
5-6 December 1988, Oostende, Oost-Vlaanderen

Britain (3)
20 August 1960, Forvie, Aberdeenshire, Scotland
13 June 1995, Porthoustock and Carrick Roads, Cornwall, England; 14 June 1995, Skomer, Pembrokeshire, Wales (probably same individual)
6 November 2005, Flat Holm, Glamorgan, Wales, male (presumed to be same individual as Magnificent Frigatebird in Shropshire in 2005 (cf table 2), and thus not included in statistics as new individual)
8 September 2010, Battery Park, Peterhead, Scotland

Canary Islands (2)
8 November 2005, Puerto de Tazacorte, La Palma, female
12 November 2005, Puerto de La Restinga, Frontera, El Hierro, adult male

France (5)
March 1902, Aytré, Charente-Maritime, male, found exhausted (specimen of head at Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de la Rochelle)
17 February 1990, Dunkerque, Nord, probably immature
7 September 1991, Arles, Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, probably immature
31 January to 26 February 1993, La Tranche-sur-Mer, Vendée, immature
8 November 2005, Penvénan, Côtes-d'Armor, adult male

Ireland (4)
24 August 1973, Cape Clear Island, Cork
24 June 1988, Fairview, Dublin, male
18 June 1989, Dalkey, Dublin, female or immature
22 June 1995, Booterstown, Dublin (probably same individual as in Britain)

Madeira (1)
8 October 2008, off Porto Santo, female or immature

Morocco (2)
10 April 2009, Massa, Souss, adult female
8 January 2014, Bouknadel, Rharb

Norway (3)
27 September 1983, Mølen, Vestfold, subadult
22 June 1989, Saastein, Telemark, juvenile or subadult
17 June 1996, Mølen, Vestfold, immature

Oman (6/7)
29 May 1972, Quoin Islands
25 March to 20 April 1983, Raysut
3 February 1993, Masihar Island
13 November 2002, Ras Madrakah, two immatures
26 April 2009, Yiti
23 May 2009, Ras Al Hadd

Spain (1)
29 September 1985, Baiona, Pontevedra, adult male

Sweden (1)
7 October 1973, Hönö, Bohuslän; 8 October 1973, Getterön, Halland, immature (same individual)

nificent Frigatebird in the WP (figure 2). A male was collected at Saumur, Maine-et-Loire, France, in October 1852, c 150 km from the nearest sea coast (Jiguet 2008; plate 7); an adult female was found dead at Hårkjær, Midtjylland, Denmark, on 22 March 1968, c 40 km from the North Sea coast (Salomonsen 1969; plate 4); and an adult male was found exhausted (and then died) near Whitchurch, Shropshire, England, on 7 November 2005, c 50 km from a sea coast (Eaton et al 2005; plate 6).

Frigatebirds and hurricanes

Frigatebirds rarely move northwards from their breeding areas. Their occurrences in the north are most often caused by extreme weather phenomena. There are many examples showing the relationship between frigatebird vagrancy and the occurrence of hurricanes and typhoons in the Atlantic and the Pacific, respectively. To see whether there is a correlation between the occurrence of frigatebirds in the WP and tropical storms and hurricanes we performed some statistical analysis. We used the Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) for the northern Atlantic Ocean and the northern Indian Ocean, a measure expressing the activity and destructive potential of individual tropical cyclones and entire tropical cyclone seasons. The ACE of a season is the sum of the ACE for each storm and takes into account the number,

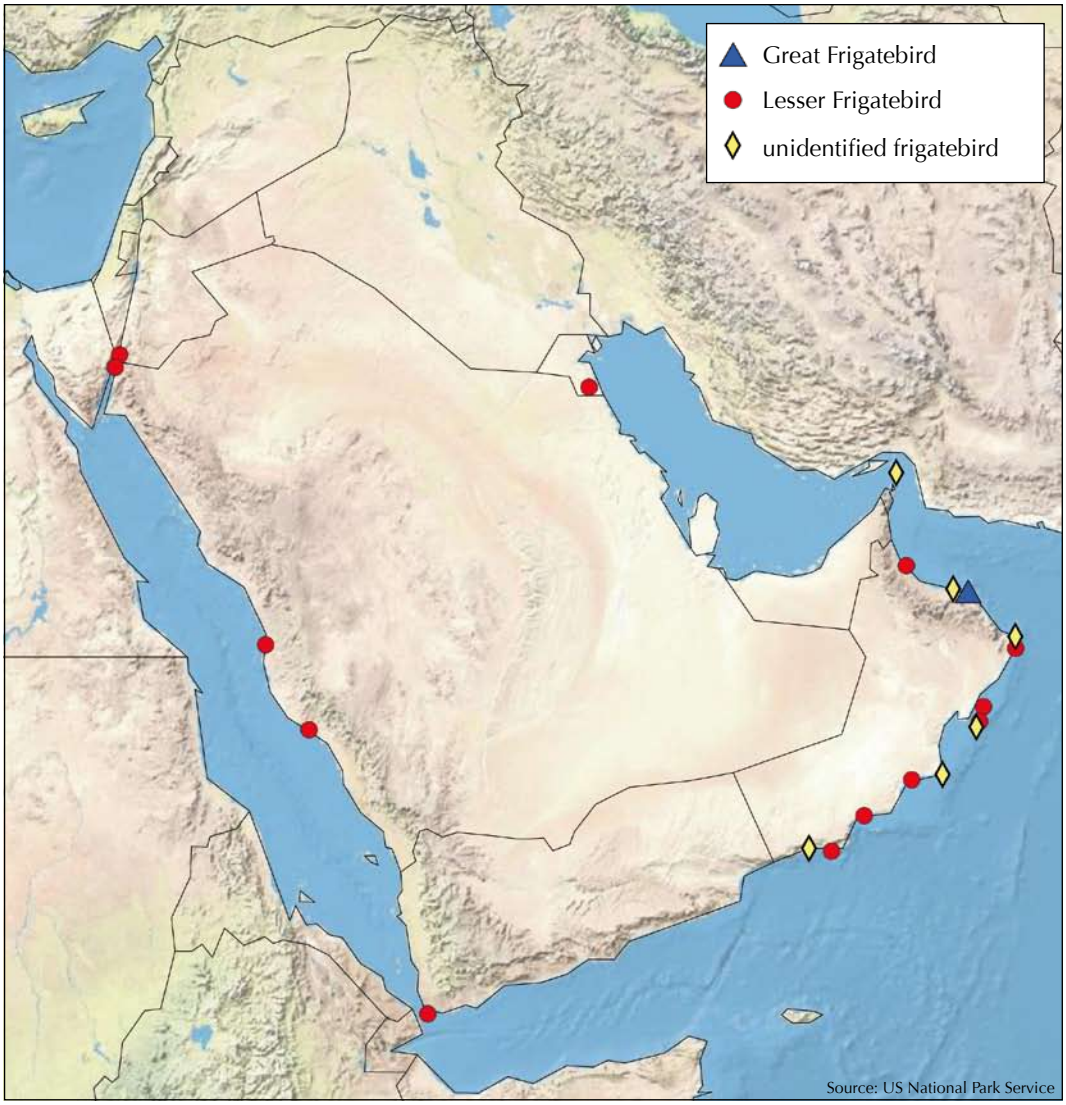


FIGURE 1 Distribution of frigatebird records around Arabian Peninsula

strength, and duration of all the tropical storms in the season. Between the total ACE of the northern Indian Ocean and the total number of frigatebirds per year in the Middle East there is no correlation (R^2=0.0076). We also analyzed this per month and then there is no correlation either (R^2=0.2855). We also performed the same analysis for the Atlantic basin. The R^2 per year here is 0.1431 and per month 0.0349, thus again no strong correlation. So, a higher ACE does not directly lead to an increase in the number of observed frigatebirds. This indicates that there are also other (stronger) factors responsible for the northward dispersal of frigatebirds. However, this does not imply that a large hurricane (category 3-5 on the Saffir-Simpson scale; Hurricane Research Division, NOAA/Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, Miami, USA) cannot be partly the cause of the occurrence of frigatebirds in the Atlantic basin. In total, 15 records (39% of all records of Magnificent Frigatebird and unidentified frigatebirds in Europe) can be linked to powerful hurri-

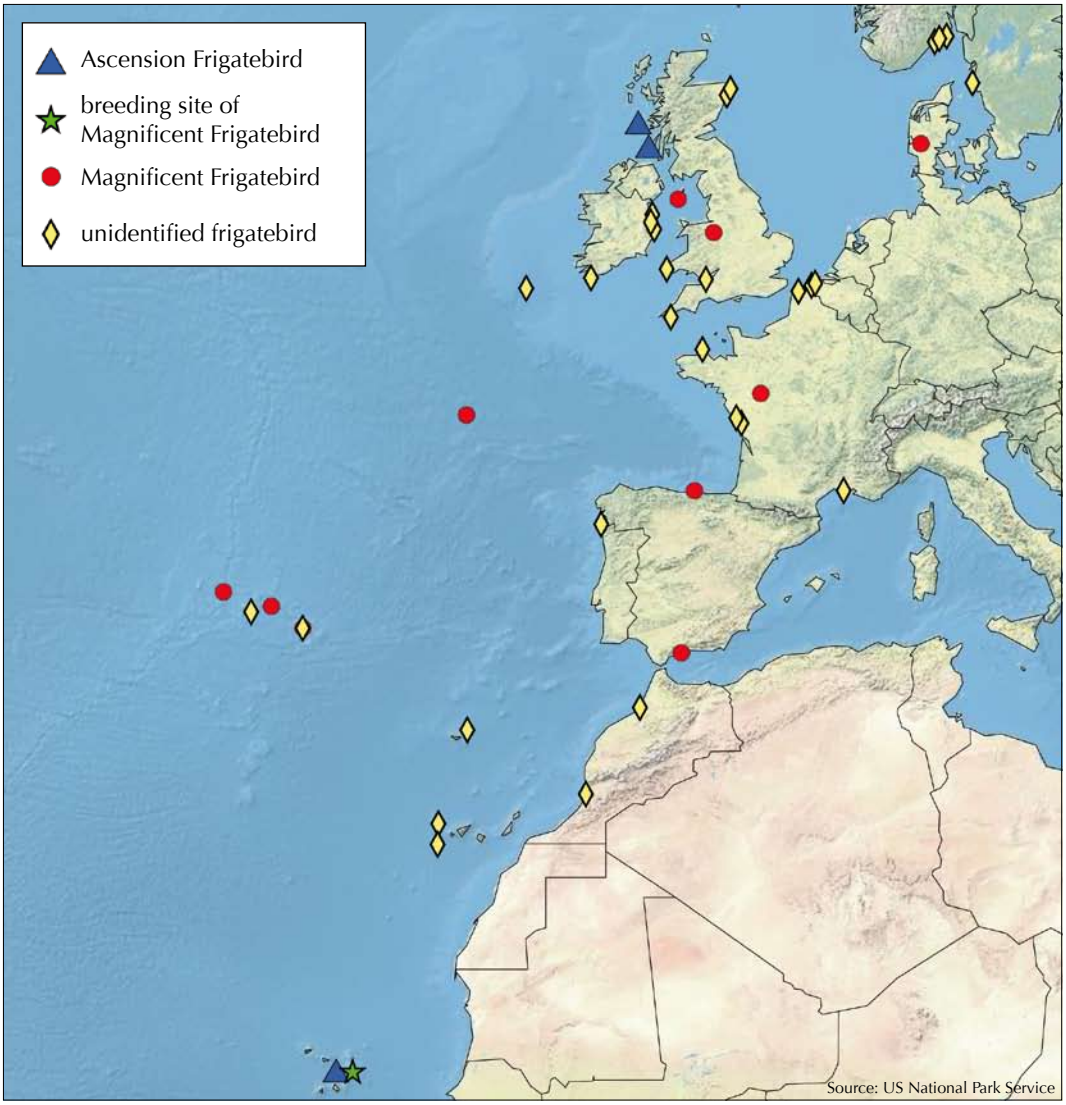


FIGURE 2 Distribution of frigatebird records in northern Atlantic

canes in the Atlantic (table 4).

The most spectacular example of the relationship between hurricanes and the influx of frigatebirds on both sides of the north Atlantic was Hurricane Wilma in October 2005. This hurricane, one of the strongest ever recorded, extended along the eastern Atlantic coast between Jamaica and Nova Scotia, Canada, sending unprecedented numbers of Magnificent Frigatebirds to these areas in October-November: for example, there were 70+ on Bermuda, seven between Nova Scotia and the French island of St Pierre, and in the USA up to five in coastal New Jersey and Delaware, two or three in Virginia, 11+ in coastal North Carolina, and singles in Georgia and South Carolina (Dinsmore & Farnsworth 2006). During the same period, at least four frigatebirds also reached the border of the WP (cf table 4), and one was noted in western Africa off The Gambia in December 2005 (Borrow & Demey 2014).

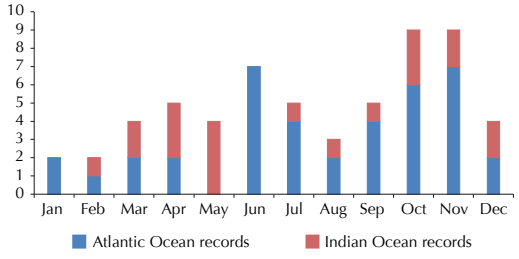
The period of extreme weather events in the Indian Ocean is somewhat different from the

TABLE 4 Records of frigatebirds in Europe associated with Atlantic hurricanes (only categories 3-5 on Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale included). Details of WP records in table 2-3. MF=Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*, F=unidentified frigatebird *Fregata*. Data on hurricanes from Hurricane Research Division, NOAA/Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, Miami, USA.

Date of hurricane	**Name and category of hurricane**	**WP records**
1983 August	Alicia (cat 3)	1983 September, Norway, F
1985 September-October	Gloria (cat 4), Gilbert (cat 5)	1985 September, Spain, F
1988 October-November	Joan (cat 4)	1988 December, Belgium, F
1991 September	Claudette (cat 4)	1991 September, France, F
1998 October-November	Mitch (cat 5)	1998 December, Isle of Man, MF
2000 September-October	Isaac, Keith (cat 4)	2000 October, Spain, MF
2005 October	Wilma (cat 5)	2005 November, Britain, MF 2005 November, France, F 2005 November, Canary Islands, F 2005 November, Canary Islands, F
2008 September-October	Ike, Omar, Paloma (cat 4)	2008 October, Azores, MF 2008 October, Madeira, F 2008 November, Spain, MF
2010 September	Earl (cat 4)	2010 September, Britain, F
2011 October	Ophelia (cat 4)	2011 October, Azores, F

Atlantic. Cyclones in the south-western and northern Indian Ocean tend to form between April and December, with peaks in April-May and October-November (Needham et al 2015). The phenology of frigatebird records (Lesser Frigatebird and one unidentified) in the Middle East shows two peaks (figure 3) – in April-May (seven records) and October-November (five) – which fits the peak cyclone periods in the Indian Ocean. Seven of the 19 records (37%) from the Arabian Peninsula were from three periods (October-December 1997, September-November 2002 and April-May 2009) and can be linked with the formation of tropical cyclones in these periods (details in reports of the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre for Tropical Cyclone, India; www.rsmcnewdelhi.imd.gov.in). Also in the western Pacific along the eastern coasts of Asia, Great Frigatebird and Lesser Frigatebird occur frequently during or after summer storms and autumn typhoons, mainly between May and November (Chalmers 2002, Brazil 2009; cf Weimerskirch et al 2016).

FIGURE 3 Monthly distribution of records of frigatebirds *Fregata* (all species; n=60) in Western Palearctic. Blue bars: records from eastern coast of north Atlantic (n=39); red bars: records from area around Arabian Peninsula (n=21).



The increase in the number of WP records of frigatebirds in the 21st century (47% of all records have been recorded in the last 17 years; figure 4) may be a result not only of the increase in observers' activity but also the significant increase in the number of hurricanes (especially the strongest) in recent years, with an increase of more than 40% in the northern Atlantic in 1996-2010 relative to the 1950-2000 average (Saunders & Lea 2008, Walsh et al 2014).

Conclusion

In all, there have been 60 frigatebirds (excluding Magnificent Frigatebirds in the Cape Verde Islands) within the boundaries of the WP. The large number of unidentified frigatebirds (55%) is probably due to difficult observation conditions and also species' identification, owing to the variable plumages of immature birds; see Howell (1994), Walbridge et al (2003), James (2004) and Howell et al (2014) for an identification review. Results from satellite telemetry show that frigatebirds are capable of long-distance dispersal, although the majority of birds spend their time near their breeding colonies. Vagrancy away from the regular distribution range is partly associated with the occurrence of hurricanes. Walsh et al (2014) predict an increase of the number of the strongest hurricanes

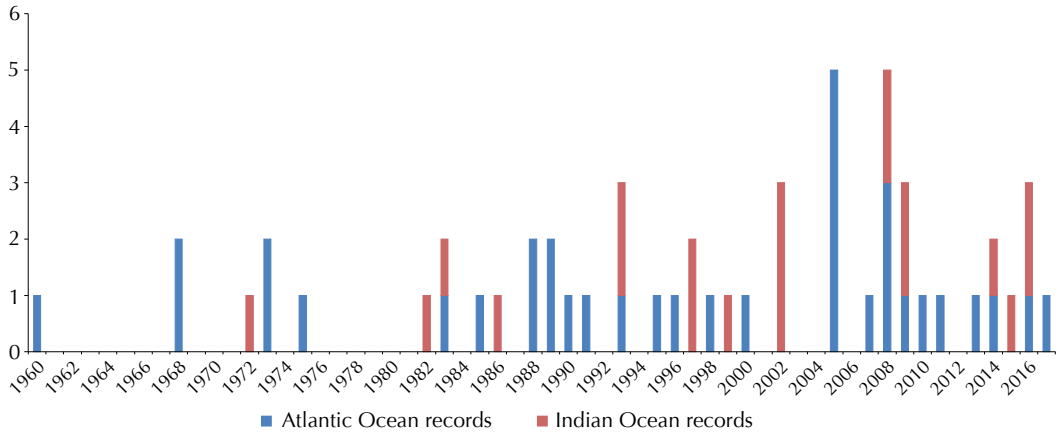


FIGURE 4 Annual totals of frigatebirds *Fregata* (all species; n=55) recorded in Western Palearctic in 1960-2017. Blue bars: records from eastern coast of north Atlantic (n=35); red bars: records from area around Arabian Peninsula (n=20).

(category 4-5) in the near future which might lead to more frigatebirds turning up in the WP in future years.

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Samenvatting
VOORKOMEN VAN FREGATVOGELS IN HET WEST-PALEARCTISCHE GEBIED In totaal zijn 60 fregatvogels *Fregata* (exclusief Amerikaanse Fregatvogel *F magnificens* van de Kaapverdische Eilanden) als dwaalgast in de WP vastgesteld. Dit betreft 13 Kleine Fregatvogels *F ariel* (zeven in Oman en andere in Israël, Jordanië, Koeweit, Saudi Arabië en Yemen), een Grote Fregatvogel *F minor* (Oman, juni 1982), 10 Amerikaanse Fregatvogels (Azoren, Brittannië, Denemarken, Frankrijk, Man, Spanje en in de noordoostelijke Atlantische Oceaan), drie Ascensionfregatvogels *F aquila* (twee in Schotland en één in Kaapverdische Eilanden) en 32 (33 exemplaren) waarnemingen van ongedetermineerde fregatvogels (tabel 1-3). De WP-waarnemingen beperken zich tot twee gebieden: de zeeën rond het Arabisch Schiereiland (21 exemplaren, inclusief 15 van Oman) en het oostelijke deel van de Atlantisch Oceaan met 39 inclusief drie in het binnenland (figuur 1-2). Tevens is gekeken naar de relatie tussen de sterkste tropische cyclonen en het verschijnen van fregatvogels in de WP en het blijkt dat 15 gevallen (39% van het totale aantal Amerikaanse en niet geïdentificeerde fregatvogels) kunnen worden gelinkt aan cyclonen (tabel 4). Er is ook gekeken naar de maandelijkse en jaarlijkse ACE (Accumulated Cyclone Energy, de cumulatieve energie van een tropische cycloon) in relatie tot het verschijnen van fregatvogels. Hier werden geen duidelijke correlaties gevonden. De toename van waarnemingen van fregatvogels in de 21e eeuw kan een resultaat zijn niet alleen van een toename in waarnemers maar ook van het aantal sterke cyclonen in de noordelijke Atlantische Oceaan in dezelfde periode. Dit kan betekenen dat we in de toekomst meer fregatvogels in de WP mogen verwachten.

