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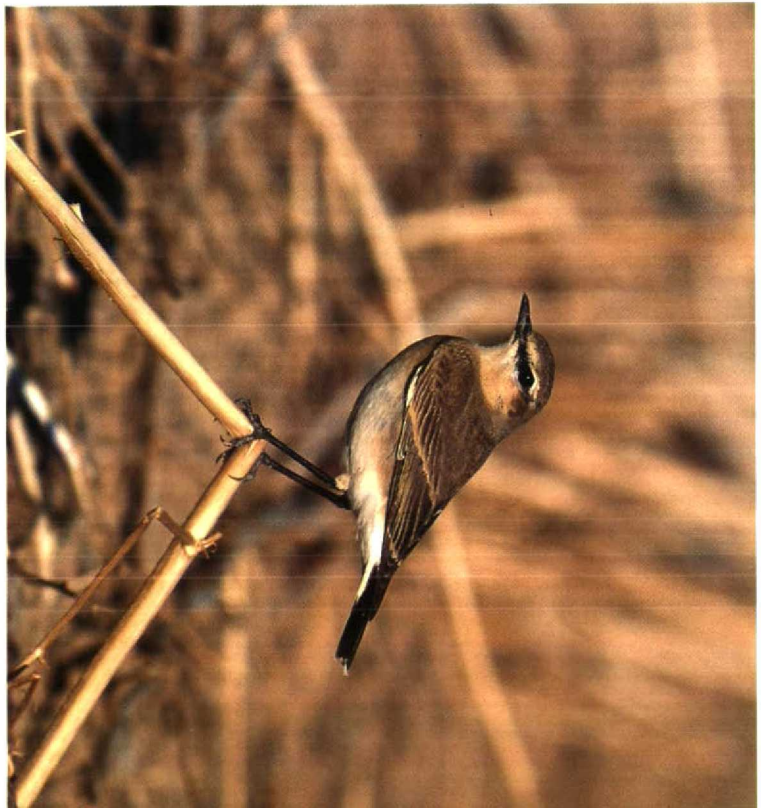

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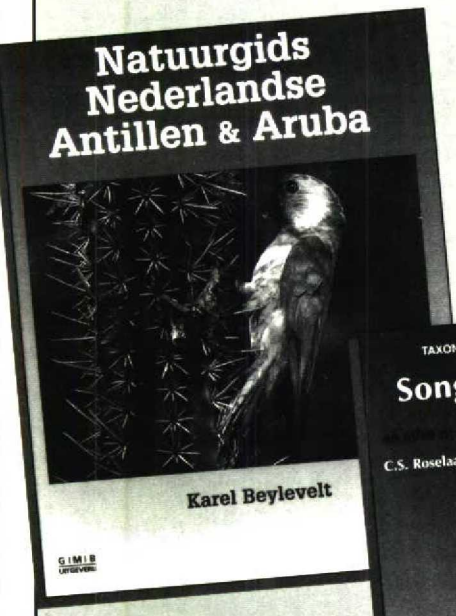

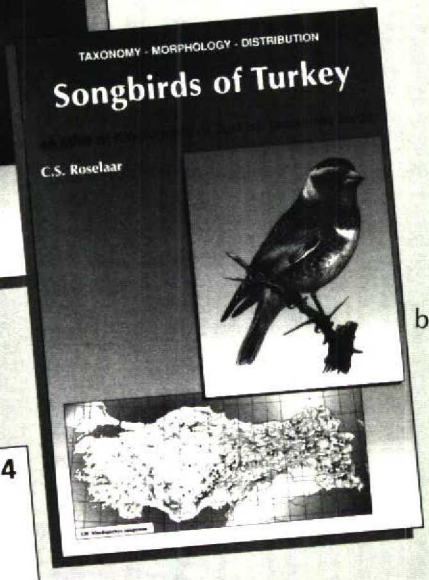

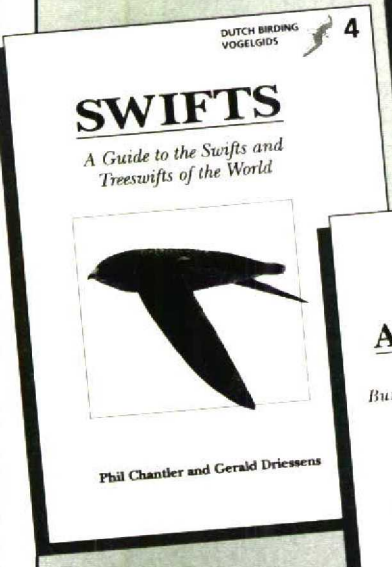

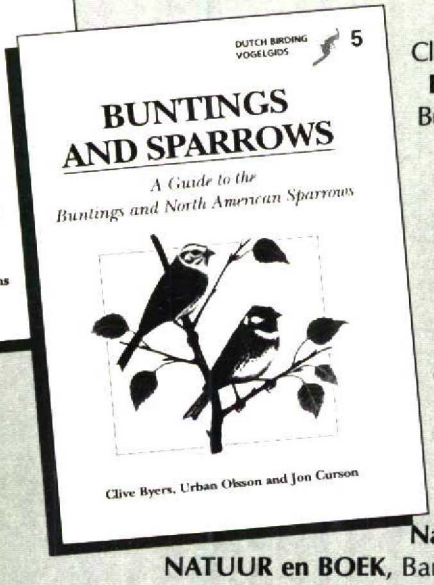

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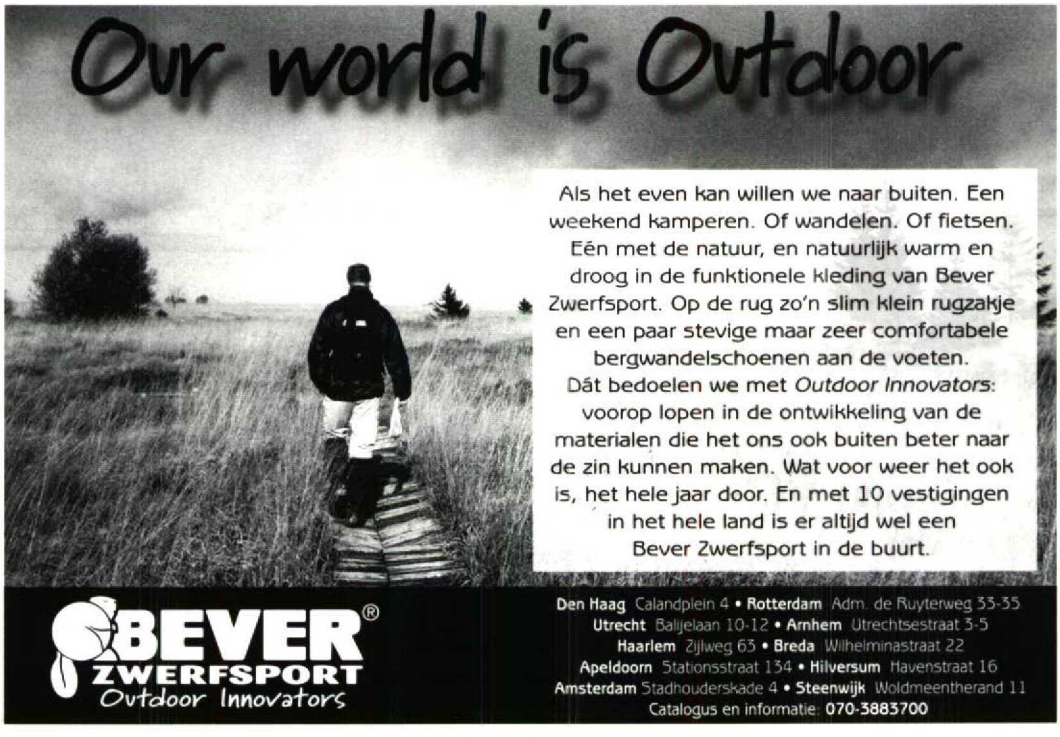

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Identification of Water Rail and *Porzana* crakes in Europe

Peter Becker

This paper discusses the identification (including the ageing and sexing) of Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* (of the subspecies *R a aquaticus*) and the three *Porzana* species, ie, Spotted Crake *P porzana* (monotypic), Little Crake *P parva* (monotypic) and Baillon's Crake *P pusilla* (of the subspecies *P p intermedia*), in Europe. The identification of the Nearctic Sora Crake *P carolina* (monotypic), a vagrant in Europe, is discussed as well. The vocal differences (cf Feindt 1968, Bergmann & Helb 1982), although of great importance to identification, are not treated. The emphasis is on the problems and pitfalls in visual identification. The paper is largely based on the results of my field studies of rails and crakes in southern Niedersachsen, Germany, during the last 35 years.

Bare parts

Iris colour

In assessing the iris colour in rails, the reactions to light of the highly sensitive eye have to be taken into account. As the light gets stronger, the size of the pupil is reduced; consequently, the iris pigments are distributed in a wider ring, making the iris look paler. Whereas in weak light, the pigments are, due to a larger-sized pupil, concentrated in a narrower ring, making the iris look darker and more intensely coloured.

The iris colour is possibly influenced by sex hormones. During the breeding season, the colour of the iris (and that of other bare parts) is more striking and brighter than during the rest of the year. The iris colour, especially the intensity, seems age-related as well.

Leg colour

The leg colour in rails shows considerable intraspecific variation which can be further increased by changing light conditions and subjective impressions. Westerskov (1970) dealt with the leg colour of Baillon's Crake in detail and he cited a number of correct and erroneous statements in the literature on this species. His conclusions concur with mine. Adult Baillon's Crakes have pale olive-green or brownish-olive legs in which a greenish hue always predominates. In more than 20 adult birds I observed and ringed in southern Niedersachsen, not a single one had flesh-coloured legs. The legs are never as pink as in Water Rail or anything close to those depicted in Heinroth & Steinbacher (1952: plate 259).

Apart from the effect of muddy substrates or light reflections on wet legs, there are some genuine (short-term) changes possible in the leg colour. In crakes spending many days or weeks in water with a high concentration of humic acids, the leg colour changes from pale green to brownish whereas in Water Rail it may change from bright red to dark brownish-red. Humic acids have a brown colour and are composed of complex molecules containing polysaccharides and proteins which coagulate easily and subsequently precipitate on rough surfaces, such as rings, rails' legs and ringers' fingers.

Another cause may be the intense UV radiation of the sun to which crakes are exposed in their Mediterranean and African winter quarters where they are often found in open habitats, such as the banks of canals, reservoirs and paddy-fields, giving the thin skin of the legs a 'sun-tan'. The green pigments are replaced by bright brownish ones and the legs of a Baillon's Crake in direct sunlight may look bright brownish or almost flesh-coloured. This (sub)tropical sun-tan can possibly be retained for some days after returning to the breeding grounds in late May-early June.

Finally, the legs of rails, with the thin horny plates, are subject to constant temperature changes. Open shallow water, in which rails like to forage, may be heated rapidly by the sun during summer. The higher water temperatures stimulate the bloodstream in the thin-skinned legs by dilating the blood-vessels, giving the impression that the legs are brownish rather than olive-green.

Downy young

Downy young of Water Rail and *Porzana* crakes are all-black during the first days after hatching and show a greenish metallic gloss in sunlight (sometimes bluish in torchlight). Although inconspicuous in the field, downy young in the hand show reddish skin patches on the nape and sometimes bright blue skin on the forehead and crown. Occasionally, the short wing-stumps with the clawed alula stand out bright whitish (not reddish as stated in Glutz von Blotzheim et al 1973) against the black down. This is especially obvious when they run with the wing-stumps stretched laterally for balance or when they use them for climbing in the vegetation.

In Water Rail and *Porzana* crakes, the iris and orbital ring are greyish- or brownish-black (anthracite-coloured) just like the feet, toes and claws. The blood-vessels shine through brownish between the horny plates of the legs. The feet and irides appear black.

Bill colour

Apart from the size (Water Rail versus *Porzana* crakes), the black downy young are also readily

154 Water Rail / Waterral *Rallus aquaticus*, pullus, Lehrte, Niedersachsen, Germany, 18 August 1963 *(Peter Becker)* **155** Water Rail / Waterral *Rallus aquaticus*, transition from downy young to juvenile, Grasdorf near Hannover, Niedersachsen, Germany, 24 August 1963 *(Peter Becker)* **156** Little Crake / Klein Waterhoen *Porzana parva*, 9 days old, Steinhuder Meer, Niedersachsen, Germany, 5 June 1966 *(Peter Becker)* **157** Baillon's Crake / Kleinst Waterhoen *Porzana pusilla*, 2-3 days old, Wilkenburg near Hannover, Niedersachsen, Germany, 11 July 1961 *(Peter Becker)*

distinguished by the bill. The black feathers on the lower mandible extend beyond the nostril in the downy young of *Porzana* crakes, covering more than half of the lower mandible, whereas they only reach up to the nostril in the longer-billed downy young of Water Rail. This is easily seen at close range. During the subsequent growth of the bill (involving stretching and hardening), the difference in feather coverage decreases within days. In Water Rail and *Porzana* crakes, the brightly coloured bill contrasts with the black down as well as the dark breeding habitat amongst dense reed and sedges.

Water Rail
The bill is white or pale greyish-white, sometimes with some black at the tip and gape. The egg-tooth is white. During the following weeks, the bill colour is changing. The white areas are getting darker and the dark areas are expanding to be replaced by horn-coloured and reddish hues in juvenile birds. Sigmund (1958) summarized in seven schematic sketches from days 1 to 92 the development of the bill colour, showing considerable individual variation. Downy young of Water Rail are readily distinguished from those of *Porzana* crakes by the longer and more slender bill.

Spotted Crake
The bill is pied. The swollen base of the upper mandible is bright red on the culmen and pale red on the sides; the lower mandible is reddish-brown at the base. In front of the nostril, the narrow greyish-white ring of variable width is separated from the red base by the thin black ring. In front of this ring, the wide black ring extends to the tip of the lower mandible. The shiny white tip of the upper mandible contrasts with this black ring. The white bill-tip and ring are sometimes yellow (Pauler 1968). The egg-tooth is white. Pauler (1968) detailed in three sketches the bill colour changes in juvenile birds. The bill colour of newly hatched downy young as well as the subsequent development varies somewhat (Berndt & Meise 1962, Pauler 1968, Szabó 1970, Glutz von Blotzheim et al 1973, Peters 1976, etc).

Little Crake
The bill is transparent pink from the base up to the middle, turning whitish towards the tip. The lower mandible is somewhat blackish at the base. The egg-tooth is white. In the field, the bill appears white and short.

Baillon's Crake
The bill is ivory-, bright yellow-wax- or bone-coloured. The lower mandible has some black at the base. The egg-tooth is white. In the field, the bill appears white and short. Downy young can easily be confused with those of Little Crake, especially when the bill darkens and turns blotchy, like in Water Rail, as they grow older. I have never seen strongly swollen, parrot-like, short bills in the downy young of Little or Baillon's Crake as depicted in Szabó (1970).

Full-grown birds

Water Rail

General characters

It is smaller than Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*, ranging in size between Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* and Mistle Thrush *T viscivorus*. The sexual dimorphism is considerable (in small females, the wing length is 99 mm and, in large males, 131 mm). The black-brown feathers of the upperside have a bright grey-brown fringe, the wing-coverts often show white spots. The underside is slaty-grey, the flanks are banded black-and-white. The undertail-coverts are white. The legs are flesh-coloured to brownish, the bill is long and predominantly red. In juvenile birds, the upperside is as in adult birds; the bill is not as bright red. The head, sides of the neck and underside are bright brown to cream, vaguely mottled, the throat is whitish; the bands on the flanks are more washed-out brownish, not as contrasting as in adult birds.

It walks easily and fast through the vegetation, often showing the white undertail-coverts with jerky movements. It is reluctant to fly. Under favourable conditions, the whitish leading edge to the wing, dangling legs and long bill sometimes show when it takes off. Not yet fully grown birds can fly up to 20 m. As these birds have bright ochre undertail-coverts and a white leading edge to the wing (as well as a not yet full-grown bill), they can in flight easily be misidentified as Spotted Crake.

Juvenile plumage

The first contour-feathers of downy young (figure 1a) are visible in the field after 14-18 days. They occur initially on the flanks and back. The downy young are fully fledged at c 70 days. During this period, the appearance changes continuously (Becker 1982a, 1983a,b).

The almost black feet of downy young turn brighter, from dirty greyish to grey or greyish-red and finally dirty flesh-coloured. The white bill gets greyish-black spots and dark horn-coloured areas; the lower mandible turns reddish towards the base (Sigmund 1958; figure 1b). The iris colour also changes from anthracite-coloured or black-grey to olive-green, then the greenish hues get brighter, changing to greenish-yellow and finally to orange-yellow or -red. The change of the iris colour from green to orange may occur earlier in males than in females. Fully fledged juvenile birds show an orange-red iris, dirty flesh-coloured feet (brighter in males than in females) and a bill which is horn-coloured at the tip and on the culmen but reddish elsewhere.

Although the upperside is similar in juvenile and adult birds, the coloration of the soft temporary feathers of the underside is completely different. The banded flanks are barely visible and, apart from black-and-white, also show greyish-brown and ochre hues, especially near the feather-tips. The rest of the underside is bright greyish-brown and dirty whitish (sometimes with dark bands on the breast and belly), with the throat off-white and the ear-coverts and lores dark. The narrow orbital ring is whitish. The neck and scapulars as well as the region between the eyes and the dark crown are washed-out brownish, more whitish at the front. Juvenile birds look pale and are, therefore, easily confused with other species (Grant 1979). Illustrations of the juvenile plumage have been published in Heinroth & Heinroth (1928), Becker (1982a, 1983a,b), Pforr & Limbrunner (1980); in this paper it is shown in figure 1c. This pale plumage is worn only during a short period; until late June in early broods and until October (exceptionally November-early December) in late and second broods.

First-winter plumage

Juvenile birds start to moult into the first-winter plumage before or during the growth of the remiges and rectrices. This involves small body-feathers, especially the ear-coverts and the feathers of the underside (less obvious on the upperside). This post-juvenile moult, in which the bright brown feathers of the underside are replaced by grey ones, takes place during several weeks in late summer-autumn. It starts in July (early broods) or as late as August-October or even later (late and second broods), with the head and sides of the neck followed by the breast and belly. From the flanks towards the middle, the underside turns grey. The washed-out flanks change to clear black-and-white bands, with the feathers still tipped bright ochre, just like the feathers of the thighs, vent and undertail-coverts. The new grey feathers of the underside also have a narrow bright brown fringe which is visible in the field under good conditions (Richards 1982; figure 1e).

