# DUTCH BIRDING

VOLUME 43 • NO 1 • 2021

# Dutch Birding

*Internationaal tijdschrift over Palearctische vogels*

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**Advertenties** Debby Doodeman, p/a Dutch Birding, Postbus 75611, 1070 AP Amsterdam, advertising@dutchbirding.nl

**Abonnementen** De abonnementsprijs voor 2021 bedraagt: EUR 40.00 (Nederland), EUR 42.50 (België), EUR 43.50 (rest van Europa) en EUR 45.00 (landen buiten Europa).
U kunt zich abonneren door het overmaken van de abonnementsprijs op bankrekening (IBAN): NL95 INGB 0000 1506 97; BIC: INGBNL2A ten name van Dutch Birding Association te Amsterdam, ovv 'abonnement Dutch Birding' en uw postadres. Ook is het mogelijk om via de webshop te betalen. Volg hiervoor de instructies op www.dutchbirding.nl. Het abonnement start vanaf het moment van betaling. Na betaling ontvangt u het volgend te verschijnen nummer.

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

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 2021, www.dutchavifauna.nl/wpvogelnamen) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke, Nederlandse en Engelse namen van West-Palearctische vogels); en *IOC world bird list 11.1* door F Gill, D Donsker & P Rasmussen (2021, www.worldbirdnames.org) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke, Engelse en Nederlandse namen van overige vogels in de wereld; Nederlandse namen door P Vercruijsse en A J van Loon).

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

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**Advertising** Debby Doodeman, c/o Dutch Birding, Postbus 75611, 1070 AP Amsterdam, advertising@dutchbirding.nl



**Subscriptions** The subscription rate for 2021 is: EUR 40.00 (Netherlands), EUR 42.50 (Belgium), EUR 43.50 (rest of Europe) and EUR 45.00 (countries outside Europe).
Subscribers in European countries are kindly requested to pay the subscription fee to Dutch Birding Association, Amsterdam, on bank account (IBAN): NL95 INGB 0000 1506 97; BIC: INGBNL2A; please mention 'subscription Dutch Birding' and your full address. It is also possible to pay by credit card using our webshop. You can follow the instructions on our website www.dutchbirding.nl.
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Subscription starts when we have received payment, after this you will receive the next forthcoming issue.


Dutch Birding is a bimonthly journal. It publishes original papers and notes on morphology, systematics, occurrence and distribution of birds in the Benelux, Europe and elsewhere in the Palearctic region. It also publishes contributions on birds in the Asian-Pacific region and other regions.

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 2021, www.dutchavifauna.nl/wpvogelnamen) (taxonomy and scientific, Dutch and English names of Western Palearctic birds); and *IOC world bird list 11.1* by F Gill, D Donsker & P Rasmussen (2021, www.worldbirdnames.org) (taxonomy and scientific, English and Dutch names of remaining birds of the world; Dutch names by P Vercruijsse and A J van Loon).

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


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ISSN 0167-2878.

Printed by drukkerij robstolk®, Gyroscoopweg 80, 1042 AC Amsterdam, Netherlands, robstolk.nl


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*International journal on Palearctic birds*


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**Dutch Birding**

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# Birding in Iran

*Magnus Ullman*

For most foreign birders, Iran is very mysterious and generally difficult to get to. The country's position makes for an impressive diversity of birdlife. Iran is a large country, measuring 1.6 million km$^2$, thus larger than Belgium, France, Germany, Portugal, Spain and the Netherlands together. It covers 1350 km from the south-west to the north-east and 2250 km from the south-east to the north-west, which makes it the second largest country in the Middle East besides Saudi Arabia. In 2014, the population was estimated at 78.5 million, including 8.3 million in Tehran, the capital. The largest ethnic group are the Persians but there are several others, for instance Azerbaijani and Kurds in the north-west, Turkmens in the north-east, Balochs in the south-east and there is an Arabic minority in the south-west. The large majority of Iranians (89%) are Shia Muslims.

The official language is Farsi, an Indo-European language (like most European languages) with Arabian loan words (essentially from the Koran). Other minority languages apart from Arabic are Azerbaijani, Kurdish and Turkmen. When I visited Iran the first time in 2003, few people understood English. Today this is totally different. The average man in the street usually does not know English but many youths, academics, staff of main hotels and guides speak good English.

Iranians are in general very open, welcoming and friendly. Among the growing minority that speaks English it is quite common that they will contact you – simply out of curiosity and to find an opportunity to practise their English. It is obvious that Iranians are very pleased to hear that you enjoy their country.

This paper is based on my experiences during 13 trips to Iran between April 2003 and December 2018.

## Geography, landscape and infrastructure

Throughout southern Iran, the marine coast borders the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of

**1** Pleske's Ground Jay / Perzische Steppegaai *Podoces pleskei*, Khar Touran, Semnan, Iran, 21 April 2005 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Iran's prime bird, endemic and charismatic. Often on lookout from top of *Zygophyllum* bush.

FIGURE 1 Map of Iran *(Magnus Ullman)*

Oman. In the north there is the brackish coast of the Caspian Sea. Most of the western part is mountainous with two major mountain ranges, the Zagros in the west and the Alborz in the north. Particularly the latter reaches alpine altitudes and the Damavand is the highest peak west of the Himalayas at 5671 m above sea level (plate 2). In the north-east vast broad-leaved forests occur (figure 1).

The Caspian region – the area between the Caspian Sea and Alborz – receives high precipitation and is largely cultivated, primarily with rice. Khuzestan in the south-west is to a great extent also arable land, being irrigated with water flowing down from the Zagros mountains. On the other hand, much of the eastern part of the country is quite dry with semi-arid steppes, semi-deserts and deserts, dominated by two vast deserts, Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Lut.

Major roads are generally good and traffic safety has improved a lot in the last decade or so since many main roads are dual carriageways nowadays. To reach some of the birding hotspots you will have to travel on dirt roads, and a 4WD is frequently necessary.

Hotel standard ranges from quite good to excellent in major cities, while smaller cities and vil-

**2** Damavand, Mazandaran, Iran, 22 April 2007 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Probably the most famous view in Iran.

**3** Crab-plovers / Krabplevieren *Dromas ardeola*, Tiab creek, Hormozgan, Iran, 20 January 2016 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Part of a flock of 570 birds; this species occurs in substantial flocks in mangrove areas along shores of Strait of Hormuz. **4** Great Stone-curlew / Grote Griel *Esacus recurvirostris*, Tiab creek, Hormozgan, Iran, 21 January 2018 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Large-eyed and mainly active after dusk; by day, usually seen just resting, often in shadow.

**5** African Darter / Afrikaanse Slangenhalsvogel *Anhinga rufa*, with Pygmy Cormorant / Dwergaalscholver *Microcarbo pygmaeus*, Hoor al-Azim, Khuzestan, Iran, 6 December 2017 *(Ehsan Talebi)*. For long impossible for WP listers but nowadays achievable in Iran since border area with Iraq opened up few years ago. **6** Great Knots / Grote Kanoeten *Calidris tenuirostris*, Golshar shore, Hormozgan, Iran, 19 January 2016 *(Magnus Ullman)*. This species regularly occurs in moderate numbers along shores of Bandar Abbas. **7** Goliath Heron / Reuzenreiger *Ardea goliath*, Shahr-e Now creek, Hormozgan, Iran, 29 November 2017 *(Kjell A Dokka)*. Scarce, possibly decreasing species, not always easy to find.

lages may only have basic accommodation. If you want to stay close to the Khar Touran desert, you may be accommodated in private homes, sleeping on a mattress on the floor, but with shower and toilet – definitely worthwhile (considering that the alternative would be to drive for three to four hours in early morning from the nearest hotel in Bastam).

Good or fairly good restaurants are usually not difficult to find along major roads, also away from populated areas. In some cases, you need to carry food for a full day's birding.

**Timing**

While summer is perhaps best avoided, largely because of high temperatures, Iran is worth visiting throughout autumn, winter and spring. During late autumn, temperatures are moderate even in the southern province of Hormozgan and birding is excellent then as well as during winter. Spring, of course, in many ways is the best time, which means that birders can visit from c the second week of April. From c 20 March onwards, trips should be avoided because many people are travelling to celebrate Iranian New Year *Norouz*; during that time, hotels are full and there will be no one to take care of you because everyone is on leave. I have always been recommended not to arrive before 10 April. If you make a grand tour in April, start in the south before it gets too hot there.

**Avifauna**

While the Iranian birdlife to some extent is a mixture of Indian, Central Asian and Middle Eastern elements, it is firmly established within the Western Palearctic (WP) avifauna. Because of the mountain chains it is in some aspects closer related to European bird communities than several other Middle Eastern or North African countries (Ullman 2009). Iran is nowadays included in the WP by Dutch Birding, Shirihai & Svensson (2018) and many other authorities. A total of 551 species was listed for Iran in Khaleghizadeh et al (2017), and currently the grand total stands at 556 (www.iranbirdrecords.ir/page/Iran-Bird-List; Abolghasem Khaleghizadeh in litt).

Iran's prime bird is the endemic and charismatic Pleske's Ground Jay *Podoces pleskei*. Several other species have small or insignificant populations outside the country or are difficult to find in other regions for various reasons, including Caspian Tit *Poecile hyrcanus*, Iraq Babbler *Argya altirostris*, Afghan Babbler *A huttoni*, Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis* and Sistan Scrub Sparrow *Passer yatii*. Omani Owl *Strix butleri* has to this date only been recorded in Iran, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (cf Porter & Aspinall 2010, Kaboli et al 2016, Khaleghizadeh et al 2017, Shirihai & Svensson 2018).

Several species essentially from the Indian faunal region (or further east) have their sole WP occurrence in Iran, including Great Stone-curlew *Esacus recurvirostris,* Spotted Owlet *Athene brama,* Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus*, Cinereous Tit *Parus cinereus*, Sand Lark *Alaudala raytal*, Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata* and Masked Wagtail *Motacilla personata*. Also, Iran is important for Turkish Fish Owl *Bubo semenowi* (Iran/Turkey) and Indian White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus* (Iran/Oman). Sind Woodpecker *Dendrocopos assimilis* is restricted to Iran, Pakistan and a minor Indian area close to the Pakistani border. In the WP, White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes* is a Central Asian species only occurring in Iran. Black-headed Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus macronyx*, nowadays often regarded as a full species, has its only WP occurrence in Iran apart from a small area along the Ural river in north-western Kazakhstan (cf Barani-Beiranvand et al 2017, Shirihai & Svensson 2018). Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath* and African Darter *Anhinga rufa* have extensive world ranges but in the WP they may be difficult or nearly impossible to find outside Iran. Sistan Scrub Sparrow is largely confined to the wetlands of the Sistan basin on the border of Iran and Afghanistan and thus has a highly restricted world range (Ayé et al 2012).

While there are several feral populations of Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* in the Middle East, Iran is the only WP area where it is indigenous. A similar situation applies to White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*, with indigenous populations in Iran but feral populations in the Persian Gulf states from Iraq south to Oman (cf Porter & Aspinall 2010, Shirihai & Svensson 2018).

One of the most typical genera for the Middle East is the wheatears *Oenanthe*. Iran is no exception and a total of 13 species breed; in spring you will find several species in most areas (many are migratory and do not winter in Iran). While Kurdish Wheatear *O xanthoprymna* only has a small population in the north-west, the main ranges of both Hume's Wheatear *O albonigra* and Red-tailed Wheatear *O chrysopygia* are found in Iran. Even Variable Wheatear *O picata* – largely an Oriental/Central Asian species – has a reasonable breeding and wintering population in Iran. Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *O melanoleuca* and Pied Wheatear *O pleschanka* meet in the central Alborz range where they frequently hybridise, which frankly makes identification of Finsch's Wheatear *O fin-*

**8** Black Kite / Zwarte Wouw *Milvus migrans*, juvenile, Koshtargah, Hormozgan, Iran, 24 November 2017 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Wintering Black Kites of Iran (and other parts of Middle East) are intermediate between Black-eared Kite *M lineatus* from East Asia (broad wings, extensive white base to outer primaries, inner primaries distinctly barred, pale rear underbody) and Black Kite from Europe (feet and cere yellow), while sixth (counting inwards) primary is intermediate in length between Black-eared and Black. Until it is understood if this is hybrid population or subspecies/species of its own, these birds are perhaps best referred to as *M (m) 'intermedius'*. **9** Crested Honey Buzzard / Aziatische Wespendief *Pernis ptilorhynchus*, adult male, Jahad park, Hormozgan, Iran, 19 January 2018 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Bandar Abbas to Minab is good area to study this species in winter. **10** Spotted Owlet / Brahmaanse Steenuil *Athene brama*, Gonewordi, Hormozgan, Iran, 23 January 2016 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Species representing exclusive element from Indian avifauna, frequenting palm groves in southern Iran. **11** Shikra / Shikra *Accipiter badius cenchroides*, Azini creek, Hormozgan, Iran, 22 January 2016 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Fairly common breeding species in north-eastern Iran and wintering bird in southern Iran, where it also scarcely breeds.

*schii* a tough challenge, unless views are first rate. A winter visit, when Eastern Black-eared, Pied and any hybrids are in Africa, is recommended to study wintering Finsch's!

**Hormozgan**

Hormozgan is the southern coastal province situated around the Strait of Hormuz (figure 2). Main roads are fine and generally have light traffic. Hotels are good in Bandar Abbas, basic to decent in Minab and Sirik, and basic to good (depending on availability) in Jask.

Along the Strait of Hormuz there are vast tidal beaches holding good numbers of birds throughout winter. The area is a haven for wintering shorebirds of which many occur at least into April. Lesser Sand Plover *Anarhynchus atrifrons* and Greater Sand Plover *A leschenaultii*, as well as Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* and Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* are regular. Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*, Broad-billed Sandpiper *C falcinellus*, Temminck's Stint *C temminckii* and Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* are also found but in smaller numbers.

Both Great Stone-curlew and Crab-plover *Dromas ardeola* occur throughout the year and can often be found in good numbers if you make a boat trip, for instance in Tiab creek or Azini creek. Apart from the creeks, good sites for shorebirds are Golshar shore just outside Bandar Abbas and also the tidal beaches and mangrove areas around the island Qeshm. Before you start scanning for shorebirds at Golshar shore, make sure you tick off the Sand Larks. Other wading birds are several species of heron including Striated Heron *Butorides striata,* Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii* and Indian Reef Heron *Egretta gularis schistacea*. If you make a boat trip from Jask, you have a fair chance to see Goliath Heron at Shahr-e Now creek.

During winter, Steppe Gull *Larus barabensis* is common, Heuglin's Gull *L heuglini* is regular, while Caspian Gull *L cachinnans* seems a lot more scarce. From mid-winter, Pallas's Gull *L ichthyaetus* is found in decent numbers, and if you make a creek boat trip you may see gatherings of 100s around the outer sandbanks, where Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* may also occur. A total of 9785 Pallas's was recorded in southern Iran in January 2009 (Amini & van Roomen 2009). Also, it is during such a boat trip that you have a chance to see Indian White-eye, which is restricted in the WP to vast mangrove forests in Iran and Oman (Zekhuis & Ghasemi 2009). Sooty Gull *L hemprichii* is scarce but does occur around Jask, where Persian Shearwater *Puffinus persicus* is also a possibility. In groups of terns, Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* and Greater Crested Tern *S bergii* are regular along the shores, as is (probably) Saunders's Tern *Sternula saundersi*, although identification is a grievous task outside the breeding season.

However, Hormozgan has much more than waterbirds. In winter, Black Kite *Milvus (migrans) 'intermedius'* (Forsman 2016) is common to abundant, while Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga* is also common and several will be seen during a creek boat trip. Small but fair numbers of Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* winter in the area, while Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* of the Indian subspecies *E c vociferus* and Shikra *Accipiter badius* are year-round residents. White-eyed Buzzard *Butastur teesa* occurs from Bandar Abbas and further east but is very rarely reported.

Sind Woodpecker and Spotted Owlet occur in date palm groves, perhaps not always easy to find but certainly not rare. In spring, Pied Bush Chat is found in the sparser, more open parts of the palm groves.

Kuh-e Genu is a high but not alpine mountain where you will not be able to get higher than a gate at c 1700 m above sea level where, even in winter, you will find interesting birds, such as See-see Partridge *Ammoperdix griseogularis*, Eastern Rock Nuthatch *Sitta tephronota* and Striolated Bunting *Emberiza striolata*. A Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* seen here on 26 January 2018 was a surprise (pers obs). In spring you can add Little Swift *Apus affinis*, Bay-backed Shrike, several wheatear species and Upcher's Warbler *Hippolais languida*.

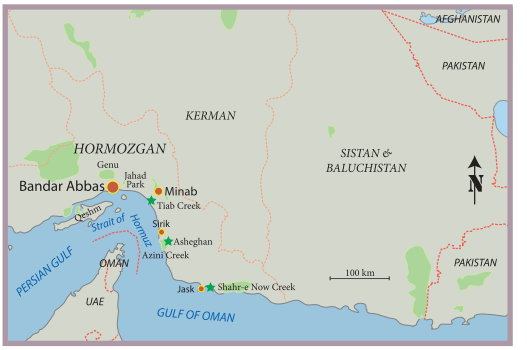



FIGURE 2 Map of south-eastern Iran *(Magnus Ullman)*

In recent years, parks and palm groves around Bandar Abbas and Minab have offered several vagrants. Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* is perhaps best regarded as a scarce visitor but also true vagrants such as Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*, Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus* and Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* have been reported (Ullman & Ullman 2016, Khil et al 2019). Black-naped Monarchs *Hypothymis azurea* recorded near Jask on 13 February 2011 and at Bandar Abbas on 31 January 2020 concerned the only WP records (Alieslam 2014, Dutch Birding 42: plate 180, 132, 2020).

**Khuzestan**

Khuzestan is one of the two main cultivated regions in Iran, irrigated with water from the Karun river and tributaries that join the Euphrates and Tigris rivers in Shatt al Arab to flow into the Persian Gulf (figure 3). Although marshlands have been dried for cultivation on a large scale the main birding will concentrate around various wetlands.

While there are other options, I would recommend a stay in an Ahwaz hotel. Many of the best birding sites are found along the road to Shush. White-eared Bulbul, Iraq Babbler and Afghan Babbler are common and widespread. Iraq is restricted to narrow belts of reed, usually along canals or ditches, while Afghan has a much wider choice of habitat, often in various types of scrub.

FIGURE 3 Map of south-western Iran *(Magnus Ullman)*

In the winter months, you may also be able to perform comparative studies of European Stonechat *S rubicola* and Siberian Stonechat *S maurus* of subspecies *S m variegatus* and *S m hemprichii*.

Grey-headed Swamphen *Porphyrio poliocephalus*, Goliath Heron and African Darter are resident but restricted to the vast Hoor al-Azim wetland along the Iraqi border, where Basra Reed Warbler is also found during the breeding season. Although many marshes are drained, there still is good wetland habitat to be found, and 170 Pied Kingfishers *Ceryle rudis* were feeding in a limited area of Tavahe wetland on 6 February 2017 (pers obs). Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* (common) and White-tailed Lapwing *V leucurus* (rather common) are resident.

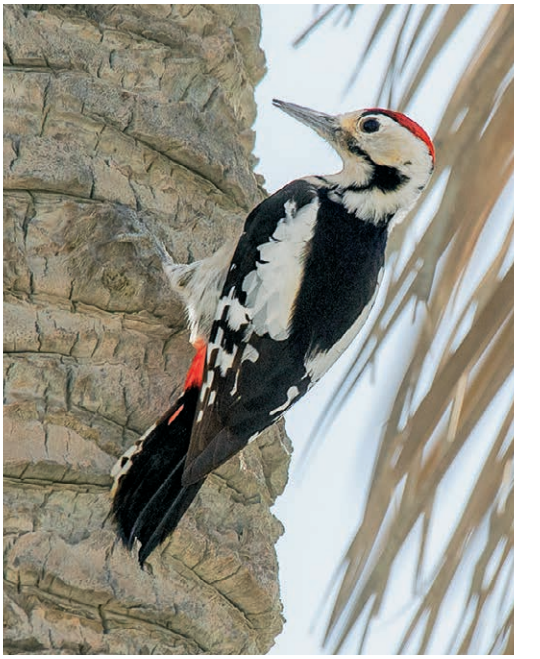
The long-billed and long-legged Mesopotamian Crow *Corvus capellanus* is a scarce resident and rarely seen in flocks. It has recently (and wisely) received full species status, at least in the Dutch Birding checklist (www.dutchavifauna.nl/wpvogelnamen), and is endemic to Iran and in Iraq in the area between the Euphrates and Tigris. Dead Sea Sparrow *Passer moabiticus* occurs throughout the year but is easier to find in spring. Eastern Moustached Warbler *A melanopogon mimicus* is in full song and quite easy to observe in February but silent and very difficult to find by spring. Daurian Shrike *L isabellinus* is rather common in winter and replaced by Red-tailed Shrike *L phoenicuroides* in spring. Steppe Grey Shrike *L lahtora pallidirostris* may also occur in winter.

Apart from the birds mentioned above, the excellent Khuzestan breeding avifauna also includes Black-winged Kite (increasing), Egyptian Nightjar *Caprimulgus aegyptius,* Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus* (common) and Grey Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus*.

## Alborz

If you arrive in Iran on a late night flight to Tehran, the first thing you see when you look out from your hotel window in the morning may be the snow-covered peaks of the Alborz range. Travelling from Tehran to the Caspian Sea or other parts of north-eastern Iran means traversing the Alborz, normally having sight of the magnificent silhouette of Damavand (plate 2). It will give you a first chance to meet Iran's alpine birdlife near Lar at 2600 m above sea level by the Damavand foothills: for instance Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus,* Caucasian Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros ochruros*, Common Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* and Western Rock Nuthatch *S neumayer*. Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* and Caucasian Horned Lark *Eremophila penicillata* are singing side by side.

There are several good areas along the extensive Alborz range, and one of the best is Parvar further east (figure 4). A good idea is to park at 2400 m above sea level along the main road and walk uphill to c 2600 m. Caspian Snowcock *Tetraogallus caspius* thrives along the upper ridges and is regularly heard and seen as soon as you step out of the vehicle. Other species are dealt with as you slowly venture upwards: White-throated Robin *Irania gutturalis*, Common Rock Thrush, White-winged Snowfinch *Montifringilla nivalis*, Red-fronted Serin *Serinus pusillus* and Grey-necked Bunting *E buchanani*. The vegetation is low and sparse and moving uphill is straightforward, although a bit steep. White-throated Robins are often found around the few substantial shrubberies. As you reach the altitude where snowfinch flocks fly along the slope, it is time to focus on what is perhaps the top bird of the area, Plain Leaf Warbler *P neglectus*, breeding surprisingly high and in remarkably sparse vegetation. Another gem that breeds in the area is Radde's Accentor *Prunella ocularis*, although its secretive habits make it notoriously difficult to find. It is obviously less complicated in winter as it moves down a couple of 100 m – when



**12** Bay-backed Shrike / Bruinrugklauwier *Lanius vittatus*, Genu, Hormozgan, Iran, 16 April 2007 *(Magnus Ullman)*. One of several Indian elements in Iranian avifauna. **13** Sind Woodpecker / Tamariskspecht *Dendrocopos assimilis*, adult male, Asheghan, Hormozgan, Iran, 23 January 2018 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Species with quite interesting general range for woodpecker: largely in desert/semi-desert land where scant tree vegetation occurs. **14** White-eared Bulbul / Witoorbuulbuul *Pycnonotus leucotis*, Minab, Hormozgan, Iran, 14 April 2007 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Indigenous in Iran (unlike in, eg, United Arab Emirates).

**15** Green Warbler / Groene Fitis *Phylloscopus nitidus*, Cheshme Majerad, Khar Touran, Semnan, Iran, 25 April 2013 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Species is common in, eg, coppices and gardens over much of country during migration. **16** Indian White-eye / Indiase Brilvogel *Zosterops palpebrosus*, Azini creek, Hormozgan, Iran, 22 January 2016 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Odd element of Iranian avifauna, restricted to few mangrove areas around Strait of Hormuz. **17** Sand Lark / Indische Zandleeuwerik *Alaudala raytal*, Golshar shore, Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan, Iran, 19 January 2016 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Best seen in early morning, before area gets too crowded. **18** Plain Leaf Warbler / Dwergtjiftjaf *Phylloscopus neglectus*, Parvar South, Semnan, Iran, 30 April 2017 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Species breeding well above treeline.

it is also often found next to Eversmann's Redstart *P erythronotus*, a winterer from Central Asian and southern Siberian breeding quarters.

There are several good sites in the Parvar area, for instance Kaverd, a magnificent gorge with vertical rock walls reaching for the sky on both sides of the road, where Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria* is sometimes recorded. Continuing further to the end of the road (or rather beyond the end), you reach Mulla Deh where Caspian Tit roams the Hyrcan forest, which in these upper realms means shrubberies and moderately high trees such as Oriental Hornbeam *Carpinus orientalis* and wild fruit trees.

Turning to mammals, Afghan Pika *Ochotona rufescens* occurs around Parvar and Persian Ibex *Capra aegagrus* is common and easy to see (no hunting is allowed within the reserve).