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APPENDIX Reports of frigatebirds *Fregata* in Western Palearctic not included in this paper

Lesser Frigatebird, United Arab Emirates
A report from March 1955 relating to the Trucial coast (Bourne 1988) was not accepted by Richardson (1990) for lack of identification details
Magnificent Frigatebird, Italy
In 1967 or 1968, a dead male was found in a fishing net in the sea near the Stintino peninsula, north-western Sardinia. Strongly suspected of having been ship-assisted, it has not been included in the avifauna of Italy (Grussu 2009)
Magnificent Frigatebird, Portugal
The species has been erroneously mentioned by Mitchell (2017) as a vagrant in Portugal
Magnificent Frigatebird, Russia
According to Snow & Perrins (1998), there are several records from the Barents Sea and White Sea, but Koblik et al (2006) consider these reports to be uncertain and do not include the species on the checklist of the birds of Russia
unidentified frigatebird, Germany
One was shot between Hessen and Niedersachsen, c 1792 (or even earlier); the skin was housed in the Königliche Akademische Museum in Göttingen but was destroyed before 1878 (Scherner 2001). The German checklist begins with the year 1800, so this record is not included (Peter Barthel in litt)
unidentified frigatebird, Netherlands
Snow & Perrins (1998) mention a record near The Hague in August 1960 [the wrong year!], although it was never officially on the Dutch list. Oreel (1980) listed Magnificent Frigatebird in his checklist based on the sighting at 's-Gravenhage (The Hague), Zuid-Holland, on 26 August 1968 by van Swelm (1970). However, the Dutch rarities committee did not accept the record, as is confirmed by Oreel (1980). In an editorial attached to van Swelm's paper, the Dutch rarities committee gave the reasons for this rejection ('incomplete observation'), adding that even if it was a frigatebird, the species was impossible to identify (contra Oreel 1980; Arnoud van den Berg in litt)
unidentified frigatebird, Spain
A report from A Coruña on 22 May 1983, mentioned by de Juana & Garcia (2015), was not submitted to the Spanish rarities committee (Miguel Rouco in litt)
unidentified frigatebird, Canary Islands
A report between Tenerife and La Palma on 16 September 2008, mentioned by García-del-Rey & García Vargas (2013), was not submitted to the Spanish rarities committee (Miguel Rouco in litt)
unidentified frigatebird, Ukraine
Snow & Perrins (1998) mention that one was seen on the Kazantip peninsula, Sea of Azov, in the 1980s, but that the record is unreliable and has not been included in the Ukrainian checklist (Grishchenko 2004; Vitaly Grishchenko in litt)

Birding and bird photography at Barrow, Alaska, USA

Chris van Rijswijk, Martin van der Schalk & Jan van Holten

Barrow in Alaska is the northernmost city in the USA; bordering the Beaufort Sea, it lies roughly 2100 km south of the North Pole. Its population numbered 4335 inhabitants in 2016. It is accessible only by plane. The city's name is derived from Point Barrow, named after Sir John Barrow of the British Admiralty by Frederick William Beechy in 1825. The location has been home to the Iñupiat, an indigenous Inuit ethnic group, for over 1500 years and in the Iñupiaq language, Barrow is called 'Ukpeagvik', or 'place where snowy owls are hunted'. They have a large influence on the local policy. Traditions include hunting of Bowhead Whale *Balaena mysticetus*, Beluga Whale *Delphinapterus leucas*, seals, Walrus *Odobenus rosmarus* and Reindeer *Rangifer tarandus*. Hunting is, however, subject to quota; throughout Alaska, there are only 10 communities which are allowed to hunt a number of Bowhead Whales per year.

Owing to its location 515 km north of the Arctic Circle, Barrow has a cold and dry polar climate. In addition to its low temperatures and polar night, Barrow is one of the cloudiest places on earth. Owing to the prevailing easterly winds coming off the Arctic Ocean, Barrow is completely overcast more than 50% of the year and it is at least 70% overcast almost two-thirds of the time. Starting around 11-12 May, the sun remains above the horizon the entire day; it does not set for c 80 days, until 31 July or 1 August. In June, the average temperature rises above freezing to 2.1°C and average daily temperatures remain above freezing until mid- to late September. With c 50 species of birds seen within two weeks, a trip to Barrow is more interesting for bird photography and birders focussing on some of the high-Arctic specialties than for birders seeking large numbers of species (for a checklist of birds seen in Barrow, see Norton et al 1993).

15 Pacific Loons / Pacifische Parelduikers *Gavia pacifica*, Barrow, Alaska, USA, 18 June 2015 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

Specialties and vagrants

Ross's Gull

Barrow is probably best known (among birders) for the passage of Ross's Gulls *Rhodostethia rosea*, which pass Point Barrow on their way west from the breeding areas to the open sea during the last week of September through the first weeks of October. This migration phenomenon was first witnessed here in the late 1800s and documented in the 1970s and 1980s. Every autumn, beginning in late September, what is likely the majority of the world's Ross's Gulls migrate past Barrow from the Chukchi Sea in Arctic Russia to the Beaufort Sea in Arctic Alaska. Often passing by or lingering to feed in the coastal habitats in small numbers on a daily basis during this season, local weather conditions sometimes force 1000s individuals close to shore. The number of birds on one day can reach as high as 10 000 but, in some years, numbers can be much lower (Divoky et al 1988, Densley 1999, Puschock 2010).

Other specialties

For most other species, late spring is a much better time to visit Barrow than autumn. The long daylight gives opportunities to photograph breeding and displaying ducks (mainly eiders), waders and jaegers, and especially for sought-after breeding birds like Spectacled Eider *Somateria fischeri* and Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus* (cf Lundquist 2012). After migration in autumn and in winter, the number of species that can be observed around Barrow drops to very low numbers. In addition to birds, there is also a possibility to see Arctic mammals, such as Polar Bear *Ursus maritimus*, Arctic Fox *Vulpes lagopus*, Bearded Seal *Erignathus barbatus* and lemming *Lemmus*.

Birdwatching is quite easy but after a week or so, birders have seen most (if not all) of Barrow's breeding birds. Bird photography, on the other hand, is extremely good. Most of the birds are quite tame (except Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus* and sometimes Long-tailed Jaeger *S longicaudus*) and quite approachable.

Vagrants

Barrow is a good spot for Palearctic vagrants from the west and Nearctic vagrants from further south; highlights from recent decades include Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*, Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*, Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*, Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus*, Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficol-*

16 Barrow, Alaska, USA, 26 June 2015 *(Chris van Rijswijk/birdshooting.nl)*

17 American Golden Plover / Amerikaanse Goudplevier *Pluvialis dominica*, adult, Barrow, Alaska, USA, 15 June 2015 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

18 Tundra near Barrow, Alaska, USA, 6 June 2015
(Jan van Holten)

19 Spectacled Eiders / Brileiders *Somateria fischeri*, adult male (left) and female, Barrow, Alaska, USA, 16 June 2015 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

20 King Eider / Koningseider *Somateria spectabilis*, adult male, Barrow, Alaska, USA, 14 June 2015 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

21 Steller's Eider / Stellers Eider *Polysticta stelleri*, adult male, Barrow, Alaska, USA, 3 June 2015
(Jan van Holten)

lis, Stilt Sandpiper *C himantopus*, Black Turnstone *Arenaria melanocephala*, Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*, Lesser Black-backed Gull *L fuscus*, Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*, Crested Auklet *Aethia cristatella*, Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia*, Common Murre *U aalge*, Horned Puffin *Fratercula corniculata*, Tufted Puffin *F cirrhata*, Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*, Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*, Dusky Thrush *Turdus eunomus*, Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius*, Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*, Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*, Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula*, Myrtle Warbler *Setophaga coronata* and Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*.

Getting there and moving around

There are no direct flights from Europe to Anchorage, so at least two stops are necessary to reach Barrow from any of the major European airports. Once there, to enter the tundra, a tundra land permit is necessary. To obtain this permit (150 USD), you can contact www.uicalaska.com. The city is a typical Arctic place, with wooden houses on poles and garbage in front, near and behind the houses! Barrow has several pizzerias and other restaurants. The Arctic Ocean surrounds the city on three sides, and flat tundra stretches c 300 km to the south. The tundra itself is a grassy plain with smaller and larger pools, and smaller and larger lakes. Thigh waders are a 'must'. Be aware when entering the tundra pools: some of them have unexpected depth differences and – due to permafrost – have an ice floor.

Visit in June 2015

From 13 to 28 June 2015, we (Jan van Holten, Chris van Rijswijk and Martin van der Schalk) visited Barrow. We first flew from Amsterdam to Seattle (c 9.5 h), then to Anchorage (another 3.5 h) and finally to Barrow (another 2.5 h). Our main goal was bird photography, with target species being Spectacled Eider and Pomarine Jaeger. Despite efforts, we failed to see Polar Bear during our stay.

We stayed at hotel 'King Eider Inn', together with our booking we could also rent a car. The hotel has wifi but, unfortunately, breakfast and dinner are not served. During our stay, temperatures were above average, up to 15°C and we were lucky with mostly sunny days. Due to these circumstances, the winter clothing we wear in an average Dutch winter was sufficient to cope with the coldest days (temperatures around freezing, with a cold wind

22 Western Sandpiper / Alaskastrandloper *Calidris mauri*, adult, Barrow, Alaska, USA, 25 June 2015 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

23 Red Phalaropes / Rosse Franjepoten *Phalaropus fulicarius*, female (front) and male, Barrow, Alaska, USA, 15 June 2015 *(Chris van Rijswijk/birdshooting.nl)*

24 Baird's Sandpiper / Bairds Strandloper *Calidris bairdii*, adult, Barrow, Alaska, USA, 23 June 2015
(Chris van Rijswijk/birdshooting.nl)

25 Semipalmated Sandpiper / Grijze Strandloper *Calidris pusilla*, Barrow, Alaska, USA, 20 June 2015
(Chris van Rijswijk/birdshooting.nl)

26 Long-tailed Jaeger / Kleinste Jager *Stercorarius longicaudus*, adult, Barrow, Alaska, USA, 22 June 2015 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

27 Long-billed Dowitchers / Grote Grijze Snippen *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, adults, Barrow, Alaska, USA, 20 June 2015 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

28 Pomarine Jaeger / Middelste Jager *Stercorarius pomarinus*, dark morph, Barrow, Alaska, USA, 19 June 2015 *(Chris van Rijswijk/birdshoooting.nl)*. Feeding on dead male Spectacled Eider / Brileider *Somateria fischeri*.

29 Pomarine Jaeger / Middelste Jager *Stercorarius pomarinus*, pale morph, with dead Glaucous Gull / Grote Burgemeester *Larus hyperboreus*, Barrow, Alaska, USA, 19 June 2015 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

30 King Eider / Koningseider *Somateria spectabilis*, adult female, Barrow, Alaska, USA, 5 June 2015 *(Jan van Holten)*

31 Savannah Sparrow / Savannahgors *Passerculus sandwichensis,* Barrow, Alaska, USA, 21 June 2015 *(Chris van Rijswijk/birdshoooting.nl)*

from the north), whilst on the warmest days you could easily go out wearing no coat at all!

Transport was by car and the dirt roads were easily accessible. However, due to melting snow and ice, the most westerly road proved to be inaccessible, even with a four-wheel drive! Upon our arrival, most of the Beaufort Sea was still frozen over and the lakes were still partially frozen as well.

Due to the mostly sunny conditions, we decided to go out photographing during the nights, when the light is much softer and more beautiful.

Wildfowl

Geese were represented by Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons gambelli* and we also saw migrating Black Brant *Branta nigricans* and Snow Geese *A caerulescens*. During our stay, all four species of eider were seen, Pacific Eider *S mollissima v-nigrum* being the rarest. Spectacled Eider was found on the day of our arrival as well as King Eider *S spectabilis* and Steller's Eider *Polysticta stelleri*.

The highest number of Spectacled Eiders on a single day was 13. The first week we found a pair of Spectacled which proved very tame and was approachable up to 4 m. The second week, the female was possibly breeding. From that moment, males that were seen turned out to be much shyer. On one occasion, we actually found a nest of Spectacled near the breeding sites of Parasitic Jaeger *S parasiticus* and Pomarine Jaeger. On two occasions, we found a dead drake Spectacled. We could not tell whether or not they were the victims of illegal hunting. The first of those finds, however, gave us great photographic opportunities as both a dark morph and a 'common' Pomarine were feeding on the carcass. In contrast to Spectacled, Steller's Eider proved to be more photogenic during the second week of our stay. This is probably the time when they are occupying suitable breeding habitats and do not fly off that easily. Numbers of King and Steller's were up to 15-20 a day. For more information on the breeding distribution, population trends and post-breeding dispersal of eiders, see, eg, van der Laan (1993), Petersen et al (1999), Flint et al (2000), Suydam et al (2000), van den Berg (2004), Petersen & Douglas (2004), Bart & Earnst (2005), Studebaker (2012), Safine (2013) and Sexson et al (2014).

Other duck species observed were Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*, Greater Scaup *A marila,* Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, American Wigeon *A americana*, Mallard *A platyrhynchos* (scarce), Northern Pintail *A acuta* (numerous) and Green-winged Teal *A carolinensis*. Whistling Swan *Cygnus columbianus* was quite common but not numerous.

Loons

Loons were represented by Red-throated *Gavia stellata* (a few; this is a breeding species in Barrow), Yellow-billed *G adamsii* (on passage, up to six during two weeks) and the breeding Pacific Loons *G pacifica*. The latter were not particularly shy and gave us great photographic opportunities, especially during our first week when most of the lakes were still frozen.

Waders

Waders are the best represented group with at least 10 breeding species. These include American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*, Dunlin *C alpina*, Baird's *C bairdii*, Pectoral *C melanotos*, Western *C mauri* and Semipalmated Sandpiper *C pusilla*, both Red-necked Phalarope *P lobatus* and Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*, and Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*. Semipalmated Sandpiper was found displaying and even breeding in the town of Barrow, also in the 'backyard' of our hotel. Very numerous were American Golden Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, both species of phalarope and Long-billed Dowitcher. The other species of waders were less numerous. Occasionally, White-rumped Sandpiper *C fuscicollis* breeds as well.

Gulls, terns and jaegers

Gulls and terns were represented by Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini* (breeds but only in small numbers) and Glaucous Gull *L hyperboreus* (numerous). Remarkably, we found c seven dead Glaucous, probably victims of hunting. The only species of tern is – as one would expect – Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*.

Jaegers are represented by Long-tailed *S longicaudus,* Parasitic and Pomarine Jaeger. Obviously, 2015 was not a 'lemming year'. Not only did we see few of these rodents; you could also tell by the low numbers of jaegers. During the first week of our stay, we probably witnessed the arrival of some Pomarine, as the numbers were slightly higher than the second week of our stay. However, numbers were never really high; up to c 10 was our maximum day count. In the second week, we found just a few pairs through the whole area, although we did actually find a nest with two eggs. Surprisingly, this nest bordered on a couple of displaying Parasitic. Finally, Long-tailed appeared to be a passage migrant this year. Up to six birds together was our maximum count, whilst other birders in previous years came up with c 20-30 birds on a single day. Approaching – and thus photographing – jaegers was relatively easy, with the exception of Long-tailed. Strangely enough, the latter took off as soon as we approached to c 30 m.

Cranes

Once we saw three Sandhill Cranes *Grus canadensis* foraging on the tundra.

Owls and raptors

The absence of lemming also had its effect on the presence of Snowy Owls. During our first week, the day maximum never reached more than five and, in the second week, every now and then we

32 Coues's Redpoll / Witstuitbarmsijs *Acanthis hornemanni exilipes*, Barrow, Alaska, USA, 17 June 2015
(Chris van Rijswijk/birdshooting.nl)

saw just one or two birds far out on the tundra. The owls are known to be very shy in their breeding habitats; as soon as you are within 100 m or so, they will take off. On one occasion however, a fine male posed on an electricity pole. Raptors are rare on the tundra; on one of our first days we saw a Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*.

Passerines

Passerines are present in small numbers. The world's most northerly breeding passerines like Northern Raven *Corvus corax* (scarce), both Mealy Redpoll *Acanthis flammea* and Coues's Redpoll *A hornemanni exilipes* (Coues's being more common than Mealy), Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* and Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus* are present. With the exception of Northern Raven, they (also) breed in the city of Barrow. We found quite a lot of nest boxes, which mostly attracted Snow Buntings. Nesting Coues's Redpolls were found wherever there was a breeding opportunity, eg, an old snow scooter... During our stay, we also found Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* on several places on the tundra as well as White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys* in the village, the latter being a rarity.

Vagrants

During our stay, rarities such as Red-necked Stint, Tree Swallow and Myrtle Warbler were reported.

Samenvatting

Vogels kijken en fotograferen in Barrow, Alaska, VS Dit artikel beschrijft de mogelijkheden om vogels te kijken en te fotograferen in en rondom Barrow in het uiterste noorden van Alaska, VS (ruim 500 km ten noorden van de poolcirkel). Hoewel het aantal broedvogels in dit Arctische gebied laag is zijn er verschillende soorten die een speciale aantrekkingkracht hebben op vogelaars, zoals verschillende soorten eiders *Somateria* en jagers *Stercorcarius*. Voor Brileider *S fischeri* is Barrow zelfs één van de weinige relatief goed bereikbare plekken op aarde waar deze soort goed te bestuderen is. De beste tijd om vogels te kijken en te fotograferen is in het late voorjaar, wanneer vogels aan het broeden zijn (en dus in hun mooiste verenkleed zijn) en wanneer het lange daglicht helpt om goede omstandigheden te creëren voor fotografie. Barrow is verder beroemd vanwege het feit dat in het najaar een (zeer) groot deel van de wereldpopulatie van Ross' Meeuw *Rhodostethia rosea* hier langstrekt. Na de trekperiode in het najaar en in de lange winter zijn er zeer weinig vogels te zien. Ondanks de noordelijke ligging bereiken regelmatig soorten met een meer zuidelijk verspreidingsgebied Barrow als schaarse gast of dwaalgast, ook uit het Palearctische gebied. In dit artikel wordt verslag gedaan van een bezoek aan Barrow in juni 2015, waarbij de nadruk lag op het fotograferen op voor dit gebied kenmerkende soorten. Informatie wordt gegeven over praktische zaken (reis en verblijf), over de waargenomen soorten en over de mogelijkheden om de beste fotografische resultaten te bereiken. Naast vogels kan ook een beperkt aantal zoogdieren worden waargenomen, waaronder – met geluk – IJsbeer *Ursus maritimus*.

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White-throated Bee-eaters in Western Sahara, Morocco, in December 2013 and February-May 2017

Annelies Jacobs, Billy Herman & Joachim Bertrands

Since over a decade, Western Sahara, Morocco, is a special place for many birders, offering a set of species that within the Western Palearctic (WP) boundaries can be seen easiest or only here, eg, Golden Nightjar *Caprimulgus eximius*, Cape Gull *Larus dominicanus vetula*, African Dunn's Lark *Eremalauda dunni dunni*, Cricket Warbler *Spiloptila clamans*, Desert Sparrow *Passer simplex* and Sudan Golden Sparrow *P luteus* (eg, Batty 2010, Amezian et al 2011, Dyczkowski 2016, Bergier et al 2017). The increasing number of birders visiting Western Sahara in recent years has also increased the chances to discover new species for the WP, in particular from the Saharo-Sahelian biome. This paper documents the first two records of White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis* for Morocco and the WP 'sensu BWP', recorded in the southern part of Western Sahara on 5-6 December 2013 and in February-May 2017.