During and after winter, the feather-tips nearly always abrade. The same applies to the ochre coloration of the flanks, thighs and undertail-coverts. The white on the chin, characteristic of first-winter birds, sometimes extending onto the throat (in young females), is of course rarely visible in the field. Fresh-plumaged first-winter and adult birds are, therefore, difficult to distinguish from August on (and even earlier in early breeders) when these details are not visible. A bird in post-juvenile moult showing these characters well was photographed by M Temme (König 1967: 145).

At the start of the breeding season, last year's birds are still distinguished from older birds by the white chin (figure 1e). Single juvenile and first-winter birds can not be sexed in the field. However, when direct size comparison is possible, the larger males can often be separated from the smaller females.

Adult plumage

The plumage of adult birds during the breeding season, ie, before the moult, does not differ significantly from the worn first-winter plumage (except for the chin colour) (figure 1f). During the breeding season, however, adult birds show shiny red irides, a bright red bill (except for the tip and culmen) and bright pink to flesh-coloured legs. In males and older birds, these bare parts are brighter-coloured than in second calendar-year birds and females.

Second calendar-year birds moult into the adult plumage when they are raising the young. The remiges and rectrices are shed as early as the second half of July (or as late as August-September in second broods) (P Becker in Stresemann & Stresemann 1966). The wing-coverts and contour-feathers are replaced simultaneously during a longer period. During this complete moult, birds are flightless for three weeks in which period they are very secretive.

This adult plumage is kept until the next complete moult during the following breeding season. During this period, the plumage often changes considerably due to bleaching and wear. In the field, adult birds are distinguished from first-winter birds only by the absence of the white

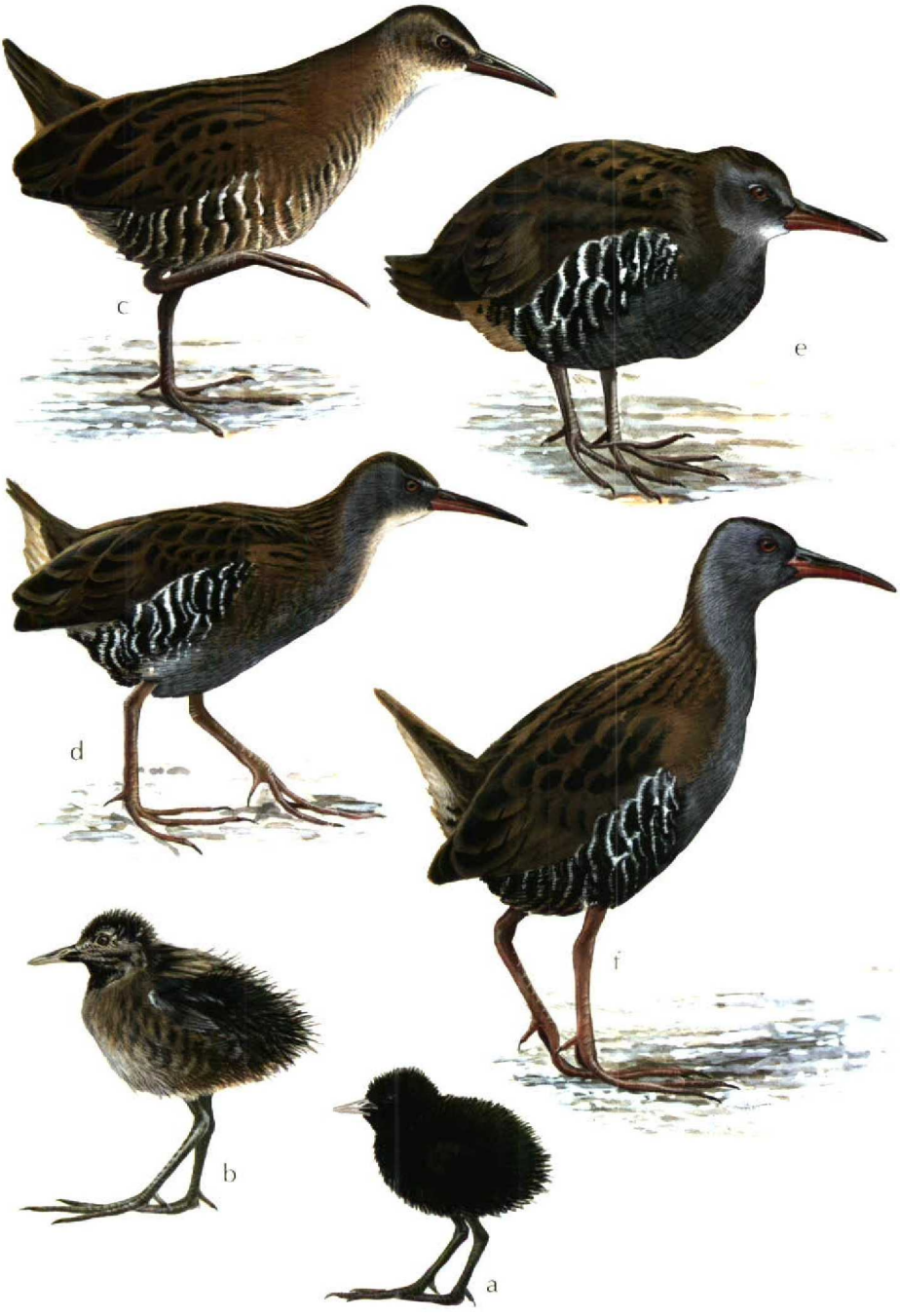
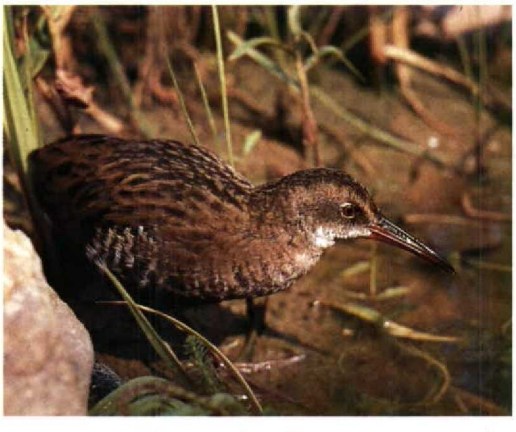


FIGURE 1 Water Rail / Waterral *Rallus aquaticus (Christopher Schmidt)*. (a) downy young, (b) transition from downy young to juvenile, (c) juvenile, (d) moult from juvenile to first adult plumage nearly completed, (e) first adult plumage (autumn-winter) until first breeding season in spring of second calendar-year, (f) adult



158 Water Rail / Waterral *Rallus aquaticus*, juvenile moulting into first-winter plumage, Sloterdijk, Amsterdam, Noordholland, Netherlands, October 1981 *(Piet Munsterman)* **159** Water Rail / Waterral *Rallus aquaticus*, juvenile, Hildesheim, Niedersachsen, Germany, 10 August 1982 *(Peter Becker)* **160** Water Rail / Waterral *Rallus aquaticus*, adult male, Othfresen, Niedersachsen, Germany, 25 August 1989 *(Peter Becker)*. Note white bands on wing-coverts

chin. The grey feathers of the underside have a pale tip as in the first-winter plumage; these tips are, however, more whitish and much narrower and they abrade quicker. In the field, they are inconspicuous and may even lack altogether.

There are no sex- or age-related differences between the upperside of juvenile and adult birds. The intraspecific variation in coloration due to bleaching and wear is, however, considerable.

In fresh-plumaged birds, the feathers of the upperside as well the tertials and rectrices are black-brown with a grey-brown fringe which varies in width and sometimes covers most of the

161 Water Rail / Waterral *Rallus aquaticus*, second calendar-year, Grasdorf near Hannover, Niedersachsen, Germany, 22 August 1964 *(Peter Becker)*. Note typical barring of underwing

feather. Birds with wide brownish feather-fringes look paler. The fringes may tend to sandy ('pale morph') or rusty ('dark morph'). Until the next spring, the fringes gradually abrade, making the black-brown centres more obvious, especially on the crown and neck. The upperside, therefore, looks darker than in autumn. The narrower grey-brown fringes are sometimes bleached by the sun and contrast with the dark upperside which in extreme cases (especially due to the presence of brightly coloured fringes to the tertials) may cause the upperside to look brightly striped. Such birds may be mistaken for Little Crake when flushed.

The black-brown remiges initially show a silky-greenish gloss which is soon lost. During the year, the feathers turn duller and browner. The black-brown underwing-coverts with the white tips and bands, especially on the axillaries, are rarely visible in the field. Brown et al (1988) showed an axillary which was, however, misnamed as a flank-feather.

Often, the white feathers on the leading edge to the wing attract attention, making misidentification as Spotted Crake more likely. The white carpal joint does not extend onto the outermost primaries. It is restricted to the wing-coverts as far as the basis of the alula. The more distal white feathers are concealed by the dark alula and are not visible in flight.

Shortly before the moult, adult birds show a worn plumage with missing fringes to the tertials, pointed feathers or even missing feather-tips, especially in the rectrices.

Wing pattern

Surprisingly, most recent handbooks and field guides do not mention the presence of white in the wing. Already, Hartert (1921-22) described this ('often some narrow white bars on the outer median coverts').

I checked this in 1055 Water Rails with fully grown remiges. White on the wing-coverts was shown by 605 (57%). These white bands and fringes were not restricted to the lesser and median wing-coverts (as shown in de Kroon 1982) but were also visible on the greater wing-coverts and alula and even on the primaries. The number of white-marked feathers ranged from 1 to 25.

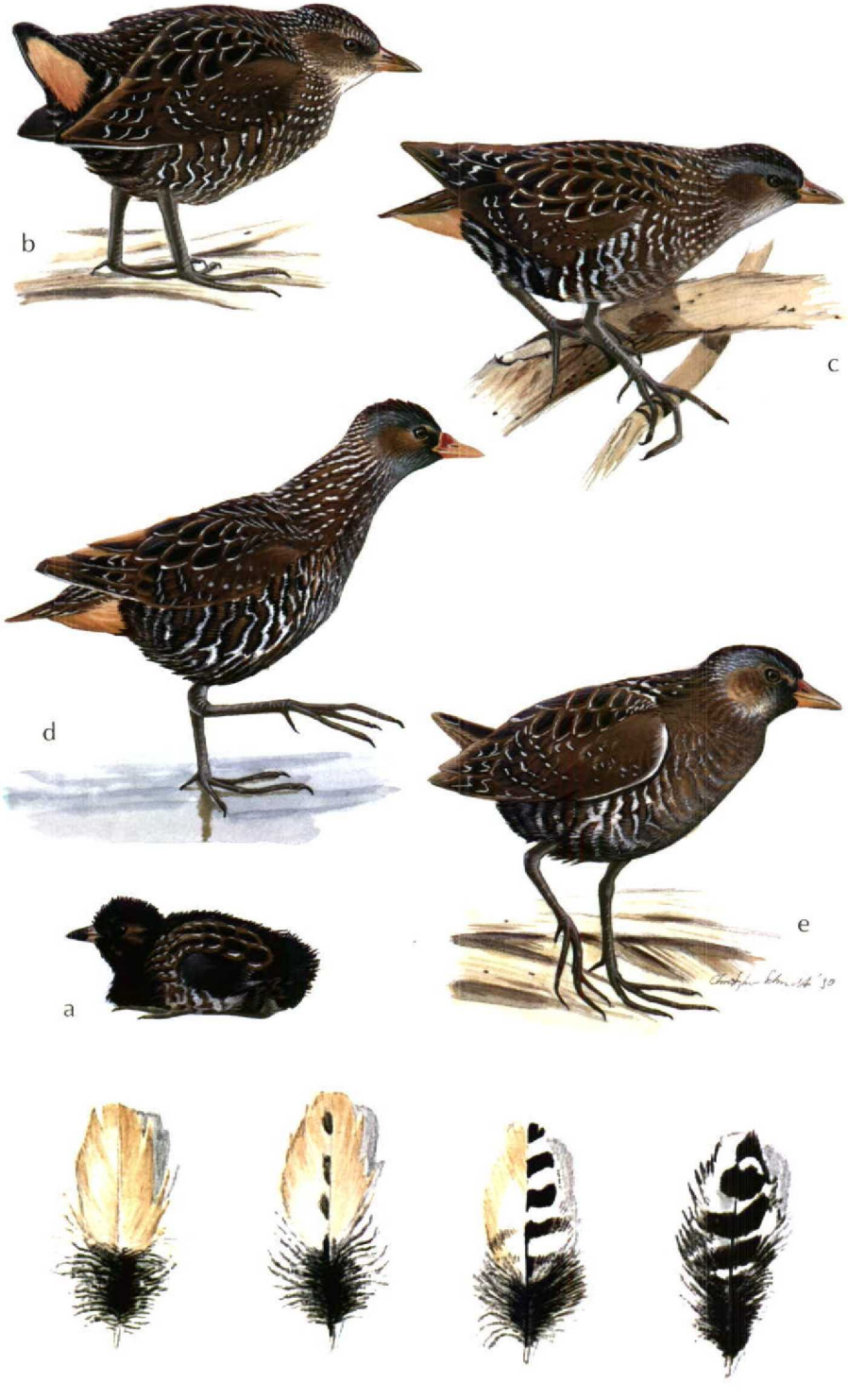
The white markings can be so prominent and typically black-and-white that they correspond to the banded flanks of the bird at rest. Some birds showed white spots on the tertials, mantle or rump (figure 7b, plate 160). This wing pattern was not sex- or age-related. It seems, however, to be a frequent variation. More than half of the observed birds showed white wing markings.

Interestingly, this wing pattern, which has largely been ignored in the literature, is passed on from adult birds to young and appears not to change during the moult. It is, therefore, possible to recognize individual birds and even to establish family relationships in juvenile birds. Similar characteristic patterns are shown in the under-tail-coverts.

Undertail-coverts

In the literature, many different descriptions of the undertail-coverts have been published. I studied this character in more than 1500 Water Rails and found that the descriptions are more or less correct (except for those in Hayman (1980) and Hayman & Burton (1988) which are possibly based on old museum specimens yellowed with age).

With a tail made up of 12 rectrices, the under-tail-coverts are similarly arranged in two rows of 12 feathers each, a row of the shorter outer ones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and a row of the longer inner ones which may reach the tail-tip in fresh-plumaged birds. The shorter undertail-coverts have a substantial grey-black basal downy part which takes up more than half of the feather. Towards the tip follows a narrow (3-5 mm wide) white band, sometimes missing on the outer (or on all the) feathers. This is followed by a wide black band, often pointed in a straight angle towards the tip. Finally, there is a wide ochre or bright brown feather-tip which is soft and easily abrades. The black and ochre tip are often separated by a narrow white line. The white in the middle of the feathers is not always a transverse band, it may also be a diagonal or a longitudinal band. The variation in coloration and pattern of these feathers is limited.

On the other hand, the longer (inner) undertail-coverts vary considerably although the coloration is not sex- or age-related. During the year, these feathers change due to wear. The most common white feathers have a grey-black basal part, a white downy region in the middle and a soft more or less bright ochre tip which abrades during winter or as late as the next breeding season. The ochre coloration may cover the complete feather (except for the dark down and a white shaft-streak) or it may be absent altogether even in fresh-plumaged birds.

The other extreme is formed by the black feathers which have a pattern similar to that of the shorter undertail-coverts, with two instead of one irregular white band as well as an ochre tip (Glutz von Blotzheim et al 1973: plate 61). After the abrasion of the tips, such undertail-coverts appear black with white bands which may easily lead to confusion with Baillon's or Little Crake, especially when it concerns a small female and the observer is unable to see other diagnostic characters, such as the bill.

A whole range of intermediate forms between the pure white and the black-and-white-banded undertail-coverts occur: black bands, stripes, tips, fringes, etc. When these variably coloured feathers are spread, a typical pattern becomes visible which allows individual recognition because each pattern is unique. A glimpse of this variation is demonstrated by nine sketches in King (1980) of Water Rails wintering in England. In the field, these subtle differences can only be detected by scrutinizing the undertail-coverts. The undertail-coverts generally appear to be more or less white.

Whereas it may be confused with Baillon's or Little before and at the start of the breeding season because of the black-and-white-banded undertail-coverts, observers should be aware of the possibility of confusion with Spotted Crake in summer-autumn because of the pattern of the undertail-coverts. The ochre-tipped undertail-coverts, with the outer ones covering the white patches and the black pattern on the inner ones, are obvious in juvenile and fresh-plumaged birds (except for adult birds with pure white feathers). All the undertail-coverts appear bright ochre. Casual observations of such birds under unfavourable light conditions and with white wing markings may easily lead to misidentification as Spotted.

Not yet fledged birds show a washed-out brownish underside and a bill which is not yet fully grown. Apart from the bright ochre undertail-coverts, the emerging feather-shafts on the wings and upperside appear as white spots at long range. At this stage, confusion is possible with Spotted.

Spotted Crake

General characters

It is as large as Water Rail (wing length 109-131 mm) but appears smaller and stockier due to the shorter neck, legs and bill. The overall coloration is olive-brown, with bright brownish mantle stripes, mottled with black-brown with fine white stripes and spots on the upperside from the forehead to the tail-tip. The lores and chin are greyish, the ear-coverts brownish. The underside is grey-brown with fine white spots which can be abraded to such an extent in adult birds shortly before the moult that the underside appears uni-

FIGURE 2 Spotted Crake / Porseleinhoen *Porzana porzana (Christopher Schmidt)*. (a) downy young, 22 days old, in transition from downy young to juvenile, (b) juvenile, (c) adult female in autumn, (d) adult male in spring, (e) adult male in worn plumage shortly before complete moult (June-August)

FIGURE 3 Variation in undertail-coverts of Spotted Crake / Porseleinhoen *Porzana porzana* (see text) *(Christopher Schmidt)*

formly dark grey-brown. Confusion with adult male Little Crake is possible at that stage. The flanks are grey-brown and blackish with whitish bands which fade away towards the tail and which turn into a dirty whitish coloration on the belly; the undertail-coverts are uniformly pale brownish-yellow (cf figure 3). The bill is yellowish, turning horn-coloured towards the tip, with the base of the upper mandible orange-red, the legs are olive-green and the iris is brown. In juvenile birds (July-September), the bill is less obviously coloured and shows little orange on the upper mandible. The legs are olive-brownish and the iris is olive-green. Because of increased spotting, the bright grey-brownish lores and underside appear much paler, the chin and throat even whitish. The ear-coverts are washed-out brownish and the banding on the flanks is hardly visible.