**Mazandaran**

The precipitation in the lowlands south of the Caspian Sea is higher than in most areas in Iran and rice fields cover much of the area (figure 4). Two particular features of the Caspian range are called *damgah* and *abbandan*. Damgahs are quite extensive wetlands that are established to attract wintering ducks that are caught or shot for consumption or for sale at the local market. Apart from

**19** Caspian Stonechat / Kaspische Roodborsttapuit *Saxicola maurus hemprichii*, adult male, Mazrae Seh, Khuzestan, Iran, 6 February 2017 *(Magnus Ullman)*. This taxon occurs in southern Iran in winter (breeding north of Caucasus). Note extensive white on tail base. **20** Armenian Stonechat / Armeense Roodborsttapuit *Saxicola maurus variegatus*, adult male, Helveh, Khuzestan, Iran, 3 February 2017 *(Magnus Ullman)*. This taxon breeds in northern Iran and winters in southern part. Note very restricted white on tail-base. **21** Eversmann's Redstart / Eversmanns Roodstaart *Phoenicurus erythronotus*, adult male, Parvar DOE, Mazandaran, Iran, 9 December 2018 *(Mattias Ullman)*. Quite widespread in winter in thorny scrub over much of Iran. **22** Radde's Accentor / Steenheggenmus *Prunella ocularis*, Mirza Bayloo, North Khorasan, Iran, 7 December 2018 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Much desired species that is probably much more numerous than observations reveal.

1000s of Siberian ducks there is one damgah, Feredoun Kenar damgah, that is renowned for 'Omid', the only Siberian Crane *Leucogeranus leucogeranus* of the WP, a single male left alone when its female did not return 12 years ago (formerly, there was a large flock; Ławicki & Tizrooyan 2018).

The abbandans are water reservoirs used for fish breeding and rice field irrigation as well as for duck trapping. Some of these ponds also hold breeding Black-headed Penduline Tit. In most winters, over a million waterbirds winter in Mazandaran (van Diek et al 2004, Winkel et al 2010), largely in Gorgan bay, an enormous bay in the south-eastern corner of the Caspian Sea that is immensely important for wintering Siberian and Central Asian ducks and other waterbirds. An aerial survey carried out on 26 January 2009 over the entire Miankaleh and Gorgan bay area revealed 52 710 Greater Flamingos *Phoenicopterus roseus* and 778 970 Eurasian Coots *Fulica atra* (Winkel et al 2010), demonstrating the colossal importance of this area.

Apart from holding good numbers of breeding Ménétriés's Warbler *Sylvia mystacea* and migrating Green Warblers *P nitidus*, Miankaleh is a fine spring migratory route for harriers and other raptors. Large numbers of raptors move from Africa to

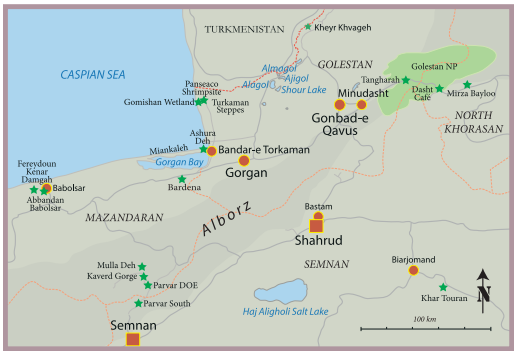



FIGURE 4 Map of north-eastern Iran *(Magnus Ullman)*

Central Asia and Siberia via Iran in spring. While the larger species, such as Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* but also Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*, move on a broad front across much of the country, smaller raptors are concentrated along the c 60 km long flyway of the Miankaleh spit during spring migration. A total of 284 Western Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus*, 263 Pallid Harriers *C macrourus*, 567 Eurasian Sparrowhawks *A nisus* and 424 Black Kites were logged at Ashura Deh on 4-18 April 2008 (Ullman & Ullman 2010).

Autumn migration has not been studied much in the past, but a first systematic count of raptors in the south east Caspian range was undertaken at Bardena near the city of Galugah on the northern slopes of Alburz (figure 4) between 20 September and 23 October 2020, alas without my participation due to coronavirus measures. In this period, 27 species of raptors and falcons were recorded, with more than 12 000 eagles, mostly Steppe Eagles; 9 October was an exceptionally fine day with more than 2200 large eagles and nearly 800 Common Cranes *Grus grus* (Ehsan Talebi in litt).

## North-eastern Iran

Khar Touran (plate 37) is not only an exceptionally beautiful semi-desert but also home to some of the most desired members of Iran's wildlife. The prime target for any visitor is Pleske's Ground Jay, restricted to *Zygophyllum* plains (cf Satei et al 2010, Nazarizadeh et al 2015). It is one of only four species of ground jay, all found in Central and East Asia. Moreover, you have a fair chance to see Macqueen's Bustard *Chlamydotis macqueenii*, Cream-colored Courser *Cursorius cursor*, Steppe Grey Shrike, Asian Desert Warbler *S nana*, Sykes's Warbler *Iduna rama*, Pied Bush Chat, Variable Wheatear and Pale Rockfinch *Carpospiza brachydactyla*, a species that has its main breeding range in Iran. Apart from the ground jay, it is normally a mammal that is highest on visitors' wish lists, namely the shy Persian Onager *Equus hemionus onager*, also called Asian Wild Ass but more of a zebra without stripes than a donkey. You will never see any of Khar Touran's Cheetahs *Acinonyx jubatus* but it is great to know that they are there!

Some of the latest spring arrivals in Iran concern Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus* and Red-headed Bunting *E bruniceps*, that may not reach their north-eastern Iranian breeding grounds until 20-25 April, when they are found in open country, for instance around Mirza Bayloo. Eastern Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis caniceps*, nowadays often regarded as a full species, is resident in the area and not uncommon. Masked Wagtail is also a common resident. On your way to Mirza Bayloo, you pass Golestan National Park, a magnificent green area with large Oriental Beech *Fagus orientalis* and the dense forests holds difficult-to-find Semicollared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata*.

Massive numbers of Central Asian birds winter on the vast Turkaman steppes in Golestan province (nowadays largely cultivated), and the Gomishan area is a good site to check. Probably over 50 000 Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata* were seen in January 2009 (Amini & van Roomen 2009), while 20 000 to 30 000 Calandra Larks *Melanocorypha calandra* were recorded at Panseaco shrimpsite on 1 December 2018 (pers obs). Small numbers of White-winged Lark *A leucoptera* and Pine Bunting *E leucocephalos* may also occur, while Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis* is quite regular. In early December 2018, a total of 90 (35 and 55, respectively) Finsch's Wheatears were spotted around the Alagol lake and along the road from Gonbad-e Qabus to the Turkmenistan border (pers obs), probably wintering birds from the partly migratory Central Asian population.

Although there are very few observations in recent decades, White-crowned Penduline Tit *R coronatus* might prove to be a regular winter visitor along the Golestan-Turkmenistan border, where Cinereous Tit *P cinereus* is also found. The best mammal here is Jungle Cat *Felis chaus*, which is sometimes seen in the area.

## Travelling

Regarding safeness, I imagine Iran is perhaps more safe than the general situation in the Middle East, at least that is the impression you get. I have never experienced a hostile or even unpleasant incident. On the contrary, you are practically always met with a friendly smile.

Since virtually no one in the countryside knows English and few road signs have Latin letters, it is

**23** Cinereous Tit / Grijze Koolmees *Parus cinereus*, Almagol, Golestan, Iran, 4 December 2018 *(Magnus Ullman)*. This species occurs in extreme north-eastern part of Iran. **24** Eastern Goldfinches / Oostelijke Putters *Carduelis carduelis caniceps*, Dasht DOE, North Khorasan, Iran, 26 April 2016 *(Magnus Ullman)*. This taxon lacks black-and-white head pattern of European birds. Essentially Central Asian species, in WP restricted to Iran. **25** Basra Reed Warbler / Basrakarekiet *Acrocephalus griseldis*, Mazrae Seh, Khuzestan, Iran, 20 April 2007 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Mythical species breeding in south-western Iran. **26** Ménétriés's Warbler / Ménétriés' Zwartkop *Sylvia mystacea turcmenica*, male, Miankaleh, Mazandaran, Iran, 23 April 2007 *(Magnus Ullman)*. This subspecies is fairly common breeder in thick, thorny shrubberies in north-eastern Iran.

advisable to run your trip via an Iranian tour operator. Some of the best sites to visit are national parks and reserves with restricted admission (actually more often mammal reserves than bird reserves), so you will need permission issued by Department of Environment (DOE). Sometimes you must also have a permit to carry a camera (which is no problem at all if you have the permit). I strongly recommend that you have all paperwork done before arriving in the country – because you will be asked to show them by DOE staff in the field. Not being able to present the relevant documents just means loss of valuable time. You will need an Iranian tour operator to arrange all this. Since a couple of years, it is possible for Europeans to acquire an e-visa through the internet and pick it up on arrival at the Tehran airport. Again, contact your tour operator.

There are several tour operators in Iran but obviously not all of them can deal with the particular needs of western birders. On virtually all my trips (private as well as tour-leader), I have used the services of Kianoosh Mehrabi (iranrafting@gmail.com; working for various companies). I can strongly recommend his services.

The most comprehensive references for the birds of Iran are Kaboli et al (2016) and Khaleghizadeh et al (2017) (for a review see https://tinyurl.com/

**27** Masked Wagtail / Maskerkwikstaart *Motacilla personata*, Gorgan, Golestan, Iran, 4 December 2018 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Common and distinctive Central Asian species, resident in north-eastern Iran. **28** Dead Sea Sparrow / Moabmus *Passer moabiticus*, adult male, Dez, Khuzestan, Iran, 19 April 2007 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Locally common in extreme south-western part of Iran. **29** Iraq Babbler / Iraakse Babbelaar *Argya altirostris*, Sade Shavar, Khuzestan, Iran, 2 February 2017 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Locally common in south-western Iran but requires reed beds and similar settings. **30** Afghan Babbler / Afghaanse Babbelaar *Argya huttoni*, Sade Shavar, Khuzestan, Iran, 2 February 2017 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Occurs all over southern Iran, in wider choice of habitat and more often on ground compared with Iraq Babbler *A altirostris*.

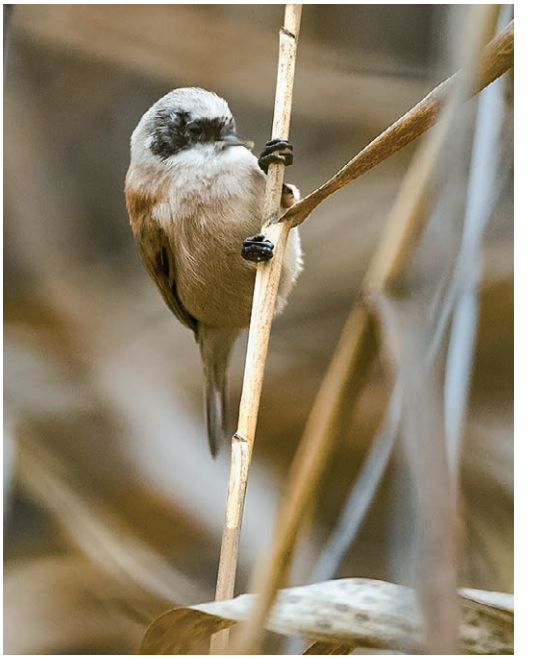
smzf5qs) and it may provide a starting point in the search for detailed information for planning a trip to this fascinating country.

While Iranian ornithology is developing nicely, it is obvious that the contact between domestic and western birders in recent decades has been very rewarding for both parties. If you go, be sure to use an Iranian bird guide – for the benefit of us all! And finally, do not forget to send your reports of important and interesting records to Abolghasem Khaleghizadeh (akhaleghizadeh@gmail.com) of the Iran Bird Records Committee (www.iranbirdrecords.ir), who is doing a tremendous job compiling Iranian observations.

Despite the growing activities of local birders, Iran still remains a relatively poorly researched country. This is mainly because of the still small number of Iranian birdwatchers (especially compared with the size of the country) and very small number of foreign birders visiting the country. It means that we can continue to anticipate many interesting discoveries in Iran in the next years.

**Acknowledgements**

Many Iranian ornithologists have assisted me in various ways during the years. I would particularly like to thank Houman Jowkar, who was the guide on my first visit in 2003 and with whom I have collaborated on several oc-



**31** Black-headed Penduline Tit / Zwartkopbuidelmees *Remiz pendulinus macronyx*, Abbandan Babolsar, Mazandaran, Iran, 24 April 2017 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Central Asian taxon with very small WP population. **32** White-crowned Penduline Tit / Witkruinbuidelmees *Remiz coronatus*, Kheyr Khvageh, Golestan, Iran, 6 December 2018 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Often found skulking in reed beds. **33** Mesopotamian Crow / Mesopotamische Kraai *Corvus capellanus*, near Helveh, Khuzestan, Iran, 3 February 2017 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Charismatic black-and-white bird; note decorative ochre streaking of white parts.

**34** Caspian Tit / Iraanse Mees *Poecile hyrcanus*, Mullah Deh, Mazandaran, Iran, 30 April 2017 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Species endemic to mountain range south of Caspian Sea. **35** Red-headed Bunting / Bruinkopgors *Emberiza bruniceps*, Dasht café, North Khorasan, Iran, 26 April 2017 *(Magnus Ullman)*. This species arrives late to breeding grounds in north-eastern Iran. **36** White-headed Wagtail / Witkopkwikstaart *Motacilla leucocephala*, Maranjab desert, Esfahan, Iran, 13 April 2013 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Variety of 'yellow wagtails' sensu lato occurs in Iran, including two modern reports of White-headed, breeding mainly in Mongolia.

**37** Cheshme Majerad, Khar Touran desert, Semnan, Iran, 26 April 2007 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Since long abandoned garden, excellent for migrants in spring. **38** Pleske's Ground Jay / Perzische Steppegaai *Podoces pleskei*, Khar Touran, Semnan, Iran, 27 January 2004 *(Harvey van Diek)* **39** Pied Bush Chat / Zwarte Roodborsttapuit *Saxicola caprata*, Minab, Hormozgan, Iran, 14 April 2007 *(Magnus Ullman)*. Fairly common summer visitor to eastern Iran.

casions since then. I would also like to thank Ramezanali Ghaemi, Alireza Hashemi, Seyed Babak Mousavi and Ehsan Talebi for great cooperation in the field!

## Samenvatting

VOGELS KIJKEN IN IRAN Voor de meeste buitenlandse vogelaars klinkt Iran mysterieus en welhaast onbereikbaar. Het is een reusachtig land in het Midden-Oosten met uitzonderlijk gevarieerde habitats, waaronder getijdegebieden langs de kusten, hooggebergte, loofbossen, wetlands, woestijnen en uitgestrekte in cultuur gebrachte gebieden. Deze variatie wordt weerspiegeld in de zeer rijke avifauna. Behalve de endemische Perzische Steppegaai *Podoces pleskei* broeden er verschillende soorten die buiten Iran ook slechts beperkt voorkomen, zoals Reuzenreiger *Ardea goliath*, Afrikaanse Slangenhalsvogel *Anhinga rufa*, Krabplevier *Dromas ardeola*, Omaanse Uil *Strix butleri*, Mesopotamische Kraai *Corvus capellanus*, Iraanse Mees *Poecile hyrcanus*, Iraakse Babbelaar *Argya altirostris*, Afghaanse Babbelaar *A huttoni*, Basrakarekiet *Acrocephalus griseldis*, Dwergtjiftjaf *Phylloscopus neglectus* en Sistanmus *Passer yatii*. Verschillende soorten die overwegend op het Indiase subcontinent voorkomen hebben in Iran hun enige verspreiding binnen het West-Palearctische gebied, zoals Grote Griel *Esacus recurvirostris,* Brahmaanse Steenuil *Athene brama*, Tamarisk-specht *Dendrocopos assimilis,* Bruinrugklauwier *Lanius vittatus*, Grijze Koolmees *Parus cinereus*, Indische Zandleeuwerik *Alaudala raytal*, Indiase Brilvogel *Zosterops palpebrosus*, Zwarte Roodborsttapuit *Saxicola caprata* en Maskerkwikstaart *Motacilla personata*.

In de zomer is het waarschijnlijk te heet om prettig te kunnen vogelen maar een bezoek in de winter of het voorjaar zal veel kunnen opleveren. Iran ligt op de belangrijke trekbaan tussen Siberië/Centraal-Azië en Afrika en roofvogeltrek is zowel in het voorjaar als het najaar opvallend, met soorten als Steppearend *Aquila nipalensis*, Steppekiekendief *Circus macrourus* en andere. Aziatische Wespendief *Pernis ptilorhynchus* overwintert regelmatig in klein aantal, Bastaardarend *Clanga clanga* is wat talrijker. Langs de kusten van de Straat van Hormuz overwinteren behoorlijke aantallen Reuzenzwartkopmeeuw *Larus ichthyaetus*, Heuglins Meeuw *L heuglini* en Barabameeuw *L barabensis*, en Grote Kanoeten *Calidris tenuirostris* zijn daar ook te vinden.

Reizen binnen Iran is doorgaans probleemloos dankzij een goed ontwikkeld wegennet en redelijk tot goede hotels in de steden. Voor een aantal 'topsoorten' is het nodig om onverharde wegen te nemen met een vierwielaangedreven voertuig. Iraniërs zijn vriendelijk en behulpzaam maar op het platteland spreekt slechts een enkeling Engels. Het is daarom aan te raden om een vogelreis te plannen met een Iraanse touroperator en een lokale gids. Voor enkele essentiële vogelplekken zijn vergunningen nodig van het 'Department of Environment' en ook daarbij zijn de diensten van een touroperator noodzakelijk, evenals bij het verkrijgen van een visum.

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# Grijskopkievit bij Workum in juni 2019

*Libbe P Zijlstra & Enno B Ebels*

Op donderdag 27 juni 2019 was ik (Libbe Zijlstra) als carpoolpassagier met mijn collega Henriëtte Kuipers op weg naar mijn werk bij Wetterskip Fryslân in Leeuwarden, Friesland. Rond 07:40 zag ik in een oogwenk vanuit de rijdende auto op c 20 m van de provinciale weg tussen Workum en Parrega, Friesland, een afwijkende vogel tussen de Kieviten *Vanellus vanellus* in de weilanden. Van achteren gezien en door de lange heldergele poten was mijn eerste indruk een Griel *Burhinus oedicnemus*. Gealarmeerd meldde ik mijn collega dat er wat bijzonders zat; bij de eerstvolgende kruising keerden we en reden terug. Er was geen mogelijkheid om te stoppen vanwege het verkeer. Via het open raampje probeerde ik daarom een foto te maken met mijn mobiele telefoon maar dat lukte niet. Het was duidelijk te zien dat het een kievitsoort was, met gele poten, gele snavel, lichte blauwgrijze kop en beige rug. De bewegingen bij het foerageren waren net als van een Kievit en hadden een rustige en statige uitstraling. Ik had geen idee welke soort het was, maar in ieder geval niet een van de mij bekende kieviten in de ANWB-gids. Op weg naar Leeuwarden heb ik koortsachtig gegoogeld op erop lijkende steltlopers met gele poten; daarbij kwam ik telkens uit op Lelkievit *V senegallus*. Deze soort leek er wel wat op, maar was het toch niet. Ik vermoedde toen te maken te hebben met een escape, in elk geval met een soort die in onze omgeving totaal niet voorkomt of kan komen. Op mijn werk aangekomen stuurde ik mijn dorpsgenoot en vogelmaat Jos Hooijmeijer de locatie, met de aanwijzing dat er een mogelijke Lelkievit zat. Hij was in de buurt en ging meteen kijken. De vogel foerageerde op recent gemaaid en gehooid (kaal) land tussen Kieviten, wat Grutto's *Limosa limosa* en enkele Kemphanen *Calidris pugnax*. JH had als onderzoeksleider van het Grutto-onderzoek van de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen toegang tot de betreffende percelen; hij reed dichterbij met zijn terreinwagen en maakte de eerste foto's. Hij stuurde mij rond 10:00 twee foto's, met de mededeling dat de vogel geen ringen had. Ook JH wist niet welke soort het was. Via zoeken op internet kwam ik tot de determinatie als Grijskopkievit *V cinereus*. JH en ik overlegden en we vermoedden dat we met een escape te maken hadden. Desondanks plaatste ik de waarneming om 10:15 met locatie en foto's op www.waarneming.nl als onzekere Lelkievit (met de opmerking dat het waarschijnlijk een Grijskopkievit was), omdat ik hem niet onder Grijskopkievit kon invoeren. Om 10:30 stuurde ik de foto's ook naar mijn collega Rommert Cazemier, die direct ging kijken. Via hem en vervolgens Dutch Bird Alerts werd de waarneming verder wereldkundig gemaakt en RC ving de eerste vogelaars op die rond 11:30 arriveerden. In contact met hem werd vervolgens duidelijk dat het om een zeer zeldzame soort ging en

**40** Grijskopkievit / Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*, adult, Workum, Friesland, 27 juni 2019 *(Wim van Zwieten)*

**41** Grijskopkievit / Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*, adult, Workum, Friesland, 28 juni 2019 *(Oscar & Jolande Balm)* **42** Grijskopkievit / Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*, adult, Workum, Friesland, 27 juni 2019 *(Edial Dekker)* **43** Grijskopkievit / Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*, adult, Workum, Friesland, 27 juni 2019 *(Jaap Denee)*

werd de waarneming onder de juiste naam als zeker bevestigd.

De Grijskopkievit trok binnen enkele uren veel vogelaars; dat kwam mede doordat de eerste voor Europa pas twee maanden eerder in het zuiden van Noorwegen en Zweden verbleef, waarvan de foto's nog vers in het geheugen lagen. Hij bleef de hele dag in een relatief klein gebied en na het werk heb ik hem om 18:10 wederom goed gezien, samen met c 100 andere tevreden vogelaars. Op het einde van de dag waren er meer dan 300 waarnemingen ingevoerd op waarneming.nl. Hij liet zich ook op 28 juni nog de hele dag bekijken maar vloog om 20:45 weg in zuidwestelijke richting en was daarna niet meer te vinden. Ook de tweede dag is hij door vele 100-en vogelaars bezocht.

**Beschrijving**

De beschrijving is gebaseerd op foto's van veel fotografen (cf Dutch Birding 41: 269, plaat 361, 283, plaat 381, 2019; www.dutchbirding.nl, www.waarneming.nl) en videobeelden van onder meer Guus van Duin, Will Schep, Robert van Tiel en Wim van Zwieten (www.youtube.com).

GROOTTE & BOUW Als Kievit maar fors groter, met langere poten, brede, afgeronde vleugeltop en geen kuif. Poten in vlucht ruim voorbij staart stekend. Snavel zeer licht naar beneden gebogen.

KOP Geheel grijs, in nek overgaand naar lichtbruin. Klein licht vlekje aan snavelbasis en boven oog ('wenkbrauwveeg') aanwezig.

BOVENDELEN Lichtbruin zonder specifieke tekening.

ONDERDELEN Keel en borst grijs als kop; grijze borst aan onderzijde begrensd door brede halvemaanvormige zwarte borstband; tussen grijs en zwart smal strookje met bruine tekening aanwezig. Rest van onderdelen wit.

VLEUGEL Bovenvleugel opvallend driekleurig getekend. Handpennen zwart. Armpennen wit. Witte baan van rand voorvleugel langs donkere vleugelpunt naar witte armpennen lopend. Kleine handpendekveren bruin. Rest van vleugel lichtbruin als bovendelen. Ondervleugel wit.

STAART Bovenstaart wit met opvallende sikkelvormige zwarte eindband, smal beginnend op buitenste staartpen en breedst op langste staartpen; zwarte veerdelen met smalle witte top. Witte top smalst en meer bruinachtig aan langste staartpen.

NAAKTE DELEN Iris roodoranje. Oogrand geel. Kleine gele lel ('wattle') net boven aanzet van bovensnavel. Snavel diepgeel met sterk afgetekende zwarte punt, over c kwart van snavellengte. Poot geel.

GELUID Niet vastgesteld.

RUI & SLEET Binnenste handpen(nen) aan beide zijden ontbrekend of groeiend (links zeven oude handpennen aanwezig, rechts zes oude handpennen), waardoor aan beide zijden 'hap' uit vleugel aanwezig. Rechts zeker twee handpennen groeiend, mogelijk drie; links minimaal één handpen groeiend, mogelijk twee.

GEDRAG Meeste tijd langzaam en bedachtzaam foeragerend in weiland, meestal op ruime afstand van waarnemers. Af en toe klein stukje vliegend.

**Determinatie en leeftijdsbepaling**

De herkenning van Grijskopkievit is eenvoudig: de combinatie van groot formaat (voor een kievit), lange gele poten, gele snavel met zwarte punt, grijze kop, keel en borst, lichtbruine bovendelen, driekleurige bovenvleugel en witte staart met zwarte eindband sluit alle andere kieviten uit (cf Hayman et al 1986, Chandler 2009). De duidelijke zwarte borstband duidt op een vogel in adult kleed; bij onvolwassen vogels tot in het eerste zomerkleed ontbreekt deze band en is de onderzijde van de borst grijsbruin (cf Chandler 2009). Ook het ontbreken van restanten van juveniele dekveren en van bruine tekening in de staart wijst op een adult en passen niet op een eerstezomer. Tenslotte passen ook de goed ontwikkelde lellen op een adult (Dave Bakewell in litt).

**Verspreiding en voorkomen**

Grijskopkievit broedt in Noordoost-China en Japan. Het is een trekvogel die 's winters regelmatig over grote afstanden wegtrekt naar zuidelijk Azië van West-India tot Cambodja (een deel overwintert in Japan; Hayman et al 1986, Chandler 2009). De soort is als dwaalgast vastgesteld onder meer op de Andamanen en Nicobaren en in Australië, de Filippijnen, Indonesië (Borneo en Sulawesi), (Aziatisch) Rusland, Singapore, Sri Lanka en Zuid-Korea. In 2006-17 werd de soort zes keer als dwaalgast in Australië vastgesteld, zuidelijk tot nabij Sydney, New South Wales (Clarke et al 2008, BARC 2019), wat aangeeft dat 'long distance vagrancy' bij deze soort voorkomt. Het eerste geval voor Kazachstan werd vastgesteld buiten het West-Palearctische gebied bij de monding van de Turgen, Almaty oblast, op 9 september 2020 (Wassink et al 2021; https://birds.kz/v2taxon.php?s=1452&l=en). Hoewel weinig vogelaars hadden voorzien dat de soort als dwaalgast in Europa zou komen, waren er al wel twee gevallen in de WP: in Salalah, Oman (2012) en in centraal Turkije (2018). Recent kwam daar een geval bij in Iran (2020). In mei 2019 werd een exemplaar eerst in Noorwegen en daarna in Zweden gefotografeerd (tabel 1; cf Dutch Birding 40: 112, plaat 138, 2018, 41: 190, plaat 225, 265, plaat 353, 2019).