December 2013

On the morning of 5 December 2013, Hervé Jacob and Noëlle Jacob were waiting for sandgrouse *Pterocles* at a well-known waterhole at Tachektent, better known as Gleib Jédiane, along the road from Dakhla to Aousserd, Oued Ad-Deheb, Western Sahara. At the waterhole they observed a bee-eater perched on a tamarisk; the bird could be observed for at least 10 min, until a Desert Grey Shrike *Lanius elegans* chased it away. Unaware of the rarity of the bird observed, they did not take photographs. They went back the following morning, because the sandgrouse had not shown the day before, perhaps because it had rained during the previous days and there were several other waterholes nearby in the desert. Fortunately, the bee-eater was still there but, since they could not get the car which they were using as a hide any closer, they were only able to obtain some poor video footage. Later, they identified the bird as White-throated Bee-eater (cf Fry et al 1992, Borrow & Demey 2014). Back home, they reported their sighting and found that this would be the species' first record for Morocco (Bergier et al 2015), and also the first for the WP 'sensu BWP' (ie, not including the Arabian Peninsula). The record was accepted by the Moroccan Rare Birds Committee (Bergier & Franchimont 2015).

Description

The description is based on video images by HJ and NJ (http://tinyurl.com/y728e9zd).

SIZE & STRUCTURE Typical bee-eater, with long bill and long tail.
HEAD Whitish with broad black border below throat and above breast. Forehead and crown dark brownish black-grey with sharp border at nape.
UPPERPARTS & WING Greenish.
UNDERPARTS Pale or whitish.
BEHAVIOUR Perched on top of tamarisk, balancing with tail.

February-May 2017

In the early morning of 28 February 2017, Billy Herman and Annelies Jacobs discovered a White-throated Bee-eater in the acacia trees of the surf hotel Dakhla Attitude, 23 km north-east of Dakhla in the northern end of Baie de Dakhla, Western Sahara. It was almost literally the first bird they observed on their holiday and they identified it instantly based on the diagnostic characters, of which the striking white throat and broad breast band were the most prominent. The bird proved to be rather sedentary and confiding enough to be photographed exceptionally well. On 2 March, they showed the bird to Arnoud van den Berg and Cecilia Bosman, who further spread the news. The following days, it continuously showed well at the same isolated site, much to the relief of numerous WP listers that visited the area in March-May. It was observed until at least 1 May (Sander Bot in litt) and listed as the second record for the Western Sahara by Bergier et al (2017).

Description

The description is based on photographs by AvdB and BH (cf Dutch Birding 39: 131, plate 203, 2017).

SIZE & STRUCTURE Slightly but noticeably smaller than European Bee-eater *M apiaster*. More elegant, lighter chested and not as bulky compared with European. Primary projection short. Bill thick and slightly curved as in other *Merops* taxa, yet shorter compared with European. Tail long with elongated and pointed tip of inner tail-feathers.
HEAD Strikingly white supercilium and throat, separated by distinct black eye-stripe and broad black border below throat and above breast. Forehead and crown dark brownish black-grey with sharp border at nape. Nape brownish-green fading to rusty in neck.
UPPERPARTS & WING Neck rusty-green. Mantle and wing-coverts deep green. Rump and tail azure blue. Remiges deep orange. Remiges and secondaries in particular with broad and sharply demarcated black trailing edge.
UNDERPARTS Belly and undertail-coverts pale green to dirty whitish.
TAIL Azure.
BARE PARTS Iris dark red-brown. Bill completely black. Leg pale yellow.
VOICE Short calls were heard after several days. Typical bee-eater like melodious '*prrreet*'.
MOULT & WEAR Plumage heavily bleached and abraded. Nails intact.
BEHAVIOUR Observed mostly perched but also catching small insects and bees. When discovered, looked as if in bad health. After week of feeding very actively, becoming more elusive and more active compared with first days.

Identification and plumage state

The combination of size, bill shape, striking white throat, broad black band between throat and breast, green upperparts and pale underparts excludes all bee-eaters except White-throated Bee-eater. The broad and sharply demarcated black trailing edge to the remiges and secondaries in particular are broader than in any other *Merops* species occurring in the WP (Fry et al 1992). In adult birds, the tail is long with extremely long streamers but, in young birds, it resembles the tail of European Bee-eater with the central tail-feathers being only slightly longer than the others. The species' very long streamers are up to 12 cm in adult plumage (Borrow & Demey 2014). The paler inner edges of the primaries could be a feature of a second calendar-year bird.

The 2017 bird was very worn when found, with bleached and worn remiges and upperparts. Because of this, one could argue that the bird did not arrive by itself. The toes and nails, however, were intact. For an escaped bird, the remote location far from human settlements would be remark-

33-34 White-throated Bee-eater / Witkeelbijeneter *Merops albicollis*, Dakhla, Western Sahara, Morocco, 28 February 2017 *(Billy Herman/starlingreizen.be)*

able. A search on the market of Dakhla did not yield any wild species being sold (only feral pigeons were found). Since all features point in the direction of a second calendar-year, it has been argued that the bleached and worn remiges and rectrices were the result of a long stay in a 'hostile' desert habitat until late February. It has also been hypothesized that the plumage damage might have been caused by someone at this surfers' hotel who picked it up without knowing how to handle it properly before releasing it again. The record was accepted by the Moroccan Rare Birds Committee (Arnoud van den Berg in litt).

Vagrancy potential

White-throated Bee-eater breeds in a small strip just south of the Sahara and is a true 'Sahel species'. Its distribution ranges from southern Mauritania and Senegal in the west to south-western Saudi Arabia and western Yemen in the east (ie, within the 'greater WP'). The winter quarters are in tropical Africa, where it occupies bushy grassland and open farmland (Borrow & Demey 2014). In Sahelian Mauritania (as far as 18°30'N), the species occurs in high numbers only during the rainy season (from early June to November), and the most northern record of up to three individuals was at Tichît, Tagant, on 3-10 September 2003 (Isenmann et al 2010, Browne 2016). It is an Afrotropical migrant prone to vagrancy. To the south of its range, vagrants have reached even as far south as South Africa, where 19 records are known including a recent one in March 2017 (Trevor Hardaker in litt). In the Arabian peninsula, outside the breeding range, there are two records in Oman (two at Botanic Gardens, Sultan Qaboos University, on 29 September 1989 and one at Qatbit on 26 October 2002; Eriksen & Victor 2013) and one in the United Arab Emirates (at Emirates Golf Club on 20 November 1989 and again there on 5 March 1990; Pedersen & Aspinall 2010). The records in Morocco in 2013 and 2017 were the first and second record for this species in north-western Africa and the WP 'sensu BWP'.

It is not surprising that the two records are from Gleib Jédiane and the surf hotel Dakhla Attitude. Both places are like isolated tiny green oases in an otherwise hostile desert environment. The hotel's garden has bushes and trees and is well watered, and should be a magnet for vagrant woodland birds. The breeding grounds are relatively close by, so it is not inconceivable that this intra-African migrant shows up again as a vagrant here, at the south-western edge of the WP.

35 White-throated Bee-eater / Witkeelbijeneter *Merops albicollis*, Dakhla, Western Sahara, Morocco, 15 April 2017 *(Ruben Vermeer)*

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Samenvatting

Witkeelbijeneters in Westelijke Sahara, Marokko, in december 2013 en februari-mei 2017 Op 5-6 december 2013 werd een Witkeelbijeneter *Merops albicollis* waargenomen bij een waterpoel te Tachektent (Gleib Jédiane) langs de weg van Dakhla naar Aousserd, Oued Ad-Deheb, Westelijke Sahara, Marokko. Van de vogel zijn uitsluitend enkele zeer matige videobeelden beschikbaar. Van 28 februari tot ten minste 1 mei 2017 verbleef een exemplaar in acacia's in de tuin van surfhotel Attitude op 23 km ten noord-oosten van Dakhla in de noordpunt van de baai van Dakhla. Buiten de tuin van dit hotel is geen vegetatie te vinden dus deze vogel bleef lang en werd door vele vogelaars gezien. De slechte staat van het verenkleed met beschadigingen aan slag- en staartpennen en dekveren leidde tot discussie over de herkomst; een ontsnapte kooivogel op deze afgelegen locatie wordt echter als te onwaarschijnlijk beoordeeld. Dit waren het eerste en tweede geval voor Marokko en het West-Palearctische gebied 'sensu BWP'; beide zijn aanvaard door de Marokkaanse dwaalgastencommissie. Witkeelbijeneter is een broedvogel langs de zuidrand van de Sahara en in het zuidwesten van het Arabisch Schiereiland en een trekvogel zuidelijk in Afrika.

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Birds of Kazakhstan: new and interesting data, part 8

After seven previous editions of 'Birds of Kazakhstan: new and interesting data' (Wassink & Oreel 2008, Wassink 2009-10, 2013-14, 2015ab, 2016) and a publication documenting four new species for Kazakhstan (Wassink et al 2011), another selection of new data for Kazakhstan is presented here. This includes the first record of Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*, Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*, Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* and Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala*, the first breeding record of Western Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltariensis*, the first winter record of Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus* and the second winter records of White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* and Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo* and the first records since a long time of Egyptian Nightjar *Caprimulgus aegyptius*.

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*
From 13 December 2016 to 1 April 2017, a first-year male was present at the Irtysh river at Öskemen, East Kazakhstan province (Isabekov 2016, Andrussenko 2017; Dutch Birding 39: 51, plate 65, 2017). This is a new species for Kazakhstan and Central Asia. The report that the species 'has been observed at lakes of southern steppes' (Eversmann 1866) is undocumented and therefore not included in Wassink (2015b).

Egyptian Nightjar *Caprimulgus aegyptius*
On 8 May 2008 (Sané et al 2008) and 4-6 June 2017 (Rivière 2017), respectively three and one were found in the south-western Betpak-Dala desert, north-west of Engelsa, South Kazakhstan province. Although thought to breed locally in deserts in southern Kazakhstan (Dolgushin 1970, Wassink 2015b), these are the only recent records. The dehydration of the Aral Sea, resulting in large-scale destruction of suitable desert habitat may have been the reason for the considerable decline of this species in Kazakhstan.

Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo*
On 2-4 December 2016, an adult and a first calendar-year were found at Kenes in the Karatau foothills, South Kazakhstan province (Nukusbekov 2016). This is the second winter record for Kazakhstan.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*
On 11 January 2017, a flock of 12 was found between Aisha Bibi and Taraz, Zhambyl province (Nukusbekov 2017). This is the second documented winter record for Kazakhstan.

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*
On 14 January 2017, one was photographed at Karakol lake at the eastern Caspian coast, Mangghystau province (Yasko 2017a). This is the first winter record outside south-eastern Kazakhstan, where the species regularly winters (Wassink 2015b).

Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*
A flock of c 500 adult and second-calendar year birds was found at Zhanteke, Aqmola province,

on 16 June 2017 (Arend Wassink pers obs; Spanoghe 2017; plate 36). The absence of first calendar-year birds in this flock indicates a very low breeding success, according to Alexey Koshkin (pers comm) due to a very late spring. Post-breeding concentrations of this size are usually found from mid-July (Wassink 2015b).

Caspian Plover *Anarhynchus asiaticus*
On 30 May and 8 June 2017, respectively, a male with a chick and a single female (Schaffer 2017) and a pair (Mitchell 2017) were found at locations west of Novobogatinskoye, Atyrau province. This indicates that although the species is declining rapidly in the most north-western parts of its breeding range (Delany et al 2009), it at least survives as a breeding bird in southern parts of the Volga-Ural region.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*
A photographed adult was present on 7 January and 5 November 2015 and, presumably the same individual, from 3 December 2016 to 24 January 2017 and from 10 November 2017 onwards at the eastern Caspian coast at Aqtau, Mangghystau province (Yasko 2015, 2016, 2017ab; Dutch Birding 39: 47, plate 60, 2017). This is a new species for Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

European Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*
Presumably the bird first recorded on 12 December 2014 at Aqtau, Mangghystau province (Wassink 2015b), was found at the same location on 13 December 2016 to 20 February 2017 and on 25 November 2017, now in its fourth-winter (Yasko 2016, 2017ab). There are three records for Kazakhstan, all from the eastern Caspian coast in Manggystau province.

Baltic Gull *Larus fuscus fuscus*
On 21 March 2017, an adult was photographed in the Kyzylkum desert west of Sary-Ozek, South Kazakhstan province (Dyakin 2017). This is the fifth record for Kazakhstan.

Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini*
On 7 December 2017, an adult was photographed at the eastern Caspian coast at Aqtau, Mangghystau province (Yasko 2017a). This is the second winter record for Kazakhstan.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*
On 14 January 2017, one was photographed at Karakol lake, Mangghystau province (Yasko 2017ab). This is the second winter record at the eastern Caspian coast and outside south-eastern Kazakhstan, where the species winters (Wassink 2015b).

36 Sociable Lapwings / Steppekieviten *Vanellus gregarius*, part of flock of c 500 adult and second calendar-year birds, Zhanteke, Kazakhstan, 16 June 2017 *(Keith Barnes/Tropical Birding)*

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*
On 13 May 2017, a male was photographed at the southern Ustyurt plateau (Pestov 2017). This is the second record for Kazakhstan.

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*
On 22-23 November 2017, one was photographed at the eastern Caspian coast at Aqtau, Mangghystau province (Yasko 2017a). This is the first record in western Kazakhstan.

Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*
On 18 January 2017, an adult and a second calendar-year were photographed at the eastern Caspian coast at Fort Shevchenko, Mangghystau province (Kadirov 2017). This is the first winter record for Kazakhstan.

Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*
On 2 October 2017, a first calendar-year was photographed at Aqtau, Mangghystau province (Yasko 2017a; Dutch Birding 39: 407, plate 579, 2017). This is a new species for Kazakhstan.

Red-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis*
On 15 December 2016, a first calendar-year was photographed at Karashengel Game Reserve, Almaty province (Bevza 2016). On 2 April 2017, a second calendar-year male was photographed at Taldykurgan, Almaty province (Belyaev 2017). These are the fifth and sixth records for Kazakhstan.

Western Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltariensis*
In August 2016, a breeding pair was photographed at Karabalyk, Qostanay province (Malkov 2016). This is the first breeding record for Kazakhstan. Wassink (2011) already assumed that it would be a matter of time before this taxon would start to breed, taking into account the eastward expansion in Russia.

Western Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola citreola*
Pairs in suitable breeding habitat were found in West Kazakhstan province in the Volga-Ural region on 27 May 2017 c 5 km south-east of Novaya Kazanka and on 28 May 2017 2 km south of Shymkuduk (Schaffer 2017). These records are strong indications of local breeding. Breeding in the Volga-Ural region has not been established before.

East Siberian Wagtail *Motacilla ocularis*
On 9 September 2017, a first calendar-year male was found at Öskemen, East Kazakhstan province (Kim 2017). Although this species is rare but regular in spring (Wassink 2015b), this is only the second autumn record for Kazakhstan.

Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens japonicus*
On 21 May 2017, one was photographed at Buktharma lake in the Irtysh valley, East Kazakhstan province (Jochen Roeder in litt; plate 37). This is the first record for the western Altai, including its foothills.

Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilla kobdensis*
On 22 December 2016, a male was photographed at Katon-Karagay National Park, southern Altai, East Kazakhstan province (Vorobyov 2016). This is the fifth record of this subspecies for Kazakhstan. Since these records are all from the same location and from all seasons, this taxon probably breeds there.

Meadow Bunting *Emberiza cioides*
On 1 November 2017, a first-calendar year bird was photographed at the eastern Caspian coast at Aqtau, Mangghystau province (Yasko 2017a). A remarkable record, given the fact the species is mainly sedentary in eastern and south-eastern Kazakhstan. The record took place 1500 km west of the most western records known up to now, in the western Tien Shan foothills where it occasionally has been found in autumn and winter (Wassink 2015b).

Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala*
On 27 June 2017, a territorial, singing male was found in suitable breeding habitat in the Uba valley in Western-Altai Nature Reserve, East Kazakhstan province (Spanoghe 2017; plate 38). Another bird was heard calling at the same location and could have been a female (Geert Spanoghe in litt). These records are strong indications of breeding there. This is the first documented record for Kazakhstan. A winter record in the early 20th century is undocumented and not included in Wassink (2015b).

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37 Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit / Siberische Waterpieper *Anthus rubescens japonicus*, Buktharma lake, Kazakhstan, 21 May 2017 *(Jochen Roeder)*

38 Black-faced Bunting / Maskergors *Emberiza spodocephala*, male, Western-Altai Nature Reserve, Kazakhstan, 27 June 2017 *(Geert Spanoghe)*

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Three-banded Plover breeding at Abu Simbel, Egypt, in May 2011

Hering et al (2013) reported the discovery of Three-banded Plovers *Charadrius tricollaris* at Abu Simbel in May 2012 (with breeding suspected but not proven), and suggested that there were no previous records from this part of Egypt. In fact, we had already observed the species there, at the exact same spot, in May 2011, when we could also confirm successful breeding of at least one pair. This record has not been published previously but was 'broadcasted' after our trip through messages in various internet mailing lists. We take this opportunity to fully document this record, which represents only the second breeding locality of the species for Egypt. We refer to Hering et al (2013) for a thorough summary of the status of the species in Egypt. Haas et al (2010) documented breeding at Aswan, Egypt, in 2009.

On 3-11 May 2011, we visited southern Egypt, spending some time in Aswan and Abu Simbel. On 5 May 2011, we recorded a total of at least six Three-banded Plovers, including one juvenile, around the Tut Amon fish ponds (23.967°N, 32.851°E) near Aswan. In Abu Simbel, we visited on 6 May 2011 the small lake located just north of the petrol station in the village, south-west of the airport, where we quickly located a Three-banded Plover as well. One territorial adult was fighting on the ground with a Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* along the eastern shore, as if it defended a nest or chick. Near the southern end (c 22.351°N, 31.617°E), we also found one adult together with an extremely freshly plumaged juvenile (plate 39). Its plumage only fitted a bird having fledged recently and documents successful breeding of the species at this location.

Although the coordinates given in their paper are slightly different from the ones we give above, the description of the site in Hering et al (2013) shows that the locality where they reported the species in 2012 is the same as the one we report here. Since the species had already fledged juveniles in early May 2011, the behavior reported by Hering et al (2013) could refer to a second breeding attempt. Alternatively, breeding phenology might vary from year to year depending on water levels. It will be interesting to collect further data on the breeding ecology of the species at this site, which is more easily accessible than the Tut Amon fish ponds. Despite extensive coverage of the

39 Three-banded Plover / Driebandplevier *Charadrius tricollaris*, fresh juvenile, Abu Simbel, Egypt, 6 May 2011 *(Pierre-André Crochet)*

40 Breeding habitat of Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* at Abu Simbel, Egypt, 6 May 2011
(Pierre-André Crochet)

shores of Lake Nasser up to c 23 km north-west of Abu Simbel in 2011, no other individuals were recorded, and the only plovers found were Kittlitz's Plovers *Anarhynchus pecuarius*. It is possible that the lack of vegetation along the Lake Nasser shore does not create the ecological conditions found in the Aswan or Abu Simbel sites used by Three-banded Plovers (plate 40). We had visited Abu Simbel in previous years (April 2006 and September 2009) without seeing the species, suggesting that it colonized the area recently. The species was reported again in Abu Simbel in January 2013 (https://tinyurl.com/y9l7nwm5) but Pierre-André Crochet visited this same spot again in July 2014 with Julien Mazenauer and did not find any Three-banded there (or anywhere else in Abu Simbel). We are not aware of any sighting of the species in Abu Simbel after January 2013, although the lack of a comprehensive database of Egyptian bird records makes it difficult to be sure of its status there in recent years.