In flight, they are more agile than Water Rails. The white leading edge to the wing is nearly always prominent. Less obvious in flight are the white markings on the upperside. In adult birds, the bright yellow and orange bill can sometimes be seen when flushed. It sneaks silently through the vegetation in an upright bearing, flicking the tail when excited, thereby showing the bright undertail-coverts.

Juvenile plumage

The black downy young with the pied bill develops the juvenile plumage during a period of 1.5 month. The bill-tip turns yellowish and the bright vivid colours of the bill get darker. The now yellowish-green-mottled ring around the middle of the dark horn-coloured bill is only obvious for some days since it fades rapidly and disappears altogether when the bird is fully grown (cf sketches in Pauler 1968). When the full juvenile plumage is attained, the bill is olive-brownish to greenish-horn-coloured, somewhat darker towards the tip, and the upper mandible shows a fine yellowish (female?) or pale orange (male?) base which is, however, not yet prominent.

The grey-black iris changes to grey-olive-coloured and subsequently to olive-green. From the inside out, the iris colour then changes to brownish, starting with a narrow brown ring around the pupil. The blackish legs of downy young develop into grey-green, brownish-olive and finally dirty olive-green.

As in Water Rail, the first contour-feathers appear on the flanks, thighs, mantle and ear-coverts after only 2-3 weeks (figure 2a). Under less favourable conditions, juvenile birds, with the stronger spotting and the pale bright coloration, may easily be mistaken for juvenile Water Rail or juvenile Little or Baillon's Crake (figures 1b-c, 2b, 4b, 5b). It also wears the juvenile plumage only for 3-4 weeks. Since the juvenile and the subsequent male and female plumages were meticulously described as early as the beginning of the last century (Brehm & Schilling 1822), only the relevant characters are given.

In juvenile birds, there is not yet any grey around the eye and on the lores and throat. These parts are bright brownish to cream with whitish spots. The ear-coverts are washed-out brownish. The throat is often mostly whitish, the breast and belly are bright brownish with whitish spots. For detailed descriptions and sketches of breast-feathers, see Glutz von Blotzheim et al (1973: plate 63). The belly and vent up to the undertail-coverts are dirty white. The flanks have soft bright brownish feathers with washed-out whitish wave-like bands. The undertail-coverts and upperside are as in adult birds more strongly spotted with white. This character is, however, highly variable both in adult and juvenile birds (de Lust 1986) and is not useful for ageing in the field.

When birds are not forced to move, either by falling water levels (as early as July) or population pressure, juvenile and adult birds can be found in the breeding area into September (sometimes even October). Juvenile birds are present from late June (first broods) to September-October (late and second broods).

First-winter and adult plumages

The feathers of the first-winter plumage already start to appear in the juvenile plumage. As in Water Rail, the post-juvenile moult involves only the small body-feathers and does not at first alter the appearance profoundly since the supercilium, ear-coverts, throat, neck, breast and belly are also densely spotted with white. However, the darker grey and olive-brown fringes to these feathers show through. The contrasting flanks with the wave-like white bands are conspicuous. At this stage, juvenile birds are separated safely from first-winter birds only by the flank pattern. The olive-brownish tips to the breast-feathers abrade during the following months, making the lateral spots on the tip and the dark centres more obvious. Therefore, the contrast of the white spots on a dark background is not obvious until spring.

The facial feathers also abrade. The white feather-tips disappear, making the region above

162 Spotted Crake / Porseleinhoen *Porzana porzana*, breeding male, Düpen near Wolfsburg, Niedersachsen, Germany, 12 June 1980 *(Peter Becker)* **163** Spotted Crake / Porseleinhoen *Porzana porzana*, adult female after complete moult, Grasdorf near Hannover, Niedersachsen, Germany, 2 August 1964 *(Peter Becker)* **164** Spotted Crake / Porseleinhoen *Porzana porzana*, adult, Gronauer Masch, Niedersachsen, Germany, 17 June 1987 *(Peter Becker)*

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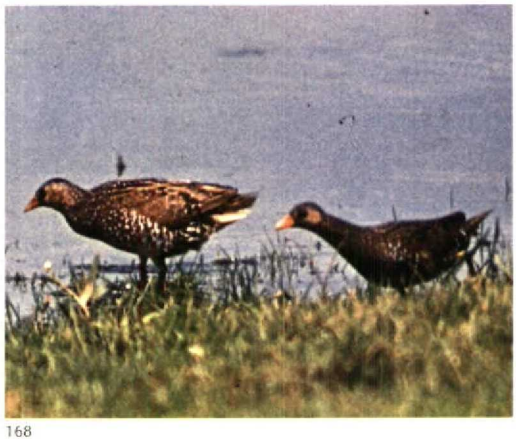

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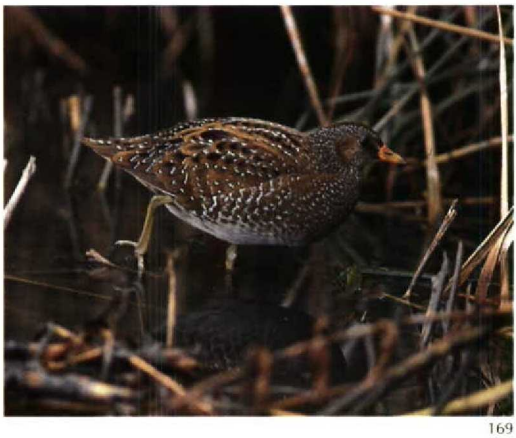

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165 Spotted Crake / Porseleinhoen *Porzana porzana*, juvenile, Gronauer Masch, Niedersachsen, Germany, 15 July 1961 *(Peter Becker)*. Note white leading edge to wing

166 Spotted Crake / Porseleinhoen *Porzana porzana*, adult female during complete moult, Grasdorf near Hannover, Niedersachsen, Germany, 2 August 1964 *(Peter Becker)*

167 Spotted Crake / Porseleinhoen *Porzana porzana*, worn adult male before moult, Grasdorf near Hannover, Niedersachsen, Germany, 6 August 1964 *(Peter Becker)*

168 Spotted Crake / Porseleinhoen *Porzana porzana*, juvenile (left) with worn adult before moult, Germany, autumn 1963 *(Wilhelm Brinkmann)*

169 Spotted Crake / Porseleinhoen *Porzana porzana*, first-winter, Sloterdijk, Noordholland, Netherlands, October 1982 *(Piet Munsterman)*.

the eye grey, leaving only some white spots towards the forehead. The chin and throat also turn grey due to abrading bright feather-tips, the cheeks even turn blackish. The lore-feathers as well as the ear-coverts loose the pale tips, resulting in a washed-out bright brownish coloration.

The spotted neck, breast and belly are grey to olive-brownish (Becker 1983b) and during summer, when the white spots have abraded, almost turn uniformly dark olive-grey. Since the upperside gets darker through the abrasion of the white stripes and spots, contrasting with the pale bleached-out fringes to the tertials, adult birds, with the orange-red base of the upper mandible and the almost uniformly dark olive-grey underside, may easily be mistaken at this stage for male Little Crake.

Since it breeds only once during the first breeding season (the complete moult starts as early as June) and twice in subsequent breeding seasons (the complete moult does not start before August-September), the plumage is worn out for more than a year. The breast-feathers abrade even further, revealing the second row of spots. Since these are narrow white transverse spots with a black edge, the now dark breast shows white wave-like bands (figure 2d-e) which join the bands towards the rear-flanks.

The heavily abraded plumage is completely moulted during the last stages of rearing the young. This coincides with the development of the feathers of the young. The new remiges and rectrices grow in less than 3 weeks (P Becker in Stresemann & Stresemann 1966) during which period the bird is flightless (plate 166). The moult of the body-feathers, which already starts before the remiges and rectrices are shed (late June-early August), takes somewhat longer. At first, the adult plumage is almost identical with the fresh first-winter plumage. Through abrasion, however, it turns into a more contrasting plumage towards the breeding season. The grey on the head and throat is more extensive, the black on the chin more intense than in first-winter birds. Old females, however, differ hardly from first-winter males, old males on the other hand are notably darker in the face, including the chin and malar region (figure 2c-d).

Males and females are not separable in the field and in the hand even experienced ringers have difficulties (cf Leuzinger 1978) because of the overlap in wing measurements. It is possible only under favourable conditions, ie, when comparing the members of a known pair. During the breeding season, males have a more contrasting head and bill pattern and are slightly bigger.

The bill turns brighter during the moult into the first-winter plumage. The next spring, it is yellow with a horn-coloured tip and a shining orange-red base of the upper mandible. In males, the bill is more intensely coloured than in females (Becker 1983b). In old males, the red base of the upper mandible gets swollen (up to 3 mm thick) during the courtship, with the red sometimes extending onto the base of the lower mandible.

Towards spring, the dirty olive-green legs of the juvenile bird change to bright olive-green which can look yellowish at and above the knee and at the ankle. During winter, the olive-green iris of the juvenile bird also becomes brownish and, towards the breeding season, turns bright brown and even red-brown in older males. After the complete moult in autumn, second calendar-year and older birds can under favourable conditions be told from first-winter birds (after the post-juvenile moult) by the greener legs, the brown iris and the vividly coloured bill.

The upperside appears more olive-brown and, therefore, darker than in Water Rail. From the forehead to the tail-tip, all the black-brown feathers have a wide olive-brown fringe with white stripes and spots which are outlined by black on the larger wing-coverts. The wing-coverts are more brown than olive, making the outer upperside look more brownish. The tertials have a conspicuous wide pale bright brown inner web and a dark outer web with white zigzags. The inner webs bleach during the year and then form bright lines (cf Little Crake).

The amount of speckling on the remiges and rectrices varies individually. Only the inner and outermost rectrices show a white edge to the outer web and white spots on it (Hansen & Oelke 1974). There are, however, birds in which every single rectrix shows white and some in which white is completely lacking (even in fresh plumage). I could not establish sex- or age-related differences in these patterns.

The remiges, which are black-brown when fresh, bleach towards brown during the year. Most secondaries, apart from the five innermost, rarely show rows of white spots on the inner and outer webs. The same applies to the primaries, in which only the outermost are extensively white towards the tip or mottled with white on the edge of the outer web. This white pattern can be inconspicuous. The outer webs of the other primaries often show a white-marbled pattern. The brown wing-coverts are speckled with white

towards the tip which is not the case in the primary coverts. Only the alula feathers have a white edge or white spots on the proximal parts of the outer web.

The leading edge of the wing, from the alula to nearly the tip of the outermost primary, is white, both from below and above. This character, which is usually clearly visible in flushed birds, can be useful for identification (cf Water Rail and Little Crake). Some photographs show this character well (eg, Falco 1938, Silsby 1980, Houtkamp 1981; plate 165). The underwing-coverts are shiny black-brown with white tips to the under primary coverts and white barring on the greater underwing-coverts and the axillaries as in Water Rail.

Undertail-coverts

An important character of Water Rail and *Porzana* crakes is the coloration of the undertail-coverts which are often well visible because of the erect feathers and the bobbing tail movements in agitated birds. A number of colours cited in the literature, such as rusty-yellow, rusty and rusty-brown-yellow, seem too dark to me. Descriptions, such as dirty white-yellow (Conrad von Baldenstein 1981), creamy-yellow (Nicolai 1982) and more general yellowish (Delin & Svensson 1989), are far more accurate. In fact, the undertail-coverts are brightly coloured and towards the breeding season, before the moult, may even appear white due to abrasion and bleaching. Earlier authors were familiar with this character and, when Schinz (1830) claimed 'pure white', he had either seen a worn individual or one of the rare birds which actually has white feathers. It is, however, questionable whether these uniformly coloured undertail-coverts are indeed 'unmistakable' (Gerber 1944). I have checked this character in 500 Spotted Crakes. Of these, 46 (9%) showed colour deviations. Handbooks and field guides stress that the uniformly coloured undertail-coverts distinguish it from Little or Baillon's Crake which both show black-and-white barring on the undertail-coverts (Wüst 1970, Peterson et al 1984). In most cases, this is true. There are, however, always situations in the field in which a strongly aberrant bird can cause confusion when other characters are seen only briefly.

Although the outer undertail-coverts only rarely show some small dark brown tips, the (larger) inner undertail-coverts may show dark brown to blackish patterns both in the outer and especially obvious in the longer inner undertail-coverts. This pattern often covers the whole row of the inner undertail-coverts, producing black-brown barring (three to five bands) or even black-and-white mottling.

Aberrations without dark patterns include white feathers and one-sidedly white feathers. Among the feathers with a blackish or black-brown pattern, some show longitudinal spots along the shaft or more often towards the tip. One to four more or less wide spots already produce distinct barring when the tail is closed. Black feather-tips and -fringes also occur as well as combinations of feathers which are white on one side and show one of the described patterns on the other side. Among the most conspicuous feathers are those which show four to five wide dark bands on the whitish inner web and a normal colour on the outer web. Completely aberrant are the black-and-white feathers (figure 3) which may confuse the inexperienced observer.

Little Crake

General characters

It is considerably smaller and more elegantly built than Water Rail and Spotted Crake, approaching the size of Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (wing length 99-117 mm). The primary-projection is long, at least 25 mm (cf Baillon's Crake). The upperside is brown with bright brown to yellowish-brown and blackish stripes. Between these, two more or less clear rows of white spots on the dark mantle are present. The undertail-coverts are blackish with dirty white bands. The rear-flanks show inconspicuous washed-out white barring. In males, the sides of the head and underside are grey (except for the rear-flanks). The underside of females is bright sandy to rusty-brown, the flanks show washed-out brown-and-white barring, the throat is whitish, the sides of the head show a grey hue, and the ear-coverts are brownish. The legs in adult birds are green, the bill is yellow-green. Outside the breeding season, the red on the base of the bill (near the gape) is often pale or almost absent and makes this character not only unreliable but may also lead to confusion with Baillon's. The iris is shiny red in adult birds. Juvenile birds show additional white spots on the upperside. The underside is bright whitish to buff with washed-out brownish wave-like bands. These abrade quickly so that the underside as well as the face of juvenile birds soon appear almost white. The iris is olive-greenish and the bill dark

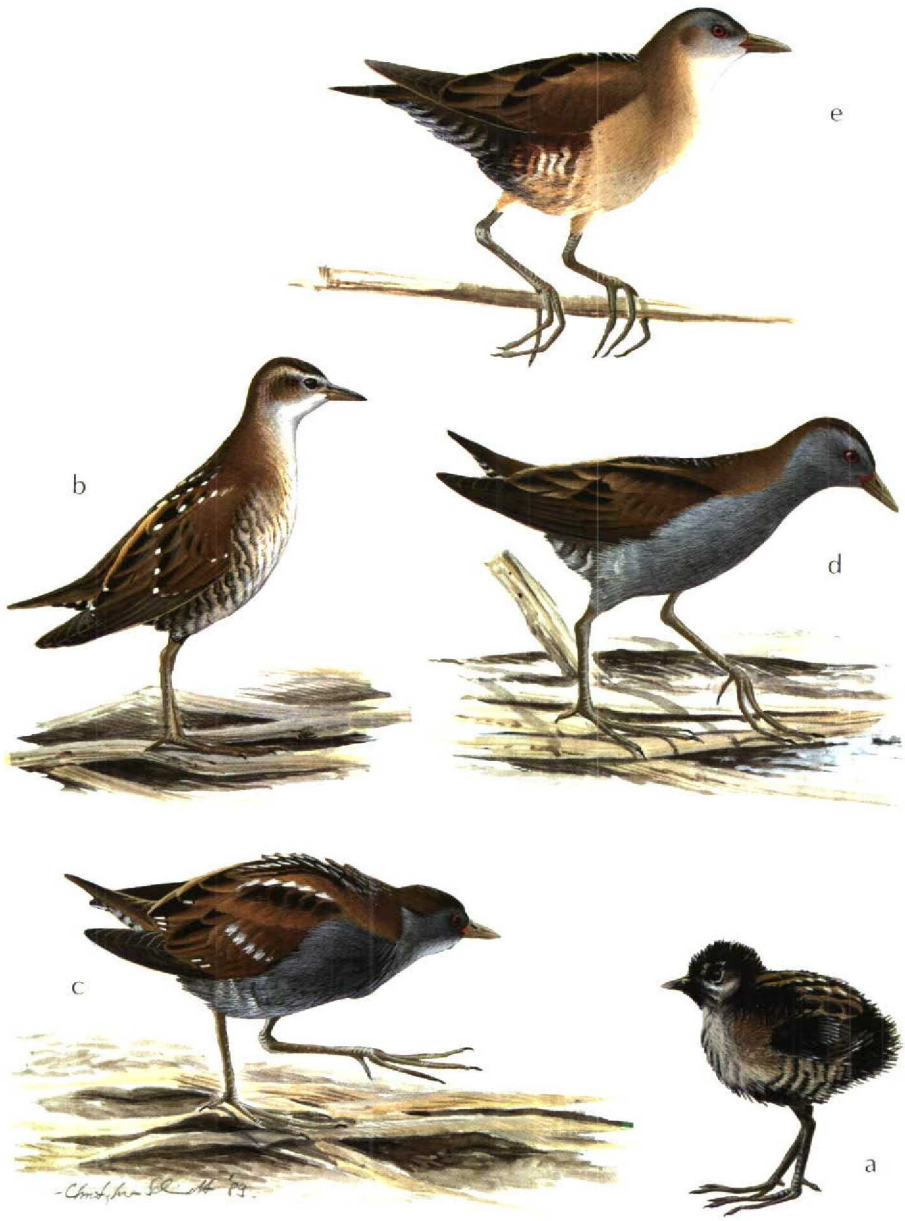
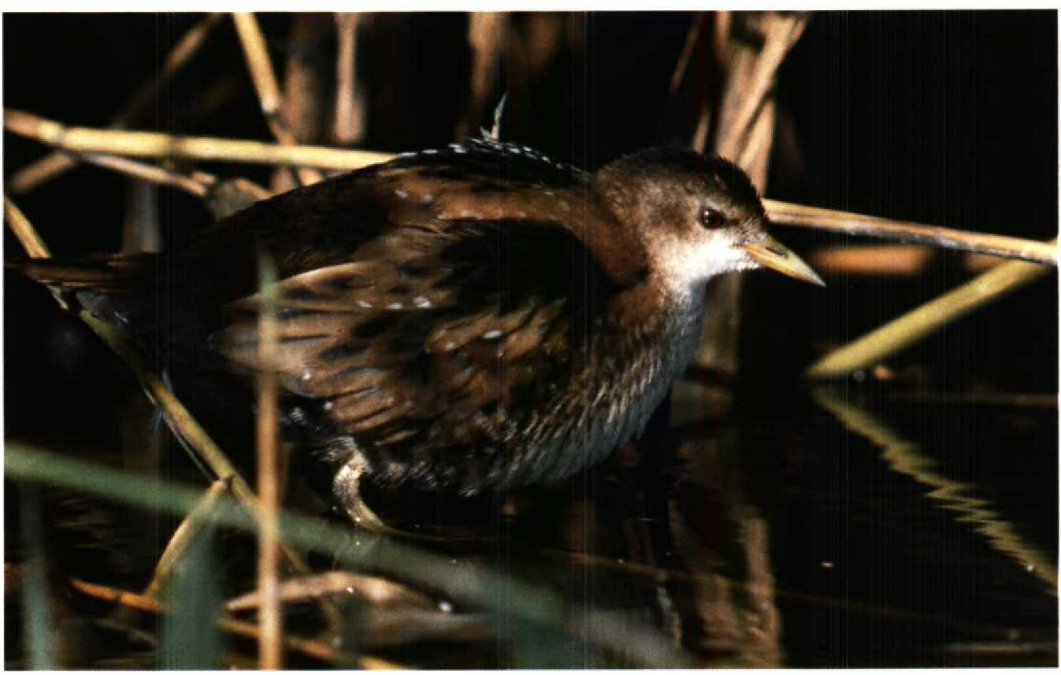


FIGURE 4 Little Crake / Klein Waterhoen *Porzana parva (Christopher Schmidt)*. (a) downy young, 26 days old, in transition from downy young to juvenile, (b) juvenile, (c) first adult plumage of male (winter to first breeding season), (d) adult male, (e) adult female

170 Little Crake / Klein Waterhoen *Porzana parva*, adult female, Neusiedlersee, Austria, 10 July 1987 *(Peter Becker)*

171 Little Crake / Klein Waterhoen *Porzana parva*, juvenile, Eemshaven, Groningen, Netherlands, 5 September 1990 *(Leo J R Boon)*



olive-green. Confusion with juvenile Baillon's is possible. The legs are brownish to pale olive-greenish.