De afstand tussen de broedgebieden in Oost-Azië en de noordkust van Australië is meer dan 6000 km en naar Sydney meer dan 9000 km. De

TABEL 1 Gevallen van Grijskopkievit *Vanellus cinereus* in het West-Palearctische gebied / records of Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus* in the Western Palearctic (Eriksen & Victor 2013; Łukasz Ławicki in litt)

*Iran (1)*
4 januari 2020, Ahvan park, Kish island, Hormozgan

*Nederland (1)*
27-28 juni 2019, Workum, Friesland

*Noorwegen (1)*
2-4 mei 2019, Gjervoldsøy, Arendal, Aust-Agder (zelfde vogel als in Zweden)

*Oman (1)*
3 januari 2012, Sahnawt Farm, Salalah

*Turkije (1)*
11 maart 2018, Kızılırmak delta, Samsun

*Zweden (1)*
13-19 mei 2019, Strandvik, Hulstberg, Värmland (zelfde vogel als in Noorwegen)

afstand van de broedgebieden tot de waarneemlocaties in Oman, Turkije en de zuidkust van Noorwegen bedraagt steeds c 7000 km. Het verschijnen in wilde staat en op eigen kracht in West-Europa is op basis van deze waarnemingen goed te onderbouwen. Daarnaast overwintert de soort tegenwoordig ook (zuid-)westelijker dan voorheen, zo leert een vergelijking tussen de verspreidingskaarten in bijvoorbeeld Hayman et al (1986) en waarnemingen in eBird (www.ebird.org). Ook de meest westelijke (en zuidelijke) gevallen als dwaalgast zijn van recente datum. Het lijkt er dus op dat de soort 'in beweging' is.

De waarneming bij Workum is aanvaard door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) als eerste geval voor Nederland en tweede exemplaar voor West-Europa. Vergelijking met de foto's van de Scandinavische vogel van mei 2019 (waarvan is vastgesteld dat het één exemplaar betrof) met de vogel van Workum gaf onvoldoende uitsluitsel over de mogelijkheid dat het steeds om dezelfde vogel ging en de CDNA heeft deze optie in het midden gelaten (Gelling et al 2020; Vincent van der Spek in litt).

**Dankzegging**
Wij danken Dave Bakewell voor zijn informatie over de leeftijdsbepaling en de CDNA voor het aanleveren van informatie over de leeftijdbepaling, rui en vergelijking met de Scandinavische vogel.

**Summary**
Grey-headed Lapwing near Workum in June 2019 On 27-28 June 2019, an adult Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus* stayed near Workum, Friesland, the Netherlands, and was seen by several 100s of birders. The identification was straightforward, based on large size (for a lapwing), grey head, throat and breast, pale brown upperparts, distinctive three-coloured (brown-white-black) upperwing pattern, white tail with black terminal band, long yellow legs and yellow bill with black tip. This combination excluded all other lapwing species, including species that could turn up as escape. Based on its breeding range in East Asia, migratory behaviour and previous long-distance vagrancy (eg, to Australia) as well as three to four previous 'greater' Western Palearctic records, it was accepted as a (presumed) wild bird. Other Western Palearctic records have been in Oman (2012), Turkey (2018), Norway and Sweden (2019, assumed to relate to one individual) and Iran (2020) (see table 1). Comparison of photographs did not result in a clear conclusion whether the bird in the Netherlands was the same as the one in Norway and Sweden or not.

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# Mirtezanger op Schiermonnikoog in oktober 2019 en gevallen in de WP

*André J van Loon, Joop van Ardenne, Kees van Kleef & Jos W M van de Staaij*

Op zaterdagochtend 12 oktober 2019 was het bij het Vogelringstation Schiermonnikoog in het Groene Glop op Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, nog heel rustig. De dag ervoor was de mistnetopstelling de hele dag gesloten gebleven vanwege aanhoudende regen en op deze dag konden de netten pas om c 09:00 worden geopend. De ringers van de afgelopen week, André van Loon en Jos van de Staaij, konden daarna een paar vogels bemachtigen en maakten zich op om aan het begin van de middag te vertrekken. Hun opvolgers Joop van Ardenne en Kees van Kleef arriveerden om 10:30. Zoals gebruikelijk bij de overdracht werd eerst gezamenlijk een ronde gelopen. Om 12:15 waren AvL en JvdS hun tassen aan het inpakken en begonnen JvA en KvK een ronde langs de netten. Slechts luttele minuten later stonden ze alweer bij de ringtafel met een vogel in de hand waarvan ze wisten dat het iets bijzonders was maar die ze niet meteen thuis konden brengen. AvL zag de vogel en moest even slikken en zei: 'tjemig, een Amerikaanse zanger, een Mirtezanger'!

Er werd een bericht verstuurd op de Whatsappgroep van de Schiermonnikoog-vogelaars en al snel arriveerden de eersten. Geratel van camera's en blije gezichten waren het gevolg. Na het ringen en meten werd de Mirtezanger *Setophaga coronata* om 13:30 losgelaten bij begraafplaats Vredenhof aan de Reddingsweg, 300 m ten noordoosten van het ringstation. Daar en in de directe omgeving werd hij tot het einde van de middag nog onregelmatig waargenomen.

Diezelfde avond arriveerde een aantal vogelaars vanaf Vlieland, Friesland, waar dat weekend 'Deception Tours 3' werd gehouden. Zij hoopten de volgende dag de Mirtezanger terug te vinden.

**44** Mirtezanger / Myrtle Warbler *Setophaga coronata*, eerste-winter vrouwtje, Groene Glop, Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, 12 oktober 2019 *(Kees van Kleef)*

**45-46** Mirtezanger / Myrtle Warbler *Setophaga coronata*, eerste-winter vrouwtje, Groene Glop, Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, 12 oktober 2019 *(Bram Ubels)* **47** Mirtezanger / Myrtle Warbler *Setophaga coronata*, eerste-winter vrouwtje, Reddingsweg, Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, 13 oktober 2019 *(Bram Robool)*

Dat lukte om c 11:00. De vogel verbleef toen meestal iets verder naar het oosten. De omstandigheden waren lastig en om c 12:00 werd hij op die dag voor het laatst gezien, 'terug' vliegend richting Vredenhof (waar hij niet kon worden teruggevonden).

Tot grote verrassing werd de Mirtezanger maar liefst negen dagen later op 22 oktober om c 16:15 per toeval teruggevonden door Wouter Halfwerk, nu iets verder noordelijk langs de Reddingsweg. Hij werd tot de schemer gezien door c 20 vogelaars. Daarna is de vogel niet meer waargenomen, ondanks vele 10-tallen zoekende vogelaars op 23 oktober.

Dit geval is aanvaard door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) als tweede voor Nederland (Gelling et al 2020), na de eerste op Vlieland op 13-15 oktober 1996 (van der Have & Bulteel 1997, Wiegant et al 1998). De vangst was de tweede Noord-Amerikaanse zangvogel voor Vogelringstation Schiermonnikoog, na een Roodoogvireo *Vireo olivaceus* op 13 oktober 2001.

## Beschrijving

STRUCTUUR Negen handpennen. Staartpennen puntig. Snavel van boven gezien met vrij brede 'vliegenvangerachtige' basis.

KOP Kruin en nek grijsbruin, zonder of hooguit met heel vage, onopvallende donkere streping. Basis van centrale kruinveren geel (te zien bij wegblazen van veren). Oorstreek grijsbruin. Wenkbrauwstreep licht geelbruin, voornamelijk voor oog. Opvallende, witte, onderbroken oogring (als twee losse witte boogjes boven en onder oog), boven oog contact makend met wenkbrauwstreep.

BOVENDELEN Bovenrug grijsbruin, als nek. Schouderveren, mantel en rest van rug grijsbruin met enige donkere schachtstreping. Stuitveren heldergeel. Bovenstaartdekveren met zwarte schachtstreep (naar top in punt uitlopend) en brede bruingrijze zoom op binnenvlag en buitenvlag (met duidelijk bruine tinten).

ONDERDELEN Keel wit, wit aan zijkant doorlopend tot onder oorstreek. Bovenborst wit tot bruinwit, met enige grove (vlekkerige) donkere streping. Borst wit met wat fijnere zwarte streping. Buik en onderstaartdekveren wit. Flank grotendeels wit met fijne donkere streping; voorflank opvallend bruingeel, bij opgevouwen vleugel onder vleugelboeg tevoorschijn komend.

BOVENVLEUGEL Handpennen en armpennen zwartbruin met heel smalle witachtige zoom aan buitenvlag (op armpennen zoom iets breder en met meer bruinwitte tint). Tertials zwartbruin met duidelijk bredere witachtige zoom aan buitenvlag. Buitenste grote dekveren met zwart, vaag begrensd, puntig uitlopend centrum en grijsbruine zoom (binnen- en buitenvlag), zoom op buitenvlag richting top overgaand in witte brede (druppelvormige) topvlek; binnenste drie grote dekveren eveneens met zwart, vaag begrensd, puntig uitlopend centrum en grijsbruine zoom (binnenvlag en buitenvlag) maar zonder witte top (hierdoor schijnbaar ruicontrast met buitenste grote dekveren, maar alle veren vers, van zelfde generatie); witte toppen onderste vleugelstreep vormend. Middelste dekveren met zwart centrum (naar top iets puntig uitlopend) en brede witte top; witte toppen bovenste vleugelstreep vormend. Kleine dekveren met zwart centrum en brede grijsachtige zoom en top. Handpendekveren grijsbruin met heel smalle, iets lichtere zoom aan buitenvlag; handpendekveren contrasterend met donkere veercentra van grote dekveren.

STAART Staartpennen zwart (donkerdere basiskleur dan handpennen en armpennen) met smalle bleek grijsbruine/witachtige zomen op distaal deel (ook op binnenvlag), richting basis van staartpennen zomen op buitenvlag wat breder wordend en meer blauwgrijs. Buitenste twee staartpennen (t5-6) aan uiteinde met grote, opvallende ovale witte vlek op binnenvlag; t4 alleen met zeer smalle witte eindzoom aan binnenvlag.

VLEUGELSTRUCTUUR Handpennen p6-8 (van binnen naar buiten genummerd) met versmalde buitenvlag.

BIOMETRIE Vleugellengte 72 mm, vetgraad 3, gewicht 13.6 gram.

RUI Geen rui.

## Determinatie, leeftijd en geslacht

Onderstaande analyse is gebaseerd op Pyle et al (1987), Pyle (1997), Sibley (2014) en McGill Bird Observatory (2015). De combinatie van grijsbruine bovendelen, heldergele stuit, verborgen gele kruinvlek, vrij duidelijke wenkbrauwstreep, witte keel, witachtige onderdelen met streping, witte staartvlekken en vleugelstrepen past alleen op Mirtezanger. De verwante Audubons Zanger *S auduboni* heeft in dit kleed een wat egalere koptekening en meestal meer blauwgrijze tinten in kleed en bovenstaartdekveren. Ook het feit dat slechts t5-6 de grote witte vlekken vertonen sluit Audubons uit, en ondersteunt daarmee tevens de determinatie als eerstejaars vrouwtje. Het contrast tussen de handpendekveren (van juveniel kleed) en de geruide grote dekveren en de puntige staartpennen wijzen eveneens op een eerstejaars. De geslachtsbepaling als vrouwtje volgt ook uit de bruinige (niet blauwgrijze) tint van de zomen van de bovenstaartdekveren.

## Voorkomen

Mirtezanger broedt in de taigazone van Canada en van Alaska en het noordoosten van de VS (Hunt & Flaspohler 2020). Er zijn in totaal 86 gevallen in het West-Palearctische gebied (WP) (tabel 1), waaronder 24 in Brittannië, 20 op de Azoren, 19 in Ierland, 18 in IJsland, twee in Nederland, en enkelingen op de Canarische Eilanden, in Noorwegen en in Spanje.

De eerste voor de WP betrof een overwinterende vogel in 1955 in Engeland (Smith 1955). Er zijn

TABEL 1 Gevallen van Mirtezanger *Setophaga coronata* in de WP (* nog niet aanvaard) / records of Myrtle Warbler *Setophaga coronata* in the WP (* not yet accepted) (Smith 1955, Burrows 1977, van der Have & Bulteel 1997, Høyland et al 2000, Slack 2009, Gutiérrez et al 2011, García-del-Rey & García Vargas 2013, Hudson & Rarities Committee 2015, Alfrey et al 2018, Hobbs 2019, Tipper et al 2019, Holt et al 2020; Chas Holt in litt, Harry Hussey in litt, Yann Kolbeinsson in litt, Łukasz Ławicki in litt, Pedro Ramalho in litt)

*Azoren (20)*
15-16 oktober 2000, Flores
21 november 2005, São Miguel
21-22 oktober 2006, Corvo
25 oktober 2006, Corvo
26 oktober 2006, Corvo
17 oktober 2007, Flores
21 oktober 2008, Flores
23 oktober 2009, Corvo
10 november 2009, Corvo
* 23 oktober 2011, Corvo
* 30 oktober 2011, São Miguel
* 20 oktober 2012, Corvo
* 20 oktober 2012, Corvo
* 20 oktober 2012, Corvo
14 oktober 2013, Flores
20-22 oktober 2017, Terceira
* 18-21 oktober 2018, Corvo
* 22-24 oktober 2018, Corvo
* 22 oktober 2020, Corvo
* 28 oktober 2020, Corvo

*Brittannië (24)*
4 januari tot 10 februari 1955, Newton St Cryes, Devon, Engeland (dood gevonden op 10 februari)
5-14 november 1960, Lundy, Devon, Engeland (ringvangst)
22-27 oktober 1968, St Mary's, Scilly, Engeland
16-24 oktober 1973, Tresco, Scilly, Engeland
26 oktober 1976, Calf of Man, Isle of Man
18 mei 1977, Fair Isle, Shetland, Schotland
22-23 oktober 1982, North Uist, Outer Hebrides, Schotland
30 mei 1985, Calf of Man, Isle of Man (ringvangst)
7-22 oktober 1985, St Mary's, Scilly, Engeland
10 oktober 1985, St Mary's, Scilly, Engeland
31 oktober tot 4 november 1994, Ramsey, Pembrokeshire, Wales
16-17 november 1994, Bristol, Avon, Engeland
12 oktober 1995, Tresco, Scilly, Engeland
13 oktober 1995, North Ronaldsay, Orkney, Schotland
3-5 juni 1999, Fair Isle, Shetland, Schotland
17 oktober 1999, South Uist, Outer Hebrides, Schotland
31 oktober tot 6 november 2003, Evie, Orkney, Schotland
28 oktober 2013, Lundy, Devon, Engeland
26 januari tot 16 februari 2014, High Shincliffe, Durham, Engeland
6 mei 2014, North Ronaldsay, Orkney, Schotland, en zelfde vogel op 7-8 mei 2014, Unst, Shetland, Schotland (c 175 km verderop, gebaseerd op details van verenkleed; Hudson & Rarities Committee 2015)
29 september 2014, Virkie, Mainland, Shetland, Schotland; waarschijnlijk zelfde vogel van 30 september tot 1 October 2014, Grutness, Mainland, Shetland, Schotland
18 juni 2017, Skokholm, Pembrokeshire, Wales
31 mei tot 1 juni 2019, Ramsey, Pembrokeshire, Wales
15-16 oktober 2019, Lewis, Outer Hebrides, Schotland

*Canarische Eilanden (1)*
25 februari tot 2 maart 1984, Maspalomas, Gran Canaria

*Ierland (19)*
7-8 oktober 1976, Cape Clear, Cork
19-20 oktober 1982, Cape Clear, Cork
10 oktober 1983, Cape Clear, Cork
10-19 oktober 1983, Cape Clear, Cork
5-7 oktober 1985, Cape Clear, Cork (ringvangst)
31 oktober tot 2 november 1986, Loop Head, Clare (ringvangst)
8-9 oktober 1987, Cape Clear, Cork
7-15 oktober 1993, Cape Clear, Cork
2 en 5-6 oktober 2001, Cape Clear, Cork
4 oktober 2001, Great Blaskett, Kerry
30-31 oktober 2005, Cape Clear, Cork
5-13 oktober 2010, Cape Clear, Cork
10-11 oktober 2010, Aran Islands, Galway
3-6 oktober 2012, Dursey, Cork
6 oktober 2012, Aran Islands, Galway
6 oktober 2012, Aran Islands, Galway
29 oktober 2013, Aran Islands, Galway
* 12 oktober 2019, Aran Islands, Galway
* 13-20 oktober 2019, Aran Islands, Galway

*IJsland (18)*
25 oktober 1964, Heimaey, Vestmannaeyjar (verzameld)
10 oktober 1976, Steinadalur í Suðursveit, Austur-Skaftafellssýsla (verzameld)
11 oktober 1976, Núpsstaður í Fljótshverfi, Austur-Skaftafellssýsla (verzameld)
13 oktober 1976, Klauf, Heimaey, Vestmannaeyjar (vermoedelijk verzameld)
26 september 1980, Stórhöfði, Heimaey, Vestmannaeyjar
26 september 1980, Stórhöfði, Heimaey, Vestmannaeyjar
1 oktober 1989, Hafnir, Gullbringusýsla (verzameld)
13 oktober 1991, Þorbjörn við Grindavík, Gullbringusýsla
25 september 1993, Staður við Grindavík, Gullbringusýsla (verzameld)
16 oktober 1996, Hafnarfjörður, Gullbringusýsla (dood gevonden)
19 oktober 1996, Leirhöfn á Melrakkasléttu, Norður-Þingeyjarsýsla
10 oktober 1999, Hvalsnes á Miðnesi, Gullbringusýsla
21 oktober 2001, Kópasker, Norður-Þingeyjarsýsla
17 oktober 2005, Smyrlabjörg í Suðursveit, Austur-Skaftafellssýsla
24 oktober 2009, Nýja hraun á Heimaey, Vestmannaeyjar
4-9 oktober 2010, Þorlákshöfn, Öfus, Árnessýsla

TABEL 1 (vervolg)

11 november 2012, Hafnarfjörður, Gullbringusýsla
* 5-12 november 2016, Stöðvarfjörður, Suður-Múlasýsla

*Nederland (2)*
13-15 oktober 1996, Oost-Vlieland, Vlieland, Friesland
12-13 en 22 oktober 2019, Groene Glop (ringvangst op 12 oktober) en Reddingsweg, Schiermonnikoog, Friesland

*Noorwegen (1)*
8 oktober 1996, Utsira, Rogaland

*Spanje (1)*
18 oktober 1982, Laguna de Traba, Laxe, A Coruña

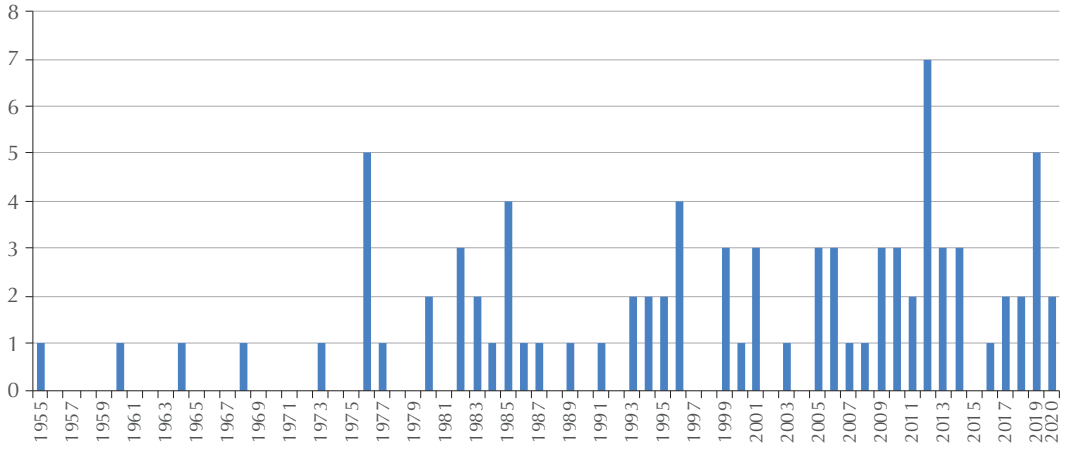
enkele gevallen 'op zee' binnen de grenzen van de WP. Een zeer waarschijnlijke Mirtezanger kwam op 10 september 1954 aan boord van de in de Noord-Atlantische Oceaan oostwaarts varende *RMS Empress of France*, c 640 km ten oosten van de Straits of Belle Isle. De vogel bleef aan boord tot ten minste 13 september 1954, toen het schip de Ierse kust naderde (Tousey 1959). Een andere kwam op c 24 mei 1955 aan boord van de RMS *Saxonia* in de Golf van St Lawrence, en bleef daar tot 30 mei 1955 toen het schip door de North Channel voer op weg naar Liverpool, Engeland (Margeson 1959). Twee Mirtezangers werden op 8 oktober 1962 vastgesteld op de *RMS Mauretania*, c 640 km ten oosten van New York, VS (Durand 1963). Deze gevallen werden weliswaar niet formeel aanvaard voor de betreffende nationale lijsten maar vormen een illustratie van de manier waarop sommige Nearctische zangvogels Europa bereiken.

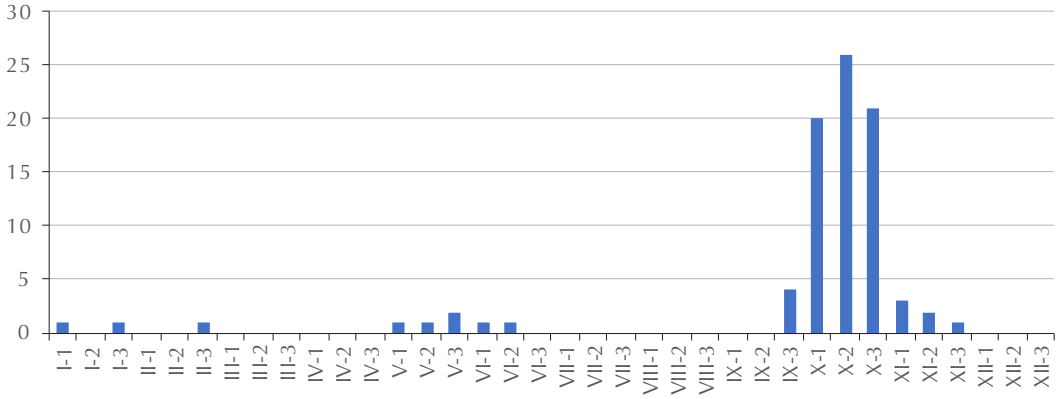
Het aantal gevallen in de WP nam gedurende de periode 1950-80 toe (figuur 1; jaren 1950 één, jaren 1960 drie, jaren 1970 zeven, jaren 1980 15) maar stabiliseerde in de jaren 1990 (14) en 2000 (16). De sterke toename in de jaren 2010 (28) hangt zonder twijfel samen met de sterk toegenomen activiteit van vogelaars op de Azoren in die periode. De toename als dwaalgast sinds 1980 valt ook samen met de groei in aantallen en zuidwaartse uitbreiding van het broedgebied in het noordoosten van de VS in de jaren 1980-90 (Sauer et al 2017). Sinds 1993 wordt Mirtezanger vrijwel jaarlijks vastgesteld in de WP, meestal met één of twee gevallen per jaar. De beste jaren waren 2012 (zeven), 1976 (vijf), 2019 (vijf), 1985 (vier) en 1996 (vier).

76 gevallen (88%) waren in het najaar, met een duidelijke piek in oktober (n=67) (figuur 2). De vroegste najaarsdatum was 25 september en alle septembergevallen waren in IJsland. Er waren drie wintergevallen (twee in Engeland en één op de Canarische Eilanden). Er waren slechts zes gevallen in het voorjaar (mei-juni), alle in Brittannië. Er waren vier 'long-stayers' (≥10 dagen), in Brittannië en Nederland. De beste locaties voor Mirtezanger waren Corvo, Azoren (13 gevallen) en Cape Clear, Ierland (10 gevallen).

In de periode eind september tot eind oktober

FIGUUR 1 Aantal gevallen per jaar van Mirtezanger *Setophaga coronata* in de WP in 1955-2020 (n=86) / number of records per year of Myrtle Warbler *Setophaga coronata* in the WP in 1955-2020 (n=86)






FIGUUR 2 Aantal gevallen van Mirtezanger *Setophaga coronata* in de WP per decade (per datum van ontdekking) (n=86) / number of records of Myrtle Warbler *Setophaga coronata* in the WP per 10-day period (per date of discovery) (n=86)

2019 werden behalve de Mirtezangers opvallend veel andere Nearctische zangvogelsoorten waargenomen in West-Europa; zie voor een overzicht Ławicki & van den Berg (2019).

**Dankwoord**
We bedanken Chas Holt, Harry Hussey, Yann Kolbeinsson, Łukasz Ławicki en Pedro Ramalho voor hun hulp bij het samenstellen van het overzicht van de gevallen van Mirtezanger in de WP.