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Mongolian Finch captured in Malta in November 2013

In 2014, a Mongolian Finch *Bucanates mongolicus* in captivity was filmed with a mobile phone in Malta. The story behind this interesting record began to unfold when during a casual conversation with a trapper, I (Natalino Fenech) was informed about 'a strange looking Trumpeter Finch' *B githagineus*. Then I was introduced to another trapper who had a video taken of the bird in captivity (it had died by the time I was introduced to him) and after some time I managed to get hold of the video. According to this man, the bird had been caught at a trapping site on the north-western coast on 15 November 2013. The bird was seen flying in from the sea and was alone when trapped; the man who had trapped it thought it was a Trumpeter and exchanged it for a male Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* with the man who later shared the video with me. Apparently, the bird had lived for about a year-and-a-half in captivity (the corpse was in bad condition and therefore not preserved). The trapper had tried to cross it with a female Atlantic Canary *Serinus canaria* but he did not succeed in getting any offspring from it. He said the bird had a lot of 'namra', an adjective used to describe birds with a lot of 'sexual want', typical of male birds. According to the keeper, its behaviour in the cage was of a wild bird because, based on his experience, an escape would be immediately more resigned in a cage than a wild bird. Trappers sometimes catch birds that escape from captivity from keepers/trappers. Individual Trumpeter are occasionally noted in pet shops, and though it is often claimed that these are imported, it is most likely they have been caught locally. Trumpeter is a very scarce but almost annual migrant that has been recorded in all months of the year; it was formerly more common (Fenech 2010). The few Trumpeter that exist with breeders are normally taken from the wild and are caught when trappers are trying to trap other finches. Whenever I come across rare records through conversations with trappers or hunters, I keep notes of such conversations and tend to ask them the same questions weeks later to see if their story changes. When the story remains the same, it is presumed to be a genuine story, and this was the case with this record.

Description

The description is based upon two video sequences of 49 sec and 52 sec of the bird in a small cage (plate 41-42; figure 1).

SIZE & SHAPE Small finch with thick and stout bill (little smaller than in Trumpeter Finch), long wings and slightly forked tail.

HEAD Greyish brown and just vaguely streaked on nape. No markings on side except for narrow whitish eye-ring. Chin and throat whitish, somewhat mottled and with pinkish hue.

UPPERPARTS Greyish brown with slightly darker feather centres on mantle.

UNDERPARTS Whitish with pinkish hue mostly on breast and foreflank. Hindflank whitish with slight pale greyish brown above. Thigh white.

WING Wings blackish with broad white wing-bar across medium wing-coverts and base of greater wing-coverts. Edges of greater wing-coverts pinkish white. White panel in folded wing formed by white bases of secondaries, with pinkish line along primaries, not reaching tip. Tertials and primaries with white edges.

41-42 Mongolian Finch / Mongoolse Woestijnvink *Bucanetes mongolicus*, male, Malta, 2014 *(Anonymous)*. Stills from video by anonymous trapper of bird in captivity.

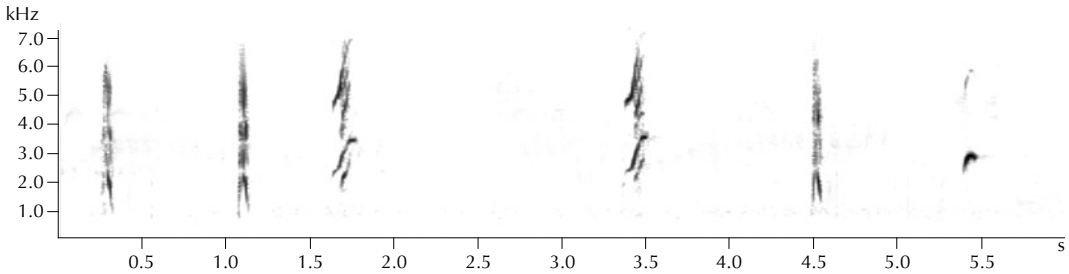

FIGURE 1 Mongolian Finch / Mongoolse Woestijnvink *Bucanetes mongolicus*, male, Malta, 2014 *(Anonymous)*. Vocalizations of bird in captivity, taken from video.

TAIL Blackish with white at base of rectrices and on outside of outer rectrix.
BARE PARTS Eye dark. Bill pale yellowish. Leg yellow. Nails black.
WEAR Tail very worn.
BEHAVIOUR Very active, jumping up continuously in tiny cage with just one branch to sit on.
SOUND Three different calls while moving back and forth in cage; from low to high pitched: low, brief *squats*; brief whistling *puup*; and double high-pitched brief *seleep* or more monosyllabic *sleep*.

Identification
From the video images, the bird can easily be identified as Mongolian Finch. The species differs from Trumpeter Finch, eg, in posture (being slimmer and longer tailed) and by the lack of pink on the upperparts and less deep pink underparts, the presence of a pinkish supercilium (absent in Trumpeter), the smaller pink rump patch (larger and extending onto uppertail-coverts in Trumpeter), the conspicuous pale wing-panel and the white edges to the tail-feathers (rosy-grey in Trumpeter). The bill is yellowish, not red or orange-red as in Trumpeter, and the legs are brownish-yellow, not orangey-flesh as in Trumpeter (cf Clement et al 1993, Porter & Aspinall 2010). Based on the large white wing-patch and behaviour, the Malta bird probably was a male (however, with limited pink in its plumage; the loss of pink or reddish coloration occurs frequently in songbirds in captivity). Desert Finch *Rhodopsiza obsoleta* differs by, eg, always having a partially or completely black bill.

Distribution
Mongolian Finch breeds from extreme eastern Turkey east through Armenia (Vedi), Azerbaijan (Nakhichevan) and northern and eastern Iran, east to southern and eastern Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Mongolia, south to central Afghanistan, northern Pakistan, Ladakh, India, and western, central and north-eastern China. The breeding habitats are montane and submontane, arid, desolate and semi-desert areas. It is mainly a resident, showing altitudinal migration (appearing at lower altitudes in winter) and limited migration. Between October and May, it is found at lower levels within breeding range, including foothills of the Tien Shan and Kunlun ranges and edges of Takla Makan and central Gobi deserts, and it is a winter visitor to valleys of northern Pakistan and north-western Hebei (northern China). In southern Kazakhstan, it is a passage migrant from late September to late November (occasionally wintering in the south); the peak of passage through Chokpak pass is in October. In Tajikistan, it largely leaves the Pamir-Alai mountains by late September, when it occurs in lower-level foothills, valleys and adjacent plains. Spring passage and the return to the breeding areas occurs from mid-February, with peak movements in April-May. Vagrants have been recorded in Bahrain (December to January), Kuwait (up to 12 birds in March 2009 and one on 8 April 2011; Al-Sirhan 2009; www.kuwaitbirds.org/birds/mongolian-finch), north-eastern China (Jilin), north-western India (Punjab), Nepal and Saudi Arabia (Barthel et al 1992, Clement et al 1993, Kirwan & Konrad 1995, Porter & Aspinall 2010, Clement 2017). Long-distance movements are not known for this species and a vagrant record in southern Europe would be most unexpected.

Discussion
Mongolian Finch had not been recorded in Malta before, so I checked with local bird keepers and learned that Mongolian are not imported in Malta. It can be argued that one cannot draw any firm conclusions about the provenance of this bird. However, given the increase in recent decades of records in Europe of (presumed) medium-distance migrants from Central Asia (eg, Sulphur-bellied Warbler *Phylloscopus griseolus* (Denmark, May-

June 2016), Plain Leaf Warbler *P neglectus* (Sweden, October 1991), Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata* (Finland, October 2010 and May 2017), Kurdish Wheatear *Oenanthe xanthoprymna* (France, May 2015), a handful of Grey-necked Buntings *Emberiza buchanani* in north-western Europe and Cinereous Bunting *E cineracea* (eg, Denmark, May 2005), Mongolian may also be a species to take into account as a possible vagrant. A possible wild origin of the Malta bird is fuelled by the fact that current data on the vertebrate inventories of European zoos and other public collections (www.zootierliste.de) do not disclose any Mongolian in captivity. The very worn tail of the Malta bird should not be taken as proof for a captive origin, because a wild bird would have a soiled tail within a day or two and have a worn tail within a very short time in such small cages, since the perch is low and the birds brush their tail against the wire of the bottom of the cage.

Acknowledgements
We thank Magnus Robb for preparing the sonagram.

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Redactiemededelingen

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 en vierde editie van 'Howard and Moore' (Dickinson 2003, Dickinson & Remsen 2013) gevolgd, behoudens aanvullingen en wijzigingen gepresenteerd in redactiemededelingen in de eerste nummers van Dutch Birding-jaargangen. De volgorde van families van non-passerines (en de meeste taxa in deze families) sluit aan op Cracrafts bijdrage in Dickinson & Remsen (2013) en Sangster et al (2013). In de in 2008 door DBA gepubliceerde lijst van vogelnamen (van den Berg 2008) zijn alle redactiemededelingen van Dutch Birding jaargang 19-30 (1997-2008) verwerkt en in de digitale versie op www.dutchavifauna.nl (https://tinyurl.com/yam3d3kg) tevens die van 2009-17 (Redactie Dutch Birding 2009-17) en 2018. In afwachting van beslissingen van de CSNA is Dickinson & Christidis (2014) niet in deze mededeling verwerkt, behoudens voor de wijzigingen genoemd door Sangster et al (2016).

Onder het West-Palearctische gebied ('de WP') wordt sinds 2013 in Dutch Birding een groter gebied verstaan dan voorheen, namelijk Europa met inbegrip van Macaronesië, alle landen die grenzen aan de Middellandse of Zwarte Zee, het Arabische schiereiland (sensu lato) en Iran. Aangezien landsgrenzen worden gevolgd komen de definities van dit gebied wel in grote lijnen maar niet precies overeen met de door, eg, Martins & Hirschfeld (1998) of Mitchell (2017) gedefinieerde WP. In tabel 1 staan nieuwe wijzigingen in de naamgeving van WP-taxa vermeld die per 1 januari 2018 in Dutch Birding worden doorgevoerd. Aan de lijst

van vogeltaxa van naar wordt aangenomen wilde oorsprong binnen het WP-gebied kan een aantal worden toegevoegd: Oessoerifitis *Phylloscopus tenellipes* (Scilly, Engeland), Oost-Siberische Kwikstaart *Motacilla ocularis* (Verenigde Arabische Emiraten), Witvleugelkruisbek *Loxia leucoptera leucoptera* (IJsland), Geelkeelgors *Emberiza elegans* (Noorwegen) en Epauletspreeuw *Agelaius phoeniceus* (Orkney, Schotland) (Ławicki & van den Berg 2017, 2018). Zie Redactie Dutch Birding (2009-17) voor andere in recente jaren toegevoegde soorten. Van twee soorten waarvan voorheen werd aangenomen dat geen van de waargenomen exemplaren op eigen kracht in de WP was gearriveerd, Rosse Stekelstaart *Oxyura jamaicensis* (Azoren) en Zilverbekje *Euodice cantans* (Algerije), staat nu vast dat er (ook) gevallen zijn van wilde herkomst (Belbachir 2000, Haas 2017). Soorten die werden herzien en verwijderd vanwege twijfels over de determinatie betroffen, eg, Witbuikstormvogeltje *Fregetta grallaria* (Kaapverdische Eilanden), Geschubde Groene Specht *Picus squamatus* (Iran), Witvleugelspecht *Dendrocopos leucopterus* (Iran), Treurdrongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* (Jemen) en Roodstaartspekvreter *Oenanthe familiaris* (Jemen) (Khaleghizadeh et al 2011, Mitchell 2017). Kaapse Slobeend *Anas smithii* (april 1978 te Oued Souss en februari 2004 te Oued Massa, Marokko), Prairiebuizerd *Buteo swainsoni* ('categorie D' in Noorwegen en september-oktober 2003 in Pas-de-Calais, Frankrijk) en Blauwe Bisschop *Passerina caerulea* (14 oktober 2011 op Corvo, Azoren, en 10 juli 2011 in Vestfold, Noorwegen) zijn (voorlopig) verwijderd vanwege twijfels bij de betreffende dwaalgastencommissies over met name de herkomst (Duff 1979, van den Berg 2003, 2004, van den Berg & Haas 2011, Haas 2012, Mitchell 2017).

Voor Engelse en Nederlandse vogelnamen volgt Dutch Birding sinds 1 januari 2008 de aanbevelingen van het Internationaal Ornithologisch Congres (IOC) (Gill & Wright 2006, Gill & Donsker 2017). Aanvullingen en wijzigingen worden door het IOC op internet gepubliceerd en veranderingen in Engelse of Nederlandse namen worden overgenomen door Dutch Birding (recentelijk bijvoorbeeld Thekla's Lark / Thekla's Leeuwerik *Galerida theklae*).

De redactie dankt behalve George Sangster met name ook Eric Jan Alblas, Mohamed Amezian en Kees Roselaar voor hun assistentie.

Summary

Taxa names in Dutch Birding From 1 January 2018, Dutch Birding will use revised names or new taxonomic treatments for taxa listed in table 1 (Cyrenaic Partridge *Alectoris barbata*, Leach's Storm Petrel *Hydrobates leucorhous*, African Royal Tern *Sterna albididorsalis*, Black-headed Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus macronyx*, more magpie *Pica* species, Cyrenaic Blue Tit *Cyanistes cyrenaicae* and Eurasian Wren *Nannus troglodytes*). For English vernacular names, updates by the International Ornithological Congress are followed (eg, Thekla's Lark *Galerida theklae*). New taxa documented in 2017 for a WP region defined as Europe with Macaronesia, all countries bordering the Black and Mediterranean Sea, the Arabian Peninsula (sensu lato) and Iran, include: Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes* (Scilly, England), East Siberian Wagtail *Motacilla ocularis* (United Arab Emirates), White-winged Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera leucoptera* (Iceland), Yellow-throated Bunting *Emberiza elegans* (Norway) and Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* (Orkney, Scotland). For various reasons, Cape Shoveler *Anas smithii* (Morocco), White-bellied Storm Petrel *Fregetta grallaria* (Cape Verde Islands), Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* (France, Norway), Scaly-bellied Woodpecker *Picus squamatus* (Iran), White-winged Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucopterus* (Iran), Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* (Yemen), Familiar Chat *Oenanthe familiaris* (Yemen) and Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* (Azores, Norway) have been deleted. For Dutch Birding's digital WP checklist on www.dutchavifauna.nl, see https://tinyurl.com/yam3d3kg.

Verwijzingen

Barani-Beiranvand, H, Aliabadian, M, Irestedt, M, Qu, Y, Darvish, J, Szekely, T, van Dijk, R & Ericson, P 2017. Phylogeny of Penduline Tits inferred from mitochondrial and microsatellite genotyping. J Avian Biol 48: 932-940.

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TABEL 1 Vanaf 1 januari 2018 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 2018

Libische Patrijs / Cyrenaic Partridge *Alectoris barbata* (was *A barbara barbata*)

Onderzoek aan balgen toont een grote genetische afstand tussen Barbarijse Patrijs *Alectoris barbara* en de in Libië en het noord-westen van Egypte voorkomende maar zelden waargenomen Libische Patrijs *A barbata* (Spanò et al 2013). Morfologische verschillen met Barbarijse Patrijs betreffen kleur en patroon van verenkleed alsmede verlengde keelveren bij Libische. Bovendien zijn er verschillen in gedrag (Ghigi 1920, 1921, 1923).

Specimen research shows a considerable genetic distance between Barbary Partridge *Alectoris barbara* and the rarely seen Cyrenaic Partridge *A barbata* from Libya and north-western Egypt (Spanò et al 2013). Morphological differences with Barbary Patridge involve colours and patterns in plumage and Cyrenaic's elongated throat feathers. Behavioral differences are described by Ghigi (1920, 1921, 1923).

Vaal Stormvogeltje / Leach's Storm Petrel *Hydrobates leucorhous* (was *H leucorhoa*)

Cf Dickinson & Remsen (2013), contra Redactie Dutch Birding (2017).

Amerikaanse Koningsstern / American Royal Tern *Sterna maxima* (was *S maxima maxima*)
Afrikaanse Koningsstern / African Royal Tern *Sterna albididorsalis* (was *S maxima albididorsalis*)

Een genetische studie door Collinson et al (2017) laat zien dat Amerikaanse Koningsstern *Sterna maxima* en Afrikaanse Koningsstern *S albididorsalis* niet elkaars nauwste verwanten zijn en dat Afrikaanse een genetische groep vormt met Bengaalse Stern *S bengalensis* en Grote Kuifstern *S bergii*.

A genetic study by Collinson et al (2017) shows that American Royal Tern *S maxima* and African Royal Tern *S albididorsalis* are not each other's closest relatives, and that African is part of a genetic cluster with Lesser Crested Tern *S bengalensis* and Greater Crested Tern *S bergii*.

Zwartkopbuidelmees / Black-headed Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus macronyx* (was *R macronyx*)

Buidelmees *Remiz pendulinus pendulinus* en Zwartkopbuidelmees *R p macronyx* worden als conspecifiek beschouwd op basis van genetische studies door Barani-Beiranvand et al (2017) waaruit nauwelijks of geen onderscheid tussen Buidelmees en Zwartkopbuidelmees naar voren kwam.

Based on genetic studies by Barani-Beiranvand et al (2017) revealing hardly if any differentiation between Eurasian Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus pendulinus* and Black-headed Penduline Tit *R p macronyx*, these two taxa are treated as conspecific.

Ekster / Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*, **Maghrebekster / Maghreb Magpie** *P mauritanica*, **Asirekster / Asir Magpie** *P asirensis*, **Oosterse Ekster / Oriental Magpie** *P serica* (was *P p serica*, also *P p sericea*), **Himalaya-ekster / Himalayan Magpie** *P bottanensis* (was *P p bottanensis*), **Amerikaanse Ekster / Black-billed Magpie** *P hudsonia*, **Geelsnavelekster / Yellow-billed Magpie** *P nuttalli*

Genetisch onderzoek aan eksters *Pica* door Song et al (2017) liet zien dat er zes clades zijn waarvan drie met een grote verspreiding in respectievelijk Oost-Azië, noordelijk Eurazië en Noord-Amerika en drie geïsoleerde met een kleine relictverspreiding in respectievelijk Noordwest-Afrika, Arabië en Tibet. Klimaatveranderingen lijken een rol te hebben gespeeld bij het ontstaan. Binnen elke clade zijn geen of weinig verschillen te vinden en dat geldt ook voor beide Amerikaanse soorten, Amerikaanse Ekster *P hudsonia* en Geelsnavelekster *P nuttalli*. Op basis van deze resultaten stellen Song et al (2017) voor om zeven soorten te erkennen. Naast vijf

Collinson, J M, Dufour, P, Hamza, A A, Lawrie, Y, Elliott, M, Barlow, C & Crochet, P A 2017. When morphology is not reflected by molecular phylogeny: the case of three 'orange-billed terns' *Thalasseus maximus*, *Thalasseus bergii* and *Thalasseus bengalensis* (Charadriiformes: Laridae). Biol J Linn Soc 121: 439-445.

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Gohli, J, Leder, E, Garcia-del-Rey, E, Johannessen, L E, Johnsen, A, Laskemoen, T, Popp, M & Lifjeld, J T 2015. The evolutionary history of Afrocanarian blue tits infer-

TABEL 1 (vervolg)

bekende (Zink et al 1995, Ebels 2003, cf van den Berg 2008, Redactie Dutch Birding 2008) worden daarom nu ook Oosterse Ekster *P serica* en Himalaya-ekster *P bottanensis* als soort beschouwd. Daarentegen dient de allopatrische Kamtsjatka-ekster *P p camtschatica* tot dezelfde soort te worden gerekend als Ekster *P pica* (Kryukov et al 2017).

Genetic research in *Pica* magpies by Song et al (2017) revealed three widespread lineages (in East Asia, across northern Eurasia and in North America, respectively) with three isolated relict lineages in north-western Africa, Arabia and Tibet, respectively. The fragmentation of these six clades is thought to have happened by climate changes. There are no or very small differences within each clade, and there was actually a lack of differentiation between the two American species, Black-billed Magpie *P hudsonia* and Yellow-billed Magpie *P nuttalli*. As a result, Song et al (2017) recognized seven species which implies that, in addition to five magpie species recognized previously (Zink et al 1995, Ebels 2003, cf van den Berg 2008, Redactie Dutch Birding 2008), Oriental Magpie *P serica* and Himalayan Magpie *P bottanensis* are now treated as species too. The allopatric Kamchatka Magpie *P p camtschatica* remains conspecific with Eurasian Magpie *P pica* (Kryukov et al 2017).