During the awkward fluttering flight (Spotted and Baillon's are more agile), the dangling legs (as in Water Rail) and the brightly coloured stripes on the back are obvious. They readily climb about, which is particularly obvious during spring migration when they can be found in leafless branches overhanging the water.

Juvenile plumage

When c 14 days old, the first contour-feathers appear and, when 40-50 days old, there are no traces left of the black plumage of downy young. The intermediate stages between the plumages of downy young and juvenile birds are shown in Heinroth & Heinroth (1931), Becker (1988) and figure 4a. During this period, the iris colour changes from dark black-grey to olive-green and later, probably from the outside inwards, to bright brown, brown and finally red-brown in adult birds (similar as in Spotted Crake). The tender pink bill of downy young becomes spotted with bright dark spots before it turns completely dark olive-green, subsequently turning to bright horn-coloured and finally dark horn-coloured. The lower mandible (except for the dark tip) is brighter (yellow-green) than the upper mandible. In juvenile birds, the gape may (regularly?) already show some signs of red or orange in autumn. The leg colour changes from dark in downy young, followed by pale olive-brown and finally bright olive-green, similar to Spotted. The feathers on the head and sides of the neck as well as on the underside are dirty white with washed-out brownish bands. The forehead, chin and throat are whitish; the ear-coverts and lores are darker (Becker 1988, O Bondesson in Delin & Svensson 1989: plate 95H). The juvenile plumage is retained longer than in Water Rail and Spotted Crake. During autumn, the grey-brownish feather-tips of the underside abrade readily, the barring on the breast and belly gradually disappears so that the forehead, sides of the head and neck, chin, throat, breast and parts of the belly appear almost uniformly whitish, with minimal grey-brownish hues only on the sides. In the field, the underside appears whitish. The undertail-coverts are brown with dirty white bands, washed-out brownish towards the outer ones. The juvenile plumage appears altogether brighter than in Baillon's Crake.

The upperside of juvenile birds, from the paler forehead towards the tail, is brown, the neck is somewhat brighter. The mantle and back are black-brown with two white parallel rows of indistinct spots on a dark background. The scapulars and wing-coverts are black-brown with wide brown tips and fringes and many round-to-oval white spots near the tip to most wing-coverts, some primary coverts and especially on the tertials (the spotting is irregular and variable). Sometimes, the remiges as well as the alula show rounded white spots as well (cf sketches of feathers in Harengerd 1971 and Glutz von Blotzheim et al 1973: figure 65). The bright brown fringes to the tertials contrast with the dark back (later even stronger due to bleaching) and produce a pale yellow striping which is obvious in flushed birds.

Naumann (1899) and Hartert (1921-22) already mentioned the long wedge-shaped tail. The rectrices are black-brown with a more or less wide bright brown outer web which abrades towards the next breeding season. Shortly before the complete moult, the feathers are worn, pointed and often not brown-fringed. Some fresh-plumaged juvenile birds have white at the tips of the rectrices.

Juvenile birds are present from late June until their departure in autumn as late as October (Koenig 1943, misidentified as Baillon's; cf Bauer 1960, Harengerd 1971).

First-winter plumage

The juvenile feathers of the underside and most of the upperside are (partly?) replaced in November-March. The wintering and moulting areas are largely unknown. During the post-juvenile moult, the brightly coloured juvenile plumage is replaced by the first-winter plumage (figure 4c). Males and females are now distinct (cf photographs in König 1967: 144). In males, the forehead, sides of the head, neck, breast and belly are grey, the chin is somewhat brighter. The rear-flanks and undertail-coverts are washed-out black with variably patterned white barring, the outer undertail-coverts show a brownish hue. In females, the throat is white, the sides of the head are bright grey, the ear-coverts more brownish. There are no dark lores as sometimes suggested (eg, colour plate in Schwarz & Sutter 1960). The breast and belly are cream to bright sandy, sometimes with a rusty hue. The flanks are brownish with dirty dark grey and whitish washed-out barring. The undertail-coverts are as in males, on the whole somewhat more brownish. The rest of the plumage is similar to that of males.

Not all the feathers of the upperside are replaced during the post-juvenile moult so that the first-

winter plumage of males and females can be recognized by the presence of some retained juvenile feathers with white spots (the scapulars and wing-coverts). Furthermore, first-winter males have less red on the bill and first-winter females are not as grey on the sides of the head which is, however, only rarely well visible.

The black-brown primaries and rectrices turn brown towards spring and get heavily worn towards the breeding season because the birds often climb about in the vegetation, using the wings to balance themselves in the swinging reed-bed.

In both males and females, the bill is bright green, yellowish towards the tip and with more or less intense red in the gape which in older birds may reach the nostril or extend towards the culmen at the base (it is, however, never swollen as in Spotted Crake). In males, the bill is more vividly coloured than in females. Early in spring, some first-winter males may show that little red (or none at all) at the gape (Mewes 1858) that they may easily be mistaken for a Baillon's Crake without any red on the bill, especially since first-winter males also have some white-spotted feathers on the upperside.

The iris as well as the orbital ring become bright red. The olive-green legs change to yellow-green with some blue-green hues at the knee and ankle.

During the breeding season, it is temporary flightless because of a complete moult in which all the feathers are replaced. Some body-feathers of breeding birds are shed by late May, the remiges and rectrices not until the young have fledged. The birds at the northern edge of the breeding range, which breed only once, moult in July. In the Neusiedlersee area, Austria, the birds breeding late (second broods) start to moult the body-feathers in July and complete the moult of the remiges and rectrices in August-September or even later. The moult of non-breeders has not yet been studied.

Adult plumage

After the first complete moult in summer-autumn of the second calendar-year, ie, after the first breeding season, the birds acquire the adult plumage which does not differ significantly from the first-winter plumage in both males and females. The feathers of the breast and belly are delicately tipped whitish, making the underside appear brighter; however, not with such conspicuous wave-like bands as depicted in Cramp & Simmons (1980: plate 63). The white-spotted feathers in the wings and scapulars are now lacking (except for the brightly coloured double row of fine spots on the dark back which is visible in each plumage but which becomes less obvious through abrasion and which may disappear altogether towards spring). Furthermore, the whitish mottling disappears on the underside of males, leaving them uniformly grey (figure 4d) (except for the more or less black-banded rear-flanks; cf sketches in Glutz von Blotzheim et al 1973: figure 67). The brightly coloured fringes to the grey head-feathers abrade, making the grey area on the head larger than in the first-winter plumage. In females, the face can be grey (the ear-coverts, however, remain brownish) and in older birds the throat may also be grey. In males, the grey gets wider on the forehead and the region above the eye. The colour morph described by Dittberner & Dittberner (1985: 'forehead and crown grey-blue') may have been a old male. The differences in the pattern of grey on the head as well as in the brown hues on the underside of females are probably not only age-related but also reflect the variability which is commonly found in the larger populations. As in Water Rail, the upperpart coloration is highly variable; it ranges from bright olive-brown to brown and pale rusty-brown. These colour morphs, however, which may dominate in a particular area, do not justify the distinction of subspecies (Gawrilenko 1926, Kleinschmidt 1935).

In adult birds, the fringes to the tertials bleach to pale yellow in spring-summer (Dittberner & Dittberner 1985) and contrast with the black upperside, making the character of the brightly coloured stripes on the upperside obvious in flushed birds (together with the uncertain flight with the dangling legs) (figure 7d).

The gleaming underwing-coverts and axillaries are brownish to ashy-grey without any white patterning. The outer web of the outer primary sometimes shows a white edge or mottling which has already been described in Naumann (1899). In the field, however, this is not at all conspicuous (cf Spotted and Baillon's Crakes). This pattern is highly variable in Little and Baillon's Crakes and can not be used as a distinguishing character as suggested by Gerber (1952). Some variation in this white pattern was illustrated by Rokitansky (1953). Unfortunately, the sketches by März (1969) have not been corrected by K Banz (März 1987). A 'true to life' figure was given in Gerber (1952). Harengerd (1971) published a photograph of a first-winter bird with white on the outer web of the outer primary.

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172 Little Crake / Klein Waterhoen *Porzana parva*, adult male, Neusiedlersee, Austria, 18 July 1987 *(Peter Becker)*

173 Little Crake / Klein Waterhoen *Porzana parva*, adult female, Neusiedlersee, Austria, 11 July 1987 *(Peter Becker)*

174 Little Crake / Klein Waterhoen *Porzana parva*, juvenile, 36 days old, Steinhuder Meer, Niedersachsen, Germany, 2 July 1966 *(Peter Becker)*

175 Little Crake / Klein Waterhoen *Porzana parva*, juvenile, Eilat, Israel, 18 November 1990 *(Koen van Dijken)*

176 Little Crake / Klein Waterhoen *Porzana parva*, adult female, Steinhuder Meer, Niedersachsen, Germany, 5 June 1966 *(Peter Becker)*

177 Little Crake / Klein Waterhoen *Porzana parva*, adult female, Neusiedlersee, Austria, 17 July 1987 *(W Huber)*

178 Little Crake / Klein Waterhoen *Porzana parva*, adult female, Neusiedlersee, Austria, 3 July 1992 *(Peter Becker)*

Baillon's Crake [1]

General characters

It is hardly smaller than Little Crake, only in direct comparison the size difference is visible (wing length 85-100 mm). In all plumages, the short primary-projection (due to the long tertials) is the best character to separate it from Little, which has a long primary-projection. In the closed wing, the primary-projection is only 10-15 mm (and usually less). Only two to three primary-tips are visible (in Little, the primary-projection is at least 25 mm and at least five primary-tips are visible). Even at longer ranges, the long wing-tip is visible in Little, in Baillon's Crake hardly any wing-tip is visible. Note, however, that Spotted Crake also has a short primary-projection. When the longest tertials are missing, which is exceptional because they are moulted simultaneously to the primaries, more primary-tips are of course visible (Dutch Birding 11: 135, plate 87, 1989). See sketches in Niethammer (1942), Zimmer & Rensch (1928) and März (1969, 1987) and photographs of Little in Bauer (1960), König (1967), Harengerd (1971), Dittberner & Dittberner (1985) and Delin & Svensson (1989) and of Baillon's in Becker (1982b), Box (1986), Delin & Svensson (1989), Königstedt & Langbehn (1989); see also figure 5.

The tail is also short and, since it only rarely stretches the neck, Baillon's appears more thick-set than Little. The appearance is more like that of a Spotted and likewise it often flicks the tail.

The upperside is nut- to rusty-brown (paler brown in Little) with black longitudinal spots and many white speckles, points, branched stripes and rings outlined by black on the back and wings, contrasting but only visible at close range. The crown is brown, the feathers with a black shaft-streak, the neck and sides of the neck are brighter, the feathers without a black shaft-streak. The underside is grey, the flanks and undertail-coverts are clearly banded black-and-white. This pattern almost reaches the middle of the belly and is, therefore, more conspicuous than in male Little which also has a grey underside. Males and females are hardly distinguishable. The bill is grass-green, never showing red at the base (cf Little Crake); the iris is red and the legs are pale olive-green to olive-brownish.

The upperside of juvenile birds is as in adult birds, also with (sex- and age-related?) variation in the coloration and extent of the speckling. The

[1] Please remember that the English species name has to be pronounced in French (like, eg, Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*), as Baillon's Crake was named after the French natural history collector and dealer Louis Antoine François Baillon (1778-1855) in 1819 (but already discovered and described in 1776 by the German ornithologist Peter Simon Pallas).

FIGURE 5 Baillon's Crake / Kleinst Waterhoen *Porzana pusilla (Christopher Schmidt)*. (a) downy young, c 25 days old, in transition from downy young to juvenile, (b) juvenile, (c) adult, (d) adult, variation showing brown on ear-coverts and flanks

179 Baillon's Crake / Kleinst Waterhoen *Porzana pusilla*, juvenile, Wierthe, Niedersachsen, Germany, 8 September 1966 *(Peter Rosemeyer)*

180 Baillon's Crake / Kleinst Waterhoen *Porzana pusilla*, juvenile, Düpen near Wolfsburg, Niedersachsen, Germany, 7 September 1981 *(Peter Becker)*. Note fine white spots

181 Baillon's Crake / Kleinst Waterhoen *Porzana pusilla*, adult male, Wülfel near Hannover, Niedersachsen, Germany, 17 June 1961 *(Peter Becker)*

underside is washed-out brownish-grey, the flanks and undertail-coverts are more clearly banded than in juvenile Little and darker. Juvenile Little also has a brighter upperside than juvenile Baillon's. Without direct comparison, inexperienced observers will certainly have problems. The longer (Little) or shorter (Baillon's) primary-projection should, therefore, always be checked. The iris, leg and bill colours of juvenile Little and Baillon's are not or only rarely slightly different. The legs are brownish-grey or bright olive-brown, the bill is horn-coloured and the iris olive-green to brownish (for details, see below).

In flight, it is as agile as Spotted and neither 'unwieldy' nor 'slow' as Ilicev & Flint (1989) claimed. When flushed, it immediately swoops down again elegantly into the sedges, looking small and dark. A brightly coloured leading edge to the wing, which is still given as a character in handbooks and field guides, is not at all obvious in the field since the white marginal wing-coverts are found on the underside of the wing (in contrast with Spotted, figure 2). The whitish edge to the outer web of the outermost primary (sometimes absent) and the distal alula feather are too narrow to be seen in flushed birds (plates 179-180). In checking this character in 40-50 flushed Baillon's, I never observed a white leading edge to the wing. Claims of Baillon's based solely on this criterion should be rejected or assigned to Spotted (eg, Müller 1939, Jacoby et al 1970).

The speckling on the upperside is not as obvious in flushed birds as the bright stripes in Little. Even when concentrating on these characters and after repeated flushing, which is always to be condemned, the green bill and the red iris are only rarely visible.

Juvenile plumage

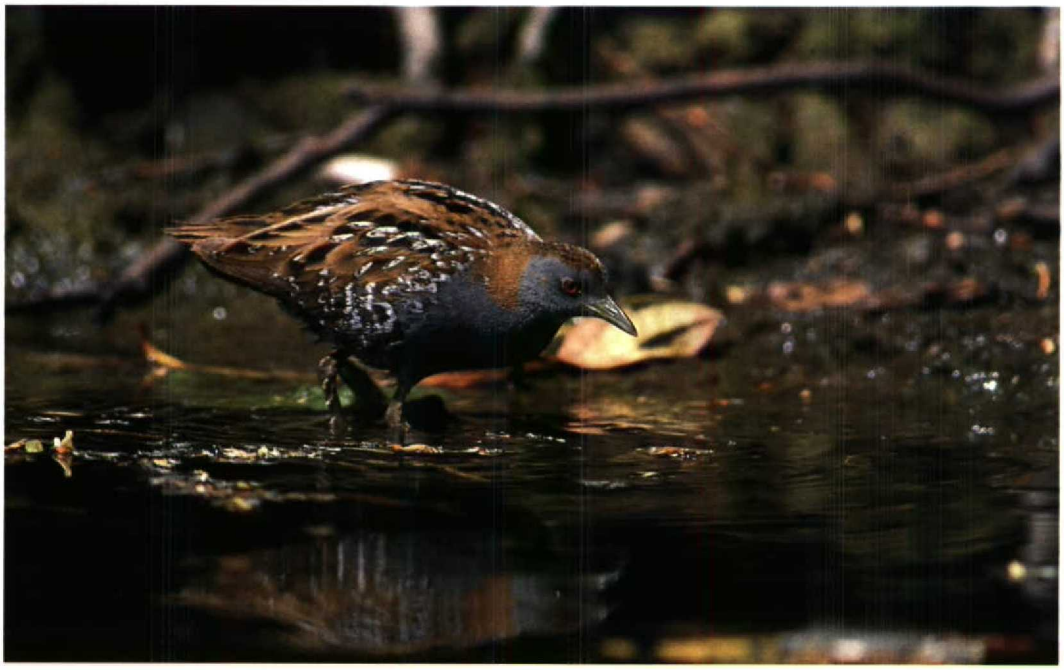
Since it is among the latest migrants to return to

182 Baillon's Crake / Kleinst Waterhoen *Porzana pusilla*, adult, Eilat, Israel, 14 March 1993 *(Leo J R Boon)*

183 Baillon's Crake / Kleinst Waterhoen *Porzana pusilla*, adult, Beidahe, China, May 1993 *(David Tipling/Windrush)*. Note that this bird belongs to the subspecies *P p pusilla*

184 Baillon's Crake / Kleinst Waterhoen *Porzana pusilla*, adult female bathing, Baddeckenstedt, Niedersachsen, Germany, 9 June 1976 *(Peter Becker)*

185 Baillon's Crake / Kleinst Waterhoen *Porzana pusilla*, adult, Sunderland, Durham, England, May 1989 *(David Tipling/Windrush)*.



central Europe (from mid-May), it only has time to breed once, usually in June-July.