**Summary**
Myrtle Warbler on Schiermonnikoog in October 2019 and WP records On 12 October 2019, a first-winter female Myrtle Warbler *Setophaga coronata* was trapped and ringed on Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, the Netherlands. Several alerted birders witnessed the handling of the bird and could observe it during and after its release (300 m further on). It was seen there by many more birders until late afternoon. The next day, it was still present and was seen (only) from 11:00 to 12:00. Surprisingly, it was coincidentally rediscovered nine days later on 22 October at almost the same spot. This was the second record, after the first on Vlieland, Friesland, on 13-15 October 1996. There are 86 records in the WP (see table 1). The number of records in the WP has increased especially in the 2010s, which is clearly associated with the increased activities of birders in the Azores in that period. The increase of vagrancy since 1980 also coincides with increased numbers and southward expansion of the range of Myrtle Warbler in north-eastern USA during the 1980s and 1990s.

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## Naamgeving van taxa in Dutch Birding

Voor taxonomie, naamgeving en volgorde van in het West-Palearctische gebied ('de WP') waargenomen taxa houdt Dutch Birding zich aan de beslissingen van de Commissie Systematiek Nederlandse Avifauna (CSNA) (Sangster et al 1999, 2003, 2009) en de door de CSNA goedgekeurde aanvullingen en wijzigingen gepresenteerd in redactiemededelingen in het eerste nummer van elke Dutch Birding-jaargang (Redactie Dutch Birding 2008-18, CSNA 2019-20).

De CSNA spreekt zich vanaf 1 januari 2019 niet alleen uit voor taxa die in Nederland zijn vastgesteld maar ook voor die in de rest van de WP. De volgorde van families en de meeste taxa in deze families sluit vooralsnog aan op Cracraft (2013) (non-Passeriformes) en Sangster et al (2013, 2016). Voor níet in de WP vastgestelde taxa volgt Dutch Birding de taxonomie, volgorde en Engelse en Nederlandse vogelnamen van Gill et al (2021).

Onder de WP wordt in Dutch Birding verstaan Europa met inbegrip van Macaronesië, alle landen die grenzen aan de Middellandse of Zwarte Zee, het Arabische schiereiland (sensu lato) en Armenië, Azerbeidzjan en Iran (zie ook Shirihai & Svensson 2018).

In de bijgewerkte digitale versie van de door Dutch Birding Association (DBA) uitgegeven lijst van in de WP waargenomen soorten zijn alle CSNA-wijzigingen tot en met januari 2021 verwerkt, inclusief die van deze mededeling.

In tabel 1 staan nieuwe wijzigingen in de naamgeving van WP-taxa vermeld die per 1 januari 2021 worden doorgevoerd.

Aan de lijst van in het WP-gebied vastgestelde soorten kan een aantal worden toegevoegd: Witkinstormvogel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* (Scapa beach, Orkney, Schotland, 25 mei 2020), Dunbekpijlstormvogel *Ardenna tenuirostris* (Côtes-d'Armor, Frankrijk, 9 september 2015), Berkenfeetiran *Empidonax flaviventris* (Tiree, Argyll, Schotland, 15-23 september 2020) en Preuss' Klifzwaluw *Petrochelidon preussi* (Santa Maria, Sal, Kaapverdische Eilanden, 13-16 september 2020) (Ławicki & van den Berg 2020abc). Mogelijk worden daar nog een paar soorten aan toegevoegd die wachten op aanvaarding door de betreffende dwaalgastencommissies, zoals Langvleugelstormvogel *Pterodroma macroptera* (Punta de Estaca de Bares, A Coruña, Spanje, 29 augustus 2020). Verder zijn er nieuwe ondersoorten vastgesteld, zoals Cayennestern *Sterna acuflavida eurygnatha* (Lady's Island Lake, Wexford, Ierland, 13-25 juni 2020). Zie Redactie Dutch Birding (2008-18) en CSNA (2019-20) voor andere in recente jaren toegevoegde soorten.

De CSNA dankt Eric Jan Alblas en de redactie van Dutch Birding voor hun assistentie.

**Summary**

Taxa names in Dutch Birding From 1 January 2021, Dutch Birding will use revised names or new taxonomic treatments for taxa listed in table 1. New taxa documented in 2020 (or previous years) for a Western Palearctic (WP) region defined as Europe with Macaronesia, all countries bordering the Black and Mediterranean Sea, the Arabian Peninsula (sensu lato) and Armenia, Azerbaijan and Iran, include: White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* (Orkney, Scotland), Short-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna tenuirostris* (Côtes-d'Armor, France,

TABEL 1 Per 1 januari 2021 door CSNA gewijzigde wetenschappelijke namen van West-Palearctische (WP) taxa / Scientific names for Western Palearctic (WP) taxa revised by CSNA from 1 January 2021

**African Crake / Afrikaanse Kwartelkoning** *Crecopsis egregia* (was *Crex egregia*)

Afrikaanse Kwartelkoning (voorheen *Crex egregia*) is niet nauw verwant met Kwartelkoning *C crex* maar vormt een monofyletische groep met Rougets Ral *Rougetius rougetii* en valt daarom nu onder een eigen, monotypisch, genus *Crecopsis* (Garcia-R et al 2020).

African Crake (formerly *Crex egregia*) is not sister to Corn Crake *C crex* but forms a monophyletic group with Rouget's Rail *Rougetius rougetii* and becomes a monotypic genus *Crecopsis* (Garcia-R et al 2020).

**Atlasbuizerd / North African Buzzard** *Buteo cirtensis* (was Atlasarendbuizerd / Atlas Long-legged Buzzard *B rufinus cirtensis*)

Atlasbuizerd *Buteo cirtensis* in Noord-Afrika was voorheen een ondersoort van Arendbuizerd *B rufinus* maar genetisch onderzoek door Jowers et al (2019) toont dat Atlasbuizerd en Arendbuizerd niet elkaars nauwste verwanten zijn en dat Atlasbuizerd meer verwant is aan de allopatrische Buizerd *B buteo* (eg, Blair et al 2021). Atlasbuizerd verschilt van Buizerd in verenkleed (lichtere kop die sterker contrasteert met rest van bovendelen en lichtere staart) en structuur (grotere snavel, langere tarsus en grotere tenen en klauwen) (eg, Rodríguez et al 2013, Forsman 2016).

North African Buzzard *Buteo cirtensis* was formerly regarded as a subspecies of Long-legged Buzzard *B rufinus* but genetic studies by Jowers et al (2019) show that North African and Long-legged are not each other's closest relatives and that North African is more closely related to Common Buzzard *B buteo* (eg, Blair et al 2021). North African differs from Common in plumage (paler head contrasting more strongly with rest of upperparts, paler tail) and structure (heavier bill, longer tarsus, and more powerful toes and claws) (eg, Rodríguez et al 2013, Forsman 2016).

**Afrikaanse Dunns Leeuwerik / African Dunn's Lark** *Eremalauda dunni* (was *E dunni dunni*)
**Arabische Dunns Leeuwerik / Arabian Dunn's Lark** *Eremalauda eremodites* (was *E dunni eremodites*)

Afrikaanse Dunns Leeuwerik *Eremalauda dunni* en Arabische Dunns Leeuwerik *E eremodites* worden op basis van verschillen in biometrie, morfologie en geluiden als allopatrische soorten beschouwd (cf del Hoyo & Collar 2016, Donald & Christodoulides 2018, Shirihai & Svensson 2018, van den Berg & The Sound Approach 2020, Kirwan et al 2020).

The allopatric African Dunn's Lark *Eremalauda dunni* and Arabian Dunn's Lark *E eremodites* are regarded as specifically distinct based on differences in biometrics, morphology and vocalisations (cf del Hoyo & Collar 2016, Donald & Christodoulides 2018, Shirihai & Svensson 2018, van den Berg & The Sound Approach 2020, Kirwan et al 2020).

**Heines Kortteenleeuwerik / Turkestan Short-toed Lark** *Alaudala heinei* (was *A rufescens heinei*)

Heines Kortteenleeuwerik *Alaudala heinei* van Centraal-Turkije, Irak, Noord-Iran en Oekraïne oost tot Kazakhstan met ondersoorten *heinei*, *aharonii*, *pseudobaetica* en *persica* wordt op basis van onderzoek door Ghorbani et al (2020) en Alström et al (2021) als aparte soort beschouwd en niet meer als ondersoort van Kleine Kortteenleeuwerik *A rufescens*. Heines en Kleine verschillen van elkaar in DNA, geluiden en morfologie (zie ook Roselaar 1995, Kirwan et al 2008).

Turkestan Short-toed Lark *Alaudala heinei*, breeding from central Turkey, Iraq, northern Iran and Ukraine east to Kazakhstan with subspecies *heinei*, *aharonii*, *pseudobaetica* and *persica*, is considered specifically distinct from Mediterranean (Lesser) Short-toed Lark *A rufescens* based on phylogenetic divergence (Ghorbani et al 2020, Alström et al 2021). Turkestan and Mediterranean differ from each other in DNA, vocalisations and morphology (see also Roselaar 1995, Kirwan et al 2008).

**Saharawoestijnzanger / Sahara Scrub Warbler** *Scotocerca saharae* (was *S inquieta saharae* en/and *S i theresae*)
**Gestreepte Woestijnzanger / Striated Scrub Warbler** *S striata* (was *S inquieta striata*).

Bergier et al (2013), Shirihai & Svensson (2018) en van den Berg & The Sound Approach (2020) laten zien dat Saharawoestijnzanger *Scotocerca saharae* en Gestreepte Woestijnzanger *S striata* in geluid en uiterlijk verschillen van Levantwoestijnzanger *S inquieta inquieta*. Bergier et al (2013) maakten duidelijk dat de ondersoort *theresae* het best als synoniem van *saharae* kan worden opgevat. Grote genetische verschillen die in Alström et al (2011) naar voren kwamen ondersteunen de soortstatus van misschien meer dan drie woestijnzangerpopulaties.

Bergier et al (2013), Shirihai & Svensson (2018) and van den Berg & The Sound Approach (2020) show that Sahara Scrub Warbler *Scotocerca saharae* and Striated Scrub Warbler *S striata* differ in vocalisations and morphology from Levant Scrub Warbler *S inquieta inquieta*. Bergier et al (2013) demonstrated that the subspecies *theresae* is best regarded as a synonym of *saharae*. A species' status for perhaps more than three populations of scrub warblers is supported by large genetic differences (Alström et al 2011).

**Westelijke Baardgrasmus / Western Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia iberiae* (was *S inornata iberiae* en/and *S i inornata*)

Zuccon et al (2020) bestudeerden de type-exemplaren van het baardgrasmuscomplex en concludeerden niet alleen dat beide (voormalige) ondersoorten van Westelijke Baardgrasmus (*Sylvia inornata inornata* en *S i iberiae*) synoniemen zijn maar ook dat de soortnaam *S iberiae* moet worden (zie ook Brambilla & Zuccon 2021). De verspreiding van Westelijke omvat Noord-Afrika van Marokko tot Tunesië en het zuidwesten van Europa van Portugal, Spanje en Zuid-Frankrijk tot extreem noordwestelijk Italië. Het nu als een trekvogel beschouwde '*inornata*' type-exemplaar is afkomstig uit Tunis, Tunesië, en blijkt op basis van mitochondriaal DNA een Moltoni's Baardgrasmus *S subalpina* te betreffen.

Zuccon et al (2020) studied the type specimens of the subalpine warbler complex, and concluded that both (former) subspecies of Western Subalpine Warbler (*Sylvia inornata inornata* and *S i iberiae*) should be lumped and renamed *S iberiae* (distributed in North Africa from Morocco to Tunisia, in Iberia, in southern France and in extreme northwestern Italy) (see also Brambilla & Zuccon 2021). Mitochondrial DNA of the type specimen of '*inornata*' (from Tunis, Tunisia, and now considered to be a migrant) was shown to be that of a Moltoni's Warbler *S subalpina*.

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## Birds of Kazakhstan: new and interesting data, part 10

After nine previous editions of 'Birds of Kazakhstan: new and interesting data' (Wassink & Oreel 2008, Wassink 2009-10, 2013-14, 2015a, 2016, 2018-19) and a publication documenting four new species for Kazakhstan (Wassink et al 2011), another selection of new data for Kazakhstan is presented here, including four new species for the country.

**Tundra Bean Goose** *Anser serrirostris*
From late September 2018 to 30 March 2019, a first-year stayed at the Irtysh river at Öskemen, East Kazakhstan province (Berezovikov & Guselnikov 2019). This is the first winter record in the northern half of Kazakhstan.

**Stejneger's Scoter** *Melanitta stejnegeri*
On 18 January 2020, a second calendar-year was photographed at Sorbulak lake system, Almaty province (www.birds.kz). This is the first winter record for Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*
On 6 November 2019, two female-type birds were photographed at the Caspian Sea off Bautino, Mangystau province (Donald Malone & Sean Minns in litt). This is the second documented record for Kazakhstan.

**Marbled Duck** *Marmaronetta angustirostris*
On 3 June 2019, one was found at Topar lakes, Almaty province (www.ebird.org). This is the third record after 1963, the last year when the species was found at its breeding location in the Volga-Ural region.

**48** Common Scoters / Zwarte Zee-eend *Melanitta nigra*, female-types, Caspian Sea off Bautino, Mangystau province, Kazakhstan, 6 November 2019 *(Donald Malone)*

**Red-throated Loon** *Gavia stellata*
On 14 October 2020, a probably immature bird was photographed in the Mangystau bay, Caspian Sea (www.birds.kz). This is the first documented record since the first half of the 20th century.

**Indian Pond Heron** *Ardeola grayii*
On 5 September 2020, a first calendar-year was photographed in the Chu valley at Ulanbel, Zhambyl province (Shmygalev 2020). This is the fifth record for Kazakhstan.

**Grey-headed Lapwing** *Vanellus cinereus*
On 9 September 2020, a first calendar-year was photographed at the lower Turgen river, Almaty province (www.birds.kz). This is a new species for Kazakhstan.

**Red-wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus indicus*
On 3 May 2014, one was sound-recorded in the Zhanakorgan region, Qyzylorda province (Lastukhin 2015ab). This is a new species for Kazakhstan.

**Lesser Sand Plover** *Anarhynchus atrifrons*
Wassink (2015b) stated that large numbers have been found at the eastern Caspian coast and only some 10s east of that region. Since then, it has become clear that the stakeout in the eastern region is Sorbulak lake system, where it is found annually, with flocks of up to eight birds on 15 May 2015 and in late May 2016 (www.birds.kz).

**Relict Gull** *Larus relictus*
On 27 April 2020, an adult summer was well watched, stopping briefly at Prorva Point, Mangystau province, at the north-eastern Caspian coast, before heading north with Black-headed Gulls *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* (Tim Sykes pers obs). This is the second record for western Kazakhstan.

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*
On 10 November 2020, the adult returned to Aktau at the eastern Caspian coast, Mangystau province, for the sixth consecutive winter (www.birds.kz).

**Heuglin's Gull** *Larus heuglini*
On 19 January 2019, an adult (identified as Caspian Gull *L cachinnans* on www.birds.kz) was photographed at Chardara lake, South Kazakhstan province. After two records at the Caspian coast

**49** Caucasian Woodchat Shrike / Kaukasische Roodkopklauwier *Lanius senator niloticus*, second calendar-year female, Bautino, Mangystau province, Kazakhstan, 1 May 2020 *(Sean Minns)*

**50** Lesser Sand Plovers / Tibetaanse Plevieren *Anarhynchus atrifrons*, males, Sorbulak lake system, Almaty province, Kazakhstan, 14 May 2019 *(Francis Antram)*

TABLE 1 Records of Caucasian Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator niloticus* in Kazakhstan in May 2020 (www.birds.kz; Sean Minns pers obs, Tim Sykes pers obs)

| |
|---|
| 1-9 May, Bautino, Mangystau province, female |
| 2-9 May, Bautino, Mangystau province, male |
| 14 May, Aktau, Mangystau province, female |
| 23 May, Bautino, Mangystau province, male |
| 24 May, Aktau, Mangystau province, male |
| 25 May, Prorva Point, Mangystau province, female |

TABLE 2 Records of Upcher's Warbler *Hippolais languida* at eastern Caspian coast in 2019 and 2020 (Sean Minns pers obs, Tim Sykes pers obs)

| |
|---|
| 2-5 August 2019, Prorva Point, Mangystau province, first calendar-year, photographed and videoed |
| 10 May 2020, Bautino, Mangystau province, one bird |
| 22 June 2020, Prorva Point, Mangystau province, one bird |
| 9 July 2020, Prorva Point, Mangystau province, first calendar-year, photographed |

(Wassink 2016, 2018; www.birds.kz), this is the third winter record for Kazakhstan.

**White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*
On 20 January 2019, an adult-summer was photographed at Karakol lake, Mangystau province, at the eastern Caspian coast (www.birds.kz). This is the first winter record for Kazakhstan.

**Pallas's Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*
From 13 July to early September 2020, a second calendar-year was present at the Caspian Sea off Bautino (Jan Nagel, Catherine O'Donnell & William Paterson in litt, Sean Minns pers obs). This is the first documented record from the Kazakh part of the Caspian region, only c 125 km away from Europe.

**Caucasian Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator niloticus*
In May 2020, an influx occurred along the Kazakh part of the eastern Caspian coast, involving six second calendar-year birds, which were all photographed (table 1).

Caucasian Woodchat Shrike breeds in Cyprus, southern and eastern Turkey and Levant east to Transcaucasia, northern Iraq (Kurdistan), Kuwait and Iran (Zagros mountains and possibly also south-east to Baluchistan and in the Elburz mountains). It winters in eastern Africa and occasionally in south-western Arabia (Yosef & International Shrike Working Group 2020).

No records were known from Central Asia (Ayé et al 2012) up to 2015, when a second calendar-year female was observed on the eastern Caspian coast at Aktau, Mangystau province, Kazakhstan, on 3 May. This constituted the first record for Central Asia (Wassink 2015b, Yasko 2017). The second record, also a second calendar-year female, was found at the same location on 8 May 2019 (www.birds.kz).

In total, eight records are now known for Kazakhstan and Central Asia. Since there are no documented records from Turkmenistan (bordering the Caspian Sea south of Kazakhstan), it seems likely that these records refer to 'overshooting' birds, crossing the Caspian Sea from Azerbaijan, supported by strong south-western to north-western winds.

**Masked Shrike** *Lanius nubicus*
On 20-28 May 2019 and 3 June 2020, males were photographed at Prorva Point, Mangystau province (Mike Bailey in litt, Tim Sykes pers obs). These are the third and fourth record for Kazakhstan.

**Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
On 12 June 2019, one was photographed at Korgalzhyn, Aqmola province (www.birds.kz). This is a new species for Kazakhstan and Central Asia. The record likely refers to the migratory and westernmost subspecies *D l longicaudatus*, as is suggested for the at least 23 individuals recorded in the Middle East since 2014 (Khil et al 2019). Interestingly, a first calendar-year Black Drongo *D macrocercus* was photographed in Surkhandarya region, Uzbekistan, on 1 June 2019 (www.birds.kz).

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*
Single birds were photographed at Kirsanov National Reserve on 7 April 2017 and 11 July 2019 (www.birds.kz). After the record of a singing bird at Urda on 6 April 2006 (Kovalenko 2008, Wassink 2010), these records, all in suitable breeding habitat, strongly indicate that this species breeds in West Kazakhstan province.

**Upcher's Warbler** *Hippolais languida*
Although its nearest breeding area, the Karynzharyk desert, is only c 500 km away, only recently the first records for the Kazakh part of the Caspian region were noted (table 2).

**Blue-capped Redstart** *Phoenicurus coeruleocephala*
On 10 February 2020, a male was photographed at Almaty, Almaty province (www.birds.kz). This is the first winter record for Kazakhstan.

**51** Pallas's Fish Eagle / Witbandzeearend *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*, second calendar-year, Caspian Sea off Prorva Point, Mangystau province, Kazakhstan, 13 July 2020 *(Catherine O'Donnell)* **52** Caucasian Woodchat Shrike / Kaukasische Roodkopklauwier *Lanius senator niloticus*, second calendar-year male, Bautino, Mangystau province, Kazakhstan, 2 May 2020 *(Sean Minns)* **53** Caucasian Woodchat Shrike / Kaukasische Roodkopklauwier *Lanius senator niloticus*, second calendar-year male, Bautino, Mangystau province, Kazakhstan, 23 May 2020 *(Sean Minns)* **54** Masked Shrike / Maskerklauwier *Lanius nubicus*, male, Prorva Point, Mangystau province, Kazakhstan, 24 May 2019 *(Mike Bailey)*

**Saxaul Sparrow** *Passer ammodendri*
On 2 April 2020, a female was seen at Korgalzhyn, Aqmola province (www.birds.kz). This is 600 km north of the nearest breeding location, south of Balkhash lake.

**Baikal Wagtail** *Motacilla baicalensis*
On 3 May 2020, a male was photographed at Altai, southern Altai, East Kazakhstan province (Berezovikov & Rosenberg 2020). This is the second record for Kazakhstan.

**Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*
On 10 May 2019, one was photographed and on 4 June 2020, one was found dead at Prorva Point, Mangystau province (Tim Sykes pers obs). These are the first records for the Caspian region and the second and third for western Kazakhstan.

**Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit** *Anthus rubescens japonicus*
On 22 December 2020, one was photographed at Sorbulak lake system (www.ebird.org). This is the first documented winter record in Central Asia. Previous reports on 11 February 2006 and 11 January 2008 are undocumented (Wassink 2015b).

**Blyth's Rosefinch** *Carpodacus grandis*
On 28 January 2020, a female-type bird was photographed at Zhabagly, Talasskiy Alatau foothills, South Kazakhstan province (www.birds.kz, www.ebird.org). This is the second record for Kazakhstan.

**55** Olive-backed Pipit / Siberische Boompieper *Anthus hodgsoni*, Prorva Point, Mangystau province, Kazakhstan, 10 May 2019 *(Tim Sykes)* **56** Yellow-browed Bunting / Geelbrauwgors *Emberiza chrysophrys*, first calendar-year, Kolshengel, Almaty province, 21 September 2019 *(Philippe Campeau)* **57** Upcher's Warbler / Grote Vale Spotvogel *Hippolais languida*, first calendar-year, Prorva Point, Mangystau province, Kazakhstan, 5 August 2019 *(Tim Sykes)*

**Trumpeter Finch** *Bucanetes githagineus*
On 9 May 2018, two were photographed at Karagye depression, Mangystau province (www.ebird.org). This is the ninth record for Kazakhstan. Since seven of these records are from Mangystau province (Wassink 2015b; www.ebird.org), breeding in that province, most likely at Karagye depression or Ustyurt Nature Reserve, might be possible.

**Arctic Redpoll** *Acanthis hornemanni*
On 15 March 2020, one was photographed at Karamendy, Kustanai province (www.birds.kz). This is the fourth record for Kazakhstan.

**Yellow-browed Bunting** *Emberiza chrysophrys*
On 21 September 2019, a first calendar-year was photographed at Kolshengel, Almaty province (Philippe Campeau in litt). This is a new species for Kazakhstan.

*Acknowledgements*
We are grateful to Francis Antram, Mike Bailey, Philippe Campeau, Tony Crilley, Mike Ducks, Nils van Duivendijk, Gennadiy Dyakin, Albert Lasthukin, Donald Malone, Jan Nagel, Catherine O'Donnell, William Paterson and Machiel Valkenburg for the various ways in which they contributed to the publication of this paper.

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## Presumed hybrid Velvet x Stejneger's Scoter at Gdańsk bay, Poland, in January 2020

Since February 2018, an adult male Stejneger's Scoter *Melanitta stejnegeri* (the second for Poland) has been wintering at Gdańsk Stogi, Gdańsk bay, Poland. It was present from 26 February to 15 April 2018, again from 10 November 2018 to 5 February 2019 and on 5 December 2019 (Komisja Faunistyczna 2019, 2020; cf Dutch Birding 40: 114, plate 140, 2018). On 9 January 2020, Peter Stronach and Bob Swann came to see this individual. Whilst scanning scoter flocks from the beach, PS found an adult male scoter with features intermediate between Velvet Scoter *M fusca* and Stejneger's (plate 58-60). It was seen the following day in the same area but at larger distance, c 500 m. At this range, it was very hard to see any differences between it and Stejneger's and it is certainly a potential identification pitfall.

The presumed hybrid had a large thick black base to the bill, with a large protuberance overhanging the upper culmen. This feature varies in size and shape in adult male Stejneger's Scoter and is not shown in adult male Velvet Scoter or White-winged Scoter *M deglandi*. The bill was orange, as opposed to the yellow colour shown in adult male Velvet, and completely outside the range of bill colour exhibited in adult male Stejneger's which has a pinkish red base with a thin yellow strip at the base of the upper mandible. The extent of bill colouration was the same as in Stejneger's, with the colour not going as far back towards the bill base as in Velvet, only going a short distance beyond the proximal end of the nostril. The white eye patch was not as extensive as in Stejneger's but was both larger and reached further above the eye compared with the restricted eye patch of Velvet

**58** Presumed hybrid Velvet x Stejneger's Scoter / vermoedelijke hybride Grote x Aziatische Grote Zee-eend *Melanitta fusca x stejnegeri*, adult male, Gdańsk Stogi, Gdańsk bay, Poland, 9 January 2020 *(Peter Stronach)*. Note bill protuberance and homogenous orange colouration of bill. **59** Presumed hybrid Velvet x Stejneger's Scoter / vermoedelijke hybride Grote x Aziatische Grote Zee-eend *Melanitta fusca x stejnegeri*, adult male (left), with Velvet Scoter / Grote Zee-eend *M fusca*, adult male, Gdańsk Stogi, Gdańsk bay, Poland, 9 January 2020 *(Peter Stronach)*. In direct comparison, bill colouration of presumed hybrid is strong orange, with orange not reaching as far back to bill base, only just passing proximal end of nostril. White eye patch is thicker and more extensively stretching above eye. **60** Presumed hybrid Velvet x Stejneger's Scoter / vermoedelijke hybride Grote x Aziatische Grote Zee-eend *Melanitta fusca x stejnegeri*, adult male (right), with Velvet Scoter / Grote Zee-eend *M fusca*, adult male, Gdańsk Stogi, Gdańsk bay, Poland, 9 January 2020 *(Peter Stronach)*. Note again difference in shape of white eye patch and overall colouration of bill.

which does not rise above the top of the eye (cf plate 58-60). The flank colouration on the presumed hybrid was black and concolourous with the rest of the black body plumage. This bird has been accepted by the Polish rarities committee as a hybrid Velvet x Stejneger's Scoter (Komisja Faunistyczna in press).