Libische Pimpelmees / Cyrenaic Blue Tit *Cyanistes cyrenaicae* (was *C ultramarinus cyrenaicae*)

Fylogenetische analyse van (mitochondriaal en nucleair) DNA laat zien dat Libische Pimpelmees *Cyanistes cyrenaicae* van alle andere pimpelmeespopulaties te onderscheiden is (Päckert et al 2013, Gohli et al 2015, Stervander et al 2015). Libische Pimpelmees en Palmapimpelmees *C palmensis* zijn fylogenetisch het meest verschillend van alle pimpelmezen in Noord-Afrika en de Canarische Eilanden. Ze worden gezien als 'zustertaxa' (Päckert et al 2013) of als achtereenvolgende 'outgroups' van Maghrebpimpelmees *C ultramarinus*, Hierropimpelmees *C ombriosus* en Tenerifepimpelmees *C teneriffae* (Gohli et al 2015, Stervander et al 2015). De conclusie is daarom dat soortstatus voor Libische Pimpelmees het best past.

Phylogenetic analysis of mitochondrial and nuclear DNA sequences in *Cyanistes* has shown that the population in Libya (Cyrenaic Blue Tit *C cyrenaicae*) is distinct from all other blue tit populations (Päckert et al 2013, Gohli et al 2015, Stervander et al 2015). In fact, Cyrenaic Blue Tit and Palma Blue Tit *C palmensis* are phylogenetically the most distinctive blue tit populations in North Africa and the Canary Islands; they may be sister taxa (Päckert et al 2013) or successive outgroups to Ultramarine Tit *C ultramarinus*, Hierro Blue Tit *C ombriosus* and Tenerife Blue Tit *C teneriffae* (Gohli et al 2015, Stervander et al 2015). Cyrenaica Blue Tit is thus best treated as a full species.

Winterkoning / Eurasian Wren *Nannus troglodytes* (was *Troglodytes troglodytes*)

Een moleculair-fylogenetische studie heeft aangetoond dat het genus *Troglodytes* niet monofyletisch is en dat Winterkoning *T troglodytes* en twee verwante Amerikaanse soorten, Oost-Amerikaanse Winterkoning *T hiemalis* en Pacifische Winterkoning *T pacificus* (cf Redactie Dutch Birding 2011) niet nauw verwant zijn aan overige soorten in het genus *Troglodytes* (Barker 2017; zie ook Gómez et al 2005). Deze drie soorten worden daarom in een apart genus geplaatst, waarvoor de naam *Nannus* beschikbaar is.

Molecular phylogenetic study has shown that the genus *Troglodytes* is not monophyletic and that Eurasian Wren *T troglodytes* and two related North American species, Winter Wren *T hiemalis* and Pacific Wren *T pacificus* (cf Redactie Dutch Birding 2011) are not closely related to other species in the genus *Troglodytes* (Barker 2017; see also Gómez et al 2005). These three species are therefore placed in a separate genus for which the name *Nannus* is available.

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CDNA-mededelingen

Recente CDNA-besluiten Tijdens de (voor het eerst digitaal uitgevoerde) zomervergadering van 2017 van de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) op 15 september 2017 zijn verschillende dossiers besproken en zijn de volgende beslissingen genomen.

Tijdens de zomervergadering van 2015 werd besloten dat er minder stringent met de richtlijn voor het afvoeren van beoordeeltaxa mocht worden omgegaan. Deze richtlijn is dat de commissie (onder)soorten beoordeelt die in de laatste 30 jaar gemiddeld minder dan twee keer per jaar zijn vastgesteld. Echter, uit onderzoek is gebleken dat de bestaande richtlijn uiteindelijk toch de meest heldere werkwijze oplevert. Op basis van deze richtlijn is besloten om Ralreiger *Ardeola ralloides* per 1 januari 2018 af te voeren als beoordeelsoort.

Van een aantal soorten is vastgesteld dat hybridisatie frequent voorkomt, waardoor de beoordeling soms lastig is. In het CDNA-handboek waren geen specifieke richtlijnen met betrekking tot de beoordeling van hybriden beschreven. Het beeld van voorkomen van soorten kan enerzijds vertekenen door hybriden maar anderzijds kan het expliciet willen uitsluiten van hybriden eveneens tot ongewenste effecten leiden. Soms kan hybridisatie alleen worden uitgesloten bij vangst of langdurige bestudering van dichtbij. Te strikt beoordelen zal tot gevolg hebben dat maar een klein percentage van ingediende (en reeds aanvaarde) gevallen aanvaardbaar is. Deze problematiek speelt voor veel taxa maar vooral bij Schreeuwarend *Aquila pomarina* en Bastaardarend *A clanga*, Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides* (in relatie tot hybriden Zwarte x Gekraagde Roodstaart *P phoenicurus*), en Witkopgors *Emberiza leucocephalos* (hybridisatie met Geelgors *E citrinella*). Besloten is om aan het CDNA-handboek de volgende passage toe te voegen: 'Bij de beoordeling van enkele taxa waarvan is vastgesteld dat hybridisatie frequent optreedt of tot verwarring kan leiden zal ook het aspect 'tekenen van hybridisatie' worden beoordeeld. De commissie stelt voor deze taxa als eis dat de kwaliteit van de documentatie dusdanig moet zijn dat enkele belangrijke kenmerken die kunnen duiden op hybridisatie moeten kunnen worden beoordeeld. Gevallen waarbij deze documentatie ontbreekt of onvoldoende is worden niet aanvaard.' Met 'enkele kenmerken' kiest de commissie voor een aanpak die beoordeling van individuele gevallen mogelijk maakt. Ze geeft aan dat het niet noodzakelijk is dat alle kenmerken die kunnen wijzen op hybridisatie beoordeeld kunnen worden. De commissie heeft inmiddels op basis van bestaande publicaties en eigen onderzoek voor de volgende soorten specifieke criteria nader uitgewerkt: Schreeuwarend, Bastaardarend, Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaart en Witkopgors.

De eerstejaars Marmereend *Marmaronetta angustirostris* bij Tilburg, Noord-Brabant, van 22 september tot 6 oktober 2016 is niet aanvaard. De commissie is unaniem van mening dat het gedrag en het kleed van de vogel te veel twijfels oproepen om hem als wild te beschouwen. De vogel was zeer tam en het foerageergedrag (hij foerageerde incidenteel op het droge) week af van wat in de literatuur voor deze soort staat beschreven. Ook had hij een afgebroken buitenste handpentop in de rechtervleugel en ontbraken minimaal drie, moge-

lijk vijf staartpennen. Het is bekend dat de soort veelvuldig in gevangenschap wordt gehouden en dat er sinds 1995 ten minste 24 ontsnapte exemplaren in Nederland zijn gezien (cf www.waarneming.nl).

Na discussie over drie ronden is de Amerikaanse Tafeleend *Aythya americana* in de omgeving van Zuidhorn, Groningen, van 19 januari tot 13 maart 2016 aanvaard. Het betreft een nieuwe soort voor Nederland. Over de determinatie was unanimiteit: de waargenomen kenmerken van deze vogel passen binnen de variatie van de soort. Met betrekking tot status kon geen unaniem standpunt worden bereikt. De vogel vertoonde enkele beschadigingen aan staart en vleugeltop en deze extreem zeldzame WP-soort werd hier ook al eens als ontsnapte kooivogel vastgesteld. Uiteindelijk was een meerderheid van de CDNA echter van mening dat de geconstateerde beschadigingen beperkt zijn en eveneens bij wilde vogels zijn te verwachten. Overigens bleek dat de tekst van het CDNA-handboek met betrekking tot het aanvaarden van nieuwe soorten van Nederland niet helemaal helder was. Inmiddels is deze tekst aangepast en is duidelijker beschreven dat voor het aanvaarden van een nieuwe soort voor Nederland een unaniem besluit noodzakelijk is met betrekking tot 'identificatie' maar dat voor 'status' een meerderheid voldoende is.

De dood gevonden Roodsnavelkeerkringvogel *Phaethon aethereus* op het strand van Texel, Noord-Holland, op 17 januari 2016 is niet aanvaard. De commissie oordeelde dat er weliswaar geen twijfel is over de determinatie maar dat er door de slechte staat van de dode vogel twijfels zijn of hij zonder hulp van schepen is gearriveerd. Mede omdat het hier een nieuwe soort voor Nederland zou betreffen heeft de commissie unaniem besloten dat dit geval niet aanvaardbaar is.

Over het geval van een adulte Kumliens Meeuw *Larus glaucoides kumlieni* bij Bergen, Noord-Holland, op 14-19 januari 2015 was binnen de commissie ook na drie stemrondes onvoldoende eensgezindheid. Omdat het raadplegen van buitenlandse experts evenmin duidelijkheid heeft opgeleverd, is besloten dit geval in de ijskast te plaatsen totdat er meer bekend is over de variatie van handpentekening van Kleine Burgemeesters *L glaucoides*.

Na herroulatie is besloten dat der Kleine Torenvalk *Falco naumanni* bij Ede, Hoge Veluwe, Gelderland, op 23 maart 2002 niet meer aanvaardbaar is. Op basis van nieuwe informatie over de herkenning van Kleine Torenvalk en Torenvalk *F tinnunculus* en na bestuderen van foto's van beide soorten komt de commissie tot de volgende conclusies. ***1*** Op de foto van de vogel van Ede zijn kenmerken te zien die de determinatie als Kleine Torenvalk kunnen ondersteunen zoals, onder andere, nagelkleur, baardstreep, borstkleur en het patroon van de middelste dekveren. Geen van deze kenmerken is echter diagnostisch. Gebleken is dat Torenvalken zowel door incidentele kleurafwijkingen maar ook bijvoorbeeld door modder lichte nagels kunnen tonen, terwijl de eerdere determinatie van dit geval sterk op de nagelkleur leunde. ***2*** Op de foto van de vogel van Ede zijn enkele kenmerken te zien zijn die een determinatie als Torenvalk kunnen ondersteunen, zoals met name de tekening van de kruin en de zijkop. Geen van deze kenmerken is echter diagnostisch. ***3*** Een aantal belangrijke kenmerken op de beschikbare foto kan niet goed geïnterpreteerd worden, zoals de tekening van de schouderveren en grote, middelste en handdekveren. Op basis van deze analyse is de commissie unaniem tot het oordeel gekomen dat er te veel twijfels zijn om de determinatie als Kleine Torenvalk te handhaven.

Een uitgebreide versie van deze CDNA-mededeling is te vinden op de website van Dutch Birding. Eddy Nieuwstraten & CDNA

DBA-nieuws

Verandering binnen de redactie Na 25 jaar is Enno Ebels, met ingang van 1 januari 2018, teruggetreden als lid van de redactie van Dutch Birding. Enno trad aan in 1993 en maakte sindsdien als adjunct-hoofdredacteur deel uit van de kernredactie. In die hoedanigheid was hij nauw betrokken bij de planning en het samenstellen en invullen van de inhoud van het tijdschrift. Voor 1993 was hij reeds actief voor het bestuur van de DBA, onder meer als 'rechterhand' van voorzitter Paul Knolle. Namens heel Dutch Birding willen we Enno danken voor zijn betrokkenheid, nauwkeurigheid, inzicht, kennis en gedrevenheid. Enno's taken zijn in de afgelopen maanden overgedragen aan Dick Groenendijk en Roland van der Vliet. De redactie gaat niet helemaal zonder Enno verder en hij niet zonder de redactie want hij functioneert nu als redactiemedewerker. Redactie

Change in the editorial team From 1 January 2018, after 25 years, Enno Ebels has resided as member of the editorial board of Dutch Birding. Enno started in 1993 and was since then deputy chief editor. In that role, he was a member of the core editorial team that plans and fills in the contents and production of Dutch Birding. Before he became member of the editorial board, he was already active for several years in the Dutch Birding Association board. We want to thank him for his involvement, accuracy, insight, knowledge and drive in all those years. Enno's duties have been divided between Dick Groenendijk and Roland van der Vliet. However, we have not said goodbye to Enno completely as he will be part of the team of editorial assistants from now on. Editors

WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting Western Palearctic birds reported mainly from **late November 2017 to late January 2018**. 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 Counts of wintering **Taiga Bean Geese** *Anser fabalis* at three main wintering sites in north-eastern Jylland, Denmark, showed an average annual increase of 5.3% in peak numbers between the winters of 2004/05 and 2016/17, from 1065 to 2300 individuals (Dansk Ornitol Foren Tidsskr 111: 138-146, 2017). The second **Greater White-fronted Goose** *A albifrons* for the Philippines was photographed at Candaba, Pampanga, Luzon, on 30 November. In Greece, 144 **Lesser White-fronted Geese** *A erythropus* on 15 February 2016 were the highest count in 20 years; 114 were at Kerkini lake and 30 in Evros delta. Three at Al Mouj Golf, Muscat, on 15-24 November constituted the fourth record for Oman. In north-western Iran, 7612 at Aras Dam, Tabriz, on 8 December represented the highest count in recent times for any WP wintering site. Two adults with five juveniles at Lac du Der, Haute-Marne, from 28 December was the first family group for France. More than 1500 **White-headed Ducks** *Oxyura leucocephala* at Merja Fouarat, Kénitra, on 31 December represented the largest count for Morocco since the return of the species as a winter visitor (and then as a breeding species) two decades ago. The first hybrid **King x Common Eider** *Somateria spectabilis x mollissima* for the Faeroes was photographed on 14 November (for a photograph of a hybrid male in Iceland, see Dutch Birding 39: 262, plate 340, 2017). The returning adult male **American White-winged Scoter** *Melanitta deglandi deglandi* remained at Keflavík, Iceland, from 19 November onwards. In December, three or four **Black Scoters** *M americana* were reported from around Denmark. The returning male off Rossbeigh, Kerry, Ireland, remained into January and another one was back at Goswick, Northumberland, England, on 7 January. A female **Goosander** *Mergus merganser* at Oued Loukkos, Larache, on 10 December was the sixth for Morocco and the first since 1988. The first **Redhead** *Aythya americana* for the Azores on Terceira from 1 September remained until at least 7 January (cf Dutch Birding 39: 338, plate 466, 394, plate 550, 2017). The first **Ferruginous Duck** *A nyroca* for the Philippines was photographed at Candaba on 16 December. The adult male **American Black Duck** *Anas rubripes* in Skåne, Sweden, was back at Dagshög on 21 January. A male **Green-winged Teal** *A carolinensis* at Vlasatice, Moravia, on 1 December was the first for Czechia.

FLAMINGOS TO GREBES A **Lesser Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus minor* was seen at Gediz delta, Izmir, Turkey, on 4 December. For its fourth consecutive winter, the adult stayed at Sulaibikhat bay, Kuwait, from 8 December onwards. **Pied-billed Grebes** *Podilymbus podiceps* remained on São Miguel, Azores, and at Loch Feorlin, Argyll, Scotland, in December. The first for Shetland, Scotland, at Loch of Spiggie from 4 November was still present into January. Two **Horned Grebes** *Podiceps auritus* at Kouklia on 16 November concerned the third record for Cyprus.

DOVES In France, 91 704 **European Turtle Doves** *Streptopelia turtur* were legally hunted in the 2013/14 season; the species has been classified as 'vulnerable' in Europe with a decline of 78% in 1980-2013. A **Rufous Turtle Dove** *S orientalis meena* at Tószeg, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok, from 19 November to 6 December was the second for Hungary. In Norway, one or two were reported in Trøndelag from late December onwards. On 20 January, one was photographed at Hevoshaka, Hamina, Finland. The first **Oriental Turtle Dove** *S o orientalis* for Romania stayed at Perieni, Iaşi, on 29-30 November (there is also a record of Rufous Turtle Dove on 30 October 2014). A **Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura* on Mykines from 14 November was the first for the Faeroes; it died on 23 November. The first **Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* for Pakistan was captured on a fishing boat near the shore off Paradise Point, Karachi, on 14 October 2016. Two nesting pairs and one nestling at Borazjan, Bushehr, in June 2017 and an adult with one juvenile and two nestlings at Chazabeh, Bostan, Khuzestan, on 8 October concerned the first and second breeding record for Iran. One photographed at Khijadia Bird Sanctuary near Jamnagar, Gujarat, in December was the first for India.

TROPICBIRDS TO RAILS The Dutch rarities committee decided not to accept a beached **Red-billed Tropicbird** *Phaethon aethereus* found dead on Texel, Noord-Holland, on 17 January 2016 since decomposition had made it impossible to identify stomach contents; a previous individual found dead at Egmond aan Zee, Noord-Holland, in January 1986 was regarded as a ship-assisted arrival since its stomach contained remains of fish species that do not occur in the North Sea (cf Dutch Birding 8: 45-48, 1986). A **Corn Crake** *Crex crex* captured on a patio and then released at Georgetown on 26 November was the first for Ascension Island. The first for the state of New York since 1963 and the first twitchable for the USA since decades was found along a busy road on Long Island, New York, on 7 November and found as a roadkill two days later. In the Canary Islands, two **Allen's Gallinules** *Porphyrio alleni* were reported at Barranco de Rio Cabras, Fuerteventura, in the last decade of November. An injured individual taken into care near Volvi lake, Thessaloniki, on 14 December was the third for Greece (it died the next day); previous ones were in January 1996 and December 2013. The **American Coot** *Fulica americana* on Terceira, Azores, from 15 October remained into December.

43 Wahlberg's Eagle / Wahlbergs Arend *Aquila wahlbergi*, immature, Cap Blanc, Mauritania, 23 September 2014 *(Hans Verdaat)*

44 Slaty-backed Gull / Kamtsjatkameeuw *Larus schistisagus*, third-winter, Kierskie lake, Poznań, Wielkopolska, Poland, 8 December 2017 *(Steve Klasan)*

CRANES TO LOONS In the morning of 25 November, the last surviving **Siberian Crane** *Grus leucogeranus* of the western population (adult male 'Omid') returned at Fereydunkenar, Mazandaran, Iran. Tracking data of **Little Bustards** *Tetrax tetrax* in Iberia showed that annual anthropogenic mortality (collision with power lines and illegal killing) is likely to have a critical impact on the species, with values almost as high as the mortality attributed to predation (Bird Conserv Int, http://tinyurl.com/yakbo42x). A male **Great Bustard** *Otis tarda* (artificially bred from an egg imported from Spain) released in a reintroduction project in Wiltshire, England, in summer 2017 was photographed at sites in Finistère, France, on 2-3 December (cf Dutch Birding 38: 452, 2016). The returning adult **Pacific Loon** *Gavia pacifica* off Cornwall, England, from 4 November remained until at least 16 December. A juvenile at an inland reservoir at Caspe, Aragon, from 10 January was the second for Spain and the second inland for continental Europe; the first for Spain was in 2009 and the first inland was in Switzerland in December 2015. An adult at Crookhaven, Cork, on 18 January was the fifth for Ireland. The first **Yellow-billed Loon** *G adamsii* for Romania was a first-winter photographed at Olt, Ulmi, on 19 January.

TUBENOSES TO STORKS On 13 December, the 67-year-old **Laysan Albatross** *Phoebastria immutabilis* ('Wisdom'; the oldest-known wild bird) returned to lay an egg in her colony on Midway Atoll in the Hawaiian archipelago; ringed as an adult of at least five years old in 1956, she raised 30 chicks until 2006 and then almost one a year since. In the Canary Islands, a **Swinhoe's Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates monorhis* was picked up on a ferry and later released at sea between Lanzarote and La Palma on 15 December. A **Northern Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis* feeding on a boat's chum at Challenger Banks on 8 January was the first for Bermuda. In November, a moribund **Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris borealis* was picked up alive 22 km inland at Aalsmeer, Noord-Holland; there are up to 16 previous records for the Netherlands and this is the fifth for November-December. C 900 **Abdim's Storks** *Ciconia abdimii* at Raysut sewage plant, Dhofar, on 29 November was the highest-ever count for Oman.