The transition from the black downy to the juvenile plumage (figure 5a) is more or less similar to that in Little Crake. The same applies to the development of the iris, bill and leg colours. At this stage, birds are easily misidentified as Little. The bill, however, never shows any red. The upper mandible and tip are dark horn-coloured, the lower mandible is brownish-yellow up to the middle, later turning completely greenish. The legs are not as greenish as in Little but rather bright brownish to greyish-flesh (rarely visible in the field). The iris colour is changing from nearly black to olive-brown, greyish around the pupil and more brownish at the edge, later turning bright brown. Good photographs of juvenile birds were published in Schaftenaar (1984) and Box (1986).

The head and sides of the neck show a washed-out bright brownish pattern, the ear-coverts are somewhat darker. The chin and throat are whitish, the breast is bright brownish with a washed-out dark brown wave-like pattern. The belly is whitish with clear brown transverse waves, the flanks and undertail-coverts are black-brown with whitish bands and dirty mottling. The overall coloration is darker than in Little. The centre of the forehead and crown show black-brown feathers with a wide rusty-brown fringe, the neck is brighter, the feathers on the side of the neck are brighter brown without a blackish shaft-streak. The back is black-brown, the feathers with a rusty-brown fringe and white stripes and spots (many of which also show some black), forming rows of spots on the back together with white on the scapulars (cf photographs in Delin & Svensson 1989; figure 5b).

The leading edge to the wing is uniformly brown without any white (cf Water Rail). The tips to the greater and median wing-coverts, tertials (darker than in Little) and scapulars are warm rusty to olive-brown with numerous irregular white spots, speckles and stripes outlined by black (highly variable as in adult birds). The white spots show a blackish centre which is not found in Little. This pattern is only rarely mentioned (Naumann 1899, Conrad von Baldenstein 1981). Whether this character is reliable and useful in the field should be checked. The black-brown secondaries and more rarely the primaries often have white spots near the tip. For other characters, see the adult plumage.

First-winter plumage

It seems to moult the juvenile plumage earlier than Little Crake, already before it migrates in August or in the wintering area (although there are only few reliable data). The first-winter plumage is almost the same in males and females. The upperside has less spots and stripes than in the juvenile plumage. The underside of both males and females is now grey. The flanks and the undertail-coverts are blackish with white bands which are more or less pronounced but always more contrasting and extending further onto the belly than in Little. The narrow bright brown fringes to the fresh feathers of the underside soon abrade. Towards the next breeding season, the upperside gets darker through the abrasion of brownish feather-fringes and some white feather-tips as well as more contrasting due to the remaining white spots. Young females now show even more white on the chin and throat than first-winter males.

Both males and females now have a bright red iris and a yellow orbital ring which can be more conspicuous and sometimes slightly swollen in males (Szabó 1970). During the breeding season, the bill is grass-green, with the culmen and tip somewhat darker, always without red. The legs are pale olive-green to olive-brownish (for details, see the introductory section on the bare parts).

Adult plumage

The adult plumage is acquired during (or sometimes after?) the breeding season after a complete moult during which it is also flightless. The moult, especially of unpaired birds, is largely unknown. By late July, I still found males which had not yet moulted. Although the fresh adult plumage is similar to the first-winter plumage, it becomes even more beautiful and contrasting due to abrasion in the wintering area. Females retain a white chin and are, therefore, under favourable conditions distinguishable from males with the more intense uniformly grey underside from the chin to the flanks. The rest of the plumage and the size are basically the same in both males and females. It may be that males are more contrastingly coloured but this needs to be checked. The amount of variation in the brown coloration and the white pattern on the upperside as well as in the black-and-white pattern on the flanks and the undertail-coverts is considerable although seemingly not sex- or age-related. It does, however, allow individual recognition in the field.

I could not confirm the sex-related plumage differences recorded by Niethammer (1942), who claimed a brown speckling behind the eye in females, and by Szabó (1970), who observed a (presumably older) female with brown in front of and behind the eye. Of the 25 adult Baillon's Crakes (16 males and nine females) I checked, only one male showed brown on the ear-coverts. All other males and females had grey sides of the head, ie, the same colour as that of the underside. Another male showed brown bands on the flanks apart from the black-and-white bands. Both variations, brown on the ear-coverts and on the flanks, are combined in figure 5d. This aberrant brown coloration may be age-related or possibly just a colour variation; it is, however, certainly not sex-related. Unfortunately, Szabó's exceptional find went down into field guides as a character of females (eg, Jonsson 1978, 1992). Glayre & Magnenat (1977) also observed two slightly different plumages in a breeding pair which could be observed at close range.

The white outer web of the outer primary has already been mentioned in the description of Little. For variations in this white pattern, see Rokitansky (1953). This 'character' is of no use in the field since the white is too inconspicuous and sometimes lacks altogether. The outer web of the larger alula feathers may also show a narrow white edge or white speckling which is, however, not obvious in flying birds. Unfortunately, Ilicev & Flint (1989) introduced yet another mistake by stating that the 'shaft of the first primary' is 'white'.

The tail has 10 rectrices (sometimes 12, Hansen & Oelke 1973). It is rounded and black-brown in all plumages. The fresh rectrices show a rusty- to olive-brown fringe which abrades more or less during winter. The outer webs of the outermost rectrices sometimes show white spots which can be outlined by black.

The remiges bleach during winter and turn brown. The underwing-coverts and axillaries, which have a silky gloss as in the other species, are grey- to black-brown with white spots near the tips (the under primary coverts) and faint white cross-barring (on the underwing-coverts and axillaries) in which the white spots and streaks are outlined by black. The barring on the underwing is not as conspicuous as in Water Rail and Spotted Crake and may even lack, reducing the white pattern to the feather-tips. The marginal underwing-coverts are white.

Sora Crake

This Nearctic crake is a vagrant in Europe, with 12 records in Great Britain up to and including 1993 (Rogers & Rarities Committee 1992), three in Sweden, one in France and one in Spain (Lewington et al 1991) (for records of ship-assisted birds, see von Jordans & Niethammer 1957 and Weber 1973). More precise plumage descriptions can be found in Ripley (1977), Cramp & Simmons (1980) and Roberts (1984). The separation from other *Porzana* crakes was discussed by Wallace (1976), Roberts (1984) and Lewington et al (1991). Good colour photographs of adult birds were published by Rogers & Rarities Committee (1986), Gulin (1987) and Kaufmann (1988).

Juvenile plumage

The upperside is as in adult birds, the crown and neck are somewhat brighter. The sides of the head are dirty white, the ear-coverts brownish. The grey underside and the black face of adult birds are still lacking. The chin and throat are whitish, the sides of the neck, breast and upper belly are buff-brown without white spots, the belly is whitish. The flanks are olive-brown with white barring, not yet as contrasting as in adult birds. The iris is olive-green and the bill bright brownish, the culmen dark horn-coloured, the lower mandible brighter. The legs are bright brownish to flesh-coloured. This plumage is easily misidentified as the brightly coloured juvenile plumage of Spotted Crake; however, it lacks the white speckling on the head, neck, throat and breast.

The post-juvenile moult takes place in summer-autumn (descriptions in Wallace 1976 and Roberts 1984). As in Spotted, the feathers of the underside and (some of?) the upperside are now replaced. The fresh grey and black feathers of the underside and head still show a brightly coloured fringe (Cramp & Simmons 1980) which abrades during winter so that in spring birds start to breed in a plumage similar to that of adult birds. Juvenile and adult birds are depicted in figure 6. As in Spotted, older birds may be distinguished from first-winter birds by the more contrasting plumage, especially on the head.

Adult plumage

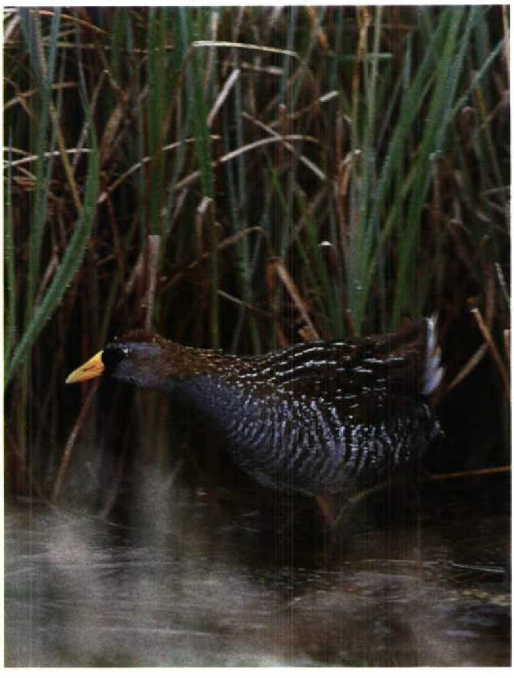
It is similar to Spotted Crake but somewhat smaller. The black face is characteristic; the forehead, lores, chin, sometimes throat and throat stripe extending onto the breast are black. The ear-coverts are brown, the rest of the sides of the

FIGURE 6 Sora Crake / Soraral *Porzana carolina (Christopher Schmidt)*. (a) juvenile, (b) adult

head, above the eye as well, sides of the neck, throat, breast and belly are grey without any spots, the vent is whitish. A small triangular white spot is present behind the orbital ring (figure 6b). The flanks show conspicuous narrow bands of white, olive-brown and black. The undertail-coverts are whitish, fading laterally towards pale yellow, brighter than in Spotted. The crown is dark brown, towards the neck brighter brown to olive-brown without a white speckling. The mantle and scapulars are olive-brown with black spots (the feather-centres blackish), the white feather-fringes are more delicate and narrow, not as obvious as in Spotted. The back, rump and tail are black-brown as in Spotted but with fewer white spots. The wings

186 Sora Crake / Soraral *Porzana carolina*, first-winter, St Mary's, Scilly, England, October 1991 *(David Tipling/Windrush)*

187 Sora Crake / Soraral *Porzana carolina*, first-winter, St Mary's, Scilly, England, October 1991 *(David Tipling/Windrush)*



188 Sora Crake / Soraral *Porzana carolina*, adult, Churchill, Manitoba, Canada, June 1993 *(Piet Munsterman)*

are dark brown with narrow white fringes only to the secondaries, tertials and coverts, not as contrasting as in Spotted. The brown fringes to the tertials are not as bright as in Spotted. The edge to the outer web of the outermost primary and alula are whitish. The whitish leading edge to the wing is not as conspicuous as in Spotted.

The powerful bill is yellow, somewhat grey-greenish towards the tip, with the base of the upper mandible swollen during the breeding season; however, never with any red or orange as in Spotted. The iris is brown to red-brown. The legs and toes are green to yellow-green. Females have a less contrasting pattern on the head, showing less black.

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Samenvatting

HERKENNING VAN WATERRAL AND *PORZANA*-RALLEN IN EUROPA De kenmerken en verenkleden van vijf kleine ralachtigen, de in Europa broedende Waterral *Rallus aquaticus*, Porseleinhoen *Porzana porzana*, Klein Waterhoen *P parva* en Kleinst Waterhoen *P pusilla*, en de als dwaalgast voorkomende Soraral *P carolina*, worden gedetailleerd beschreven en afgebeeld. De algemene beschrijvingen van de soorten worden gevolgd door kenmerken van de vier te onderscheiden kleden: donsjong, juveniel, eerste-winter en adult. Enkele belangrijke fouten en tekortkomingen in recente veldgidsen en handboeken worden genoemd. Enige nadruk wordt gelegd op de kleuren van de naakte delen die belangrijk kunnen zijn bij het herkennen van de donsjongen en tot verwarring hebben geleid met betrekking tot adulte vogels. De helderheid van het licht beïnvloedt het samentrekken en daarmee de kleur van de iris; bleken door de zon, temperatuur (door wisselende doorbloeding) en watersamenstelling kunnen van invloed zijn op de kleur van de naakte delen met

FIGURE 7 Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* and *Porzana* crakes in flight *(Christopher Schmidt)*. (a) Water Rail / Waterral, (b) Water Rail / Waterral with white spots on wing-coverts, (c) Spotted Crake / Porseleinhoen *P porzana*, (d) Little Crake / Klein Waterhoen *P parva*, (e) Baillon's Crake / Kleinst Waterhoen *P pusilla*, adult male. For comparison: (f) Corncrake / Kwartelkoning *Crex crex*, (g) Quail / Kwartel *Coturnix coturnix*

opvallende variaties als gevolg. De pootkleur van Kleinst Waterhoen, vaak beschreven als roze of vleeskleurig, is in feite groenachtig.

Bij Waterral kunnen de witte strepen op de vleugeldekveren en zelfs op de slagpennen samen met de zeer variabele onderstaartdekveren verwarring veroorzaken met de *Porzana*-soorten. Ook bij Porseleinhoen komen veel (zeldzame) variaties in de onderstaartdekveren voor, variërend van zwarte veertoppen tot vrijwel volledig zwart-witte bandering. De witte vleugelvoorrand die vaak als karakteristiek voor Kleinst Waterhoen wordt genoemd, is in feite typisch voor Porseleinhoen en sommige Waterrallen. Witachtige veerzomen aan de tertials zijn, vooral bij het opvliegen, een belangrijk kenmerk van Klein Waterhoen. Het voornaamste kenmerk om Klein en Kleinst Waterhoen in ieder kleed te onderscheiden is de structuur van de vleugel (handpenprojectie veel korter in Kleinst Waterhoen).

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Aankondigingen & verzoeken

Records and photographs of 'soft-plumaged petrels' As part of an analysis of records of the various forms of 'soft-plumaged petrel' *Pterodroma feae/deserta/madeira/mollis*, Jon King, Tony Marr and Andy Swash would like to receive information on any records of these forms in the North Atlantic. Information should include date, place, time, number of individuals, probable taxon involved and, if possible, a plumage description and information on weather conditions at the time. As part of the same study, photographs (of any quality) of the following *Pterodroma* taxa would be greatly appreciated for reference use and possible subsequent publication: all forms in the 'soft-plumaged petrel' group (those listed above, plus all southern forms of *P mollis*), Herald *P arminjoniana*, Bermuda *P cahow*, Black-capped *P hasitata* and Atlantic Petrels *P incerta*. When sending records and/or photographs, please indicate whether they can be used for future publication; any use of such material will be fully acknowledged. If at all possible, please reply by 31 January 1996 to: Jon King, Edward Grey Institute, Department of Zoology, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS, UK; e-mail: arroyo@vax.ox.ac.uk).

DBA-nieuws

Betaling van abonnementsgeld voor 1996 Bij dit nummer van Dutch Birding treft U een acceptgirokaart aan waarmee het abonnementsgeld voor 1996 kan worden betaald. Gelukkig hoeft de abonnementsprijs dit jaar niet verhoogd te worden. De abonnementsprijs blijft NLG 57.50. Wij verzoeken u dit bedrag voor 1 februari 1996 over te maken. In verband met de kosten die verbonden zijn aan het versturen van herinneringen en aanmaningen zal voor latere betalers NLG 5.00 extra in rekening worden gebracht. Ook voor Belgische abonnees zal het abonnementsgeld niet verhoogd worden. Zij blijven BEF 1250 betalen.

Voorts verzoeken wij u om voor alle abonnementszaken het speciale adres van de abonnementenadministratie te gebruiken: Dutch Birding Association, p/a Anja Nusse, Symfoniestraat 21, 1312 ET Almere, Nederland.

Payment of subscription for 1996 We request our subscribers to pay their subscription rate for 1996 as soon as possible. The subscription rate will remain unchanged for subscribers in continental Europe (NLG 65.00) and subscribers outside Europe (NLG 70.00). For British and Irish subscribers, there will be a slight increase in the subscription rate, which has now been set at GBP 25.00. We kindly request to follow the instructions on the enclosed invoice. Please do not pay by bank (NLG 20.00 extra costs), cheque (NLG 20.00 extra costs) or giro (NLG 6.50 extra costs). Preferably use **Eurocheques**, payable in Dutch guilders, as this will cause no extra costs. Payment may also be made by credit card (Access, Eurocard, MasterCard or Visa). Please state account number and expiry date and append signature. (Note: This method of payment is not applicable to subscribers resident in the Netherlands and Belgium.) British and Irish subscribers can pay by Sterling cheque (GBP 25.00) or Eurocheque (GBP 25.00 or NLG 65.00). Subscribers who will not have paid by 1 February 1996 will be charged NLG 5.00 extra. For all subscription matters, please use the special subscription administration address: Dutch Birding Association, c/o Anja Nusse, Symfoniestraat 21, 1312 ET Almere, Netherlands.

Telefoonnummers beheerder Dutch Birding-vogellijn Hieronder volgen enkele nuttige telefoonnummers met korte toelichting voor gebruikers van de Dutch Birding-vogellijn (06-32032128; 50 cpm) en de Dutch Birding-inspreeklijn (078-6180935) en voor semafoonbezitters. Indien de inspreeklijn niet bereikbaar is, bijvoorbeeld door een storing in het systeem, fungeert het privénummer van beheerder Remco Hofland als inspreeklijn; dit nummer is 071-5212436. Voor zover mogelijk luistert Remco elke twee uur de ingekomen berichten op de inspreeklijn(en) af. Tussen het tijdstip van de ontdekking van een soort en het tijdstip waarop heel vogelend Nederland daarvan op de hoogte is kunnen dus enkele uren zitten. De mobiele telefoon van Remco (06-52707210) is in principe alleen bedoeld om vanuit het veld de berichten op de vogellijn te kunnen veranderen, dus niet voor sociaal verkeer. Alleen in zeer dringende gevallen kan het wenselijk zijn om te proberen Remco via dit nummer te bereiken. Probeer echter altijd eerst aanvullende informatie via de vogellijn te verkrijgen (onder 'actuele waarnemingen' of onder 'semafoonberichten'). Het automatisch overzetten door onze computer van semafoonberichten naar alle semafoongroepen ('piepergroepen'; inmiddels zijn dat er vier) blijkt de achilleshiel van het systeem te zijn. Er wordt nog steeds gewerkt aan de vervolmaking ervan

maar tot nu toe is Remco, nadat hij eerst de vogellijn heeft ingesproken, nog vaak genoodzaakt veel handelingen te verrichten om alle piepergroepen te bedienen. In tijden van hoogspanning is het onvermijdelijk dat de beheerder keuzes moet maken bij zijn service aan de piepergroepen.