No Velvet x Stejneger's Scoter hybrid has previously been reported (Collinson et al 2006, Reeber 2015) and, in fact, no hybrids at all are known between the 'white-winged scoters' (Velvet, White-winged and Stejneger's Scoter). Although not known or reported, Velvet Scoter and Stejneger's Scoter are the most likely to interbreed as their breeding distributions abut in central Siberia, Russia. Hybridisation between Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* and Velvet and between Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* and Velvet has however been reported. There is also a single report of a male White-winged Scoter paired with a Common Eider in Iceland (Reeber 2015) and of a probable hybrid White-winged x Surf Scoter *M perspicillata* in Alaska, USA (McCarthy 2006).

Although the presumed hybrid in Poland was

not trapped and no DNA sample was obtained, the intermediate features in colour and extent of colour on the bill leave little doubt that it was a hybrid. Although Velvet Scoter can show traces of a keratinous growth above the nostrils (Collinson et al 2006), the stepped bill profile is completely at odds with the concave bill profile of Velvet (cf plate 58).

On 10 November 2018, a hybrid male was seen at Gdańsk Wyspa Sobieszewska, east of Gdańsk Stogi, by Piotr Kunowski, and this bird has been accepted by the Polish rarities committee as a hybrid Velvet x Stejneger's Scoter (Komisja Faunistyczna 2019; Tadeusz Stawarczyk pers comm). It is a possibility that this is the same bird as that described, however the photograph of the 2018 hybrid lacks enough detail to be absolutely certain.

I am grateful to Tadeusz Stawarczyk for details of the earlier Gdańsk record, Sebastien Reeber for his opinion based on the photographs and the Dutch Birding reviewers.

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## Long-eared Owls breeding on Porto Santo, Madeira, in July 2020

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* has a large range that extends throughout temperate Eurasia (Robb & The Sound Approach 2015). Isolated populations are found in, eg, North and East Africa, the Azores and the Canary Islands (König et al 2008). Recently, van Bemmelen et al (2020) documented the first records and breeding of this species on Madeira in August 2019.

On 7 July 2020, during a night walk at Serra de Fora, Porto Santo, Madeira (33.071849°N, 16.305477°W), we heard loud calls of at least one juvenile Long-eared Owl at c 23:00. After some time we saw two birds flying but it was not possible to identify them. We managed to make some sound-recordings. The next day, after talking to local people who reported strange sounds at another site on Porto Santo, at Camacha (33.085423°N, 16.341064°W), we visited that place around the same nightly hour and saw one Long-eared Owl flying and also obtained sound-recordings. In the following days, we took some more sound-recordings as well as photographic and video evidence of one juvenile Long-eared at Camacha. Some pellets were collected for further study. After one week of visits, we confirmed the presence of two juveniles at Serra de Fora and another two juveniles at Camacha. In both areas, the species inhabited woodland dominated by Allepo pine *Pinus halepensis*, Monterey cypress *Cupressus macrocarpa* and French tamarisk *Tamarix gallica*.

After checking the checklists of Zino et al (1995), Romano et al (2010) and Correia-Fagundes et al (2013), we realised that there were no previous documented records for this species on Porto Santo. Our observations thus concerned the first

**61** Long-eared Owl / Ransuil *Asio otus*, Camacha, Porto Santo, Madeira, 10 July 2020 *(José Gomes)*

**62** Habitat of breeding Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* at Serra de Fora, Porto Santo, Madeira, 10 July 2020 *(Adriano Andrade)*
**63** Habitat of breeding Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* at Camacha, Porto Santo, Madeira, 10 July 2020 *(Adriano Andrade)*

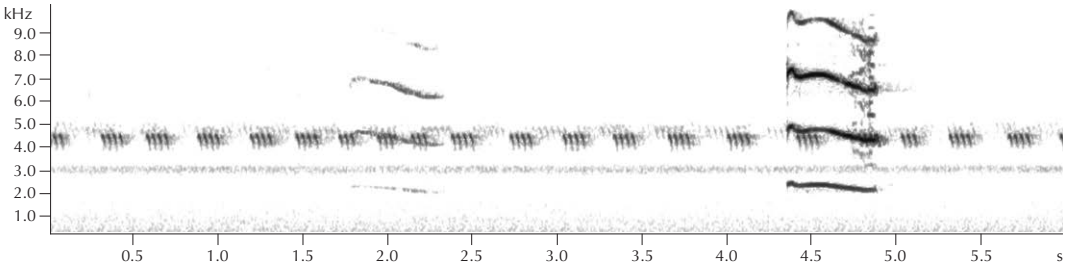


FIGURE 1 Long-eared Owl / Ransuil *Asio otus*, Serra de Fora, Porto Santo, Madeira, 7 July 2020 *(José Gomes)*. Call of juvenile.

records of Long-eared Owl on the island and also the first breeding record.

Porto Santo is situated 43 km north-east from Madeira, where van Bemmelen et al (2020) discovered this species breeding in August 2019. They suggested three possibilities for its origin: ***1*** a previously undetected breeding population; ***2*** a recent colonisation from the Canary Islands; and ***3*** a recent colonisation from the Azores or the European mainland (van Bemmelen et al 2020). The same questions can be asked about the origin of the Porto Santo birds, and we can add another one: a recent colonization from Madeira, or vice versa?

We would like to thank Magnus Robb for confirming the identification of the juvenile Long-eared Owl calls and preparing the sonagram, João Nunes for bibliographic references and José Gomes for his help on the fieldwork and also for providing video and photographic records.

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## Western Palearctic list update: deletion of Wedge-tailed Shearwater

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna pacifica* was placed on the list of the Western Palearctic 'sensu BWP' (WP; Cramp & Simmons 1977) on the basis of a single record of a bird seen off Port Said, Red Sea, Egypt, on 10 March 1988 (Everett 1992, Snow & Perrins 1998, Haas 2012). In 2018, the Egyptian Ornithological Rarities Committee (EORC) reviewed the record based on the description in Everett (1992). As a result of this revision, the record was unanimously rejected (Jiguet et al 2019).

*Description*

The full original description of Everett (1992) is reproduced here:

Wholly dark brown above and below – a remarkably uniformly coloured bird, in fact. Head possibly very slightly darker than throat and upper breast, but not obviously so and this impression only gained during closest views. At about 15 yards, seen through 10x50 binoculars, short, narrow, broken bars visible on the breast, presumably darker tips to the feathers – but these were not obvious and except at very close range would not have been seen at all. Primaries slightly darker than rest of wing, tail more or less as back. Apart from slightly darker flight feathers, underwing completely uniform –

but when, at very close range, the bird momentarily banked away, diffuse slightly lighter brown area around bases of innermost primaries: this not at all obvious and not seen at any distance. No contrasting markings on upperwings; coverts and back very uniformly coloured. Typical tubenose bill, relatively slight and wholly dark – looked more or less black at a distance, but close seen to be dark greyish. Legs and feet dull greyish pink. The basic impression was of an all-dark, very uniformly coloured shearwater with a dark bill with no noticeable plumage features of any sort. It was clearly smaller than the Cory's Shearwaters [= Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*] seen at sea earlier that afternoon and seemed relatively shorter winged, although this impression may have been exaggerated by its flight-posture. Its wingspan was about size as a Sooty Shearwater [*A griseus*]. Initially, as the bird approached at an angle along the ship's wake, it looked a little front-heavy, but this was soon seen to be an illusion created by its wing-posture: once out came side-on and started to swing away it looked like a 'normal' shearwater in build. The wing-posture as the bird was gliding low over the water was very striking: the wings held a stiff, bowed-downwards position and reaching slightly forwards. The 'arm' looked to have normal shear- water proportions in terms of length, though it also appeared quite broad; the 'hand', however, appeared quite short – but this impression may have been heightened by the fact that it was angled back from the carpal joint. The wing-tips looked quite blunt. The tail-shape was not seen particularly well: my impression was only that it was rather narrow and fairly long for a shearwater. The flight was low, direct and fairly fast (the bird very quickly overhauled the gulls following the ship) gliding on bowed wings, interspersed 2-4 rather shallow beats, and noticeably more rapid when it wheeled away and went out to sea again. As it left for the second time, it zig-zagged very slightly, but only briefly. Harrison (1985) is emphatic about diagnostic wing-postures and mode of flight in identifying Wedge-tailed Shearwater, but refers of course to active flying over the open sea. While it is tempting to say that the wing-posture of the Port Said bird fits the bill, I prefer to exercise caution: the bird was flying in very calm conditions and no doubt, more slowly than when out at sea. I have seen fairly similar wing-postures adopted by Cory's Shearwaters [= Scopoli's Shearwater] and Northern Fulmars [*Fulmarus glacialis*] which were following ships – so perhaps the posture is common to other species in certain situations.

*Review*

The EORC did not accept this report after review, stating that the description lacks details on the shape of the tail (one of the most important feature of the species), while, eg, leg colour description was not spot on. From this, the EORC felt that other dark-plumaged seabirds could not be excluded without details on shape and jizz.

Robert Flood (in litt) commented upon the decision of the EORC: 'I agree that the description is inconclusive for Wedge-tailed Shearwater and is best left as an all-dark shearwater sp. Parts of the description are consistent with Wedge-tailed: the centre of gravity is forward of mid-wing and thus birds frequently look front-heavy, wings are held bowed with carpal joint pushed forward, colour and pattern of plumage (but this broadly speaking matches other all-dark shearwaters and petrels), greyish/pink legs and feet, length of wingspan (although Flesh-footed Shearwater [*A carneipes*] is only slightly longer in wingspan), and slight bill. If there were to be a Wedge-tailed in the Red Sea then it would almost certainly be a dark morph as Indian Ocean birds are almost all dark morph (as is the case with records in the Arabian Sea) with a few dark intermediates (cf Flood & Fisher 2020). The longish tail eliminates Short-tailed Shearwater [*A tenuirostris*] and Sooty Shearwater with dark underwings (cf Flood & Fisher 2019). The slight bill eliminates Jouanin's Petrel [*Bulweria fallax*]. An inconsistency with Wedge-tailed is bill colour, described as dark greyish. While bill colour and pattern of Wedge-tailed varies across its range, Indian Ocean birds that I have observed typically have uniform grey/pinkish bill with contrastingly darker ungues. However, my main concern with the description is the lack of emphasis/mention of Wedge-tailed's truly unique traits, including long front-end projection forward of the wings and very small head, slight bulge in the lower neck, very long wedge-shaped rear-end projection (not simply longish tail), and effortless, graceful and buoyant flight no matter what the conditions'.

*Status*

Based on the review of the 1988 report, the species is deleted from both the Egyptian and the WP 'sensu BWP' list. An earlier report of this species in Egypt, at Quseir on 24 November 1983 (Bezzel 1987), was reviewed and rejected as unproven by the EORC (Jiguet et al 2012; see also Goodman & Meininger 1989 who also rejected the record).

In the 'greater' WP (including the Arabian Peninsula and Iran), the species is a regular but scarce non-breeding visitor in Oman and Yemen (mainly in August-November) and in the United Arab Emirates (mainly in May-June), and vagrant in Iran (Campbell et al 2017, Mitchell 2017, Flood & Fisher 2020).

*Acknowledgements*

We are grateful to Robert Flood for his comment on the bird's identification.

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## Unsuccessful search for Trias's Greenfinch on La Palma, Canary Islands, in August 2018

Knowing whether a species is extinct has great relevance for the allocation of conservation resources. However, whether a species is extinct can be difficult to prove. There has been debate over whether one should assume a species to be extinct unless proven extant, or vice versa (Diamond 1987, King 1988). While extinction is forever, evidence for extinction is often based on a lack of evidence and may not be definitive. Sometimes a species, or a representative of a group of species, that was presumed long extinct, is rediscovered. The best-known example of such 'Lazarus species' is West Indian Ocean Coelacanth *Latimeria chalumnae*, a member of a group of fishes that was thought to have become extinct in the Late Cretaceous (Smith 1939). Although less spectacular, South Island Takahe *Porphyrio hochstetteri*, Bermuda Petrel *Pterodroma cahow* and Forest Owlet *Athene blewitti* are well-known avian examples of species that were considered extinct for decades or even longer until their rediscovery put them back on the map (Beebe 1935, Falla 1949, King & Rasmussen 1998).

During the last four decades, several species of landbirds have been described on the basis of fossil material collected in the Canary Islands. These are Canary Islands Quail *Coturnix gomerae* on La Palma, El Hierro, Gomera, Tenerife and Fuerteventura (Jaume et al 1993, Rando & Perera 1994, Rando & López 1996, Rando et al 1996, 1997), the flightless Long-legged Bunting *Emberiza alcoveri* on Tenerife (Rando et al 1999), Trias's Greenfinch *Carduelis triasi* on La Palma (Alcover & Florit 1987) and Slender-billed Greenfinch *C aurelioi* on Tenerife (Rando et al 2010). As a result of the transfer of the greenfinches to the genus *Chloris* (Sangster et al 2011, Zuccon et al 2012), the latter two species are better classified as *Chloris triasi* and *Chloris aurelioi*, respectively. All of these, except Trias's Greenfinch, are believed to have become extinct after the arrival of man on the islands.

Trias's Greenfinch is only known from a skull and several wing bones found in Cueva de los Murciélagos I in north-eastern La Palma at an altitude of 1300 m above sea level (Alcover & Florit 1987). The GPS coordinates of this cave are

28°45′45″N, 17°49′26″W (28.7625 N, 17.8239 W), but were incorrectly given as 2°45′45″N, 49′26″E in Alcover & Florit (1987). This site is within the Canarian Pine *Pinus canariensis* forest zone that covers the foothills north and east of the Caldera de Taburiente. Trias's Greenfinch is 10% larger than European Greenfinch *C chloris* but has different proportions from the latter: its upper mandible is 30% deeper whereas its wing bones are shorter. Alcover & Florit (1987) believed that the age of the bones was very recent and that their state of preservation suggested that these probably date back only a few 100 years. They noted that survival of this species 'in some remote place on La Palma cannot be excluded' (p 85).

During preparations for a family trip to La Palma in 2018, I could not find any published evidence for a dedicated search for Trias's Greenfinch at proper altitudes. Trip reports accessed on cloudbirders.com and records archived in the eBird.org database indicated that most birders visiting the island have focused on natural forest at lower altitudes, where Bolle's Pigeon *Columba bollii*, Laurel Pigeon *C junoniae* and Palma Blue Tit *Cyanistes palmensis* are easily found, but where Trias's Greenfinch is less likely to occur due to competition with Canary Islands Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs palmae* (Rando et al 2010).

My search for Trias's Greenfinch on La Palma was motivated by the possibility, however remote, that the species is still extant, and the value of documenting an unsuccessful search for this species. Negative results, although disappointing, could serve as input for a formal, quantitative analysis of the likelihood of extinction, thereby putting the case for extinction on firmer ground (Butchart et al 2018).

I conducted a full-day search (07:15-16:00) on 23 August 2018 in eastern La Palma, starting at the treeline of Canarian Pine (28.7467 N, 17.8306 W; 2070 m asl), walking down along the LP4 road to the start of trail PRLP4 (28.7359 N, 17.8244 W; 1915 m asl), continuing along the trail east to 28.7364 N, 17.7689 W (820 m asl), and then returning to the start of the trail (a total of 26.5 km). Observations of birds were made visually, by naked ear, or through Sony headphones connected to a Marantz PMD 670 recorder and a Sennheiser ME66 directional microphone. All sounds unknown to me were followed up and verified visually, whenever possible.

I did not see any greenfinches and did not hear any greenfinch-like sounds. I did see and hear several Canary Islands Chaffinches in Canarian Pine forest at 1200-1500 m asl, as well as multiple flocks of Atlantic Canary *Serinus canaria*, numerous Canary Islands Chiffchaffs *Phylloscopus canariensis*, several Western Canary Islands Kinglets *Regulus teneriffae ellenthalerae*, a flock of Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* and several Northern Ravens *Corvus corax*.

My search covered only a small area (c 2.6 km$^2$), which was only a fraction ($\varepsilon \approx 0.011$, cf Butchart et al 2018) of the total extent of natural Canarian Pine forest on the island (232.8 km$^2$, Arévalo et al 2011). In addition, my search was conducted outside the breeding season of European Greenfinch on other western Canary Islands (Martín & Lorenzo 2001) and thus had a low probability of detecting the species even if it is present ($p(r) \approx 0.2$, cf Butchart et al 2018). Clearly, more intensive and extensive searches are required to conclude that this species is no longer present. If Trias's Greenfinch is indeed extinct then it is likely that parts of its former niche have become occupied by Canary Islands Chaffinch, which was a likely competitor for resources (Rando et al 2010). My observations of several Canary Islands Chaffinches above 1200 m asl are consistent with this scenario but do not exclude a continued presence of Trias's Greenfinch elsewhere on the island.

Unlike other islands in the western Canary Islands, La Palma lacks a breeding population of European Greenfinch (Martín & Lorenzo 2001). There have been reports of European Greenfinch near Los Sauces (April 1997), Puntallana (June-July 1998) and Briestas (spring 2000) (Martín & Lorenzo 2001). These are likely vagrants although it is unclear whether Trias's Greenfinch has been considered and excluded. Los Sauces and Puntallana are situated at low elevations outside the Canarian Pine forest zone. However, Briestas lies at an elevation of 1200 m asl, close to or in Canarian Pine forest. One cannot discount the possibility that there have been observations of 'funny-looking' greenfinches on the island that went unreported because their significance was overlooked by observers unaware of the description of Trias's Greenfinch. This brief report aims to encourage birders to look for greenfinches in Canarian Pine forest on La Palma and document any dedicated search for Trias's Greenfinch.

I am grateful to Robert Burton, José Luis Copete and members of the editorial board for helpful comments on the manuscript.

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## Identifying Western Subalpine Warbler and Eastern Subalpine Warbler by primary projection

In the past 20 years, the nomenclature and taxonomy of the subalpine warbler complex *Sylvia subalpina/iberiae/cantillans* has had a complex history of changes, second thoughts and corrections, with numerous papers following each other. Probably the final words were recently written by Zuccon et al (2020). The results from their extensive review supported the recent recognition of three species: ***1*** Moltoni's Warbler, *S subalpina* (monotypic; central-northern Italy, Corsica, Sardinia and Balearic Islands); ***2*** Western Subalpine Warbler *S iberiae* (monotypic; Iberia, southern France, extreme north-western Italy, and now also including the populations from North Africa that were formerly ('up to and including 2020') named '*inornata*') (cf Svensson 2013ab, Redactie Dutch Birding 2014); and ***3*** Eastern Subalpine Warbler *S cantillans*, with the subspecies *S c cantillans* (southern Italy and Sicily) and *S c albistriata* (extreme north-eastern Italy, Balkans, Greece and western Turkey). The type specimen of *inornata* (a migrant collected in Tunisia) appears to be a Moltoni's and the name *inornata* is now synonymised with *subalpina* (Zuccon et al 2020, Brambilla & Zuccon 2021).

The field identification of all taxa (although with a slightly different nomenclature and taxonomy) was discussed by Svensson (2013b); he reported morphometric measurements of the subalpine warbler complex but only briefly mentioned differences and usefulness of the primary projection, focusing mainly on the tail pattern. However, the tail pattern is often variable, related to age or plumage state of the bird (juvenile and abraded tails being the most difficult), and odd, misleading examples were observed in recent years (Illa et al 2019; pers obs; https://tinyurl.com/y3soaklq). Furthermore, the outer tail pattern is sometimes hard to discern under field conditions. Nevertheless, tail pattern difference remains an important feature (chiefly in typical adult or second calen-

**64** Eastern Subalpine Warbler / Balkanbaardgrasmus *Sylvia cantillans cantillans*, male, Monti della Calvana, Prato, Toscana, Italy, 18 April 2017 *(Daniele Occhiato)*. Note rather narrow and long primary projection, with six to seven visible and well-spaced primaries (even longer on *S c albistriata* on average). **65** Western Subalpine Warbler / Westelijke Baardgrasmus *Sylvia iberiae*, second calendar-year male, Yasmina lake, Merzouga, Morocco, 12 April 2019 *(Marc Illa)*. Note visibly shorter and somewhat broader primary projection.

FIGURE 1 Eastern Subalpine Warbler / Balkanbaardgrasmus *Sylvia cantillans*, male (above), and Western Subalpine Warbler / Westelijke Baardgrasmus *S iberiae*, male (below) *(Lorenzo Starnini)*. Note that Eastern Subalpine (both *S c cantillans* and *S c albistriata*) shows longer and narrower primary projection, while Western Subalpine (chiefly birds from North Africa, formerly named *S inornata inornata*) shows shorter and broader primary projection. This structural difference is in most cases easy to use as first aid in identification (before checking plumage details and vocalisation). This difference is valid for any age and sex class.

dar-year male which has renewed the two outer tail feathers), alongside differences in calls (the best character) and, in adult males, the colour (hue, intensity) of the underparts.

We want to emphasize here that differences in structure (ie, primary projection) between Western Subalpine Warbler and Eastern Subalpine Warbler were so far not sufficiently stressed as a rather important first indication of a bird's identity. We base this conclusion on measurements of 190 skins (in museums of Paris, Roma and Tring) and birds in the hand: ***1*** Moltoni's Warbler: 20 males and 17 females/juveniles (Toscana, Corsica and Sardinia); ***2*** Western Subalpine: 33 males and 20 females/juveniles (Spain, southern France and Morocco); and ***3*** Eastern Subalpine taxa: 75 males and 25

**66** Western Subalpine Warbler / Westelijke Baardgrasmus *Sylvia iberiae*, second calendar-year male, Aiguamoll de la Bòbila, Barcelona, Spain, 8 May 2018 *(Marc Illa)*. Note shorter primary projection compared with Eastern Subalpine Warbler *S cantillans*. This bird possibly belongs to Moroccan breeding population (formerly named *S inornata inornata* as all North African populations), which is probably shortest-winged taxon (being shortest-distance migrant of all subalpine warblers). Western Subalpine from northern part of range (eg, France, Spain) sometimes seems to show slightly longer primary projection compared with Moroccan populations. **67** Moltoni's Warbler / Moltoni's Baardgrasmus *Sylvia subalpina*, adult male, Volterra, Toscana, Italy, 12 May 2019 *(Daniele Occhiato)*. Note that this Moltoni's, showing all typical key-features, has rather short primary projection, with inner primaries rather 'bunched together' and p2-4 closer to each other than in Western Subalpine Warbler *S iberiae* and many Moltoni's. However, identification is straightforward. Moltoni's usually has intermediate primary projection, with preliminary research data indicating shorter primary projection on Corsica and Sardinia, and on average slightly longer one along Italian Tyrrhenian coast.

**68** Western Subalpine Warbler / Westelijke Baardgrasmus *Sylvia iberiae*, juvenile, Gorges du Verdon, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, France, 22 July 2017 *(Daniele Occhiato)*. Juvenile from breeding range. Note very short primary projection with rounded wing tip, eliminating both taxa of Eastern Subalpine Warbler *S cantillans* (nominate *S c cantillans* and even longer-winged *S c albistriata*). **69** Apparent Moltoni's Warbler / waarschijnlijke Moltoni's Baardgrasmus *Sylvia subalpina*, adult male, Passo della Reticosa, Toscana, Italy, 3 May 2016 *(Daniele Occhiato)*. Very interesting looking male, showing intermediate characters between Moltoni's Warbler and Eastern Subalpine Warbler *S cantillans*: note that underpart colouration and hue are perfectly fitting former, while concentration of colour over throat and breast is usually more typical of Eastern Subalpine, as is broader moustache (normally rather weak, short and narrow in Moltoni's); primary projection is very long as well. Such birds along Tyrrhenian coast of Italy should be genetically tested to investigate possible hybrid origin.

females/juveniles (Italy, Albania, Greece and former Yugoslavia). The range of the primary projection in Eastern Subalpine was 8.5-14.5 (average 10.5), in Western Subalpine 7.2-10.6 (average 9.0) and in Moltoni's 7.9-12.5 (average 9.9). As shown in figure 1 and plate 64-66, Eastern Subalpine shows a rather long and somewhat narrower primary projection (six to seven visible, well-spaced primaries beyond the longest tertial), while Western Subalpine shows a somewhat blunter, broader and shorter primary projection (four to six primaries, less well spaced). This difference is more pronounced when comparing the eastern subspecies of Eastern Subalpine (*S c albistriata*) with the North African populations of Western Subalpine. The wing structure of Moltoni's is somewhat in the middle, apparently with some birds from the Italian mainland showing a primary projection very similar to that of nominate Eastern Subalpine (*S c cantillans*), and those from Corsica and Sardinia usually showing a slightly shorter/blunter wing. Further studies are needed to understand whether the differences noticed are only related to different populations and, possibly, a different migration strategy (eg, different wintering ranges), or whether genetic introgression is responsible for the variation. Indeed, the white moustachial stripe (length/strength) appeared much more variable among populations in Toscana, as were other features, making this another subject for future research. Therefore, the primary projection is not a valid help in the identification of Moltoni's. Combining the difference in structure between Western Subalpine and Eastern Subalpine with the most important feature (vocalisations), it should also be possible to identify juveniles and females (which however often show more overlapping measurements), in addition to adult males. Of course, given the difficulties in correctly judging primary projection in the field, this feature should always be combined with all the other already well documented characters.