HERONS TO CORMORANTS Two **Dwarf Bitterns** *Ixobrychus sturmii* turned up on Fuerteventura: a juvenile at Corralejo on 25 November, and a first-winter at Barranco de Río Cabras from 1 December to at least mid-January; previous WP records were in the Canary Islands in 1886, 2000 and 2002-03, in the Cape Verde Islands in 2011 and in Oman in 2013. The identification of the first **American Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli* for Britain at Dingle Gardens, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, from 22 April 2017 to 25 November (when taken into care) has been confirmed by DNA analysis; in the WP, this taxon has also been recorded in Iceland. The **Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* on Pico, Azores, from 8 November (possibly first found on Faial on 24 October) remained until 3 December. In 2017, **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* bred for the first time in Ukraine. If accepted, a first-winter **Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala* at Rabil lagoon, Boavista, on 14 December will be the fourth for the Cape Verde Islands and the seventh for the WP sensu BWP. In 2017, the breeding population of **Western Great Egret** *A alba* in Poland increased to 352 pairs in six colonies. In the Azores, an **American Great Egret** *A egretta* was seen on São Miguel on 26 December. A **Black Heron** *Egretta ardesiaca* was found at Pedra Badejo, Santiago, Cape Verde Islands, on 17 November. In the Azores, **Snowy Egrets** *E thula* were reported on Faial on 14-29 November and on Terceira on 9 December. In 2017, a record 122 pairs of **Northern Bald Ibis** *Geronticus eremita* were nesting at Tamri, Haha, Morocco, including a few at two new sites on cliffs further north of Tamri (cf Dutch Birding 39: 341, 2017). In Portugal, a **Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster* at the Farilhões, Berlengas, Peniche, from May remained until 3 December. The first **Reed Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax africanus* for the Cape Verde Islands was a first-year photographed at Pedra Badejo, Santiago, on 17 November. A first-winter **Pygmy Cormorant** *P pygmeus* stayed at Auderghem, Bruxelles, Belgium, from 12 January onwards.

WADERS For the 2013/14 hunting season in France, Aubry et al reported that 12 560 **European Golden Plovers** *Pluvialis apricaria*, 96 361 **Northern Lapwings** *Vanellus vanellus*, 6858 **Eurasian Whimbrels** *Numenius phaeopus*, 6961 **Eurasian Curlews** *N arquata*, 4918 **Common Greenshanks** *Tringa nebularia*, 7882 **Common Redshanks** *T totanus*, 43 183 **Jack Snipes** *Lymnocryptes minimus* and 177 888 **Common Snipes** *Gallinago gallinago* were shot (Faune Sauvage 310: 1-8, 2016). A **Eurasian Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus* photographed at Bondeira, Fogo, on 8 November was the first for the Cape Verde Islands. In England, a first-winter **Killdeer** *C vociferus* turned up on St Mary's, Scilly, on 29 December. As a result of severe winter weather in eastern North America, a massive arrival of more than 1000 individuals was registered on Bermuda in the first week of January. In the Azores, one was photographed at Paul da Praia, Terceira, on 17 January. Five **Semipalmated Plovers** *C semipalmatus* were present on Terceira on 1 January. If accepted, a first-winter at Los Abrigos, Tenerife, on 5 January will be the second for the Canary Islands. A **Red-wattled Lapwing** *V indicus* photographed at Afikim on 12 January was the fourth for Israel (the third stayed at Kfar Blum, Hula valley, from 13 November). Three males and five females **Caspian Plover** *Anarhynchus asiaticus* with one nest and nestlings at Incheh, Golestan, in mid-May 2017 concerned the first breeding for Iran. The first or second for Poland at Jeziorsko from 21 October remained until 27 December (it may concern the same individual as the one in August; cf Dutch Birding 39: 340, plate 473, 2017); the only previous winter record for Europe was the one in Zeeland, the Netherlands, in January 2014. In Egypt, c 50 **Kittlitz's Plovers** *A pecuarius* were counted in the northern part of Nasser lake south to Gerf Hussein on 6-9 December. The long-staying **Hudsonian Whimbrel** *N hudsonicus* at Santoña, Cantabria, Spain, from 29 January 2017 was still present in January. If accepted, one photographed at Praia beach,

45 Oriental Turtle Dove / Oostelijke Oosterse Tortel *Streptopelia orientalis orientalis*, Perieni, Iaşi, Romania, 29 November 2017 *(József Szabó)*

46 Dwarf Bittern / Afrikaanse Woudaap *Ixobrychus sturmii*, first-winter, Barranco de Río Cabras, Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, 3 December 2017 *(Arne Torkler)*

47 White-backed Vulture / Witruggier *Gyps africanus*, juvenile, Jbel Moussa, Morocco, 5 July 2017 *(Rachid El Khamlichi)* cf Dutch Birding 39: 400, 2017 **48** Reed Cormorant / Afrikaanse Dwergaalscholver *Phalacrocorax africanus*, first-year, Pedra Badejo, Santiago, Cape Verde Islands, 17 November 2017 *(Claes Wikström/bigyearwp.com)* **49** South Polar Skua / Zuidpooljager *Stercorarius maccormicki*, first-year, La Palma, Canary Islands, 28 November 2017 *(Daan Drukker)* **50** Black Heron / Zwarte Reiger *Egretta ardesiaca*, Pedra Badejo, Santiago, Cape Verde Islands, 17 November 2017 *(Claes Wikström/bigyearwp.com)*

Santiago, on 4 December will be the third for the Cape Verde Islands. Another one was seen on Terceira on 10 and 21 December. The second **Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris* for Namibia (and sixth for southern Africa) was found at Walvis Bay on 14 January. An important wintering site of the critically endangered **Spoon-billed Sandpiper** *C pygmea* with at least 48 individuals was discovered at Meghna estuary, Bangladesh, in February 2016 (Bird Conserv Int, http://tinyurl.com/ybytvh3b). The first for the Philippines was photographed at Tibsoc, Negros, on 7 January. A **Stilt Sandpiper** *C himantopus* at Finisterre reservoir, Toledo, on 15 September was the third for Spain; previous ones were in 1983 and 2015. In England, the first-winter at Poole Harbour, Dorset, from 11 September to 2 November and at Farlington marshes, Hampshire, on 5-7 November stayed on Brownsea Island and nearby Christchurch Harbour, Dorset, into January. The second **White-rumped Sandpiper** *C fuscicollis* for Italy was photographed at Mezzano, Argina Agosta, Emilia Romagna, on 16 January. The second **Pectoral Sandpiper** *C melanotos* for Tanzania was found at Hippo Pool in the Lake Manyara national park on 20 November. A first-winter **Greater Yellowlegs** *T melanoleuca* at Skintebo near Göteborg on 22-26 December and then at Smedsgård, Halland, from 6 January was the fourth for Sweden.

AUKS TO GULLS In Scotland, a **Thick-billed Murre** *Uria lomvia* flew past Lamba Ness, Unst, Shetland, on 5 January. A first-year **South Polar Skua** *Stercorarius maccormicki* was photographed off La Palma, Canary Islands, on 28 November. The population of **Black-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* declined by c 40% since the 1970s and the species has consequently been added to the list of species facing a high risk of global extinction. In Scotland, for instance, it declined by 87% in Orkney and Shetland

since 2000 and, on St Kilda, Outer Hebrides, 96% of the population has been lost. A first-year flying over Besh Barmag on 11 November was the third for Azerbaijan. The first **Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini* for Thailand was photographed at the Upper Gulf on 19 December. In Northumberland, an adult **Ross's Gull** *Rhodostethia rosea* at Longhougton Steel on 31 December is likely to have involved the same bird briefly at Fenham Flats on 29 October. In the Netherlands, a first-winter was discovered at Vlissingen harbour, Zeeland, on 24 January. An adult **Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla* at Hanstholm, Nordjylland, from 29 December was the eighth for Denmark. **Pallas's Gulls** *L ichthyaetus* at Rozkos, Bohemia, on 20 November and at Nove Mlyny, Moravia, on 30 December concerned the seventh and eighth for Czechia. The third **Kelp Gull** *L dominicanus* for Canada was an adult at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, on 21 January. The first **Baltic Gull** *L fuscus fuscus* for India was photographed in Goa on 13 November 2009 and 17 January 2010 (Indian Birds 14: 32-33, 2018). A third-winter **Slaty-backed Gull** *L schistisagus* on Kierskie lake, Poznań, Wielkopolska, on 7-9 December has been accepted as the first for Poland and eighth for the WP. A mixed pair of Slaty-backed and **Glaucous-winged Gull** *L glaucescens* bred successfully at Magadan in the far east of Russia in 2016-17 (Russian J Ornithol 26: 4603-4604, 2017).

TERNS In Egypt, c 500 **Gull-billed Terns** *Gelochelidon nilotica* were roosting on a sandbank in the Nile river at Aswan in December; formerly, it was a rare winter visitor and the first breeding was discovered at Qarun lake in 2013 (cf Dutch Birding 37: 178-180, 2015). The first **White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus* for the Cape Verde Islands turned up at Tarrafal, Santiago, on 17 November. A **Black Tern** *C niger* photographed at Siemianówka reservoir, Podlaskie, on 1 January was the first in winter for Poland. The third **Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea* for Romania was an adult at Mureş, Văleni, on 17-20 November. In Ireland, the adult **Forster's Tern** *S forsteri* was seen on Mutton Island, Galway, on 22 December. **Elegant Tern** *S elegans* has been formally added to the British list on the basis of a third-calendar-year or older bird at Dawlish Warren, Devon, on 18 May 2002. The **American Royal Tern** *S maxima* ringed in North Carolina, USA, on 5 July 2016 and first seen on Guernsey, Channel Islands, on 5 February 2017 and then for months in France was back on Guernsey from 13 October into January (briefly visiting Cherbourg-Octeville, Manche, France, on 3 January).

RAPTORS In 2017, a pair of **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* raising two chicks at Étrœungt, Nord, France, constituted the northernmost breeding record ever. The first to winter in the Netherlands was one at Kollumerpomp, Friesland, from 14 October into January. Four individuals were reported in north-eastern Italy in late December and early January. From 6 January, the most westerly for France wintered at Argol, Finistère. A first-year **Cinereous Vulture** *Aegypius monachus* wearing a yellow colour ring (probably from Spain) photographed at Iouik, Banc d'Arguin, in the first half of December was the first for Mauritania. A **White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus* at Trujillo, Extremadura, on 17 May 2017 was the fifth for Spain. The first **Short-toed Snake Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus* for Madeira was photographed at Ponta de São Lourenço on 21 November. GPS transmitters showed that two juvenile sibling hybrids of **Lesser Spotted x Greater Spotted Eagle** *Aquila pomarina x clanga* raised by a female Lesser Spotted and a male Greater Spotted in Lithuania followed two different autumn migration routes; one flew the western route via the Strait of Gibraltar to The Gambia and Guinea Bissau, and the other the eastern route via Bosphorus to Kenia (http://tinyurl.com/ycsl3asy). In Mauritania, an immature **Wahlberg's Eagle** *A wahlbergi* (first identified as Tawny Eagle *A rapax*) was photographed on Cap Blanc peninsula, 200 m from the Moroccan border, on 23 September 2014; the first Wahlberg's for the WP concerned one photographed in Egypt on 3 May 2013 (cf Dutch Birding 36: 196, plate 240-241, 2014). If accepted, an immature **Steppe Eagle** *A nipalensis* photographed at Villasavary, Aude, on 27 November will be the fifth for France. The breeding population of **Golden Eagle** *A chrysaetos* in Italy increased from 475-544 pairs in 2003 to 630-729 in 2016, with the largest populations in the Alps (465-521 pairs), Apennines (92-112), Sardinia (57-70) and Sicily (17-21) (Avocetta 41: 33-98, 2017). A total of 326 **Red Kites** *Milvus milvus* were released at four sites in Britain between 1989 and 2006 in efforts to reintroduce this species. Toxicological analysis performed on 110 of 162 individuals found dead (involving both released and wild-fledged birds) showed that 19 had been poisoned by anticoagulant rodenticides, nine by other pesticides and six by lead (Eur J Wildl Res 63: 94, 2017). A **Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus* at Hindelbank and Fraubrunnen, Bern, on 31 December constituted the first winter record for Switzerland.

OWLS TO FALCONS In November-December, six **Northern Hawk-Owls** *Surnia ulula* were reported in Latvia and six in Lithuania; in Estonia, at least 50 were reported this winter. The global population of **Snowy Owl** *Bubo scandiacus* has been revised down from an estimated 200 000 individuals to only c 14 000 pairs; the species is now classified as vulnerable by IUCN with the comment that in poor rodent years its population could drop to as low as 5000-7000 pairs. In December-January, singles were present on Bryher and St Martin's, Scilly; at Carn Gloose, Cornwall, England (female); on Eday, Orkney, Scotland; and at Carrowmore lake, Mayo, Ireland. A **Pharaoh Eagle-Owl** *B ascalaphus* at Richard Toll airport on 20 January was the second for Senegal. Two **Arabian Eagle-Owls** *B milesi* in the Al Hajar mountains on 1 November concerned the first record for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) since a juvenile from the Dibba area was gifted to Dubai Zoo in 2003. In Iran, a **Turkish Fish Owl** *B semenowi* was photographed at Jam, Bushehr, on 4 September. The adult **Abyssinian Roller** *Coracias abyssinicus* at Nouadhibou, Mauritania, from 31 October remained until at least 12 January. The population of **European Rollers** *C garrulus* in Lithuania showed a decline from

51 Ross's Gull / Ross' Meeuw *Rhodostethia rosea*, first-winter, Vlissingen, Zeeland, Netherlands, 25 January 2018 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

52 Killdeer / Killdeerplevier *Charadrius vociferus*, first-winter, St Mary's, Scilly, England, 29 December 2017 *(Robin Mawer)*

53 Snowy Owl / Sneeuwuil *Bubo scandiacus*, female, Carn Gloose, Cornwall, England, 18 December 2017
(John Swann)

54 Turkish Fish Owl / Turkse Visuil *Bubo semenowi*, Jam, Bushehr, Iran, 4 September 2017
(Morteza Mahmudi)

55 Grey-throated Martin / Indische Oeverzwaluw *Riparia chinensis*, adult, Jahra pools reserve, Kuwait, 26 November 2017 *(AbdulRahman Al-Sirhan)* **56** Pale Martin / Bleke Oeverzwaluw *Riparia diluta*, first-year, Jahra pool reserve, Kuwait, 26 November 2017 *(AbdulRahman Al-Sirhan)* **57** Olive-backed Pipit / Siberische Boompieper *Anthus hodgsoni*, Costa Calma, Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, 11 December 2017 *(Arne Torkler)* **58** Red-headed Bunting / Bruinkopgors *Emberiza bruniceps*, adult female, Stavneslia, Hemne, Sør-Trøndelag, Norway, 23 October 2017 *(Arnt Stavne)*

100-150 pairs in 1996-2000 to only 10-15 pairs in 2015-17. A female **Levaillant's Woodpecker** *Picus vaillantii* photographed on 16 September 2015 at García Aldabe was the first for Ceuta, a Spanish enclave on the Mediterranean coast of Morocco (in May 2015, a nest was found c 5 km west of Ceuta south of Jbel Moussa, where it had occurred in the past; Ardeola 65: 97-139, 2018). In urban areas of south-eastern Poland, 3.6% of observed individuals and 6.9% of birds found dead of sympatric populations of **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major* and **Syrian Woodpecker** *D syriacus* were identified as hybrids; an estimated 5.3% of pairs were mixed mainly comprising Great Spotted males and Syrian or hybrid females (J Ornithol, http://tinyurl.com/y88vacjf). The first **Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni* for Mauritius was photographed on Gabriel Island on 24 November.

SHRIKES TO CROWS The first **Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus* for Malta at il-Maghluq, Marsaxlokk, from 2 November remained until 19 November (cf Dutch Birding 39: 406, plate 575, 2017). A first-winter **Daurian Shrike** *L isabellinus* photographed at Montaña de Taco, Tenerife, on 21-22 November was the first for the Canary Islands and Macaronesia. In Iran, three **Black Drongos** *Dicrurus macrocercus* were found at Khaf, Khorasan-e Razavi, on 22 March 2017 and an unidentified drongo was seen in flight at Minab, Hormozgan, on 28 November. Another one turned up at Abu Dhabi, UAE, on 3 December. The first **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* for Hong Kong, China, was photographed between Mai Po and Tai Sang Wai in November. The **Pied Crow** *C albus* at M'Hamid south of Zagora, Morocco, from November 2015 was again seen on 31 December.

LARKS TO SWALLOWS In the Canary Islands, three **Greater Hoopoe-Larks** *Alaemon alaudipes* stayed on Lanzarote into December and another one was found on Fuerteventura on 2-17 December. An influx of **White-winged**

59 Mourning Dove / Treurduif *Zenaida macroura*, Mykines, Faeroes, 20 November 2017 *(Esbern í Eyðansstovu)* **60** Dusky Thrush / Bruine Lijster *Turdus eunomus*, first-year, Helgoland, SchleswigHolstein, Germany, 10 November 2017 *(Peter Neumann)* cf Dutch Birding 39: 409, 2017 **61** Yellow-browed Warbler / Bladkoning *Phylloscopus inornatus*, São Miguel, Azores, 9 December 2017 *(Gerbrand Michielsen)* **62** Purple Sunbird / Purperhoningzuiger *Cinnyris asiaticus*, first-winter or female, Mutla'a Ranch, Kuwait, 17 November 2017 *(AbdulRahman Al-Sirhan)*

Larks *Alauda leucoptera* in Ukraine involved singles at Sivashovka, Cherson, on 1-3 and 29 November, two at Bulahovka, Dnipropetrovsk, on 10 December, and nine at Visnyanka, Cherson, on 16 December; there had been c five previous records in the last 20 years. If accepted, a presumed **American Horned Lark** *Eremophila alpestris alpestris/hoyti* at Staines reservoir, Surrey, on 19-28 November could be the first for Britain (and the WP); previous ones in Iceland, on St Agnes and Tresco, Scilly, on 2-31 October 2001 and on South Uist, Outer Hebrides, on 9-11 October 2014 have not (yet) been accepted. An adult **Grey-throated Martin** *Riparia chinensis* photographed at Jahra pools reserve from 25 November to 27 December was the first for Kuwait and the WP sensu BWP. Until 17 December, it flew together with three **Pale Martins** *R diluta* which constituted the second record for Kuwait and the WP sensu BWP (the previous Pale Martin was at the same site on 5 January 2017; cf Dutch Birding 39: 345, plate 480, 2017). Acknowledging previous analyses showing an African origin of **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* (*savignii* and *transitiva*), first colonising Eurasia (nominate *rustica* in the west and *gutturalis* in the east), then crossing to North America 25 000 years ago (*erythrogaster*) before the latter recolonized Siberia 10 000 years ago (*tytleri*), there are now two hybrid zones in Russia of three subspecies (*rustica*, *gutturalis* and *tytleri*). These zones were studied by Scordato et al who looked at morphology and genetics (Mol Ecol 26: 5676-5691, 2017). They concluded that the clines in the *rustica-tytleri* hybrid zone were steep and narrow, indicating a strong reproductive isolation, while the clines in the *gutturalis-tytleri* zone were much wider, suggesting weak isolation. This was confirmed by the fact that fewer hybrids and backcrosses were found between the former pair of taxa than between the latter pair. Two very late **Red-rumped Swallows** *Cecropis daurica* flying together were photographed at Cap Fréhel, Côtes d'Armor, France, on 26 December.