De aanvullende informatie die men kan inspreken na het doorgeven van een semafoonbericht via de computer is voor iedereen die de semafoonberichten afluistert te horen, dus niet alleen voor de beheerder. Probeer in de korte tijd die u heeft het tijdstip van inspreken te noemen en, indien mogelijk, aanwijzingen te geven hoe de vogel op de meest verantwoorde wijze te twitchen is.

Als alles perfect functioneert kan deze service van de DBA zowel voor vogelaars met als voor vogelaars zonder semafoon heel interessant zijn. Voor niets gaat alleen de zon op; dus ook de DBA beraadt zich op dit moment op de vraag hoe de gemaakte kosten te verhalen zijn op de diverse gebruikers. GIJS VAN DER BENT

WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic in **August-October 1995** and focuses on north-western Europe. Information covering earlier reports is included as well. Many August reports were dealt with in the previous review. Additional October reports will be included in the next review. Some records of species outside the WP are also mentioned. The reports are largely unchecked and their publication here does not imply future acceptance by the rarities committee of the relevant country.

A first-summer **White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii* remained on Fetlar, Shetland, Scotland, from 17 July into October. An adult **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* and a hybrid Pied-billed x Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* were reported again at Stithians Reservoir, Cornwall, England. In Ireland, a **Black-browed Albatross** *Diomedea melanophris* was seen on a pelagic trip 4 km south-west of Cape Clear, Cork, on 9 September and another off Malin Head, Donegal, on 11 September. Two albatrosses were also reported from Norway. On 6 August, three **soft-plumaged petrels** *Pterodroma feae/deserta/madeira/mollis* were seen within Azores waters, 270-300 km off the easternmost point of the archipelago (cf Dutch Birding 17: 76, 1995). On 13 August, two **Bulwer's Petrels** *Bulweria bulwerii* were photographed within Portuguese waters, at 38:44 N 11:50 W and 38:45 N 11:46 W. The first for the Netherlands was photographed at Maasvlakte, Zuidholland, on 21 August (Birding World 8: 333, 1995; Dutch Birding 17: 172, 175, 180, 1995). On 5 August, two **Little Shearwaters** *Puffinus assimilis* flew 220 km west of Aveiro, Portugal. There are serious questions about the validity of the **Mascarene Shearwater** *P atrodorsalis*, the recently described species from the western Indian Ocean (Birding World 7: 274-278, 1994; Bull Br Ornithol Club 115: 75-87, 1995), and it has even been suggested that, in fact, the juvenile bird at Eilat, Israel, on 18-21 June 1992 may have concerned *P lherminieri bailloni*, the subspecies of Audubon's Shearwater breeding on Mauritius, Réunion and Seychelles (for additional disagreements, see Sea Swallow 44: 60, 1995). In Germany, a **White-faced Storm-petrel** *Pelagodroma marina* was seen by four observers from the ferry between Helgoland and Cuxhaven, Schleswig-Holstein, on 7 October. A **Wilson's Storm-petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus* off St Ives, Cornwall, on 24 September was the first land-based English sighting for nine years. Single adult **White Pelicans** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* were reported at Samoklesi fish-ponds, Poland, on 20 June, at Sait-Jean-de-Luz, Pyrénées-Atlantiques, France, on 4 August, at Orbetello, Toscana, Italy, on 7-8 August and a juvenile at the Tagus estuary, Portugal, on 21 August. A **frigatebird** *Fregata* flew off Holyhead, Dun Laoghire ferry, Ireland, on 3 September.

In October, a **Western Reef Egret** *Egretta gularis* was seen again in the Ebro delta, Catalonia, Spain. In the Sinai, Egypt, a juvenile **Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis* stayed from 13 August until at least 3 September at the sewage ponds of Sharm-el-Sheikh in a group of up to 2000 White Storks *Ciconia ciconia* (much further north than usual). The fourth record of **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* for Finland concerned a flock of up to 39 at Liminka on 14-21 September. Also during September, a flock of up to 20 was staying in the Ebro delta. The fifth for the Canary Islands was present at Maspalomas, Gran Canaria, on 7-8 October and one in Ireland on 28 October. The eighth **Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia* for Finland and the first twitchable since 1979 was seen at Hailuoto between 6 and 19 August. The **Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber roseus* colony in the Ebro delta produced 1297 surviving young in 1995 and is now the only one in Spain and the second largest in Europe after that of the Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, France. In the Netherlands, a flock of 18 **Lesser White-fronted Geese** *Anser erythropus* had arrived near Anjum, Friesland, on 21 October. In the morning of 21 October, a **Ross's Goose** *A rossii* in a large flock of Barnacle Geese *Branta leucopsis* landed for 45 min in a meadow at Ottenby, Öland, Sweden, before continuing its flight in southern direction, probably to its winter quarters in the Netherlands (cf Birding World 8: 239, 1995). In Sep-

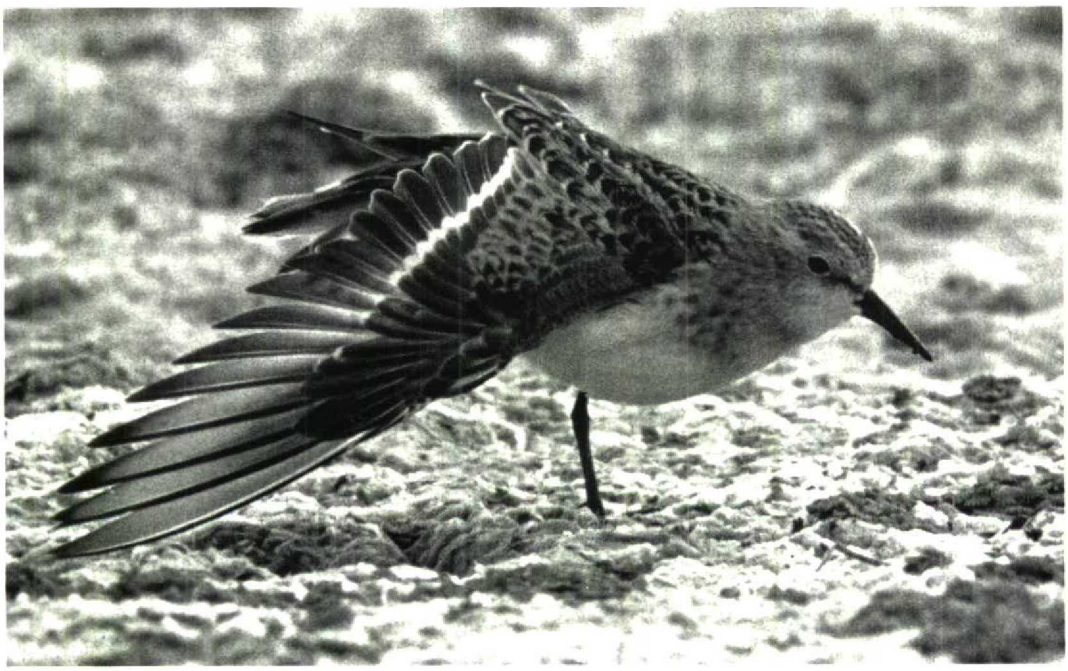
tember, the male **Black Duck** *Anas rubripes* on Tresco, Scilly, England, stayed for its 18th consecutive month; a female was seen at Lissagriffin, Cork, on 6-18 September. A **Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis* at Getterön, Halland, on 17 May 1994 and a **Black Scoter** *Melanitta americana* at Segerstad, Öland, have recently been accepted as firsts for Sweden.

On 15 August, a juvenile **Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* was seen at Sharm-el-Sheikh, where it is a vagrant. In mid-October, the second for Catalonia stayed 20 km from the French border at Aiguamolls de l'Emporda. A juvenile **White-tailed Sea Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* in the southern Sinai on 23-24 August was the first for Egypt since 1954. In Catalonia, an adult **Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga* arrived in the Ebro delta on 21 October. In Málaga, Spain, the hybrid breeding between a female **Spanish Imperial Eagle** *A adalberti* and a male **Golden Eagle** *A chrysaetos* resulted in two chicks, one of which fledged just before a fire destroyed the nest. A juvenile **Bonelli's Eagle** *Hieraaetus fasciatus* was discovered within the Vliehors military area on Vlieland, Friesland, on 17 September. During the following days, groups of birders were transported by army truck towards the Dutch air force commando tower in the centre of this vast area; from this tower, the eagle could be seen despite the presence of jet fighters having their practice flights which included heavy artillery and bombing. Apparently, the military activity failed to impress the eagle which stayed until 20 September when it was seen flying south high above Texel, Noordholland. It was the second record for the Netherlands and the first of a live bird. The first Dutch record concerned a juvenile male found dead on 24 January 1958 near the German border at Breedenbroek, Gendringen, Gelderland (Limosa 32: 107-110, 1959). To illustrate this species' rare occurrence in northern Europe, it is noteworthy that, eg, there is only one record for the combined area of Germany, Poland and Sweden: a third calendar-year male found dead in the Hakel forest, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany. There are up to three records for Denmark of which the first was a recently identified individual found dead in Nordjylland in 1957 and originally misidentified as Spotted Eagle *A clanga* (the second and third were both at Skagen, Nordjylland, on 17-18 May 1974 and a second-year on 2 May 1995). There are several records in northern France and Belgium, mostly in September.

An observation of a **Hazel Grouse** *Bonasa bonasia* at Kreis Merzig-Wadern on 8 August indicates that this species still survives in Saarland, Germany. In late July and August, 16 **Little Crakes** *Porzana parva* were trapped and ringed at the Alten Spreemündung, Brandenburg, Germany; these included young from at least two nests. In Cyprus, a peak of 345 roosting **Demoiselle Cranes** *Anthropoides virgo* was counted at Akrotiri on 5 September; more than 1000 passed through Lake Ghilli, Armenia, during 2-9 September. An **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus* showing characters of the Russian subspecies *H o longipennis* was identified at the Hortobágy fish ponds, Hungary, on 30-31 August. A **Cream-coloured Courser** *Cursorius cursor* was seen on Guernsey, Jersey, Channel Islands, on 2-6 October. A juvenile **Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* stayed at Les Attaques, Pas-de-Calais, northwestern France, on 6-7 October. A **Killdeer Plover** *Charadrius vociferus* was present at Ballycotton, Ireland, in late October. A **Lesser Sand Plover** *C mongolus* photographed at La Pointe d'Aiguillon, Vendée, on 21-22 July (Birding World 8: 332, 1995) will be the first for France if accepted. On 9-10 August, a moulting adult **American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica* was present at Praia de Vitória, Terceira, Azores. The third to fifth **Sociable Lapwings** *Chettusia gregaria* for Sweden were adults seen at Visby, Gotland, on 1 September and in Skåne at Gislövshammar on 12 September and at Hagestad on 24-26 September, respectively. One was discovered at the Metz-Nancy airport, Moselle, France, on 15 September, a juvenile stayed in southern Dorset, England, from 14 October, one was reported at Deventer, Overijssel, the Netherlands, on 16 October and the first for Portugal was a first-year in mid-October. In Egypt, three solitary **White-tailed Lapwings** *C leucura* were found during September. In France, a juvenile **Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla* was present in Loire-Atlantique on 25-26 August. In England, adults stayed in Scilly from 29 August until 18 September and one was trapped at Farlington Marsh, Hampshire, during 2-3 September. The first for the Canary Islands was seen at Tejina ponds on Tenerife on 18 October. In the Azores, an adult **Least Sandpiper** *C minutilla* in worn summer plumage was photographed at Praia de Vitória, Terceira, on 9-10 August. In Pas-de-Calais, a first-winter stayed at Les Attaques from 26 to at least 30 October. In the Netherlands, the identity of a controversial juvenile stint in a flock of c 50 Little Stints *C minuta* at Groote Keeten, Noordholland, on 21-25 September has been subject of much debate. When pictures were sent by e-mail, many European birders appeared to identify it as an aberrant Least Sandpiper and many in North America opted for an aberrant Little Stint, while other species like Red-necked Stint *C ruficollis* and Temminck's Stint *C temminckii* were also mentioned. A hybrid Little x Temminck's might be the only solution; apparently, such hybrid has never been identified before. The first **Baird's Sandpiper** *C bairdii* for Belgium was a juvenile staying at Longchamps, Namur, on 4-8 October. Five juveniles were seen in England during 5-24 September and two singles were reported in France during 11-14 September. In Ireland, at least three juveniles were present between 31 August and 16 September. An influx of nine **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** *Tryngites subruficollis* in Ireland included two on Cape Clear (the first for this island since 20 years) and four at Tacumshin, Wexford, on 9 September. In France, up to six were staying at Pointe de la Torche, Finistère, on 2-25 September (one had been ringed on Ouessant on 14 September). A **Great Snipe** *Gallinago media* remained on Fair Isle, Shetland, from 31 August to 23 September

189 Booted Warbler / Kleine Spotvogel *Hippolais caligata*, Maasvlakte, Zuidholland, Netherlands, 6 October 1995 *(Hans Gebuis)*

190 Mystery stint / Raadselstrandloper *Calidris*, juvenile, Groote Keeten, Noordholland, Netherlands, 24 September 1995 *(Hans Gebuis)*



and another was present here on at least 19 September. In the Netherlands, hunting of **Common Snipe** *G gallinago* has now been banned from 1 January 1996 onwards, following concern about the survival of Great Snipe expressed in, eg, Dutch Birding 17: 106-112, 1995. Three **Whimbrels** *Numenius phaeopus* at Arax Valley in August were apparently the first for Armenia since 1928. In Clare, Ireland, an **Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda* flew past Loop Head, Kilbaha, on 9 October. Another was watched for three hours on St Mary's, Scilly, on 12 October before it flew to Cornwall where it was briefly seen at Polgigga on 21 October. The first for the Netherlands was a flighty and frequently calling individual seen by more than 100 twitchers during its five hours stay at Maasvlakte on 28 October. A **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* at Ångermanland on 4 June 1995 has been accepted as the second for Sweden. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** *T flavipes* was present at Ölmeviken, Värmland, Sweden, on 13-14 August. In France, one stayed near Plouhinec, Finistère, on 19 September. The third for the Canary Islands was seen at Maspalomas, Gran Canaria, in mid-September. A **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularia* at Lowry's Lake, Armagh, on 3-13 September was the first for Northern Ireland. On 20 September, a **Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicaria* was seen at the Zaranik protected area in the northern Sinai where also up to 25 **Red-necked Phalaropes** *P lobatus* were staying in this period.

An immature **Great Black-headed Gull** *Larus ichthyaetus* flew past the Bosporus, Turkey, on 25 September. A pair of **Mediterranean Gulls** *L melanocephalus* bred for the first time in the Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* colony on Helgoland; the attempt was unsuccessful because, just before the two eggs hatched, a Kittiwake chick got into the nest and was subsequently adopted, becoming the fattest young in the colony. A juvenile **Sabine's Gull** *L sabini* at Rheindelta on 2 September was the second for Austria. As early as 26-28 July, 18 juvenile **Audouin's Gulls** *L audouinii* were photographed in the Algarve, southern Portugal; on 3 August, a juvenile was seen at Lisbon harbour, Estremadura, Portugal. The second-summer discovered on 15 June at Boulogne-sur-Mer, Pas-de-Calais, was last reported on 27 August (cf Birding World 8: 263-265, 1995; Dutch Birding 17: 120, 171, 1995). In the northern Sinai, up to five were staying at Zaranik between 8 September and 7 October. On 13 October, the adult **Glaucous Gull** *L hyperboreus* at Brouwersdam, Zeeland, the Netherlands, had returned for its 12th winter. An adult **Royal Tern** *Sterna maxima* was present in the harbour of Tanger, Morocco, on 21 September. A **Forster's Tern** *S forsteri* was reported from Waterford, Ireland, on 30 October. A **Tufted Puffin** *Fratercula cirrhata* seen at sea near Halmstad, Halland, on 1 and 8 June 1994 (cf Dutch Birding 16: 162, 1995) has recently been accepted as the first for Sweden and the WP.

A first-year **Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius* was reported by a single observer from Piaam, Friesland, on 7 October. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus* was seen at Morpeth, Northumberland, on 15 October. In Scilly, one stayed alive for at least three hours on 19 October. At Cape May, New Jersey, USA, at least 145 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** *Aegolius acadicus* were trapped and ringed in the last week of October. Apparently, the find of a dead **Red-necked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus ruficollis* at Skagen, Nordjylland, Denmark, on 4 October 1991 was recently submitted. An exhausted **Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus* was picked-up at Weggis, Luzern, Switzerland, on 2 June. In Germany, it was an excellent summer for breeding **European Bee-eaters** *Merops apiaster*; eg, several pairs bred in Sachsen-Anhalt, three near Trier, Rheinland-Pfalz, and 20-25 at Kaiserstuhl, Baden-Württemberg. This summer, only one sighting of **European Roller** *Coracias garrulus* became known for Germany, where this species recently got extinct as a breeding bird. In Austria, however, the breeding population of 10 pairs in Oststeiermark has now been stable for five years.

A **Cliff Swallow** *Hirundo pyrrhonota* was briefly seen on a few days from 22 to at least 28 October at Spurn, Humberside, England. On 28 October, the 14th **Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla* for the Netherlands was found in the colourful company of Shore Larks *Eremophila alpestris* at Dintelhaven, Zuidholland; the next day, it was singled out and taken by a Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*. On 13-14 October, the third **Oriental Skylark** *Alauda gulgula* for Egypt was seen at the Sharm farm, southern Sinai, together with 10 **Richard's Pipits** *Anthus richardi* (the largest number ever recorded in Egypt). A **Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* was seen for a few minutes at Beachy Head, East Sussex, England, on 9 October. Reportedly, an early **Blyth's Pipit** *A godlewskii* was trapped on Norrskär, Finland, on 28 September. The season's first **Olive-backed Pipit** *A hodgsoni* for Britain arrived in Scilly on 28 October. The season's first **Pechora Pipit** *A gustavi* stayed on Fair Isle on 13-17 September, another was present on Foula, Shetland, on 21-24 September and one was seen at Nanquidno, Cornwall, on 5 October. A **Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola* photographed in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, USA, on 31 January and 1 February 1992 has recently been accepted as the first for the USA (Birding 27: 367-368, 1995). On 25 August, one was photographed on Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. The fifth for the Netherlands (and the second for Noordholland) was a first-winter foraging amongst White Wagtails *M alba* at Petten on 25-29 September. In Catalonia, one was trapped at Encanyissada, Ebro delta, in mid-September (cf Dutch Birding 17: 6-10, 1995).