We thank Daniele Occhiato for the photographs and Mattia Brambilla for many discussions over the years on identification and taxonomy of subalpine warblers. Many thanks go to Patrick Boussés and Anne Previato (MNHN, Paris), Carla Marangoni (MCZR, Roma) and Mark Adams, Hein van Grouw and Robert Prŷs-Jones (NHMUK, Tring).

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# Trends in systematics

## Degrees of divergence: taxonomy of subalpine warbler complex

Birders and ornithologists face the paradox of being used to be surprised by birds, whether this involves unexpected species at a given time or site, odd behaviour, amazing views, or hidden diversification patterns and species limits, sometimes even within taxa occurring in regions with high-intensity studies and only well-known species. The subalpine warbler complex *Sylvia subalpina/iberiae/cantillans* provides a fine example of the latter type of surprise. It inhabits the Mediterranean region, especially on the European side, one of the more intensively investigated areas of the world from an ornithological point of view. In over two and a half centuries, a varying number of subspecies have been proposed, invalidated

**70** Eastern Subalpine Warbler / Balkanbaardgrasmus *Sylvia cantillans cantillans*, male, Passo della Reticosa, Toscana, Italy, 3 May 2016 *(Daniele Occhiato)*

**71** Eastern Subalpine Warbler / Balkanbaardgrasmus *Sylvia cantillans albistriata*, male, Quetura Junction, road 40, km 1.5, Israel, 26 March 2007 *(Daniele Occhiato)*

and resurrected, and were mostly linked to subtle differences in male plumage. Multiple descriptions of the same subspecies, lost or misidentified type specimens and overlooked descriptions, led to a whirl of scientific names that added confusion to an already complex situation. In recent years, thanks to several studies integrating genetics, morphology and vocalisations, it was possible to largely solve the puzzle and shed light on an intriguing example of ongoing speciation with taxa showing different degrees of divergence. In particular, research papers published by Brambilla et al (2008c) and more recently by Zuccon et al (2020) clarified the phylogeographic structure of each clade belonging to the subalpine warbler complex and, combined with other works on different biological aspects (song, plumage and migration; cf Brambilla et al 2008a, 2010, 2012), led to a reassessment of species limits. The more recent paper included a detailed assessment of all names available for the complex and provided an objective framework to settle its nomenclature.

*Genetic analyses*

A phylogeographic approach based on the cytochrome-*b* gene revealed a deep structuring of the populations within the complex. It showed the clear divergence of Moltoni's Warbler *S subalpina* (initially called *Sylvia (cantillans) moltonii*), inhabiting central Mediterranean islands and part of the central-northern Italian mainland (something that was only recently noted; Brambilla et al 2006), from all other populations. Also, western birds (from France and Spain) proved to be genetically very different from those breeding in central and southern Italy, despite their strong morphological similarity (Brambilla et al 2008c). Moltoni's also differs in call (Gargallo 1994) and song from both western and eastern birds, with birds reacting clearly differently to Moltoni's and nominate song (Brambilla et al 2008a). In addition, Moltoni's and nominate *cantillans* occur in syntopy in central-northern Italy, and the two taxa apparently coexist without interbreeding (Brambilla et al 2008b). This evidence indicates two different species (cf Sangster et al 2015). But what about the highly divergent western populations, and the less divergent birds occurring in the eastern Mediterranean, characterised by a rather different plumage pattern and traditionally assigned to the subspecies *albistriata*? Birds breeding in France and Spain and those breeding in Italy look largely similar, although Italian birds are somewhat intermediate between western and *albistriata*, and the authors concluded that those clades belong to distinct phylogenetic species on their own (Brambilla et al 2008c). However, they were not aware of other diagnostic characters, required for the 'split' of a diagnosable species according to existing guidelines (Helbig et al 2002), and hence refrained from attributing species rank to the western populations.

Building on this well-defined genetic structure, Svensson (2013) further prompted the idea of a three-species complex. He investigated the morphological differences among taxa using museum collections and found a potentially discriminating character for western populations in the tail pattern (valid for most adult individuals), and proposed to treat them as a third species, *Sylvia inornata* (from the name used for the North African subspecies), with a newly named subspecies (*iberiae*) for French and Spanish populations. Svensson (2013) found that the typical tail pattern is characterised by a small white dot on the second outermost feather (t5) in Moltoni's Warbler and western subalpine warblers, whereas a variable but longer and pointed white marking is found at the tip of t5 in eastern subalpine warblers (invariably in adults). A small white wedge can also occur on t4 and even t3 in some birds of this species.

Finally, in the most recent paper (Zuccon et al 2020) we tried to provide a definitive taxonomic and nomenclatural arrangement, by investigating all currently recognised taxa (species or subspecies) combining mitochondrial and nuclear loci and by genotyping all surviving type specimens.

*Current arrangement*

The results of the most recent work underline that the subalpine warbler complex includes three different species, and at least one distinct subspecies. We proposed to use the name Eastern Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* for the populations breeding in central-southern Italy (excluding Moltoni's Warbler, of course) and in the eastern Mediterreanean (from Trieste, northeastern Italy, to western Turkey), with two distinct subspecies, nominate *S c cantillans* in Italy and *S c albistriata* in the eastern portion of the region. These two taxa are reciprocally monophyletic in the mitochondrial tree but not in the nuclear loci. Moreover, the overlap of plumage characters, the mismatch between mtDNA and plumage features (Brambilla et al 2010) and local occurrences of interbreeding (Brambilla et al 2008c) strongly suggest that they should be kept as subspecies of the same species, until further, contrasting, evidence is provided (Zuccon et al 2020).

**72** Western Subalpine Warbler / Westelijke Baardgrasmus *Sylvia iberiae*, male, Gorges du Verdon, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, France, 3 July 2016 *(Daniele Occhiato)*

**73** Moltoni's Warbler / Moltoni's Baardgrasmus *Sylvia subalpina*, male, Passo della Raticosa, Toscana, Italy, 10 May 2020 *(Daniele Occhiato)*

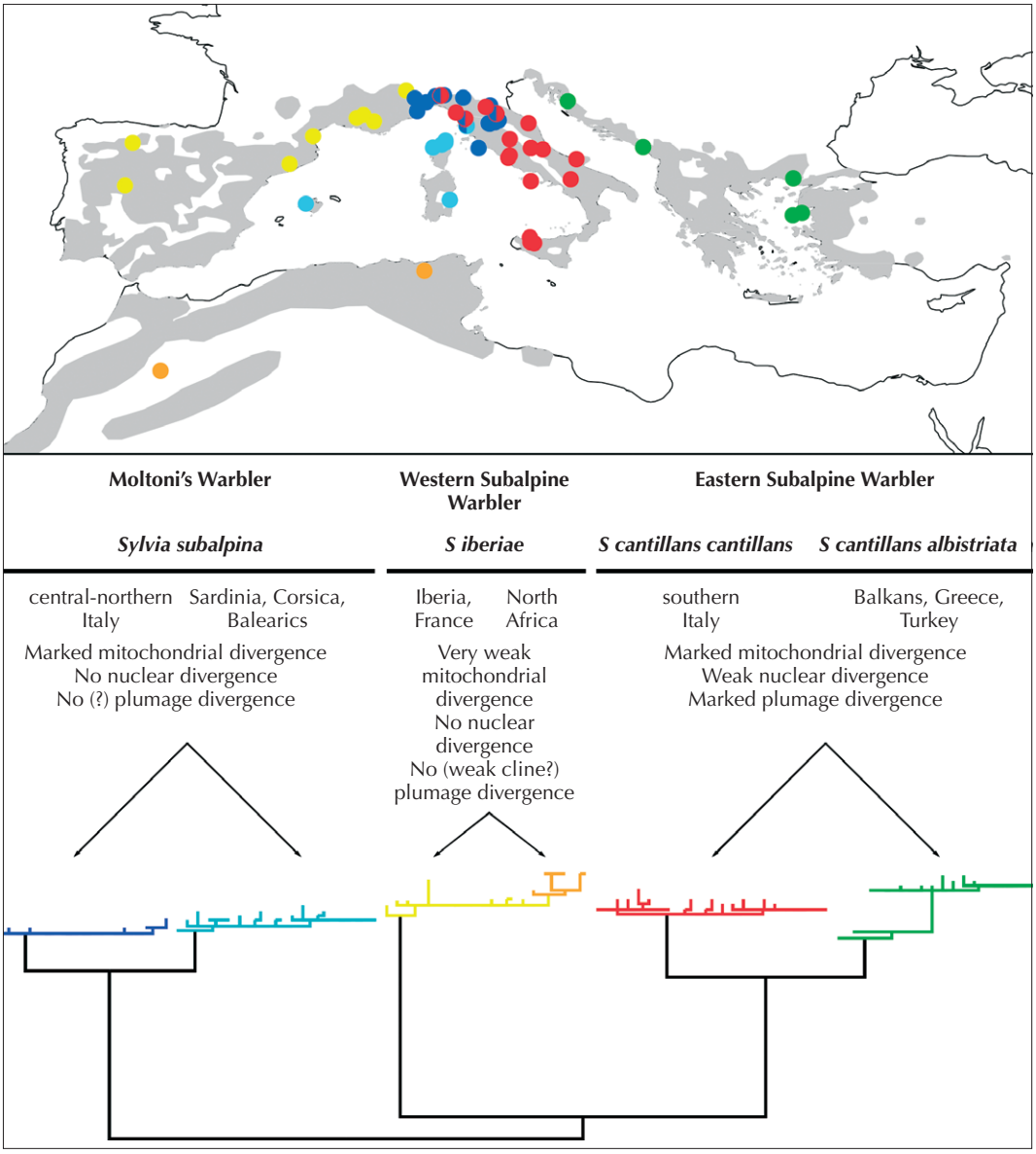


FIGURE 1 Top: breeding range of subalpine warbler complex *Sylvia subalpina/iberiae/cantillans* and origin of samples used in phylogenetic analysis (bicoloured dots denote syntopy of two lineages at same sampling locality; migrant specimens not shown). Middle: proposed taxonomy, range and degree of intraspecific diversification. Bottom: simplified mitochondrial tree. Modified from Zuccon et al (2020).

Moltoni's Warbler is naturally confirmed as a well diverged species, standing on its own branch of the phylogenetic tree. The selection of a neotype for the name *Sylvia subalpina* Bonelli settles once and for all the conflicting nomenclature of this species and relegates the name *moltonii* to the rank of a junior synonym. As already noted by Brambilla et al (2008c), mainland and insular populations are separated by a clear mitochondrial divergence, neatly contrasting with the lack of

differences in the nuclear loci. The two mitochondrial clades may suggest the existence of two different subspecies, although the existence of morphological differences remains to be investigated.

Western populations belong to a separate species, which should be named Western Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia iberiae*. Although Svensson (2013) proposed to separate Iberian and French birds as the subspecies *iberiae* from those inhabiting the Maghreb (*inornata*), we found no genetic support for such a split. Moreover, the type specimen of *inornata* proved to be a misidentified migrant of Moltoni's Warbler (Zuccon et al 2020). Weighing all evidence, this western species is best considered monotypic, as there is no quantitative evidence for a consistent difference between European and north African birds, not in the mitochondrial genes, nor in the nuclear loci, nor in plumage. Following the rules of nomenclature, *iberiae* remains the only available name for this species.

In summary, we are dealing with three species: ***1*** *Sylvia cantillans* (Eastern Subalpine Warbler; polytypic: *S c cantillans* in mainland Italy and Sicily and *S c albistriata* from extreme north-eastern Italy to Balkans, Greece and western Turkey); ***2*** *Sylvia iberiae* (Western Subalpine Warbler; monotypic; northern Africa, Portugal and Spain, France, extreme north-western corner of mainland Italy); and ***3*** *Sylvia subalpina* (Moltoni's Warbler; monotypic; central-northern Italy, Corsica, Sardinia and Balearic Islands) (figure 1).

*Field identification*

Even if there is a certain degree of overlap in most characters, some differences tend to be rather constant and can be used for identification of the three species in the field.

Moltoni's Warbler is by far the most distinct species. Its Eurasian Wren *Nannus troglodytes*-like rattle calls are absolutely diagnostic, the male's song is faster, hurried and ends abruptly. The male's underparts do not show an orange hue but are salmon-pink (of varying intensity, from pale pink to almost reddish). The white submoustachial stripe is generally narrow and often irregularly defined. The tail pattern is generally characterised by limited white tips. The wings are characterised by a shorter primary projection and by rounded wing tips. The moult pattern is unique among the species belonging to the complex. Moltoni's usually shows a complete (or nearly so) late winter moult (also in second calendar-year birds) and a highly variable post-breeding moult, whereas the other species undertake a complete post-breeding moult followed by a partial winter moult. Finally, Moltoni's usually arrives later at the breeding sites than the other species.

Western Subalpine Warbler resembles Moltoni's Warbler in the restricted white on the outer tail feathers, and also in the rather narrow submoustachial stripe, but the latter is much more well-demarcated in western birds. They have orange underparts (with a more yellowish tinge moving southward, especially in North African populations) that extend onto the lower belly (as generally seen in Moltoni's males with their pinkish colour) and rather pointed wing tips, but a shorter primary projection than most Eastern Subalpine Warblers (Corso et al 2021). The calls are typical for *Sylvia* warblers, rather similar to Eurasian Blackcap *S atricapilla* and Lesser Whitethroat *S curruca* but sweeter. The song is rather varied, with frequent variation in pitch, somewhat recalling Common Linnet *Linaria cannabina*, and is longer and frequently ends with more clearly defined notes than that of Moltoni's.

Eastern Subalpine Warbler is superficially similar to Western Subalpine Warbler, with orange-red (*S c cantillans*) or deeper brick-red (*S c albistriata*) colour on the underparts. They tend to have a whiter belly and less coloured flanks. All these characters are more pronounced in *albistriata* and less marked in *cantillans*. The white submoustachial stripe is broader in this species than in the others; it tends to be more defined in *albistriata*, which also frequently displays darker lores, purer lead-grey underparts, a longer and slightly downturned bill, and a more grey-and-white appearance in females. Eastern birds (*albistriata*) tend to be larger and longer winged but in general Eastern Subalpine has the longest primary projection among the species of the complex (Corso et al 2021). Birds of this species tend to have more white on the tail feathers (t5 in particular but sometimes also on t4 and t3). The contact call differs between the two subspecies: *cantillans* birds utter a *check* similar to Western Subalpine but on average even sweeter and softer, whereas *albistriata* has a diagnostic two-note call, *tret* (in addition to single note calls, which often sound slightly different from those of the other taxa), which is often repeated. The songs are also different, being more like Eurasian Blackcap in *cantillans*, and slightly harsher and somewhat more *Hippolais*-like in *albistriata*.

*Outlook*

Is everything resolved in the great puzzle of what was the Subalpine Warbler? Likely not! The subalpine warbler complex is a nice example of

various stages of speciation in a single group of taxa, from distinct and sympatric species (Moltoni's Warbler and Eastern Subalpine Warbler), to parapatric species (Eastern Subalpine and Western Subalpine Warbler), to well-diverged subspecies (*albistriata* and *cantillans* within Eastern Subalpine), down to genetically distinct but morphologically very similar populations (island versus mainland Moltoni's) and to perhaps a weak clinal variation within Western Subalpine. Future, quantitative research is required to resolve the remaining doubts about intraspecific variation. Furthermore, further studies of isolating mechanisms (eg, Brambilla et al 2008a), ecology in sympatry and allopatry, and distribution and migration patterns are warranted.

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# WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting Western Palearctic birds reported mainly from **December 2020 to late January 2021**. The reports are largely unchecked and their publication here does not imply future acceptance by a rarities committee. Observers are requested to submit their records to each country's rarities committee. Corrections are welcome and will be published.

SWANS TO GEESE In Poland, a record 213 pairs of **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus* were nesting in 2020; in 2007, there were 53 pairs. The first **Black Brant** *Branta nigricans* for the Faeroes was photographed on Suðuroy on 6-8 December. The first successful breeding of **Barnacle Goose** *B leucopsis* for Lithuania occurred in 2020. If accepted, a **Richardson's Cackling Goose** *B hutchinsii hutchinsii* photographed at Maaviiki, Pori, on 1-15 December will be the second for Finland. A survey of the Eastern Palearctic population of **Lesser White-fronted Goose** *Anser erythropus* revealed a rapid decline from c 16 000 individuals in 2015 to 6800 in 2020; the most important wintering sites in East Asia are in China: at East Dongting lake, Hunan; Poyang lake, Jiangxi; and Caizi lake, Anhui. Satellite tracking showed that eight individuals captured during summer at the Rauchua river, Chukotka, Russia, wintered in the Yangtze river floodplain, China (Wildfowl Special Issue 6: 206-

**74** White-breasted Waterhen / Witborstwaterhoen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*, Jahra East Outfall, Kuwait, 26 November 2020 *(Rashed Al-Hajji)*

**75** Pied-billed Grebe / Dikbekfuut *Podilymbus podiceps*, first-winter, Eiði, Faeroes, 20 December 2020 *(Silas Olofson)*

243, 2020). The highest total at the two traditional wintering sites of Swedish birds in the Netherlands was 74 on 14 December. Sequencing the complete genomes of 21 Lesser White-fronted from the Swedish, Russian and Norwegian populations, and comparing these with, eg, Greater White-fronted Geese *A albifrons,* revealed no nuclear genomic or mitochondrial evidence of interspecific introgression by Greater White-fronted into Swedish Lesser White-fronted (Sci Rep 10: 18347, 2020). This may come as a surprise as Greater White-fronted mitochondrial DNA had been detected in captive breeding Lesser White-fronted released in 1981-99 to reinforce the wild Swedish population. The previous release program had even been dismantled because of this, even though the introgression was never documented in Lesser White-fronted's wild population. It was also found that Swedish Lesser White-fronted are genetically distinct from populations in Russia and (northern) Norway (Norwegian birds moult in Taimyr, Russia), and displaying low genomic diversity and high levels of inbreeding. Since 2010, groups of colour-ringed young Lesser White-fronted are again released on the Swedish breeding grounds in Norrbotten and, by using resightings, survival estimates were made and demographic data was used to set up a population model for a first evaluation of the effect of these releases; see Sovon-rapport 2020/90: bit.ly/3c3cEuD.

DUCKS After the first successful breeding record of **Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis* for the Netherlands at Marker Wadden, Flevoland, in 2019, a second nest with seven eggs was found near Lienden, Gelderland, on 13 July 2020; on 17 July, however, this nest was predated (Limosa 93: 180-184, 2020). The first **White-winged Scoter** *Melanitta deglandi* for the Azores was a first-winter male photographed at Baía de Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira, on 8-16 December. An adult male was (again) present at Musselburgh lagoon, Lothian, Scotland, in December. In Iceland, a long-staying male remained at Keflavík into January and a female was found off Grandi, Reykjavík, on 6 January. An adult male **Stejneger's Scoter** *M stejnegeri* stayed at Høve Strand, Sjælland, Denmark, from 13 December into January. In Sweden, the returning male was reported at Båstad, Skåne, on 3 January. The male **Black Scoter** *M americana* remained off Northumberland, England, during December. The 14th for Poland was seen at Łukęcin, Western Pomerania, on 17 January. For the 11th consecutive year, at least seven pairs of **Smew** *Mergellus albellus* were breeding in south-western Friesland, Netherlands, in 2020; six out of seven nests were successful with at least 58 fledglings from 13 June onwards (Sovon-nieuws 33 (4): 6-8, 2020). The 2020 survey of **Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca* in Poland revealed the presence of 129 pairs, including 53 at Buda Stalowska ponds, Podkarpacie. Marchowski et al (2020) showed a significant decline in the wintering population of **Greater Scaup** *A marila* in north-western Europe from c 309 000 individuals in 1988-91 to c 192 300 in 2015-18, while the distribution of wintering grounds shifted to the north and east (Sci Rep 10: 20286, 2020). A male **Baikal Teal** *Sibirionetta formosa* shot at Delevan, Colusa, on 20 January was the eighth for California, USA. In Europe, males were reported this winter in Belgium, Poland (first if accepted) and Sweden. A female **Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa* was seen on Pico, Azores, on 25 December.

GROUSE TO GREBES In the Netherlands, **Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix* would have been extinct as a breeding bird without introductions from Sweden at their last stronghold at Sallandse Heuvelrug, Overijssel; in 2020, no birds were released but the re-introduced population kept its ground with seven males and at least 12 females, with at least eight nests producing the first fledglings in years. In Iran, a **Lesser Flamingo** *Phoeniconaias minor* was photographed at Morreh wetland, Qom, on 28 July 2020. The **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* in Vendée, France, from August remained through late December. In England, one stayed at Chelmarsh reservoir, Shropshire, from 26 November to 22 December. The first for the Faeroes was present at Eiði on 16-22 December.

DOVES TO CUCKOOS The numbers of **European Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur* breeding in the Netherlands continued to decline from up to 1400 pairs in 2013-15 to perhaps less than 200 in 2020. In Sweden, an **Oriental Turtle Dove** *S orientalis* was seen at Tomtebo, Västerbotten, on 13 January. The first **Rufous Turtle Dove** *S o meena* for Switzerland at Sulgen, Thurgau, from March 2020 returned here on 11 November and remained into January. A first-winter was found at Keikyä, Sastamala, Finland, on 4-7 December. At least five **Eurasian Collared Doves** *S decaocto* were discovered in an urban park at Dakar, Senegal, in May 2016, and remained in 2017-19; they were the first for mainland Africa south of the Sahara and represented a southward range extension of c 400 km (Malimbus 41: 53-59, 2019). A male and two females of **Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse** *Pterocles lichtensteinii* shot at Bqaiaa, Aakkar, on 19 January 2020 constituted the first record for Lebanon (Ornis Hung 28: 212-214, 2020). A **White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus* on Ilhéu de Cima, Cape Verde Islands, on 25 January was presumably one nesting here in summer 2020. Based on genetic analyses, **Vaurie's Nightjar** *Caprimulgus centralasicus* is lumped with **European Nightjar** *C europaeus plumipes* by Gill et al (2020; www.worldbirdnames.org) (cf Dutch Birding 42: 355-360, 2020). In December-January, wintering **Plain Swifts** *Apus unicolor* were photographed and sound-recorded at Porto, constituting the first for mainland Portugal and Europe. The first **Common Swift** *A apus* for Sri Lanka stayed at Browns Hill, Matara, between 25 August and 5 October 2020 (Indian Birds 16: 195-198, 2020). A **Jacobin Cuckoo** *Clamator jacobinus* found dead at Wadi Wurrayah on 17 November was the fifth for the United Arab Emirates.

CRAKES TO CRANES The first **African Crake** *Crecopsis egregia* for Algeria was taken into care at Kerzaz, Béchar, on 27 November and released three days later. In the

**76** White-winged Scoter / Amerikaanse Grote Zee-eend *Melanitta deglandi*, first-winter male, Baía de Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira, Azores, 8 December 2020 *(Rúben Coelho)* **77** Sandhill Crane / Canadese Kraanvogel *Antigone canadensis*, first-winter, Avnø, Sjælland, Denmark, 15 January 2021 *(Klaus Malling Olsen)* **78** Sandhill Crane / Canadese Kraanvogel *Antigone canadensis*, first-winter, Vordingborg, Sjælland, Denmark, 2 January 2021 *(Arne Holdensen)* **79** Sandhill Crane / Canadese Kraanvogel *Antigone canadensis*, first-winter, Söråsele, Västerbotten, Sweden, 17 November 2020 *(Jan Johansson)*

Netherlands, three singing **Little Crakes** *Zapornia parva* at three sites and at least 21 territories of **Baillon's Crake** *Z pusilla* in five provinces were counted in 2020. The second **White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus* for Kuwait and the WP 'sensu BWP' at Jahra East Outfall from 25 November stayed until 10 December. A **Watercock** *Gallicrex cinerea* at Muscat Hills on 23 November was the ninth for Oman and the 10th for the 'greater' WP. An influx of **Allen's Gallinules** *Porphyrio alleni* to the Canary Islands involved four birds on 11-22 January on Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote and Tenerife; there are now 23 records (and 40 in 'Spain sensu lato'). A first-winter **Sandhill Crane** *Antigone canadensis* at Söråsele, Västerbotten, from 13 October to 19 November was the second for Sweden. Probably the same individual turned up as the second for Denmark at Basnæs, Møn, Sjælland, on 27 December; it was then seen at Avnø and Vordingborg, Sjælland, on 2-15 January and Halsnæs from 31 January. Despite often moderate breeding successes, the number of territorial pairs of **Common Crane** *Grus grus* in the Netherlands increased from the first pair in 2000, four pairs in 2010, 21 in 2016 and 35 in 2019 to a record 40 in 2020, when 36 pairs had nests with eggs and 13 chicks fledged.