LEAF WARBLERS TO REED WARBLERS A **Pallas's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus* at Fonte de Benémola, Loulé, on 27-28 December was the third for Portugal. The second **Yellow-browed Warbler** *P inornatus* for the Azores was photographed on São Miguel on 9-16 December (the first was in 2001). Six were found on Porto Santo, Madeira, on 27 December and five on Fuerteventura in December. An **African Desert Warbler** *Sylvia deserti* at Santa Maria, Sal, from 21 January was the third for the Cape Verde Islands. The fifth **Asian Desert Warbler** *S nana* for Denmark turned up on Rømø, Tønder, on 25 November. A male **Tristram's Warbler** *S deserticola* at Barranco de la Torre, Fuerteventura, on 15 and 24 January was the second for the Canary Islands; in Europe, it has also been recorded once in Gibraltar and once in south-eastern France (cf Dutch Birding 39: 196-197, 2017). Males **Eastern Subalpine Warbler** *S cantillans* photographed at El Matà, Girona, on 5 April 2016 and on Lanzarote from 30 December 2016 to 11 February 2017 have been accepted as the first for Spain and the Canary Islands, respectively (Ardeola 65: 97-139, 2018). As late as 6-9 December, one stayed near Doel, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium. A **Thick-billed Warbler** *Arundinax aedon* at Sarrar on 24 February 2017 was the first for Saudi Arabia. If accepted, a **Booted Warbler** *Iduna caligata* videoed at Kranji marsh on 10 December will be the first for Singapore and south-eastern Asia. Based on a sample of 471 **Aquatic Warblers** *Acrocephalus paludicola* trapped in autumn at 14 stopover sites in France, Portugal and Spain, Wojczulanis-Jakubas et al found that adults migrated earlier than first-years, and males earlier than females (Sci Nat 104: 101, 2017).

NUTHATCHES TO SUNBIRDS Moulaï et al showed a decline in the **Algerian Nuthatch** *Sitta ledanti* population at Guerrouch forest, Taza national park, Jijel, Algeria, from 2-3.25 pairs per 10 ha in 1991-92 to 1-2 pairs per 10 ha in 2016. In total, 18 individuals were counted in a 300 ha section of surveyed forest, a stark contrast to c 91 individuals counted in an 800 ha area of the same forest in 1991, probably due to habitat degradation (Alauda 85: 101-107, 2017). In Hormozgan, Iran, five **Oriental White-eyes** *Zosterops palpebrosa* were seen at Khoor-e Azini on 27 November and 10 at Khoor-e Khalathi on 29 November (cf Dutch Birding 31: 230-231, 2009). A **Purple Sunbird** *Cinnyris asiaticus* photographed at Mutla'a Ranch on 17 November concerned the third for Kuwait and the WP sensu BWP; previous ones were in January-February 2008 (three) and in November 2014 (two).

THRUSHES TO REDSTARTS A moribund **Grey-cheeked Thrush** *Catharus minimus* shot at Esposende, Braga, on 26 October was the first for Portugal. In the Netherlands, a first-year male **Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus atrogularis* frequented a bird-feeder at Scheemda, Groningen, from at least 24 January onwards. The first **Mistle Thrush** *T viscivorus* for North America stayed at Miramichi, New Brunswick, Canada, from 9 December to at least 3 January. A **Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus* photographed at Bunyola, Mallorca, on 18 November was the first for the Balearic Islands. A first-winter trapped on Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, on 20 November was not seen again until it was trapped for a second time on 5 January. The eighth for Belgium was a first-winter at Montzen, Liège, from 5 to late January. In Norway, a male **Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva* paired with a female **European Pied Flycatcher** *F hypoleuca* raised four young that looked like pure European Pieds at Maridalen, Oslo, in June 2017; the identity of the young is being investigated by DNA analysis (http://tinyurl.com/ybrjvotq). In the Netherlands, **Eastern Black Redstarts** *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides* stayed at Lioessens, Friesland, from 29 November to 2 December and on Texel on 4-9 December. The second for Finland was seen at Viikki, Helsinki, from 25 December to 7 January.

STONECHATS TO WHEATEARS A male **Caspian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus hemprichii* at Vasche di Ischitella, Foggia, on 13 January was the third for Italy. DNA analysis confirmed the identification of the first **Stejneger's Stonechat** *S stejnegeri* for Denmark trapped at Gedser, Sjælland, on 31 October and staying until 1 November. A **Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti* at Techirghiol, Constanţa, from 6 December to late January was the first for Romania. A female at De Panne, West-Vlaanderen, from 21 November stayed into late January. The first for the Cape Verde Islands was a female near Santa Maria, Sal, on 23 January. A first-winter female **Pied Wheatear** *O pleschanka* at Ballymacoda, Cork, on 12-15 December was the fourth for Ireland. An adult **White-crowned Black Wheatear** *O leucopyga* at Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire, England, on 1 December had escaped from an aviary c two weeks earlier. A male **Finsch's Wheatear** *O finschii* photographed near Samarkandy, Batkenskaya, on 30 April 2017 was the first for Kyrgyzstan (Russian J Ornithol 26: 5232-5234, 2017). In Israel, a female **Red-rumped Wheatear** *O moesta* at Uvda valley and a pair at km 94 in the Arava valley were still present in December. Three single **Basalt Wheatears** *O lugens warriae* remained through December, at Uvda valley, near Be'er Ora and at Amram's Pillars.

WAGTAILS TO PIPITS The third **Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola* for North America was a male photographed at Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, California, USA, on 15 December. A **White Wagtail** *M alba* at Rooisand nature reserve near Kleinmond from 5 January was the first for South Africa. A first-year **East Siberian Wagtail** *M ocularis* on Saadiyat island, Abu Dhabi, on 7 November was the first for the UAE and the WP. Semenov et al investigated the role of phenotypic differentiation in forming and maintaining reproductive barriers in 'white wagtail' *Motacilla* taxa (Mol Ecol 26: 6430-6444, 2017). By sampling along a 3000 km transect of the hybrid zone of **White Wagtail** and **Masked Wagtail** *M personata*, they found that the transition from heads typical for White to heads typical for Masked was located c 300 km north-west from the genetic centre of their hybrid zone in Kazakhstan. Combined with observations that these wagtails choose partners by head pattern, it is concluded that assortative

63 Basalt Wheatear / Basalttapuit *Oenanthe lugens warriae*, Ovda valley, Eilat, Israel, 17 November 2017 *(Shai Agmon/Birding, Nature, Environment)* **64** Desert Wheatear / Woestijntapuit *Oenanthe deserti*, first-year female, Techirghiol, Constanţa, Romania, 7 December 2017 *(Sebastian Bugariu)* **65** Eastern Black Redstart / Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides*, first-year male, Viikki, Helsinki, Finland, 29 December 2017 *(Petteri Hytönen)*

66 Black-throated Thrush / Zwartkeellijster *Turdus atrogularis*, first-year male, Scheemda, Groningen, Netherlands, 25 January 2018 *(Martijn Bot)*

67 Paddyfield Pipit / Oriëntaalse Pieper *Anthus rufulus*, Hamraniyah, United Arab Emirates, 24 November 2017 *(Oscar Campbell)*

mate choice based on head plumage keeps hybrid zones of these and possibly other wagtails stable. A record flock of 15 **Richard's Pipits** *Anthus richardi* for Italy was found at Morghella, Siracusa, Sicily, in late December. If accepted, a **Paddyfield Pipit** *A rufulus* photographed at Hamraniyah on 24-26 November will be the first for the UAE and third for the WP (previous ones concerned singles at different locations in south-eastern Iran on 12 December 2010; cf Zool Middle East 60: 183-185, 2014). A flock of four **Olive-backed Pipits** *A hodgsoni* was present at Costa Calma, Fuerteventura, on 11-19 December. A very late one stayed at Wageningen, Gelderland, the Netherlands, on 21-31 December. The first **Meadow Pipit** *A pratensis* for Senegal was photographed at Yene-Tode lagoon near Dakar on 1 January.

FINCHES The first **European Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris* for India was photographed at Startsapuk Tso lake near Thukjey, Ladakh, on 3 September 2015 (Indian Birds 13: 162-163, 2017). A **Mealy Redpoll** *Acanthis flammea* with a ring from China was trapped at Skagen, Denmark, on 24 December; for information on previous redpolls from China trapped in Norway, the Netherlands and Sweden, and also on one ringed in Finland and trapped in China, see Dutch Birding 25: 135, 2003, 27: 421, 2005, 29: 58, 2007. **Coues's Redpolls** *A hornemanni exilipes* found at Altlichtenwarth on 4-14 December (one), at Bisamberg on 17 December (three), and at Großebersdorf on 24 December (one) represented the first records for Niederösterreich and Austria. In November-December at least 120 were reported in Lithuania; for more information on the influx in central and eastern Europe in autumn 2017, see Dutch Birding 39: 414, 2017. The first **White-winged Crossbill** *Loxia leucoptera leucoptera* for the WP, a male at Sólbrekka, Seltjörn, Iceland, from 14 November, remained until 9 December. In northern France, c 15 **Parrot Crossbills** *L pytyopsittacus* from the country's first influx of this species in November remained into December. A flock of 32 at Osetnik, Pomerania, on 16 January was the largest ever for Poland.

BUNTINGS The only **White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys* in the Netherlands, a male at Spaarndam, Noord-Holland, from mid-December 1981 to mid-February 1982 (cf Dutch Birding 6: 64, plate 54, 1984), has been rejected since digitised photographs revealed leg damages and deformations considered to be indicative of captive origin (Dutch Birding 39: 382, 2017). The identification of an adult female **Red-headed Bunting** *Emberiza bruniceps* trapped and then staying at Stavneslia, Hemne, Sør-Trøndelag, on 22-23 October has been confirmed by DNA analysis, making it a possible first for Norway (14 previous records are listed in category D). Three **Pine Buntings** *E leucocephalos* were found at Locarno, Ticino, Switzerland, on 25 November. The first for Thailand and south-eastern Asia was photographed in Lopburi province on 5 December. In Italy, c 10 individuals were reported in December. Five **Little Buntings** *E pusilla* were found at Costa Calma, Fuerteventura, on 14-29 December of which four remained until at least 4 January. A survey of historical breeding and wintering areas confirmed that **Jankowski's Bunting** *E jankowskii* has disappeared from most of its former sites in China with the exceptions of Dagang, Xiergen and Tumiji. In Inner Mongolia, 13 new breeding sites were discovered and the extent of suitable breeding habitat was estimated at c 280 km^2 which could involve a population size ranging between 9800 and 12 500 individuals (Bird Conserv Int, http://tinyurl.com/y7kyelfp).

YEAR LISTS In 2017, Erik Rask, Claes Wikström and Mårten Wikström from Sweden had a WP record year total of 761 species, visiting 26 countries. For WP boundaries, they used Cramp's (1977) *Birds of the Western Palearctic*, ie, 'WP sensu BWP'; for species, they included introduced species ('category C') and followed Gill & Donsker's 'IOC's taxonomy' (2017); see also www.bigyearwp.com.

BOOKS New books on rare birds in Poland and Lithuania (with summaries in English) are available at http://tinyurl.com/y75lszz6 and http://tinyurl.com/ydbbfy2z.

For a number of reports Birdwatch, British Birds, Go-South Bulletin, Sovon-nieuws, www.birdguides.com, www.dutchavifauna.nl, www.hbw.com, www.netfugl.dk, www.rarebirdalert.co.uk, www.tarsiger.com and www.waarneming.nl were consulted. We wish to thank Shai Agmon, Abdul Rahman Al-Sirhan, Mohamed Amezian, Brahim Bakass, Patrick Bergier, Davy Bosman, Paul Bradbeer, Sebastian Bugariu, Oscar Campbell, Sidi Imad Cherkaoui, Martin Collinson, José Luis Copete, Magnus Corell, Andrea Corso, Pierre Defos du Rau, Daan Drukker, Philippe Dubois, Nils van Duivendijk, Enno Ebels, Rachid El Khamlichi, Esbern í Eyðansstovu, Natalino Fenech, Thijs Fijen, Raymond Galea, Marita Gulklett, Ricard Gutiérrez, Trevor Hardaker, Peter Hellenthal, Christoph Himmel, Erik Hirschfeld, Dick Hoek, Harry Hussey, Petteri Hytönen, Zbigniew Kajzer, Leander Khil, Bence Kókay, Dominik Krupiński, Richard Kvetko, Vincent Legrand, André van Loon, Vernon Lundy, Morteza Mahmudi, Lionel Maumary, Robin Mawer, Gerbrand Michielsen, Krister Mild, Geir Mobakken, Jean-Yves Mondain-Monval, Killian Mullarney, Alexander Nastachenko, Peter Neumann, Gerald Oreel, Gerard Ouweneel, Jamie Partridge, Yoav Perlman, Bram Piot, René Pop, Nikos Probonas, Manuel Ribeiro, Colin Richardson, Simon Rix, Magnus Robb, Beneharo Rodríguez, Michał Skąpski, Roy Slaterus, Rasmus Strack, József Szabó, Ehsan Talebi, Arne Torkler, Hugo Touzé, Magnus Ullman, Hans Verdaat, Roland van der Vliet, Peter de Vries, Claes Wikström, Emin Yoğurtcuoğlu and Wim van Zwieten 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 2017**. 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 (CDNA) wordt verzocht hun waarnemingen zo spoedig mogelijk in te dienen via www.dutchavifauna.nl.

EENDEN Op c 15 locaties werden **Witbuikrotganzen** *Branta hrota* gezien, uitsluitend in het Waddengebied (maximaal vijf op Texel, Noord-Holland) en in de Delta (maximaal vijf bij Nieuwvliet, Zeeland). Ook **Zwarte Rotganzen** *B nigricans* werden op ongeveer 15 plaatsen gezien in het Waddengebied en de Delta. Het hoogste aantal op één locatie betrof vier op Texel. **Roodhalsganzen** *B ruficollis* waren wijd verspreid met waarnemingen van ruim 30 plekken. De grootste groep (zeven) werd gezien bij het Veerse Meer, Zeeland. Van 26 tot 30 december verbleef een ongeringde **Ross' Gans** *Anser rossii* bij Elburg, Gelderland. Tussen 18 november en 28 december werden vier adulte en twee juveniele **Groenlandse Kolganzen** *A albifrons flavirostris* onregelmatig gezien op en langs de Maas bij Itteren, Limburg (tweede geval voor deze provincie). Maximaal 33 **Dwergganzen** *A erythropus* werden geteld in het Oudeland van Strijen, Zuid-Holland. Daarnaast waren er solitaire vogels, meestal kortstondig, op zes andere locaties in het land. Leuk waren de waarnemingen van een trekkend exemplaar over de telposten Dordtse Biesbosch, Zuid-Holland, op 7 november en IJmeerdijk bij Almere, Flevoland, op 25 november. Er werden 18 **IJseenden** *Clangula hyemalis* waargenomen vanaf zeetrektelposten. Verder werden deze fraaie eendjes vooral ter plaatse gezien in het noordelijke kustgebied en langs de Brouwersdam, Zeeland/Zuid-Holland, maar nergens in aantallen van betekenis. Vermeldenswaard zijn binnenlandwaarnemingen bij Opheusden, Gelderland, en op de Haarrijnse Plas bij Vleuten, Utrecht. De bekende adulte mannetjes **Buffelkopeenden** *Bucephala albeola* van Den Oever, Noord-Holland, en Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland, bleven de gehele periode. Een ongeringd mannetje **Kokardezaagbek** *Lophodytes cucullatus* trok aardig wat bekijks van 12 november tot 1 december bij Zwolle, Overijssel. Indien aanvaard betreft dit het derde geval. Een mannetje **Grote Tafeleend** *Aythya valisineria* vanaf 4 december in Hardenberg, Overijssel, droeg (helaas) wel een ring. Het paartje **Witoogeenden** *A nyroca* bij Borgharen, Limbrug, was op 30 december nog aanwezig. Solitaire verbleven op 1 november in het Harderbroek, Flevoland; op 4 november bij Halsteren, Noord-Brabant; op 17 november op het Wolderwijd, Flevoland; op 17 december bij Lochem, Overijssel; en tot 27 december op het Dwingelderveld, Drenthe. Van 16 tot 18 december werd een mannetje **Kleine Topper** *A affinis* gezien in een grote groep duikeenden op (wederom) het Veluwemeer, ter hoogte van Biddinghuizen, Flevoland.

DUIVEN TOT STORMVOGELS Late **Zomertortels** *Streptopelia turtur* verbleven nog tot 3 november in Den Helder, Noord-Holland, van 23 tot 28 november in Julianadorp, Noord-Holland, en vanaf 12 december tot in het nieuwe jaar in Krimpen aan den IJssel, Zuid-Holland. Een late **Gierzwaluw** *Apus apus* werd op 25 november gefotografeerd nabij Ketelhaven, Flevoland. Op telposten werden slechts 125 **Kraanvogels** *Grus grus* geregistreerd. Dit was het laagste aantal voor november-december in de afgelopen 10 jaren. Hierin was 2014 een absoluut topjaar met 154 552 exemplaren. In de andere jaren varieerden de aantallen in november-december tussen 311 en 7023. Vanaf zeetrektelposten werden in totaal 118 **Parelduikers** *Gavia arctica* geteld, de meeste langs Huisduinen, Noord-Holland, en Schiermonnikoog, Friesland. Trektellers noteerden tevens 11 langstrekkende **IJsduikers** *G immer*. Het exemplaar in zomerkleed van Giesbeek, Gelderland, bleef tot 6 november. Het vermelden waard is verder een serie waarnemingen van een eerstejaars vanaf 22 november langs de Nederrijn tussen Opheusden en Maurik, Gelderland. Het goede najaar voor **Stormvogeltje** *Hydrobates pelagicus* zette door met een negental langs zeetrektelposten, waarvan maar liefst zes op 11 november langs Camperduin, Noord-Holland. Er druppelden nog 36 **Vale Stormvogeltjes** *H leucorhous* na langs zeetrektelposten. In totaal werden 49 **Noordse Stormvogels** *Fulmarus glacialis* geteld vanaf zeetrektelposten, waarvan 17 langs Camperduin. Een verzwakte **Kuhls Pijlstormvogel** *Calonectris borealis* werd op 22 november opgeraapt in Aalsmeer, Noord-Holland; de vogel overleed op 25 november in een vogelopvangcentrum. Waren september en oktober al matig voor langstrekkende **Grauwe Pijlstormvogels** *Puffinus griseus*, in november-december werden slechts zes vogels aan het najaarstotaal toegevoegd. Vermeldenswaard zijn late exemplaren op 28 december langs telpost De Vulkaan bij Den Haag, Zuid-Holland, en op 31 december langs telpost Westerslag op Texel.

OOIEVAARS TOT AALSCHOLVERS Er waren late waarnemingen van **Zwarte Ooievaars** *Ciconia nigra* van 1 tot 4 november in de omgeving van Lankhorst, Overijssel, op 25 en 26 november nabij Appelscha, Friesland, en op 26 december over Almelo, Overijssel. Uit maar liefst 73 uurhokken kwamen waarnemingen van **Koereigers** *Bubulcus ibis,* met name uit Zuid-Holland, waar bijvoorbeeld groepjes van vier werden gemeld bij Gouderak, Strijen en Stolwijk. Een hybride **Koereiger x Kleine Zilverreiger** *Bubulcus ibis x Egretta garzetta* zorgde op 11 en 12 november voor enige opschudding bij Anna Paulowna, Noord-Holland, maar dankzij knap speurwerk werden zowel de determinatie als de herkomst opgehelderd: het bleek te gaan om een ontsnapte vogel van

68 Kuifaalscholver / European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, eerstejaars, Vroomshoop, Overijssel, 24 december 2017 *(Edwin Winkel)*

69 IJsduiker / Common Loon *Gavia immer*, adult zomerkleed, Rhederlaag, Giesbeek, Gelderland, 4 november 2017 *(David Spelt)*

70 Kleine Topper / Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*, mannetje, Biddinghuizen, Flevoland, 17 december 2017 *(Alex Bos)* **71** Stormvogeltje / European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*, Noordzee ten noorden van Ameland, Friesland, 12 november 2017 *(Edwin Winkel)* **72** Steppevorkstaartplevier / Black-winged Pratincole, *Glareola nordmanni*, eerstejaars, Oude-Tonge, Zuid-Holland, 25 november 2017 *(Kris De Rouck)* **73** Ross' Gans / Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*, adult, Korte Waarden, Elburg, Gelderland, 27 december 2017 *(Alex Bos)*

een dierenpark in de buurt. Het blijft opmerkelijk hoe trouw de **Zwarte Ibissen** *Plegadis falcinellus* blijven aan hun favoriete gebieden: Koedijk, Noord-Holland (maximaal vier), Berkel en Rodenrijs, Zuid-Holland (drie) en Vogelplas Starrevaart bij Leidschendam, Zuid-Holland (één). Daarbuiten waren er alleen waarnemingen bij Oostzaan, Noord-Holland, op 8 november en rond Nieuwkoop en Waddinxveen, Zuid-Holland, op 10 en 11 december. Een geringde eerstejaars **Kuifaalscholver** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (blauw FWA) werd van 20 tot 28 december waargenomen in een kanaal tussen Bergentheim en Vriezenveen, Overijssel (eerste twitchbare voor deze provincie). De vogel was als nestjong geringd op 23 juni 2017 op Inchkeith, een eilandje voor de kust bij Edinburgh, Schotland. Iets minder ver in het binnenland maar eveneens het vermelden waard was een geringde eerstejaars (groen BII) op 8 december langs het IJ in Amsterdam, Noord-Holland. Deze bleek op 17 juni 2017 te zijn geringd als nestjong op Isle of May, Schotland.