Reportedly, a **Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin** *Cercotrichas galactotes* was found on Zingst peninsula, Rostock, Germany, on 6 October. The first successful breeding of **Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia* for Sachsen, Germany, since c 1850 occurred at Stausee Bautzen. A first-winter at Landguard Point, Suffolk, England, attracted many visitors during its stay from the last week of August to 15 September. In Sweden, a **Red-flanked**

191 Yellow-billed Stork / Afrikaanse Nimmerzat *Mycteria ibis*, juvenile, with White Storks / Ooievaars *Ciconia ciconia*, Sharm-el-Sheik, Sinai, Egypt, 13 August 1995 *(Theo Bakker)*

Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* was reported at Västergarn, Gotland, on 1 September. If accepted, a female **White-throated Robin** *Irania gutturalis* at Hoburgen, Gotland, on 9 August will be the seventh for Sweden. A **Rock Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis* on 14-16 September 1995 at Loop Head, Kilbaha, was the second for Ireland; the first occurred 21 years ago. On Helgoland, a **White's Thrush** *Zoothera dauma* was present from 30 September until at least 1 October. A **Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus* was seen on Fair Isle on 19 October. A **Swainson's Thrush** *C ustulatus* was trapped on Lundy, Devon, England, on 9 October and, in France, one stayed on Ouessant on 16-18 October. In a press release dated 22 September 1995, the BOURC announced that it has recently accepted the split of **Grey-cheeked Thrush** *C minimus* into two species: a restricted Grey-cheeked Thrush comprising two subspecies, *C m minimus* and *C m aliciae*, and the monotypic **Bicknell's Thrush** *C bicknelli* (cf Wilson Bull 105: 545-572, 1993; Birding 27: 358-366, 1995). Moreover, the BOURC reviewed all records and decided that there is no acceptable record of Bicknell's Thrush for Britain and Ireland (contra Birding World 7: 359-365, 377, 1994; cf Dutch Birding 16: 254, 1994). An elusive **Veery** *C fuscescens* was seen on 20-21 October in Western Isles, Scotland, and it reappeared on 28 October. A **Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus ruficollis atrogularis* was present at Sumburgh, Shetland, on 1-2 October.

Six **Zitting Cisticola's** *Cisticola juncidis* on Vlieland in September indicate the northernmost breeding record for the Netherlands and Europe. The first **Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola* for Armenia was a first-winter trapped at Stepanauan on 15 August and, in addition, three were seen at Armash in September. The first for Spain was trapped at the Ebro river on 1 September. A juvenile was trapped at Pori, Finland, on 3 September, another was seen on Fair Isle on 9-17 September and one was trapped at Trunvel, Finistère, on 15 September. The alleged **Blyth's Reed Warbler** *A dumetorum* trapped at Dungeness, Kent, on 2 November 1993 appears to have been ringed as a **Reed Warbler** *A scirpaceus* at Skarstad, Jönköping, Sweden, on 29 September 1993 (contra Ring & Migr 16: 16-64, 1995; Dutch Birding 17: 174, 1995). On 12 September, the first Blyth's Reed Warbler for Switzerland was trapped. If accepted, a **Basra Reed Warbler** *A griseldis* trapped several times and ringed at Canal Vell Lagoon, Ebro delta, on 10-15 October would be the first for Spain and Europe. A **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella certhiola* was reported at Martlesham, Suffolk, on 30 September and another was trapped in France during the first week of October. In Shetland, a **Lanceolated Warbler** *L lanceolata* was trapped at Cott on 10 September and another stayed on the Farne Islands, Northumberland, on 16-17 September. In Norway, one was ringed in Nord-Trøndelag on 27 September. On Gotland, a **Sykes's Warbler** *Hippolais caligata rama* was ringed at Hoburgen on 3 September; the first for Sweden had been on Öland on 26 August 1993. During September, two **Booted Warblers** *H c caligata* were reported in England and two in Scotland.

192 Rock Thrush / Rode Rotslijster *Monticola saxatilis*, juvenile, Kilbaha, Clare, Ireland, 16 September 1995 *(Anthony McGeehan)*

The fifth and sixth for the Netherlands were briefly present at De Cocksdorp, Texel, on 19 September and at Maasvlakte on 6 October. The eighth **Dartford Warbler** *Sylvia undata* for Ireland was found at Hook Head, Wexford, on 13 October. A female-type **Spectacled Warbler** *S conspicillata* was reported from St Kilda, Western Isles, Scotland, on 10-22 September. In Britain, six **Greenish Warblers** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* were present during 17-24 August, 24 during 2-11 September and eight during 14-20 September. In the Netherlands, one stayed at Katwijk, Zuidholland, on 3-7 September. A late individual stayed at Brownstown Head, Waterford, Ireland, on 14-18 October. The first **Arctic Warbler** *P borealis* for Belgium was twitchable at Heist, Westvlaanderen, on 6-8 September. Another was reportedly present on Helgoland on 3-4 October. From 29 August to 20 September, 13 were seen in England and Scotland. A late influx of **Radde's Warblers** *P schwarzi* in Britain included five during the last week and an additional four in the last weekend of October. In Ireland, a **Dusky Warbler** *P fuscatus* stayed on Cape Clear from 19 until at least 30 October. Possibly the first **Eastern Bonelli's Warbler** *P orientalis* for Britain was calling at Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear, on 20-29 September.

In Catalonia, Spain, 15 first-year **Penduline Tits** *Remiz pendulinus* were ringed at the Ebro delta in August 1995; at the Llobregat delta, c 10 pairs have bred. An adult male **Isabelline Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus* was present at Deerness, Orkney, Scotland, on 10-16 September and one was reported from Wales on 27 October. In Sweden, one or two **Steppe Grey Shrikes** *L meridionalis pallidirostris* stayed at Stockviken, Gotland, from 30 August to 3 September. From late July to mid-September, more than 34 000 **Nutcrackers** *Nucifraga caryocatactes* in Finland constituted one of the largest invasions ever. In the Netherlands, the two long-staying **House Crows** *Corvus splendens* remained west of the Harwich ferry at Hoek van Holland, Zuidholland; besides, a third individual now appears to have been present near Renesse, Zeeland, since November 1994 (cf Bull Br Ornithol Club 114: 90-100, 1994; 115: 185-187, 1995). Both **Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone corone* and **Hooded Crow** *C c cornix* bred for the first time on Helgoland, albeit in a mixed pair, producing five young. In the Sinai, a juvenile **Rosy Starling** *Sturnus roseus* was seen at Sharm-el-Sheikh on 15 and 23 August. The earliest-ever **Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* for Ireland was seen on Cape Clear on 14-20 September. The first for Belgium spent late afternoon at Blankenberge, Westvlaanderen, on 13 October. The first for Spain was a juvenile killed by a car near Tarragona, Catalonia, on 19 October. In Britain and Ireland, a record 24 were reported in the second half of September and October. The first breeding record of

193 Thrush Nightingale / Noordse Nachtegaal *Luscinia luscinia*, first-winter, Landguard Point, Suffolk, England, September 1995 *(Dave Stewart)*

Canary *Serinus canaria* for Lanzarote, Canary Islands, occurred near Haria this summer. A male (Eurasian) **Siskin** *Carduelis spinus* on Attu Island, Alaska, on 21-22 May 1995 (photographed and subsequently shot) has recently been accepted as the first for the USA (Birding 27: 368, 1995). From Lappland, Sweden, the largest invasion of **Two-barred Crossbill** *Loxia leucoptera* since 1987 was reported. The second **Desert Finch** *Rhodospiza obsoleta* for the Netherlands stayed on Terschelling on 5-6 October; like the first, it is regarded as an escaped cage-bird (the first was amongst Greenfinches *C chloris* at IJmuiden, Noordholland, from December 1989 to March 1990). In Scotland, a **Tennessee Warbler** *Vermivora peregrina* was photographed on St Kilda on 26 September. A **Northern Parula** *Parula americana* stayed on St Agnes, Scilly, on 10 October. The first and second **Yellow Warblers** *Dendroica petechia* for Ireland were difficult to see at Brownstown Head on 11-12 October and at Kilbaha, Clare, from 12 to at least 21 October. The second **Chestnut-sided Warbler** *D pensylvanica* for Britain and the WP was watched in late afternoon at Prawle Point, Devon, on 18 October. The second **Magnolia Warbler** *D magnolia* for the WP was reported from Iceland in October. A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** *D coronata* stayed on Tresco on 4-15 October and another on North Ronaldsay, Orkney, on 13 October. On 14 October, a one-day flight of 150 000 occurred at Cape May, New Jersey, USA. A **Blackpoll Warbler** *D striata* was present in Scilly during at least 27-28 October. The first **Bay-breasted Warbler** *D castanea* for Britain and the WP was videoed by its two observers between Sennen and Land's End, Cornwall, on 1 October. A **White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys* spent the afternoon at the harbour of Liverpool, Merseyside, England, on 2 October. Also in England, a **Pine Bunting** *Emberiza leucocephalos* was seen on Tresco on 22 October and at the Norfolk/Suffolk border on 28 October. A hybrid Pine Bunting x Yellowhammer *E citrinella* stayed on Fair Isle on 28-29 October. Four **Yellow-breasted Buntings** *E aureola* were seen in the Netherlands: on Vlieland on 3 and 9-10 September, on Terschelling on 3 September and at Westkapelle, Zeeland, on 12 September. In October, the first for Spain was trapped and ringed on Cabrera, Balearics. In Britain, a first-winter male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus* stayed at Ventnor Botanical Gardens, Isle of Wight, from 30 October. In Finistère, France, a **Bobolink** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* was reported at Trunvel on 15-17 August and, in Scilly, one was present on St Mary's on 20 October.

For a number of reports, publications in Birding, Birding World, Birdwatch, Bird Watching, British Birds, Limicola, Ornithos, Vår Fågelvärld and World Birdwatch were consulted. News from Britain was kindly supplied by Birdline (0891-700-222) and Rare Bird News (0881-888-111). We wish to thank Erik Jan Alblas, Mindy Baha El Din, Sherif Baha El Din, Theo Bakker, Peter Barthel, Andy Butler, Rolf de By, Tony Clarke (Canary Islands), Paul DeBenedictis, Gerald Driessens, Hugues Dufourny, Marc Duquet, Enno Ebels, Klaas Eigenhuis, Shawneen Finnegan, Annika Forsten, Gábor Vasuta, Steve Gantlett, Terry Guillaume (Swiss Bilingual Birdline), Ricard Gutiérrez, Hans ter Haar, Ingmar Harry, Kees Hazevoet, Jeff Higgott, Erling V Jirle, Lars Jonsson, Guy Kirwan (OSME), Alan Knox, Elske Koelstra, Jan van der Laan, Paul Lehman, Harry Lehto, Gail Mackiernan, Pierre Le Marechal, Anthony McGeehan, Richard Millington, Dominic Mitchell, Dirk Moerbeek, Hans Mom, Joe Morlan, Colm C Moore, Killian Mullarney, Gerald Oreel, Colin Richardson, Gary Rosenberg, René van Rossum, John Ryan, Bjørn Einar Sakseid, Wim van der Schot, Bob Scott, Noel Shillcock, Gunter De Smet, Dave van der Spoel, Lars Svensson, Carlo Vanderijdt, Ignaz Wanders and Zoltán Ecsedi for their help in compiling this review.

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Recente meldingen

Dit overzicht van recente meldingen van zeldzame en interessante vogels in Nederland en België beslaat voornamelijk de maanden **augustus-september 1995**. De vermelde gevallen zijn merendeels niet geverifieerd en het overzicht is niet volledig. Alle vogelaars die de moeite namen om hun waarnemingen aan ons door te geven worden hartelijk bedankt.

Waarnemers van soorten in Nederland die worden beoordeeld door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna wordt verzocht hun waarnemingen zo spoedig mogelijk toe te zenden aan: CDNA, Postbus 45, 2080 AA Santpoort-Zuid, Nederland. Hiertoe gelieve men gebruik te maken van CDNA-waarnemingsformulieren die eveneens verkrijgbaar zijn bij bovenstaand adres.

Nederland

DUIKERS TOT VALKEN De gehele periode verbleef aan de oostkant van Texel, Noordholland, een **IJsduiker**

Gavia immer. Grote aantallen **Noordse Stormvogels** *Fulmarus glacialis* werden geteld op 28 en 29 september, respectievelijk 916 en 724, langs Terschelling, Friesland. De klapper van het jaar betrof de waarneming van een **Bulwers Stormvogel** *Bulweria bulwerii* die in de ochtenduren van 21 augustus rondhing bij de Westplaat, Zuidholland. Dagen met grote aantallen **Grauwe Pijlstormvogels** *Puffinus griseus* waren 26 augustus met 23 bij Terschelling, 27 september met 52 bij Westkapelle, Zeeland, en 29 september met 20 wederom bij Terschelling. In totaal werden vanaf 25 augustus reeds 160 exemplaren langs onze kust geteld. **Noordse Pijlstormvogels** *P puffinus* werden slechts in enkele 10-tallen gezien, voornamelijk in de laatste week van september. **Vale Pijlstormvogels** *P mauretanicus* werden gedetermineerd op 1, 3, 4 (twee) en 5 augustus en 16 september bij Camperduin, Noordholland, op 2 augustus bij Vlieland, Friesland, en op 2 september twee bij Westkapelle. Twee **Stormvogeltjes** *Hydrobates pelagicus* passeerden Westkapelle op 28 september. In totaal werden vanaf 28 augustus c 60 **Vale Stormvogeltjes** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* gemeld. Topdagen waren 27 en 28 september. Een **Kuifaalscholver** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* zat op 1 september in een wegberm bij Oosterland, Zeeland. Andere verbleven van 2 tot 5 september op Terschelling (twee) en op 12 september te Maastricht, Limburg. Vage pelikanen, vermoedelijk allemaal uit Avifauna in Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuidholland, ontsnapte **Kleine Pelikanen** *Pelecanus rufescens* werden opgemerkt op 3 augustus bij Scheveningen, Zuidholland, op 10 en 11 september in de Bandpolder, Friesland, en op 21 en 22 september bij de Grevelingen, Zeeland. Van 12 tot 24 augustus verbleven tenminste twee **Woudapen** *Ixobrychus minutus* bij km-paal 23.5 langs de Oostvaardersdijk, Flevoland. Drie andere werden in augustus gezien bij Bergeyk, Noordbrabant, en één op 22 augustus bij de Lepelaarsplassen, Flevoland. **Kwakken** *Nycticorax nycticorax* waren tot 15 augustus bij Eijsden, Limburg, op 10 september in de Eemshaven, Groningen, van 16 tot 20 september tenminste zeven bij Veere, Zeeland, op 21 september bij Sas van Gent, Zeeland, en op 22 september bij Vlissingen, Zeeland. Kortstondig aanwezige **Ralreigers** *Ardeola ralloides* werden op 2 augustus gezien bij Arkel, Zuidholland, en op 14 augustus bij Wervershoof, Noordholland. Het aantal **Kleine Zilverreigers** *Egretta garzetta* nam in de loop van augustus sterk toe. De schatting voor de gehele Delta eind augustus is 100 à 150 exemplaren. In de rest van het land werden er nog eens c 25 vastgesteld, waaronder negen op Texel en vier langs de Oostvaardersdijk. De gehele periode verbleven enkele **Grote Zilverreigers** *E alba* in de Oostvaardersplassen, Flevoland, en maximaal twee op de Strabrechtse Heide, Noordbrabant. Verder waren er van 4 augustus tot 12 september maximaal drie in de Lauwersmeer, Groningen, op 14 augustus één bij Deventer, Overijssel, op 10 september één bij de Ventjagersplaten, Zuidholland, en op 24 september één bij Langerak, Zuidholland. C 50 **Zwarte Ooievaars** *Ciconia nigra* deden ons land aan, voornamelijk tussen 8 en 31 augustus. Opvallend zijn de waarnemingen van zes exemplaren op 18 augustus zowel bij Harkema, Friesland, als langs de Praamweg, Flevoland; in de dagen daarna werden op verschillende plaatsen in Flevoland nog exemplaren opgemerkt en op 31 augustus werden er zeven gemeld bij de Engbertsdijksvenen, Overijssel; de laatste waarneming was op 25 september bij 's-Hertogenbosch, Noordbrabant. **Zwarte Ibissen** *Plegadis falcinellus* waren op 16 augustus aanwezig bij de Makkumerzuidwaard, Friesland, en in de tweede helft van augustus bij Vlaardingen, Zuidholland. **Flamingo's** *Phoenicopterus ruber roseus* bleven niet onopgemerkt: op 5 augustus drie bij de Workumerwaard, Friesland, op 8 augustus drie bij de Steile Bank, Friesland, en op 10 augustus in de Lauwersmeer. Het vermelden waard is de adulte ongeringde **Dwerggans** *Anser erythropus* op 13 en 14 augustus ten zuiden van de Lepelaarsplassen. Voornamelijk in begin augustus werden c 90 **Casarca's** *Tadorna ferruginea* werden geteld, waarvan c 30 in Zuidwest-Friesland en op 5 augustus 47 bij de Stichtse Brug, Flevoland. Een vrouwtje **Ringsnaveleend** *Aythya collaris* van verdachte oorsprong werd op 16 september gezien bij Kornwerderzand, Friesland. **Witoogeenden** *A nyroca* werden aangetroffen op 5 augustus in de AW-duinen, Noordholland, op 13 augustus in de Ooypolder, Gelderland, en van 15 tot 26 augustus langs de Oostvaardersdijk. **Zwarte Wouwen** *Milvus migrans* trokken op 3 augustus over Katwijk, Zuidholland, en Groningen, Groningen, op 6 (twee) en 26 augustus over de Lauwersmeer, op 8 en 15 augustus over Eijsden, op 16 september over Budel, Noordbrabant, en op 23 september over Texel. Slechts twee **Rode Wouwen** *M milvus* werden gemeld, op 8 augustus bij Leersum, Utrecht, en op 18 september bij Nijkerk, Gelderland. Na eind augustus waren er ook slechts twee meldingen van **Grauwe Kiekendieven** *Circus pygargus*, op 16 september over Vlieland en op 18 september bij Vlissingen. Een toeristisch evenement van de eerste orde was het bezoek aan de tweede **Havikarend** *Hieraaetus fasciatus* voor Nederland, van 17 tot 20 september op de Vliehors op Vlieland; niet alleen diende men doordeweeks een vrije dag op te nemen, maar ook werd men per busje naar de observatiepost in het militaire oefenterrein vervoerd (met dank aan de commandant van de militaire basis en de behulpzame militairen). Op 20 september waren enkele gelukkigen op Texel getuige van het vertrek van de juveniele arend in zuidelijke richting. Van half augustus tot half september pleisterden zeker 15 **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus* her en der in ons land; in de derde week van september was er een doortrekpiek van enkele 10-tallen exemplaren. **Roodpootvalken** *Falco vespertinus* werden gemeld op 5 augustus in de Bandpolder, op 31 augustus bij Wageningen, Gelderland, op 9 en 12 september bij Vlissingen en op 17 september bij de Knardijk, Flevoland. Er werden weinig doortrekkende **Slechtvalken** *F peregrinus* opgemerkt. Wel liep vanaf half augustus het aantal pleisterende exemplaren langzaam op.