LOONS TO HERONS The returning adult **Pacific Diver** *Gavia pacifica* at Penzance, Cornwall, England, stayed from 25 November into December. A juvenile male **Tristan Albatross** *Diomedea dabbenena* ringed on Île de la Possession, Crozet Islands, on 20 April 2009 was trapped nearly 5000 km (!) away on Gough Island on 7 January 2015; here, he was paired with a female and fledged young in 2017-19 (https://tinyurl.com/y4smhjoz). Recently, the first **Swinhoe's Storm Petrel**

**80** American Herring Gull / Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw *Larus smithsonianus*, first-winter, Honningsvåg, Stad, Sogn og Fjordane, Norway, 15 January 2021 *(Ingar Støyle Bringsvor)* **81** Hudsonian Godwit / Rode Grutto *Limosa haemastica*, first-winter (above), with Black-tailed Godwit / Grutto *L limosa*, Eden estuary, Fife, Scotland, 12 November 2020 *(John Anderson)* **82** Wilson's Phalarope / Grote Franjepoot *Phalaropus tricolor*, first-winter, Sde Eliyahu reservoir, Israel, 6 January 2021 *(Shlomi Levi)*

**83** Slaty-backed Gull / Kamtsjatkameeuw *Larus schistisagus*, adult, Kuusankoski, Kouvola, Finland, 24 January 2021 *(Mika Bruun)* **84** Ring-billed Gull / Ringsnavelmeeuw *Larus delawarensis*, adult, with Black-headed Gulls / Kokmeeuwen *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* and Mallards / Wilde Eenden *Anas platyrhynchos*, Bucharest, Romania, 23 January 2021 *(Helen Beatrice Sforaru)*

**85** White-tailed Tropicbird / Witstaartkeerkringvogel *Phaethon lepturus*, adult, Ilhéu de Cima, Cape Verde Islands, 25 January 2021 *(Jorge Lopes/Projecto Vitó)*

**86** Double-crested Cormorant / Geoorde Aalscholver *Phalacrocorax auritus*, first-winter, Ballylongford, Kerry, Ireland, 9 December 2020 *(Sean Cronin)*

**87** Belted Kingfisher / Bandijsvogel *Megaceryle alcyon*, first-winter male, Castletown Bearhaven, Cork, Ireland, 26 November 2020 *(Sean Cronin)*

**88** White-backed Vulture / Witruggier *Gyps africanus*, immature, with Griffon Vulture / Vale Gier *G fulvus*, Jbel Moussa, Morocco, 19 June 2020 *(Rachid El Khamlichi)*

*Hydrobates monorhis* for Germany videoed north of Wangerooge, Niedersachsen, on 3 October 2018 was accepted (Seltene Vögel in Deutschland 2018: 64-73, 2020). In England, an **American Bittern** *Botaurus lentiginosus* stayed at Fiskerton Fen, Lincolnshire, from 29 November to 1 December. In 2020, at least 20 territories of **Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus* were counted in the Netherlands, in all provinces except Drenthe and Limburg. One found exhausted at Telehany on 24 December was the first in winter for Belarus. In the Azores, **Great Blue Herons** *Ardea herodias* were reported on São Miguel on 11 December and on Terceira on 12 December (found dead) and 21-27 December. In 2020, a record c 1100 nests of **Purple Heron** *A purpurea* were counted in the Netherlands. In eastern Poland, 549 nests of **Western Great Egret** *A alba* were found in nine colonies in summer 2020.

IBISES TO CORMORANTS A population of **African Sacred Ibises** *Threskiornis aethiopicus* in Italy increased from one nest in 1989 to as many as 1249 in 31 colonies in 2019; the winter population in the north-west of Italy rose to 10 880 individuals in 2019 (Sci Rep 11: 86, 2021). Böhm et al (2020) discussed the current status and future perspectives of the world population of **Northern Bald Ibis** *Geronticus eremita*. In 2018, the entire population was estimated at c 3950 individuals, including 708 wild-origin birds in Morocco, 263 semi-captive at Birecik, Turkey, 108 reintroduced free-flying in Austria, Germany and Spain, and c 2350 fully-captive in zoos of Europe, Japan and North America. The Syrian population now appears to be extinct, although since 2015 monitoring has been extremely difficult because of war. Satellite-tracking of Birecik birds showed the potential of establishing a reintroduced Turkish population, with many also passing through Syria (https://tinyurl.com/yxjfh7zo). In Spain, a **Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster* flew past Malpica, A Coruña, on 7 December. A **Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus* at Ballylongford, Kerry, from 25 November to 22 December was the second for Ireland (the previous one was in Galway from 18 November 1995 to 6 January 1996). Two remained on Faial, Azores, until at least 9 January. Van Bemmelen calculated that 8% of the wintering Great Cormorants *P carbo* at IJmuiden harbour, Noord-Holland, concern nominate **Atlantic Great Cormorant** *P c carbo*, formerly regarded as a rarity in the Netherlands (Sula 28: 1-5, 2020).

WADERS An **American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica* at Eilat on 11-23 December was the third for Israel. The first **Grey-headed Lapwing** *Vanellus cinereus* for Kazakhstan was photographed at lower Turgen river, Almaty oblast, on 9 September 2020. A **Sociable Lapwing** *V gregarius* at Kukla wetlands from 30 December to 2 January was the third for Cyprus. The **Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica* at Eden estuary, Fife, Scotland, from 3 November was last seen on 17 December. In France, a yellow-legged and long-billed mystery hybrid **sandpiper** *Calidris* was photographed at Marquenterre, Somme, in December. A **Little Stint** *C minuta* ringed at Ottenby, Öland, Sweden, on 19 September 2020 was photographed near Charleston, South Carolina, USA, on 19 December 2020. A **Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* at Sde Eliyahu reservoir in Bet She'an valley from 18 December to at least 17 January was the first for Israel. The first **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* for Denmark discovered at Sneum Sluse, Esbjerg, Sydjylland, on 28 October was seen again at Hønen Fanø, Sydjylland, on 17-21 November. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** *T flavipes* at Ein Hamifratz fishponds on 19-20 December was the third for Israel. The breeding population of **Great Snipe** *Gallinago media* at Biebrza marshes (the most important Polish breeding ground) declined from 400-480 males at the end of the 20th century to 189 in 2012 and only 80 in 2018 (Ornis Pol 61: 259-283, 2020).

AUKS TO TERNS A **Thick-billed Murre** *Uria lomvia* at Veerse Meer, Zeeland, from 30 December to at least late

**89-90** Hybrid sandpiper / hybride strandloper *Calidris*, first-winter, Marquenterre, Somme, France, 11 December 2020 *(Alexander Hiley)*

January was the 11th for the Netherlands and the fourth to be seen alive. A survey of the breeding population of **Ivory Gull** *Pagophila eburnea* in Greenland in July 2019 resulted in an estimated 2000-2500 pairs, meaning no significant changes compared with a 2009 census (Dansk Ornitol Foren Tidsskr 114: 141-150, 2020). A first-winter was seen at Sauðárkrókur, Iceland, on 29 November. An adult **Bonaparte's Gull** *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* at Hirtshals, Nordjylland, on 1-3 December was the seventh for Denmark. The first **Audouin's Gull** *Larus audouinii* for French Guiana and the third for South America was discovered on 18 January. The first **White-eyed Gull** *L leucophthalmus* for Lebanon was photographed on 31 December. The first **Sooty Gull** *L hemprichii* for southern Africa was found at St Lucia, Kwazulu Natal, South Africa, on 28 November and then refound c 650 km to the south-west at Kei Mouth, Eastern Cape, from 1 January. A **Ring-billed Gull** *L delawarensis* photographed at Bucharest on 8 January 2020 as the first for Romania was back from 15 January. After the first (mixed) breeding in 2012, the number of pairs of **Caspian Gull** *L cachinnans* increased rapidly in the Netherlands. In 2020, record nest numbers were found inland near Lelystad, Flevoland (27), and on the IJsselmeer islet of De Kreupel, Noord-Holland (15), while a handful of pairs was present elsewhere. If accepted, a first-year **American Herring Gull** *L smithsonianus* photographed at Honningsvåg, Stad, Sogn og Fjordane, on 15 January will be the second for Norway. An adult **Slaty-backed Gull** *L schistisagus* at Kuusankoski from 23 January onwards was the second for Finland and 10th for the WP. For the ninth consecutive year, **Whiskered Terns** *Chlidonias hybrida* bred in the Netherlands in 2020 with a record 56 nests, all at Zuidlaardermeer region, Groningen; since 2012, the annual number had increased from 16 pairs in 2016 to 35 in 2019. An adult **White-winged Tern** *C leucopterus* at Tiligulski Liman, Odessa, on 20 December was the first in winter for Ukraine. The **Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri* in Galway, Ireland, was reported at Oranmore on 3 January.

RAPTORS In the Netherlands, three pairs of wild-origin **Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* produced three fledglings each in 2020. The first successful breeding occurred as recently as 2016 at Brabantse Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant, where in 2020 nests were found in a tree and in an electricity pylon; the third nest at Sliedrechtse Biesbosch, Zuid-Holland, was occupied by a male from Britain and a female from Germany. In the past five years, 21 young have been raised. Although no longer a rarity in Belgium, a wintering **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* near Stavele, West-Vlaanderen, in mid-January is worth mentioning. The largest WP concentration of as many as c 100 **Crested Honey Buzzards** *Pernis ptilorhynchus* was discovered on Kish island, Hormozgan, Iran, on 15 December. The immature **Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus* at Judean plains, Israel, from 18 November remained until at least 6 January. If accepted, a **White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus* photographed at Jbel Moussa on 19 June 2020 will be the second for Morocco. Two pairs of **Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* successfully fledged two young in Cork and Westmeath in summer 2020, constituting the first breeding for Ireland since 1917. In the Azores, **Northern Harriers** *C hudsonius* were seen on Terceira on 8 December and on São Miguel on 27 December. A **Pallas's Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* was photographed at Golil Sorani protected area, Kermanshah, Iran, in August 2020. In the Netherlands, a record 20 occupied nests of wild-origin **White-tailed Eagles** *H albicilla* were found in 2020, with six in Friesland; it was also a good year for wild-origin **Red Kites** *Milvus milvus* with 20 nests, and there were two successful nests of **Black Kite** *M migrans* in south-eastern provinces. Skyrpan et al (2020) showed an increase in the number of sightings of Black Kites with morphological features of **Black-eared Kite** *M lineatus* in Europe, which suggests that the hybridization zone between *migrans* and *lineatus* is moving in a westerly direction from Siberia, Russia, across continental Europe. To the west of Russia, they identified 65 hybrids in 2005-20, from Scandinavia south to Greece; pure *lineatus* only occur in eastern Siberia and Japan (https://tinyurl.com/y2bjxzlt).

OWLS A **Eurasian Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium passerinum* singing from 11 April to 21 May 2020 at Hoenderloo, Gelderland, constituted the 11th for the Netherlands and the second to hold a territory (the previous territorial one was at Asten, Noord-Brabant, in 2016). One ringed at Jurvassa, Etelä-Pohjanmaalla, Finland, in June 2020 became a window victim at 1218 km (!) distance at Galich, Kostromon, Russia, in December. The first **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco* for Utsira, Rogaland, turned up on 28 December. A record 16 territories of **Lapland Owl** *S lapponica* were found in Poland in 2020 (including 12 at Sobibór forest, Lubelskie); the first breeding here was documented as recently as in 2010. The long-staying female **Snowy Owl** *Bubo scandiacus* on St Kilda, Scotland, was again seen on 11 December. In the Netherlands, **Eurasian Eagle-Owls** *B bubo* breed annually since perhaps 1994, or even before, in increasing numbers. In 2020, a record 46 territories with at least 32 nests were found, most in Limburg (19), Overijssel (nine), Noord-Brabant (seven) and Gelderland (six) but also in Drenthe (three), Groningen (one) and Noord-Holland (one). In Vlaanderen, Belgium, after the first breeding in 2005, the number of territories increased to more than 45, with at least 21 pairs in Antwerpen (Natuur.Oriolus 86: 140-147, 2020).

BEE-EATERS TO WOODPECKERS The first survey of **European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* in Poland revealed as many as 1011 pairs at 346 sites in 2020. In the Azores, the female **Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon* on Pico from 30 October was present until 23 December. The first for the Canary Islands at Arrecife, Lanzarote, from 8 November remained through mid-January. The first-winter male at Castletown Bearhaven, Cork, from 9 November stayed until 5 January. The number of breeding **Eurasian Wrynecks** *Jynx torquilla* in the Netherlands further recovered in 2020 with, eg, 60 pairs in Drenthe, at least 29 in Veluwe, Gelderland, and a total of 12 in three other provinces; the total exceeded the 60-90 pairs

**91** Pale Crag Martin / Vale Rotszwaluw *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*, first calendar-year, Qammieh, Malta, 26 November 2020 *(Denis Cachia)* **92** Pale Crag Martin / Vale Rotszwaluw *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*, first calendar-year, Qammieh, Malta, 30 November 2020 *(Raymond Galea)* **93** Streak-throated Swallow / Indische Klifzwaluw *Petrochelidon fluvicola*, Milleyha, Hatay, Turkey, 11 January 2021 *(Orhan Gül)* **94** Bimaculated Lark / Bergkalanderleeuwerik *Melanocorypha bimaculata*, Salobrar de Campos, Mallorca, Balearic Islands, Spain, 31 December 2020 *(Jason Moss)*

in 1995-99. Pons et al (2020) studied the phylogeography of white-backed woodpeckers *Dendrocopos* by using multilocus molecular data and concluded, eg, that a split between **Lilford's Woodpecker** *D lilfordi* and **White-backed Woodpecker** *D leucotos* dates back 0.6 Mya with likely no gene flow between the two since. It implies that there was a unique glacial refugium in central Europe from where Asia and Japan were colonised (a clade with northerly subspecies *leucotos* and *uralensis*, and the Japanese subspecies *subcirris*, *stejnegeri*, *namiyei* and, also, *owstoni* on Amami Oshima, Ryukyu Islands). A third clade is formed by endemic Chinese subspecies (https://tinyurl.com/y4s5bhhz).

SHRIKES TO SWALLOWS If accepted, a first-winter **Siberian Northern Shrike** *Lanius borealis sibiricus* photographed at Minsk on 9 January will be the first for Belarus. A **Black/Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus/leucophaeus* was videoed at an oil field at Sabriyah, Kuwait, on 5 December. The **Pied Crow** *Corvus albus* near Fnideq, Tanger-Tétouan-Al Hoceïma, Morocco, was seen again on 3 December. A **Common Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla* found dead near Kapouti on 6 December was the third for Cyprus and the first since 1962. An **Azure Tit** *Cyanistes cyanus* well-twitched at Michałowice-Wieś, Mazowieckie, from 27 December to 8 January was the first for Poland since 16 years. In October 2020, seven pairs of **Raso Lark** *Alauda razae* with 17 juveniles were found on Santa Luzia, Cape Verde Islands, where 37 individuals had been translocated from Raso in April 2018 (https://tinyurl.com/y4sw2krj). The first **Bimaculated Lark** *Melanocorypha bimaculata* for Spain was photographed at Salobrar de Campos, Mallorca, Balearic Islands, on 31 December. The first **Pale Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta* for Malta and Europe stayed at Qammieh from 23 November

**95** Pied Crow / Schildraaf *Corvus albus*, near Fnideq, Tanger-Tétouan-Al Hoceïma, Morocco, 3 December 2020 *(Rachid El Khamlichi)* **96** Hume's Leaf Warbler / Humes Bladkoning *Phylloscopus humei*, Črna Vas, Ljubljanica, Slovenia, 29 October 2020 *(Dare Šere)* **97** Red-breasted Nuthatch / Canadese Boomklever *Sitta canadensis*, Sólbrekka, Iceland, 23 January 2021 *(Guðmundur Falk)* **98** Dark-eyed Junco / Grijze Junco *Junco hyemalis*, male, Heiðmörk, Reykjavik, Iceland, 29 November 2020 *(Guðmundur Falk)*

to 1 December. **Asian Red-rumped Swallows** *Cecropis daurica daurica/japonica* reported at Eilat on 14-25 December and at Atlit on 27 December concerned the third and fourth for Israel. A **Streak-throated Swallow** *Petrochelidon fluvicola* photographed at Milleyha, Hatay, on 11 January was the first for Turkey and the fourth for the WP 'sensu BWP'.

LEAF WARBLERS TO REED WARBLERS Jochen Dierschke analysed the occurrence of **Hume's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus humei* in Europe based on 661 records in 1957-2019 and demonstrated that, since the 1990s, the number of records increased considerably with a maximum of 99 in the winter of 2003-04. The median date in Fennoscandia is two weeks earlier than in central and western Europe and wintering birds are recorded mainly from the Netherlands south to Spain and northern Italy (Seltene Vögel in Deutschland 2018: 42-53, 2020). The first for Slovenia was ringed at Črna Vas, Ljubljanica, on 29 October. The fourth for Poland wintered at Czarnków, Wielkopolska, from 17 December to 10 January. A **Dusky Warbler** *P fuscatus* ringed at Agger Tange, Nordjylland, Denmark, on 12 October 2020 was trapped at Heist, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, on 22 November. In the Netherlands, an unprecedented influx from September 2020 to mid-January involved 93 individuals, ie, 41% of the total of 224 since the first record in 1978; more than half turned up in the Noord-Holland and Zuid-Holland provinces. In neighbouring countries (Belgium, Britain, Germany, Poland and Sweden), numbers were also much higher than usual. In France, a record 26 were reported in December, with many remaining into January. If accepted, an **African Desert Warbler** *Sylvia deserti* at Capo Murro di Porco, Siracusa, Sicily, on 7 December will be the seventh for Italy. The 19th (!) **Asian Desert Warbler** *S nana* for Sweden was photo-

**99** Ruby-crowned Kinglet / Roodkroonhaan *Regulus calendula*, Barra, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, 15 November 2020 *(Ian Ricketts)* cf Dutch Birding 42: 441, 2020

**100** Forest Wagtail / Boomkwikstaart *Dendronanthus indicus*, first-winter, Jahra pools, Kuwait, 7 December 2020 *(AbdulRahman Al-Sirhan)*

**101** Azure Tit / Azuurmees *Cyanistes cyanus*, Michałowice-Wieś, Mazowieckie, Poland, 2 January 2021 *(Stanisław Turowski)*

**102** Syrian Serins / Syrische Kanaries *Serinus syriacus*, Jebel Al Lawz, Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, 25 December 2020 *(Gregory Askew)*

**103** Northern Parula / Brilparulazanger *Setophaga americana*, first-winter male, Toledos, Pico, Azores, 30 December 2020 *(Olivier Coucelos)*

graphed at Solberga, Öland, on 1-7 December. **Sardinian Warbler** *S melanocephala* is recorded almost annually in Switzerland though still a rarity but this winter a small influx involved three, including a male at Täuffelen, Bern, from 14 December into January. A **Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola* ringed at Albufera de Valencia, València, Spain, in October 2019, and retrapped in January 2020, was again trapped at this site on 13 December.

WALLCREEPERS TO WHEATEARS Like last winter, a **Wallcreeper** *Tichodroma muraria* was seen in Dinant, Namur, Belgium, from 28 November to at least late January. In north-western France, one was foraging on the church of Sainte-Anne-sur-Vilaine, Ille-et-Vilaine, during at least early January. If accepted, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta canadensis* at Sólbrekka on 23 January will be the second for Iceland and third for the WP; previous ones were at Heimaey, Iceland, on 21 May 1970 and at Holkham Meals, Norfolk, England, from 13 October 1989 to 6 May 1990. A **Purple Sunbird** *Cinnyris asiaticus* was photographed at Abdullah Al-Salem, Kuwait, on 25 November. In 2020, a record three pairs of **Red-bellied Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus aquaticus* produced young in Limburg, the Netherlands, where this species is not breeding annually. The third **White's Thrush** *Zoothera aurea* for Spain was shot at Mallabia, Bizkaia, on 26 December (previous ones were shot on Menorca in January 1912 and on Mallorca in December 1965). In Sweden, four males **Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus atrogularis* were found from late November to mid-January. The female first present as a first-winter at Hoograven-Noord, Utrecht, Utrecht, the Netherlands, from 31 March to 3 April 2020 was back again from 4 December to at least mid-January. A **Redwing** *T iliacus* ringed in Staffordshire, England, on 20 October 2016 was found dead 3896 km (!) east at Asha, Chelyabinsk, Russia, on 15 July 2019. If accepted, a **Siberian Rubythroat** *Calliope calliope* seen briefly without binoculars but sound-recorded at Bernhardsthal, Niederösterreich, on 8 January will be the first for Austria. The second **Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus* for Ukraine was found near Novomoskovsk, Dnipropetrovsk, on 11 January. Male **Eastern Black Redstarts** *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides* were reported at Skvalpvik, Gotland, Sweden, on 25 December and at Snettisham, Norfolk, England, on 1-12 January. The first **Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* for Sri Lanka was photographed at Medawachchiya-Talaimannar highway, Mannar, on 30 December. In Israel, a **Basalt Wheatear** *O lugens warriae* wintered south of Timna from 19 December into January.

ACCENTORS TO AMERICAN WARBLERS The 12th **Siberian Accentor** *Prunella montanella* for Poland stayed at Pniewo, Mazowieckie, on 18-21 January. Two **Forest Wagtails** *Dendronanthus indicus* at Jahra pools on 7-9 December concerned the second record for Kuwait and the WP 'sensu BWP' (the previous one was on 10 November 2006). The first **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla tschutschensis* ('sensu lato') for Malta at Salina from 21 December 2019 remained into December 2020. The first **Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* for Canada stayed at Haines Junction, Yukon, on 14-30 December. A flock of c 40 **Syrian Serins** *Serinus syriacus* at Jebel Al Lawz, Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, from November into January constituted the first record for the Arabian peninsula. A **White-throated Sparrow** *Zonotrichia albicollis* was present near Ashford, Kent, England, from late December into January. A male **Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis* discovered on a webcam at Heiðmörk on the outskirts of Reykjavik was first seen on 27-29 November and then again from 26 January; the only previous record for Iceland was one found dead on 6 November 1955. In England, one turned up at Hammersmith, London, in the last week of November and remained until 1 December. From 19 November onwards, up to six **Pine Buntings** *Emberiza leucocephalos* wintered at Locarno, Ticino, Switzerland. The sixth and seventh for Spain were seen at Vall d'Orient, Mallorca, on 6 December and Ledaña, Cuenca, on 12 January. In Norway, three stayed at Stokkaland, Sandnes, Rogaland, on 10-12 January. The first **Rustic Bunting** *E rustica* for Serbia was found at Veliševac on 6 December. A first-winter male **Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana* photographed at Toledos, Pico, Azores, on 29-30 December was the first in winter for the WP.

For a number of reports Birdwatch, British Birds, Global Rare Bird Alert Facebook, Sovonnieuws, www.birdguides.com, www.

clanga.com, www.dutchavifauna.nl, www.go-south.org, www.magornitho.org, www.monitoringptakow.gios.gov.pl, www.rarebirdalert.co.uk, www.tarsiger.com, www.waarneming.nl and many others were consulted. We wish to thank Micael Abbo, Rashed Al-Hajji, AbdulRahman Al-Sirhan, John Anderson, Gregory Askew, Paulo Belo, Rob van Bemmelen, Amir Ben Dov, Edward Bonavia, Paul Bradbeer, Ingar Støyle Bringsvor, Mika Bruun, Denis Cachia, Rúben Coelho, Magnus Corell, Andrea Corso, Olivier Coucelos, Sean Cronin, Philippe Dubois, Nils van Duivendijk, Jon Dunn, Enno Ebels, Guðmundur Falk, Rachid El Khamlichi, Thijs Fijen, Raymond Galea, Eduardo Garcia-del-Rey, Daniel Gebauer, Orhan Gül, Ricard Gutiérrez, Karim Haddad, Magnus Hellström, Alexander Hiley, Arne Holdensen, Justin Jansen, Jan Johansson, Josh Jones, Zbigniew Kajzer, Abolghasem Khaleghizadeh, Leander Khil, Bence Kókay, Yann Kolbeinsson, Diedert Koppenol, Richard Kvetko, Alex Lees, Petteri Lehikoinen, Shlomi Levi, André van Loon, Jorge Lopes, Klaus Malling Olsen, Lionel Maumary, Geir Mobakken, Julius Morkunas, Jason Moss, Killian Mullarney, Silas Olofson, Gert Ottens, Gerard Ouweneel, Yoav Perlman, Bram Piot, René Pop, Nikos Probonas, Colin Richardson, Ian Ricketts, Magnus Robb, Dare Šere, Helen Beatrice Sforaru, Jiri Sirek, Matt Smith, Jerzy Sosiński, Vincent van der Spek, Rasmus Strack, József Szabó, Ehsan Talebi, Uwe Thom, Stanisław Turowski, André Vieira, Sam Viles, Roland van der Vliet and Peter de Vries 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 2020**. De vermelde gevallen zijn deels niet geverifieerd en het overzicht is niet volledig.