STELTKLUTEN TOT VORKSTAARTPLEVIEREN **Steltkluten** *Himantopus himantopus* worden stilaan ook wintergasten in ons land. Er waren waarnemingen van 9 november tot 28 december bij Borssele, Zeeland; op 11 november op de Krammersche Slikken, Zuid-Holland; op 6 en 17 december op Tiengemeten, Zuid-Holland; en op 27 december in de Prunjepolder bij Serooskerke, Zeeland. Net als op 20 september werd op 2 november een naar winterkleed ruiende **Amerikaanse Goudplevier** *Pluvialis dominica* opgemerkt bij Middelburg, Zeeland. Een **Gestreepte Strandloper** *Calidris melanotos* werd gemeld op 6 november in de Dijkgatsweide bij Den Oever. Late **Grauwe Franjepoten** *Phalaropus lobatus* verbleven van 3 november tot 8 december bij Kerkwerve, Zeeland, van 10 tot 13 november in de Ezumakeeg, Friesland, en op

11 november buitendijks bij Ferwert, Friesland. Langstrekkende **Rosse Franjepoten** *P fulicarius* waren met 13 exemplaren langs zeetrektelposten beduidend schaarser dan in september-oktober (toen er 103 werden geteld). Daarnaast werden tot begin december op enkele plekken langs de kust pleisterende vogels opgemerkt. Een **Steppevorkstaartplevier** *Glareola nordmanni* hing op 7 en 8 november rond in de polders ten noorden van Schiedam, Zuid-Holland, en verbleef van 22 tot 30 november ten zuiden van Stad aan 't Haringvliet, Zuid-Holland. Hij was nogal mobiel en daardoor soms lastig te twitchen.

ALKEN TOT STERNS Zeetrektellers noteerden 15 **Papegaaiduikers** *Fratercula arctica* (bijna allemaal langs Camperduin). Een adulte **Zwarte Zeekoet** *Cepphus grylle* verbleef vanaf 6 december langs (wederom) de Brouwersdam. Verder waren er meldingen op 25 november op Terschelling, Friesland (vondst), en op 24 december langs Camperduin. Het totaal van 34 langstrekkende **Kleine Alken** *Alle alle* was bepaald niet hoog; het laatste topjaar was 2007 met bijna 3500 langs zeetrektelposten in november. Een pleisteraar bij Westkapelle, Zeeland, werd van 18 november tot 11 december door velen bewonderd. Van **Kleine Jager** *Stercorarius parasiticus* werden nog 20 exemplaren vanaf zeetrektelposten geteld, van **Middelste Jager** *S pomarinus* slechts 23 en van **Grote Jager** *S skua* 50. Bijzonder was de binnenlandvondst van een verzwakte Grote Jager bij Zeist, Utrecht, op 14 december; de vogel is naar een vogelopvangcentrum gebracht. Tot half november werden nog drie **Vorkstaartmeeuwen** *Xema sabini* opgemerkt vanaf zeetrektelposten. Op 14 november werden 139 **Pontische Meeuwen** *Larus cachinnans* geteld op het strand van Terschelling (tussen strandpalen 8 en 24); voor zover bekend betreft dit het hoogste aantal dat ooit bij elkaar werd gezien. In totaal zes **Kleine Burgemeesters** *L glaucoides* trokken langs zeetrektelposten. Daarnaast waren er op enkele plekken pleisteraars, waaronder populaire in Amsterdam-West (subadult) en in de omgeving van Westkapelle (twee). Een mooi aantal van 22 **Grote Burgemeesters** *L hyperboreus* werd door tellers ingevoerd op trektellen.nl. Dit is het hoogste aantal voor november-december sinds 2007. Maxima van drie werden gemeld op 19 november langs Camperduin en op 25 november langs Terschelling. Een eerste-kalenderjaar die in december langdurig verbleef in en rond Harlingen, Friesland, lokte de nodige bezoekers. Ook vanwege de vele pleisteraars in het begin van het jaar was 2017 al met al een prima jaar voor deze soort. De adulte **Witwangstern** *Chlidonias hybrida* die vanaf 26 oktober bij Stellendam, Zuid-Holland, verbleef, werd voor het laatst gemeld op 19 november. Een late **Visdief** *Sterna hirundo* werd op 17 november gefotografeerd bij Vlissingen, Zeeland.

ROOFVOGELS Op de telposten werden de volgende aantallen roofvogels geregistreerd: een vrij late **Visarend** *Pandion haliaetus* (op 3 november over telpost Windesheim, Overijssel), 82 **Blauwe Kiekendieven** *Circus cyaneus*, zes **Zeearenden** *Haliaeetus albicilla*, negen **Rode Wouwen** *Milvus milvus*, 15 **Ruigpootbuizerds** *Buteo lagopus*, negen **Velduilen** *Asio flammeus* en 40 **Smellekens** *Falco columbarius*. Aan de inmiddels jaarlijkse oogst aan **Grijze Wouwen** *Elanus caeruleus* werden twee exemplaren toegevoegd: op 6 november werd er één gefotografeerd bij Leeuwarden, Friesland, en op 8 november was er laat op de dag een melding bij Kamperland, Zeeland. Laatstgenoemde kon de volgende ochtend nog een klein halfuurtje worden bewonderd, voordat hij in noordelijke richting verdween. De 'long-stayer' van de Kollumerpomp in het Lauwersmeergebied, Friesland, verblijdde veel maand- en jaarlijsters door tot ver in januari te blijven. Het bekende mannetje **Steppekiekendief** *C macrourus* overwinterde net als vorige winter in (de wijde omgeving van) De Onlanden, Drenthe/Groningen. Een eerstejaars bleef tot 7 december bij Zeewolde, Flevoland.

74 Kleine Burgemeester / Kleine Burgemeester *Larus glaucoides*, subadult, Amsterdam-West, Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, 11 november 2017 *(Marten Miske)*

75 Grijze Wouw / Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*, eerstejaars, Kollumerwaard, Lauwersmeer, Friesland, 21 december 2017 *(Diederick Meinen)*

HOPPEN TOT BUIDELMEZEN Er werden nog enkele **Hoppen** *Upupa epops* waargenomen, zoals op 1 november op de noordpunt van Texel en van 2 tot 21 november zuidelijker op dit eiland rond Ecomare. Opvallend was verder een reeks waarnemingen in tuinen, namelijk half november in en rond Delft, Zuid-Holland, op 3 december in Barendrecht en vanaf 9 december in en rond Tilburg, Noord-Brabant. Dit leverde leuke foto's op, bijvoorbeeld doodgemoedereerd zittend op tuinmeubilair. Een vrij late eerstejaars **Grauwe Klauwier** *Lanius collurio* werd op 7 november gefotografeerd bij Kamerik, Utrecht. Trektellers noteerden tot 6 november nog drie **Buidelmezen** *Remiz pendulinus*, waarmee het najaarstotaal (september-november) uitkwam op 13; het gemiddelde over de vijf voorgaande najaren bedraagt 35.

BOSZANGERS TOT GRASMUSSEN **Pallas' Boszangers** *Phylloscopus proregulus* werden gemeld op 3 november bij Korendijk, Zuid-Holland; van 5 tot 7 november op de Hondsbossche Zeewering bij Camperduin; op 11 november bij het Veerse Meer; op 12 en 13 november bij Castricum aan Zee, Noord-Holland; op 17 november op Texel (vangst); en van 17 tot 22 november in Meijendel, Zuid-Holland. Er werden tot half november nog een kleine 15 **Bladkoningen** *P inornatus* gemeld, inclusief vijf vangsten. Net als vorig jaar was er een wintergeval in Utrecht, Utrecht, zij het ditmaal op een andere locatie. De vogel werd op de laatste dag van 2017 ontdekt in de wijk Leidsche Rijn en voor het laatst gemeld op 9 januari. Het was een goed najaar voor **Humes Bladkoning** *P humei*. Op 7 november werd de eerste geringd in Meijendel (zesde ringvangst voor Nederland). Daarna volgde een serie waarnemingen binnen een relatief klein gebied in Noord-Holland. Van 8 tot en met 11 november verbleef een exemplaar in de zeereep bij Castricum aan Zee. Op 30 november werd er vervolgens één geringd bij Castricum: gezien de tijd en afstand tussen de waarnemingen en aankomst van andere oostelijke zangvogels die dag, ging het wellicht om een ander exemplaar. Tot slot werden op 17 december exemplaren ontdekt in zowel Heiloo als Alkmaar. Eerstgenoemde bleef tot 24 december, laatstgenoemde tot 27 december. Naast de in de vorige rubriek reeds vermelde **Bruine Boszangers** *P fuscatus* op Schiermonnikoog (tot 2 november) en bij Honswijk, Utrecht, en vervolgens bij Tull en 't Waal, Utrecht (twee vogels, tot 7 november), was er een melding op 5 november op Vlieland, Friesland, en liet een vogel zich moeizaam bekijken van 14 tot 17 november bij Katwijk, Zuid-Holland. Er werden 20 **Siberische Tjiftjaffen** *P tristis* geringd, met zes zowel in Meijendel als bij Castricum. Dit is exclusief een vogel in Meijendel op 25 november, die op een Siberische leek maar riep als een Tjiftjaf *P collybita*. Een DNA-analyse toonde vervolgens tóch een match met Siberische Tjiftjaf (https://tinyurl.com/y7pxzu4j). Een bredere analyse zal moeten aantonen of bij deze en andere vogels in Nederland sprake is van introgressie. Twee late **Fitissen** *P trochilus* – de ene minder gelig dan de andere – hielden tot 14 november de gemoederen bezig op de Hondsbossche Zeewering bij Camperduin. Op 22 november werd bovendien een exemplaar gefotografeerd bij Cuijk, Noord-Brabant. Late eerstejaars **Sperwergrasmussen** *Sylvia nisoria* werden gevangen op 1 november op Vlieland, Friesland, en op 6 november in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen, Noord-Holland (met reeds een lichtere iris). De laatste ooit betrof een vangst op 28 november 2012 bij Castricum. **Siberische Braamsluipers** *S althaea blythi* werden gemeld op 3 november bij Castricum (vangst) en op 21 en 26 november in Heesch, Noord-Brabant.

PESTVOGELS TOT VLIEGENVANGERS Het was een zeer mager najaar voor **Pestvogels** *Bombycilla garrulus*. De eerste werd pas op 13 november gemeld en in totaal waren er maar c 10 waarnemingen. Een ontsnapte **Spotlijster** *Mimus polyglottos* met kwekersring bevond zich op ten minste 19 en 20 november nabij Hardenberg. Late **Roze Spreeuwen** *Pastor roseus* passeerden telpost De Vulkaan bij Den Haag op 3 november en 16 december. Van 4 tot 7 november bezocht een niet al te fit ogende vogel een voederplaats in een tuin in Barger-Oosterveld, Drenthe, en daarnaast waren er meldingen op 11 november op Texel en op 25 november in de Eemshaven, Groningen. Het was een goed najaar voor **Zwartbuikwaterspreeuwen** *Cinclus cinclus cinclus*, met waarnemingen van 2 tot 4 november op Vlieland; van 6 tot 11 november bij Den Helder, Noord-Holland; op 7 november bij Zutphen, Gelderland (raamslachtoffer); op 18 november bij Oudleusen, Overijssel; op 26 en 27 bij Leigraaf, Gelderland; vanaf 1 december op Texel; vanaf 2 december in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen; op 9 en 10 november bij Veghel, Noord-Brabant; en vanaf 23 december bij Nijmegen, Gelderland. Een exemplaar dat vanaf 15 december bij Papendrecht, Zuid-Holland, verbleef, ver-

76 Humes Bladkoning / Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*, Noordhollands Duinreservaat, Castricum, Noord-Holland, 30 november 2017 *(Rienk Slings)* **77** Humes Bladkoning / Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*, Noordhollands Duinreservaat, Castricum, Noord-Holland, 30 november 2017 *(Leo Heemskerk)* **78** Humes Bladkoning / Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*, Meijendel, Zuid-Holland, 7 november 2017 *(Vincent van der Spek/Vrs Meijendel)* **79** Pallas' Boszanger / Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*, Hondsbossche Zeewering, Noord-Holland, 6 november 2017 *(Eric Menkveld)* **80** Bruine Boszanger / Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*, Steenwaard, Houten, Utrecht, 6 november 2017 *(Herman Bouman)* **81** Witstuitbarmsijs / Coues's Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni exilipes*, Houten, Utrecht, 2 december 2017 *(Julian Bosch)*

82 Woestijntapuit / Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*, eerstejaars vrouwtje, Vlieland, Friesland, 4 november 2017 *(Leon Edelaar)*

83 Woestijntapuit / Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*, eerstejaars mannetje, Schiphol, Noord-Holland, 26 november 2017 *(Edial Dekker)*

84 Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaart / Eastern Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides*, eerstejaars mannetje, Zanddijk, Texel, Noord-Holland, 4 december 2017 *(Jos van den Berg/birdingtexel.com)*

85 Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaart / Eastern Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides*, eerstejaars mannetje, Anjum, Friesland, 2 december 2017 *(Thijs Glastra)*

86 Humes Bladkoning / Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*, Heiloo, Noord-Holland, 22 december 2017 *(Toon Vernooij)*

87 Blauwstaart / Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*, eerstejaarsd, Beijum, Groningen, Groningen, 26 november 2017 *(Thijs Glastra)*

88 Siberische Boompieper / Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*, Noordwijk, Zuid-Holland, 17 november 2017 *(Arnold W J Meijer)*

89 Siberische Boompieper / Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*, Bovenpolder, Wageningen, Gelderland, 27 december 2017 *(Edwin Winkel)*

blijdde heel wat regiovogelaars. De soort is verrassend zeldzaam in deze provincie (voor het laatst twitchbaar in 1995). Van 25 tot 27 november verbleef een **Blauwstaart** *Tarsiger cyanurus* in de inmiddels roemruchte wijk Beijum in Groningen, Groningen. Het betrof een nieuwe soort voor deze provincie. Een wel erg late **Kleine Vliegenvanger** *Ficedula parva* werd op 15 november waargenomen bij Noordwijk, Zuid-Holland. Er is slechts één latere bekend, namelijk op 23 november 2013 bij Callantsoog, Noord-Holland. Gezien de late datum was ook een **Bonte Vliegenvanger** *F hypoleuca* op 5 november in De Geul op Texel bijzonder. Hoewel er geen duidelijke influx in Europa was, werden toch liefst twee **Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaarten** *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides* waargenomen: van 30 november tot 2 december bij Anjum, Friesland, en van 3 tot 9 december op Texel (nieuw taxon voor dit eiland). De data sloten mooi op elkaar aan, maar op basis van kleedverschillen betrof het toch twee verschillende vogels. Met de alsnog aanvaarde vogel van Terschelling uit november 2011 (nu tweede geval) zijn er inmiddels 10 gevallen, waarvan zes sinds november 2016. Alle hadden betrekking op onvolwassen mannetjes. Een eerstejaars vrouwtje **Woestijntapuit** *Oenanthe deserti* bevond zich op 4 november op het Noordzeestrand van Vlieland (nabij strandpaal 49). Een eerstejaars mannetje werd op 17 november kortstondig waargenomen op een akker in de Haarlemmermeer, Noord-Holland, net ten noorden van Luchthaven Schiphol. De volgende dag werd hij ruim een kilometer zuidelijker teruggevonden en hier liet hij zich tot 2 december door veel vogelaars bekijken.

KWIKSTAARTEN TOT GORZEN Er vlogen nog zes **Grote Piepers** *Anthus richardi* langs telposten en daarnaast waren enkele ter plaatse, waaronder een exemplaar van 17 tot 23 december in de Brabantse Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant. Er werden nog vijf overtrekkende **Siberische Boompiepers** *A hodgsoni* opgemerkt, maar niet van alle meldingen zijn geluidsopnames. Vogels ter plaatse werden waargenomen op 17 november bij Noordwijk en van 21 december tot 1 januari bij Wageningen, Gelderland; laatstgenoemde liet zich gedurende zijn verblijf steeds beter zien. Late **Roodkeelpiepers** *A cervinus* werden gemeld op 6 november in het Dwingelderveld, Drenthe, en op 8 november bij Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland. Ook buiten de bekende kwelders in het Waddengebied werden relatief veel **Fraters** *Linaria flavirostris* waargenomen. Een groep van c 30 verbleef lange tijd op de Kwade Hoek, Zuid-Holland, en maximaal 30 werden geteld in het Verdronken Land van Saeftinghe, Zeeland. Ook opmerkelijk was dat voor het derde opeenvolgende jaar een groepje opdook bij Deventer, Overijssel. Er was een prachtige invasie **Grote Barmsijzen** *Acanthis flammea*. Een overheersende (vaak harde) westelijke stroming hield de vogels echter vooral in het (noord)oosten van het land. Vanaf telposten werden er c 15 000 gemeld: vergelijkbaar met de vorige invasie in 2008, maar aanzienlijk minder dan in 2005 toen er tweemaal zoveel werden geteld. Er werden er ook nog eens 1800 geringd. Opvallend genoeg bleek een tuin in Surhuisterveen, Friesland, de beste plek, met liefst 461 vangsten. Ook arriveerden enkele meer of minder zekere **Witstuitbarmsijzen** *A hornemanni exilipes*. De eerste van het najaar was een ringvangst op Schiermonnikoog op 9 november. Texel spande vervolgens de kroon met waarnemingen op verschillende locaties op 16 en 26 november (twee) en 11 december (twee). Voorts werden exemplaren gemeld van 26 tot 28 november bij Deventer (een veel bediscussieerd mannetje); op 1 december bij Castricum (vangst); van 2 tot 5 december bij Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht, Zuid-Holland (een veel bediscussieerde eerste-kalenderjaar); en op 5 december bij Zaandam, Noord-Holland. Naast deze vogels werd een reeks mogelijke gemeld, waarbij het kleed aanleiding gaf tot twijfel of de documentatie te wensen overliet. Nog steeds waren er volop mogelijkheden om **Grote Kruisbekken** *Loxia pytyopsittacus* te bewonderen, met her en der tot eind januari verblijvende groepjes. Uit alle provincies kwamen meldingen (in totaal 48 uurhokken). Het hoogste aantal bijeen werd gemeld op 28 december op het Leersumse Veld, Utrecht, en bedroeg 32. De derde dag ooit voor **Sijs** *Spinus spinus* voor de telposten was 4 november, toen er 4644 werden geteld op telpost Kustweg bij Lauwersoog, Groningen. Het record is in handen van Westkapelle en betreft 6721 exemplaren op 14 oktober 1993. In november passeerden ruim 100 **IJsgorzen** *Calcarius lapponicus* de telposten, waarmee het najaarstotaal (september-november) uitkwam op nog niet eens 250; het gemiddelde over de vijf voorgaande najaren bedraagt ruim 380. Bij Doenrade, Limburg, overwinterden maximaal 30 **Grauwe Gorzen** *Emberiza calandra*. Verder waren er enkele waarnemingen in het Verdronken Land van Saeftinghe, vloog er op 4 november één over De Hamert, Limburg, en werd er tussen 4 en 26 december één onregelmatig gezien bij Zuidbroek, Groningen. **Dwerggorzen** *E pusilla* werden waargenomen op 4 november bij Telpost Hazewater bij Leusden, Utrecht, en op 19 november in het Drents-Friese Wold, Drenthe.

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