GANZEN EN EENDEN Op telposten werden in totaal zes **Witbuikrotganzen** *Branta hrota* waargenomen. Daarnaast werden exemplaren gezien in 38 uurhokken, uitsluitend langs de kust. Het grootste aantal (13) liep op 31 december bij Breskens, Zeeland. Op 20 november trok een **Zwarte Rotgans** *B nigricans* naar zuid langs telpost Tweede Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland. Verder kwamen er meldingen uit 31 uurhokken, met duidelijke zwaartepunten in het Waddengebied en Zeeland. Opvallend was de waarneming van een adult op 30 december bij

**104** Kortbekzeekoet / Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia*, Veerse Meer, Zeeland, 10 januari 2021 *(Kris De Rouck)*

**105** Alpengierzwaluw / Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*, Eemshaven, Groningen, 1 november 2020 *(Frank Coenjaerts)* **106** Kleine Topper / Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*, mannetje, Ketelmeer, Flevoland, 24 november 2020 *(Hugo Wieleman)* **107** Koningseider / King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*, adult mannetje, Waddenzee, Harlingen, Friesland, 25 december 2020 *(Hans Groot)* **108** Zwarte Zeekoet / Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*, adult winter, Brouwersdam, Zuid-Holland, 4 december 2020 *(Wim van Zwieten)*

Zeewolde, Flevoland. Deze zat tussen Toendrarietganzen *Anser serrirostris* en markeerde de eerste voor de provincie. **Roodhalsganzen** *B ruficollis* vlogen op 1 november over telpost Kardingebult in Groningen, Groningen, en op 26 november langs telpost Eemshaven, Groningen. Waarnemingen kwamen uit 80 uurhokken verspreid over het land. Dat deze ganzen bewegelijk zijn bewees een familiegroepje van twee adulten en vijf jongen dat van 1 tot 14 november op Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, rondliep om vervolgens een uitstapje te maken op 15 en 16 november naar Ternaard, Friesland, waarna het gezin de rest van periode op Ameland, Friesland, verbleef. Op 22 november vloog een **Ross' Gans** *A rossii* met Brandganzen *B leucopsis* zuidwaarts langs telpost Castricum aan Zee, Noord-Holland. Waarnemingen van exemplaren zonder kwekersringen of opvallende beschadigingen aan de vleugels kwamen van 20 november tot 10 december bij het Verdronken Land van Saeftinghe, Zeeland (deze werd sinds eind oktober gezien net over de grens in België); van 14 tot 21 december op verschillende locaties in het westen van de provincie Groningen; en van 26 december bij Blije, Friesland. Een **Dwerggans** *A erythropus* vloog op 20 december over telpost Kustweg Lauwersmeer, Groningen. De gehele periode kwamen er meldingen van de bekende plekken in het Oudeland van Strijen, Zuid-Holland, en Camperduin, Noord-Holland, met het hoogste aantal van maar liefst 74 op 14 december op de laatste locatie. Data van gezenderde vogels lieten zien dat deze op dezelfde dag vaak nog heen en weer vliegen tussen beide overwinteringsplekken. Opvallend genoeg worden ze vrijwel nooit in het gebied daartussen opgemerkt. Verder werden er individuen op 11 andere plekken gemeld. Er vlogen 31 **IJseenden** *Clangula hyemalis* langs telposten. Waarnemingen van pleisteraars kwamen traditiegetrouw uit met name het Waddengebied en Deltagebied. Hier was een groepje van zeven langs de

**109** Waarschijnlijke Aziatische Roodborsttapuit / probable Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*, eerste-winter mannetje, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 9 november 2020 *(Walter Das)* **110** Bruine Boszanger / Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*, Oegstgeest, Zuid-Holland, 14 november 2020 *(Jacob Molenaar)* **111** Bruine Boszanger / Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*, Exloërveen, Drenthe, 29 december 2020 *(Ronald A van Dijk)* **112** Mongoolse Pieper / Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii*, eerste-winter, Kwade Hoek, Zuid-Holland, 12 december 2020 *(Jacob Molenaar)*

Brouwersdam, Zuid-Holland, het hoogste aantal. Van 18 tot 25 december werd een adult mannetje **Koningseider** *Somateria spectabilis* waargenomen op de Waddenzee bij Harlingen, Friesland. Het geval is aanvaard als hetzelfde mannetje dat in de eerste maanden van 2018 op de Waddenzee tussen Harlingen en Terschelling, Friesland, zwom. Het mannetje **Buffelkopeend** *Bucephala albeola* van het Hollands Diep, Noord-Brabant, werd waargenomen tot 15 november. Van 16 tot 22 december werd een mannetje **Ringsnaveleend** *Aythya collaris* gezien bij Bierum, Groningen. Naar alle waarschijnlijkheid betrof het dezelfde vogel die sinds 2017 in het noorden opduikt, met Appingedam, Groningen, als favoriete bestemming. Op 13 november werd een mannetje **Kleine Topper** *A affinis* gevonden op het Ketelmeer bij Swifterbant, Flevoland, en tot 23 december onregelmatig waargenomen. Flevoland is een goede provincie voor de soort, met negen eerdere gevallen. Een mannetje **Amerikaanse Smient** *Mareca americana* werd op 8 december ontdekt op de Reeuwijksche Plassen bij Reeuwijk, Zuid-Holland, in een enorme groep Smienten *M penelope*, wat waarschijnlijk de reden is waarom deze na die dag niet meer is waargenomen. Deze soort is de afgelopen jaren opvallend weinig vastgesteld. In de Oostvaardersplassen, Flevoland, werd van 15 tot 17 november een mannetje **Amerikaanse Wintertaling** *Anas carolinensis* gezien. Deze zat tussen vele Wintertalingen *A crecca* en was behoorlijk mobiel, met als gevolg dat er weinig vervolgwaarnemingen waren. Ook deze soort lijkt minder te worden gezien de laatste jaren; dit was pas de eerste in 2020 en ook in 2019 was er maar één geval.

GIERZWALUWEN TOT STORMVOGELTJES De **Alpengierzwaluw** *Tachymarptis melba* die op 31 oktober werd ontdekt boven de Eemshaven werd daar in de vroege ochtend van 1 november nog gezien. Daarna verdween

de vogel, om nog even op te duiken aan de oostkant van het Lauwersmeergebied, Groningen. **Vale Gierzwaluwen** *Apus pallidus* werden nog gezien op 1 november op Vlieland, Friesland, en op enkele locaties in de Zuid-Hollandse duinstreek, waarbij onduidelijk was om hoeveel exemplaren het ging. Bovendien ontbrak in de meeste gevallen goede documentatie. De laatste van dit voor deze soort memorabele jaar vloog op 14 november een tijdje rond boven Moerdijk, Noord-Brabant. Ruim 25 000 **Kraanvogels** *Grus grus* werden op telposten geregistreerd; het leeuwendeel (ruim 20 000) vloog over telpost Karstraat bij Wittem, Limburg. Beste dag daar was 7 november met 7082 exemplaren. Eind november was er opvallend goede trek van **Parelduikers** *Gavia arctica* langs de kust. Dit leidde tot een nieuw nationaal record van 58 op 23 november langs telpost De Marlijn op Schiermonnikoog. Het vorige record, 48 op 5 mei 1996, stond op naam van telpost Camperduin. Er waren ook diverse waarnemingen uit het binnenland, onder meer van twee op 17 december bij IJzendoorn, Gelderland. Er werden 18 trekkende **IJsduikers** *G immer* op zeetrektelposten geteld. Onder de pleisteraars waren maximaal vier bijeen op de Oosterschelde bij Neeltje Jans, Zeeland, en diverse ver landinwaarts, waaronder meerdere op de Maasplassen in de omgeving van Roermond, Limburg. Het enige **Stormvogeltje** *Hydrobates pelagicus* vloog op 21 november naar het zuiden langs telpost Camperduin. Nog 29 **Vale Stormvogeltjes** *H leucorhous* werden geteld op telposten, maar weinig minder dan de magere 34 uit de vorige periode.

REIGERS TOT STELTLOPERS De grootste groep **Koereigers** *Bubulcus ibis,* tussen Alphen aan den Rijn en Bodegraven, Zuid-Holland, groeide aan tot 14. Op 3 november trok een **Zwarte Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* met Aalscholvers *Phalacrocorax carbo* langs telpost IJmuiden aan Zee, Noord-Holland, en telpost De Puinhoop bij Katwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland. Daarnaast waren er waarnemingen van c zeven locaties. Alleen op Texel, Noord-Holland, werd meer dan één exemplaar gezien (twee). **Kuifaalscholvers** *P aristotelis* waren opvallend algemeen, met de grootste groep van 12 gefotografeerd op 12 december bij de Zuidpier van IJmuiden. Ook elders waren meerdere aanwezig, zoals negen bij Neeltje Jans en vijf bij de haven van Vlieland. De **Aziatische Goudplevier** *Pluvialis fulva* bij Kerkwerve, Zeeland, die daar al het hele najaar verbleef werd nog onregelmatig gemeld, voor het laatst op 30 november. **Morinelplevieren** *Charadrius morinellus* werden nog gezien op 7 november (juveniel) bij Yerseke, Zeeland, en op 8 november (adult) bij Buttinge, Zeeland. Noemenswaardig is de eerstejaars **Kleine Plevier** *C dubius* die succesvol lijkt te overwinteren bij Keent, Noord-Brabant. Ook werd op 7 november een exemplaar gefotografeerd bij Lienden, Gelderland. Deze waarnemingen betreffen de vierde en vijfde ooit in november. **Rosse Franjepoten** *Phalaropus fulicarius* werden uit niet minder dan 47 uurhokken gemeld, ook ver van de kust. De eerste **Kleine Geelpootruiter** *Tringa flavipes* voor Limburg hield zich van 6 tot 20 december op aan de noordkant van Maastricht.

**113** Kleine Geelpootruiter / Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*, eerste-winter, Maastricht, Limburg, 8 december 2020 *(Mariet Verbeek)*

**114** Kumliens Meeuw / Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucoides kumlieni*, vijfde-kalenderjaar, Julianadorp, Noord-Holland, 30 december 2020 *(René Pop)*

**115** Kleine Burgemeester / Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*, eerste-winter, Katwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland, 22 december 2020 *(René van Rossum)*

**116** Vale Lijster / Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*, eerste-winter, Paesens, Friesland, 16 november 2020 *(Thijs Glastra)*

**117** Zwartkeellijster / Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis*, adult vrouwtje, Hoograven, Utrecht, Utrecht, 26 december 2020 *(Wietze Janse)*

**118** Woestijntapuit / Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*, eerste-winter mannetje, Lancasterdijk, Oosterend, Texel, Noord-Holland, 7 november 2020 *(Michel Veldt)*

**119** Grote Pieper / Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*, eerste-winter, De Cocksdorp, Texel, Noord-Holland, 5 december 2020 *(Jos van den Berg/birdingtexel.com)*

ALKEN TOT MEEUWEN Er werden in totaal 16 **Papegaaiduikers** *Fratercula arctica* en minimaal acht **Zwarte Zeekoeten** *Cepphus grylle* gemeld. Zeetrektellers zagen slechts 25 **Kleine Alken** *Alle alle*. Een op 30 december voor het eerst waargenomen maar pas in het nieuwe jaar gedetermineerde **Kortbekzeekoet** *Uria lomvia* zwom op het Veerse Meer, Zeeland, levend en wel; bij 10 eerdere gevallen ging het om zes die dood waren gevonden en het laatste dateerde van zomer 2012 (eerst levend bij Lauwersoog, Groningen, op 28 juli maar uiteindelijk stervend bij Huisduinen, Noord-Holland, op 13 augustus). Op telposten werden 58 **Kleine** *Stercorarius parasiticus,* slechts 37 **Middelste** *S pomarinus* en 187 **Grote Jagers** *S skua* geteld. In totaal werden nog zeven trekkende **Vorkstaartmeeuwen** *Xema sabini* gezien. Veel bekijks kreeg de adult die op 1 november tijdens Deception Tours enige tijd ter plaatse was op het strand van Vlieland. Op c acht plekken waren eerste-kalenderjaar **Kleine Burgemeesters** *Larus glaucoides* aanwezig. Bij Westkapelle, Zeeland, ging het om twee en op Texel om twee tot drie exemplaren. Er waren ook enkele waarnemingen van trekkers. De vogel die de afgelopen jaren in Amsterdam-West tot in adult kleed overwinterde en daar ook is gekleurringd, gaf (nog) geen acte de présence. De inmiddels adulte **Kumliens Meeuw** *L g kumlieni* van Julianadorp, Noord-Holland, liet echter niet verstek gaan en schuimde vanaf 29 november de ruime omgeving af, tot zelfs op Texel op 11 december. Van c 15 locaties kwamen waarnemingen van **Grote Burgemeesters** *L hyperboreus*. De derde-winter van de binnenhaven van Vlissingen, Zeeland, bleef de gehele periode en maakte soms een uitstapje naar Westkapelle. Vanaf half december bereikten meer exemplaren ons land met als hoogtepunt maar liefst vier op 26 december op het strand van Terschelling. Op Texel werden drie exemplaren gemeld, waaronder een adult op 30 december op de Volharding. Vanaf 28 december waren er ook eerstewinters in het binnenland zoals op een slaapplaats bij Deventer, Overijssel, met een uitstapje op 31 december naar Wilp, Gelderland.

ROOFVOGELS TOT ZWALUWEN Op zes plekken werden **Grijze Wouwen** *Elanus caeruleus* waargenomen. De eerste was een overvlieger op 6 november in het Noordhollands Duinreservaat bij Bergen, Noord-Holland. Op 8 november was een exemplaar korte tijd ter plaatse in de Eemshaven. Van 8 tot 13 november was er een pleisteraar op de Hoge Veluwe, Gelderland. De overige drie meldingen waren op 11 november bij Vlaardingen, Zuid-Holland; op 13 november bij Lent, Gelderland; en op 15 november bij het Schildmeer, Groningen. Indien alle worden aanvaard, is 2020 met 26 gevallen verreweg het beste jaar ooit. Op 4 november vloog een late **Slangenarend** *Circaetus gallicus* met een slangetje in zijn poten over telpost Castelreesche Heide bij Castelre, Noord-Brabant. Een hele late **Zwarte Wouw** *Milvus migrans* werd tot 22 december waargenomen in een groot gebied in de Kop van Noord-Holland. De enige **Hop** *Upupa epops* zwierf tussen 1 en 7 december rond tussen Zoutelande en Dishoek, Zeeland. De laatste gedocumenteerde **Draaihals** *Jynx torquilla* ooit werd op 18 november gegrepen door een kat in een tuin in Heiloo, Noord-Holland. Hij overleefde de aanval maar raakte wel gewond aan één oog. Andere late waarnemingen waren van 1 tot 7 november bij Ochten, Gelderland, en op 3 november bij Ospel, Limburg. Het adulte vrouwtje **Daurische Klauwier** *Lanius isabellinus* van Vlieland werd voor het laatst gemeld op 4 november. Op 3 november werd een **Notenkraker** *Nucifraga caryocatactes* kortstondig waargenomen in Elst, Gelderland, maar niet meer teruggevonden. Op c 15 plekken werden **Bonte Kraaien** *Corvus cornix* gezien. Op 8 november trok een **Rotszwaluw** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* zuidwaarts over telpost Breskens, Zeeland, waarna verwittigde vogelaars hem in België konden oppikken. Dit betreft het zevende geval en het eerste sinds 2010.

BOSZANGERS TOT GRASZANGERS Na een goede oktobermaand werden nog relatief veel **Pallas' Boszangers** *Phylloscopus proregulus* gemeld. In totaal ging het om 17 exemplaren, waarvan twee nog van de vorige periode. Het hoogste aantal werd waargenomen in de eerste decade van november, namelijk 11. Een exemplaar op 28 november in de Dintelse Gorzen bij Dinteloord, Noord-Brabant, was pas het eerste twitchbare voor de provincie. De laatste waren van 2 tot 14 december in De Baarsjes in Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, en op 18 december in Heiloo. **Bladkoningen** *P inornatus* werden nog tot diep in december gemeld. De **Humes Bladkoning** *P humei* die in de vorige periode werd ontdekt bij Noordwijk, Zuid-Holland, werd voor het laatst op 1 november gemeld. Op 6 november was er een waarneming in Meijendel bij Wassenaar, Zuid-Holland. De volgende diende zich op 26 november aan in een woonwijk in Geldermalsen, Gelderland, en bleef tot diep in het nieuwe jaar. Op 12 december werd opnieuw een exemplaar ontdekt bij Noordwijk en ook deze bleef tot in 2021. De aantallen **Bruine Boszangers** *P fuscatus* bleven ongekend hoog. In totaal werden er 60 gemeld, wat deze periode zelfs nog beter maakte dan de vorige. Behalve één waren het allemaal nieuwkomers. In de eerste en derde decade van november werden de meeste gevonden (respectievelijk 20 en 26). Zuid-Holland was verreweg de beste provincie met 27, gevolgd door Noord-Holland met 15. Acht vlogen er in de mistnetten van ringstations. De laatste **Sperwergrasmus** *Sylvia nisoria* van het jaar werd op 8 november geringd bij Castricum. Mogelijke **Siberische Braamsluipers** *S althaea blythi* werden gezien op 1 november in Westkapelle en op 8 november op Texel maar er kon geen DNA worden verzameld; die van Texel werd bovendien niet gedocumenteerd. Van exemplaren die van 17 tot 19 november verbleven in Zwolle, Overijssel, en van 6 tot 25 december op Ameland werd wel DNA verzameld. Die van Zwolle bleek op basis daarvan inderdaad een *blythi* te zijn; een nieuwe soort voor Overijssel. Waarnemingen van **Graszangers** *Cisticola juncidis* kwamen uitsluitend uit vijf uurhokken in het kerngebied in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, Zeeland.

PESTVOGELS TOT KWIKSTAARTEN Er vond geen invasie van **Pestvogels** *Bombycilla garrulus* plaats: de weinige

**120** Siberische/Vale Braamsluiper / Siberian/Desert Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia althaea blythi/halimodendri*, eerste-winter, Ameland, Friesland, 11 december 2020 *(Rik Wever)*

**121** Europese Kanarie / European Serin *Serinus serinus*, vrouwtje, Nieuwegein, Utrecht, 5 januari 2021 *(Julian Bosch)*

**122** Pallas' Boszanger / Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*, Coepelduynen, Noordwijk, Zuid-Holland, 14 november 2020 *(Albert Molenaar)*

**123** Siberische Tjiftjaf / Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus tristis*, Robbenjager, Texel, Noord-Holland, 9 november 2020 *(Jeroen de Bruijn)*

**124-125** Zwartbuikwaterspreeuw / Black-bellied Dipper *Cinclus cinclus cinclus*, Arnhem, Gelderland, 2 december 2020 *(Thijs Glastra)*

waarnemingen bleven veelal beperkt tot de noordelijke helft van het land en hadden betrekking op groepjes van maximaal vijf. **Zwartbuikwaterspreeuwen** *Cinclus cinclus cinclus* werden op niet minder dan zes locaties waargenomen. Het exemplaar uit de vorige periode langs de A7 bij Marum, Groningen, werd opnieuw op 31 december gezien. Nieuwe doken op 4 november op in Katwijk; van 8 november tot in het nieuwe jaar bij het TT-Circuit van Assen, Drenthe; van 10 november tot 18 december in een groot gebied tussen Arnhem en Rozendaal, Gelderland; en op 3 december te Sleeuwijk, Noord-Brabant. **Roodbuikwaterspreeuwen** *C c aquaticus* werden op 13 en 30 november aangetroffen langs de Geul ten zuiden van Epen, Limburg, en op 25 november in Schin op Geul, Limburg. Op zeven plekken werden **Roze Spreeuwen** *Pastor roseus* gezien, op één na allemaal in 'The Top of Holland' waar de laatste van het jaar op 30 december in Buitenpost, Friesland, werd gefotografeerd. Een eerste-kalenderjaar vrouwtje **Vale Lijster** *Turdus obscurus* trok op 15 en 16 november veel bekijks in Paesens, Friesland. Het betreft het negende geval en pas de tweede twitchbare deze eeuw na die van Vlieland in oktober 2017. Het vrouwtje **Zwartkeellijster** *T atrogularis* dat afgelopen voorjaar in de wijk Hoograven in Utrecht, Utrecht, werd gezien was op 4 december weer terug en bleef tot in 2021. Het bleef goed voor **Blauwstaart** *Tarsiger cyanurus* met in deze periode nog drie. Twee daarvan bleven langere tijd op Vlieland en Schiermonnikoog, tot respectievelijk 2 en 4 november. Daarna werd nog een exemplaar gevangen op 8 november bij Andijk, Noord-Holland. Een waarschijnlijke **Aziatische Roodborsttapuit** *Saxicola maurus* werd gefotografeerd op 9 november bij Den Helder, Noord-Holland, maar het bleef, ondanks zoekacties, bij een eenmanswaarneming. Op 23 november werd een **Bonte Tapuit** *Oenanthe pleschanka* gefotografeerd in de Coepelduynen bij Noordwijk, op het enige december-geval na (december 2018, Bodegraven, Zuid-Holland), de laatste ooit. Op 7 november werd een mannetje **Woestijntapuit** *O deserti* gedurende de hele dag waargenomen op Texel. Deze bracht het jaartotaal op vier gevallen, waarvan twee op Texel. De mogelijke **Amoerkwikstaart** *Motacilla leucopsis* bij Rockanje, Zuid-Holland, werd op 9 november voor het laatst gemeld. Er werden nog veel **Grote Piepers** *Anthus richardi* waargenomen. Trektellers noteerden er 21 en zelfs in december kwamen er meldingen van maar liefst 10 locaties. Daarvan waren de overwinterende groepjes van drie bij Goedereede, Zuid-Holland, en twee bij Spaarndam, Noord-Holland, het meest opvallend. Op 5 december vonden enkele gelukkige vogelaars hun Sinterklaascadeau in de vorm van een **Mongoolse Pieper** *A godlewskii* op de Kwade Hoek bij Stellendam, Zuid-Holland. Deze bleef tot 15 december en betrof, indien aanvaard, het 18e geval (waarvan 11 vanaf 2014). Bovendien was dit de derde in 2020, het beste jaar ooit. Op 6 november vloog de derde gedocumenteerde **Duinpieper** *A campestris* ooit voor november langs telpost Parnassia bij Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland. De andere novembergevallen waren in 2011 op telpost Kamperhoek, Flevoland, en een pleisteraar in 1983 bij Amsterdam. Er werd nog één gedocumenteerde **Siberische Boompieper** *A hodgsoni* waargenomen, op 7 november bij Noordwijk. Bovendien waren er nog enkele ongedocumenteerde waarnemingen, de laatste op 25 november. Dat **Boompiepers** *A trivialis* nog wel eens worden opgemerkt in de eerste decade van november is geen nieuws maar de vogel die op 16 december op de Zuidpier van IJmuiden werd gefotografeerd maakte het wel heel bont als eerste ooit in december. Wat de laatste **Roodkeelpieper** *A cervinus* van het jaar leek te zijn vloog op 9 november over Ameland. Op 28 november werd echter een exemplaar gevonden in de Zegenpolder bij Rhoon, Zuid-Holland. Deze bleef tot 10 december en werd daarmee de eerste ooit in december.

**126** Pallas' Boszanger / Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*, Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, 5 november 2020 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

VINKEN TOT GORZEN Op telposten werden 37 **Europese Kanaries** *Serinus serinus* geteld. Pleisteraars waren aanwezig in 28 uurhokken, met het grootste groepje (zes) bij Nieuwegein, Utrecht. **Grauwe Gorzen** *Emberiza calandra* verzamelden zich weer op de bekende pleisterplaatsen in Limburg en Zeeuws-Vlaanderen. Buiten deze kerngebieden waren er waarnemingen van c 12 locaties. De hoogste aantallen werden geteld in het hamsterreservaat bij Sibbe, Limburg (39), het Verdronken Land van Saeftinghe (34) en bij Doenrade, Limburg (30). Het mannetje **Cirlgors** *E cirlus* dat op 29 november werd gefotografeerd in het Kromslootpark bij Almere, Flevoland (maar pas later bekend werd gemaakt), kwam als

een grote verrassing. Indien aanvaard betreft dit het 11e geval, waarvan er maar liefst vijf uit de afgelopen drie jaar stammen. Het enige andere geval zo laat in het jaar was tevens het eerste, op 30 december 1883 verzameld in Harderwijk, Gelderland. Op 6 november vloog een mannetje **Witkopgors** *E leucocephalos* langs telpost De Puinhoop. Opmerkelijk genoeg werd hij op zicht ontdekt als een 'gekke gors' en vervolgens zelfs gefotografeerd. Mogelijk werd hij even later ook opgemerkt op telpost De Vulkaan in Den Haag, Zuid-Holland. Begin november werden nog enkele (mogelijke) **Dwerggorzen** *E pusilla* waargenomen op trek. Vanaf 17 november verbleven twee overwinteraars bij Maastricht. Op 22 november werd er één waargenomen in Noordwijk en op 6 december was er nog een melding op Texel.

We danken Lonnie Bregman, Toy Janssen, Diedert Koppenol, Robert van der Meer en Vincent van der Spek voor informatie die bijdroeg aan het samenstellen van deze rubriek. We maakten dankbaar (en ruim) gebruik van de websites www.dutchavifauna.nl, www.dutchbirdalerts.nl, www.sovon.nl, www.trektellen.nl en www.waarneming.nl.

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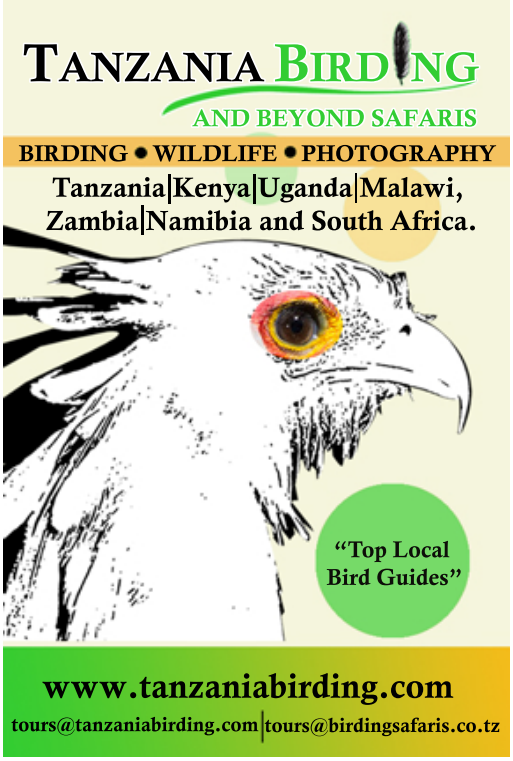
# DBA-nieuws

**Wijziging in redactieraad** In januari 2021 is Thijs Fijen teruggetreden als lid van de redactieraad van Dutch Birding. Wij danken hem voor zijn bijdragen. Gedurende zes jaar ondersteunde hij DB als redacteur en auteur en we hopen dat we ook in de toekomst van hem zullen horen. Redactie

**Change in editorial board** In January 2021, Thijs Fijen has resigned as member of the editorial board of Dutch Birding. We thank him for his contributions. During six years, he supported DB as editor and author and we hope that he will continue to be of help in the future. Editors



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