KRAANVOGELS TOT ALKEN Van 22 tot 25 augustus liep een onvolwassen **Kraanvogel** *Grus grus* bij Delft, Zuid-

194 Havikarend / Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus*, Vliehors, Vlieland, Friesland, 17 september 1995 *(Peter J Waanders)* **195** Vorkstaartmeeuw / Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*, juveniel, Eemshaven, Groningen, september 1995 *(Leo J R Boon)* **196** Vorkstaartmeeuwen / Sabine's Gulls *Larus sabini*, adult en juveniel, Lauwersoog, Groningen, 29 augustus 1995 *(Anne Diephuis)*

holland, en op 27 september vlogen er zes over Oegstgeest, Zuidholland. **Steltkluten** *Himantopus himantopus* werden gemeld op 15 augustus in de Grevelingen, op 21 augustus drie over Groningen en op 3 september in het Verdronken Land van Saeftinghe, Zeeland. Opvallend is de coïncidentie van twee gevallen van ongedetermineerde **vorkstaartplevieren** *Glareola*: op 6 augustus twee in oostelijke richting over Katwijk en op 11 augustus twee in zuidelijke richting over Linschoten, Utrecht. **Morinelplevieren** *Charadrius morinellus* werden op 3 september gezien bij Middelburg, Zeeland, op 7 (één) en 11 september (twee) bij Westkapelle, op 9 september op de Maasvlakte, Zuidholland, en op Texel (twee), op 10 september bij Kornwerderzand, op 13 september bij Vlissingen, op 14 september (twee) bij het Kennemermeer, Noordholland, op 15 september bij Den Oever, Noordholland, op 16 september overtrekkend op Vlieland, op 19 september bij de Dintelhaven, Zuidholland, en op 21 september wederom op Texel. Een **'kleine goudplevier'** *Pluvialis dominica/fulva* werd op 19 augustus helaas kort gezien op de Westplaat. Hoewel de gemoederen nog niet tot bedaren zijn gekomen over de juistheid van de determinatie, meent een aantal waarnemers dat van 21 tot 25 september de eerste **Kleinste Strandloper** *Calidris minutilla* voor Nederland aanwezig was bij Groote Keeten, Noordholland. De kans is echter groot dat de juveniele vogel uiteindelijk de eerste gedocumenteerde hybride **Kleine x Temmincks Strandloper** *C minuta x temminckii* zal blijken te zijn. **Gestreepte Strandlopers** *C melanotos* werden aangetroffen tot 5 augustus op Texel, tot 7 augustus in de Eemshaven, op 5 en 6 augustus bij Julianadorp, Noordholland, van 7 tot 10 augustus in de Keersluisplas, Flevoland, van 12 tot 17 augustus bij km-paal 23.5 langs de Oostvaardersdijk, op 12 en 18 september in de Lauwersmeer en

op 17 september langs de Knardijk. **Poelruiters** *Tringa stagnatilis* verbleven tot 6 augustus (maximaal drie) in de Eemshaven, tot 12 augustus (twee) in de Workumerwaard, op 5 augustus op Tholen, Zeeland, op 14 augustus bij de Koudekerkse Inlaag, Zeeland, van 22 augustus tot 2 september op de Maasvlakte, op 2 september op Texel en bij het Dijkwater bij Sirjansland, Zeeland, van 2 tot 10 september in de Lauwersmeer, op 10 september aan de Knardijk en op 20 september bij Veere. Behalve het geval van 6 augustus bij Bakkersdam ten zuiden van Petten, Noordholland, was er een claim van een **Kleine Geelpootruiter** *T flavipes* op 12 augustus in de Eemshaven. De Lauwersmeer was dit seizoen hét gebied om **Grauwe Franjepoten** *Phalaropus lobatus* waar te nemen; van eind augustus tot begin september verbleven daar tenminste 13 exemplaren. Op vele plekken elders in het land werden er nog eens in totaal 22 gezien. **Rosse Franjepoten** *P fulicaria* werden waargenomen op 2 september bij Scheveningen, op 9 september bij Camperduin, op 12 en 24 september op Texel, op 16 september op Ameland, Friesland, en op 28 september bij Julianadorp en bij Westkapelle. Vanaf 14 augustus werden 16 **Kleinste Jagers** *Stercorarius longicaudus* doorgegeven. **Grote Jagers** *S skua* werden vooral in september gezien, met als topdag een telling van 68 op 28 september langs Terschelling. Van het broedvogelfront valt te melden dat er dit jaar op Wieringen, Noordholland, en bij de Houtribsluizen, Flevoland, broedgevallen van de **Dwergmeeuw** *Larus minutus* zijn geweest. Na 26 augustus werden c 30 **Vorkstaartmeeuwen** *L sabini* doorgegeven, voornamelijk in de laatste week van

197 Grauwe Franjepoot / Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*, Terschelling, Friesland, september 1995 *(Arie Ouwerkerk)* **198** Citroenkwikstaart / Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, Petten, Noordholland, 29 september 1995 *(Hans Gebuis)* **199** Sperwergrasmus / Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*, Castricum, Noordholland, 31 augustus 1995 *(André J van Loon)* **200** Wilgegors / Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*, Westkapelle, Zeeland, 12 september 1995 *(Hans Gebuis)*

201 Westelijke Bergfluiter / Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*, Maasvlakte, Zuidholland, 17 september 1995 *(Jan van Holten)*

augustus en de laatste week van september. Op 29 augustus verbleven een adult en een juveniel samen bij Lauwersoog, Groningen. Vroege **Grote Burgemeesters** *L. hyperboreus* werden opgemerkt op 3 september bij IJmuiden, Noordholland, en op 5 september bij de sluis van Veere. De omgeving van Schagen, Noordholland, was tot 13 september de belangrijkste locatie om **Lachsterns** *Gelochelidon nilotica* te zien. Op 20 en 26 augustus werden daar 24 respectievelijk 10 exemplaren geteld. Daarnaast is er een waarneming op 19 september op de Strabrechtse Heide. Tot 12 september werden minimaal 50 **Reuzensterns** *Sterna caspia* geteld, waarvan vele voor langere tijd bleven. Op 17 en 18 september werd bij Harlingen, Friesland, een adult-winter **Witwangstern** *Chlidonias hybridus* waargenomen. **Witvleugelsterns** *C. leucopterus* werden opgemerkt op 2 augustus bij de Mokkebank, Friesland, op 3 en 5 augustus (twee) bij Den Oever, op 11 augustus bij de Houtribsluizen, van 13 tot 31 augustus twee langs de Oostvaardersdijk, op 2 en 16 september bij Kornwerderzand en op 15 en 17 september tussen Vlieland en Harlingen. Een **Zwarte Zeekoet** *Cepphus grylle* werd op 16 september gezien (uiteraard) bij Camperduin. **Papegaaiduikers** *Fratercula arctica* werden op 14 augustus gezien op Terschelling, op 3 september langs Vlieland en op 21 september bij Scheveningen.

GIERZWALUWEN TOT GORZEN Op 23 september werd een **Alpengierzwaluw** *Apus melba* gemeld bij Hoorn op Terschelling. Twee **Bijeneters** *Merops apiaster* zaten op 11 augustus op Schiermonnikoog, Friesland. **Hoppen** *Upupa epops* waren van 15 tot 17 september aanwezig op Ameland, op 17 september op de Maasvlakte en van 17 tot 19 september op de Strabrechtse Heide. Vanaf 29 augustus werd een 20-tal **Draaihalzen** *Jynx torquilla* doorgegeven. Dit voorjaar zou een territoriumhoudende **Middelste Bonte Specht** *Dendrocopos medius* aanwezig zijn geweest in de Achterhoek, Gelderland. Een **Kortteenleeuwerik** *Calandrella brachydactyla* werd op 18 augustus gemeld op Terschelling. Vanaf 8 september werden 20 **Grote Piepers** *Anthus richardi* en vanaf 12 augustus c. 60 **Duinpiepers** *A. campestris* doorgegeven. **Roodkeelpiepers** *A. cervinus* werden gemeld op 6 september op Texel en bij Huizen, Noordholland, op 8 en 13 september (twee) op Schiermonnikoog, op 14 september bij Westkapelle, op 16 september bij Katwijk, Vlieland, Den Haag, Zuidholland, en Koudekerke, Zeeland, op 16 en 24 september op Vlieland en op 23 september op Ameland. Een eerste-winter **Citroenkwikstaart** *Motacilla citreola* verbleef van 25 tot 29 september bij Petten (vijfde geval voor Nederland). Een mannetje **Aziatische Roodborsttapuit** *Saxicola torquata maura* werd op 17 september waargenomen bij Egmond aan Zee, Noordholland.

202 Roze Spreeuw / Rosy Starling *Sturnus roseus*, juveniel, Nes, Ameland, Friesland, september 1995 *(Roef Mulder)* **203** Grauwe Fitis / Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*, Katwijk, Zuidholland, september 1995 *(Marc Guyt)* **204** Raadselstrandloper / Mystery stint *Calidris*,juveniel, Groote Keeten, Noordholland, 24 september 1995 *(René Pop)* **205** Raadselstrandloper / Mystery stint *Calidris*, juveniel, Groote Keeten, Noordholland, 23 september 1995 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*

Graszangers *Cisticola juncidis* werden gemeld op 26 augustus (twee) in het Verdronken Land van Saeftinghe en op 23 en 24 september merkwaardig genoeg zes op Vlieland. De moeilijk op doortrek vast te stellen **Waterrietzanger** *Acrocephalus paludicola* werd waargenomen van 15 tot 18 augustus (drie) bij de Kwade Hoek, Zuidholland, op 19 augustus op de Maasvlakte, op 30 augustus te Castricum, Noordholland (vangst), op 3 september in de Eemshaven, op 15 en 16 september op Vlieland en op 17 september (twee) bij Lopik, Utrecht. **Kleine Spotvogels** *Hippolais caligata* werden helaas door weinig vogelaars gezien op 19 september op Texel en op 6 oktober op de Maasvlakte. Op 19 september werd een **Orpheusspotvogel** *H polyglotta* gemeld op de Maasvlakte. Het was een zeer goed najaar voor **Sperwergrasmussen** *Sylvia nisoria*: op 23, 24 en 31 augustus vangsten bij Castricum, tussen 31 augustus en 24 september zeven op Texel, op 3 en 10 september op Terschelling, op 13 september bij Egmond aan Zee, op 14 september bij Kornwerderzand, op 15 september op Vlieland en op 17 september bij de Dintelhaven. Een – soms zingende – **Grauwe Fitis** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* verbleef van 3 tot 7 september bij Katwijk; deze soort liet zich derhalve, voor het eerst sinds jaren, door vele waarnemers goed bekijken. De eerste **Bladkoningen** *P inornatus* van dit seizoen werden gezien op 16 september op de Maasvlakte, vanaf 22 september drie op Texel, van 23 tot 27 september bij Westkapelle en op 30 september (vangst) op Terschelling. Een leuke krent in de pap voor de vogelaars die op 17 september de Maasvlakte aandeden, vormde de **Westelijke Bergfluiter** *P bonelli* die bij de Nachtegalenkeet verbleef. **Kleine Vliegenvangers** *Ficedula parva* verbleven op 13 september bij Kornwerder-

zand en van 23 tot 30 september op Texel. Meer of minder betrouwbare meldingen van **Notekrakers** *Nucifraga caryocatactes* kwamen op 1 september van Emmen, Drenthe, op 21 september van Terneuzen, Zeeland (twee), en op 22 september van Landsmeer, Noordholland. Juveniele **Roze Spreeuwen** *Sturnus roseus* lieten zich op 2 en 14 september zien op Vlieland en van 16 tot 23 september op Ameland. De laatste **Roodmus** *Carpodacus erythrinus* van het seizoen werd op 10 september gemeld op Texel. **Ortolanen** *Emberiza hortulana* werden voornamelijk doorgegeven tussen 30 augustus en 20 september (c 70). Voor lange tijd waren er maximaal acht aanwezig bij Hoek van Holland, Zuidholland. Een **Bosgors** *E rustica* liet zich op 25 september uitgebreid bekijken op Terschelling. **Dwerggorzen** *E pusilla* zaten op 13 september op Schiermonnikoog (vangst) en op 22 en 30 september op Texel. Voor **Wilgegorzen** *E aureola* was het een uitzonderlijk najaar. Op 3 september waren er exemplaren op Terschelling en Vlieland, op 9 en 10 september wéér een (of dezelfde?) op Vlieland en op 12 september één bij Westkapelle.

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PIJLSTORMVOGELS TOT VALKEN Langs Oostende, Westvlaanderen, vlogen in totaal 192 **Grauwe Pijlstormvogels** *Puffinus griseus*, en langs Zeebrugge, Westvlaanderen, 58 (waarvan respectievelijk 185 en 57 op 27 september). Op 13 september trok een **Vale Pijlstormvogel** *P mauretanicus* langs Koksijde, Westvlaanderen, en op 15 september langs Oostende. **Stormvogeltjes** *Hydrobates pelagicus* vlogen op 8 en 30 september langs Oostende. **Vale Stormvogeltjes** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* werden hier gezien op 8 (11), 27 (vier), 28 (negen) en 29 september (drie) en langs Zeebrugge vlogen er twee op 27 september. **Kuifaalscholvers** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* werden te Oostende opgemerkt op 14 augustus (twee) en op 8, 12 en 17 september. Het exemplaar van 12 september werd ook gezien te Sint-Idesbald, Westvlaanderen, en te Koksijde. Verrassend was een onvolwassen vogel op 13 september bij Testelt, Brabant. Op 8 augustus werd een **Woudaap** *Ixobrychus minutus* waargenomen bij Willebroek, Antwerpen. Op 4 augustus verbleef een juveniele **Kwak** *Nycticorax nycticorax* te Damme, Westvlaanderen, op 5 en 23 augustus was er één bij Bokrijk, Limburg en op 15 augustus en 23 september werd bij Dudzele, Westvlaanderen, respectievelijk een adult en een juveniel exemplaar waargenomen. Van 24 augustus tot 6 september zaten twee juvenielen te Lier-Duffel, Antwerpen, waarvan één tot 30 september aanwezig bleef. **Kleine Zilverreigers** *E garzetta* werden geteld te Blokkersdijk, Antwerpen (twee); Brugge, Westvlaanderen (twee); Het Zwin te Knokke, Westvlaanderen (constant groepjes met als maximum 21 op 5 september); Lokeren, Oostvlaanderen; Oostende (twee); Testelt; Warneton, Hainaut; en Zeebrugge-Dudzele-Heist (maximaal zeven). De twee eerste **Grote Zilverreigers** *E alba* vlogen op 6 augustus over Het Zwin te Knokke. De waarnemingen te Retie, Antwerpen, van 24 augustus tot 5 september; te Turnhout-Beerse, Antwerpen, op 23 en 24 september en te Pulle, Antwerpen, van 23 tot ten minste 30 september, weerspiegelen het Nederlandse broedsucces van deze soort. Van 21 tot 24 augustus verbleef een juveniele **Purperreiger** *Ardea purpurea* bij Ronquières, Brabant, en op 11 september trok er één langs Zeebrugge en op 12 september één langs Bredene, Westvlaanderen. Als uitzondering op deze schaarse waarnemingen waren er op 15 september bij Tienen, Brabant, acht juveniele en twee adulte vogels. Er werden in totaal 11 **Zwarte Ooievaars** *Ciconia nigra* gemeld. Op 14 september werd een overtrekkende **Zwarte Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* opgemerkt te Lier. Een **Witoogeend** *Aythya nyroca* werd op 28 september ontdekt bij Ermalle-sous-Argenteau, Liège. Bij Longchamps, Namur, werd op 17 september een vrouwtje **Rosse Stekelstaart** *Oxyura jamaicensis* waargenomen. Een adult mannetje **Steppekiekendief** *Circus macrouros* joeg op 19 september gedurende bijna twee uur bij de Belgisch-Franse grens te Angre, Hainaut, en Sebourg, Nord, Frankrijk. Een enkele **Grauwe Kiekendief** *C pygargus* werd opgemerkt te Sint-Denijs, Oostvlaanderen, op 5 augustus; bij Knokke en Ronse, Oostvlaanderen, op 12 augustus; te Lier op 14 augustus; te Kallo, Oostvlaanderen, op 18 augustus en te Deurne op 18 september. Er werden in totaal 64 **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus* gemeld. Een vrouwtje **Roodpootvalk** *Falco vespertinus* vloog op 10 augustus over Boechout, Antwerpen. Een mannetje verbleef op 30 augustus op de Kalmthoutse Heide, Antwerpen, en op 14 september pleisterde een juveniele vogel bij Dendermonde-Denderbelle, Oostvlaanderen.

RALLEN TOT STERNS Een **Klein** of **Kleinst Waterhoen** *Porzana parva/pusilla* te Diepenbeek op 12 augustus, liet zich net niet lang genoeg zien om zekerheid te geven over de determinatie. Een **Kwartelkoning** *Crex crex* werd op 15 september opgestoten in Het Zwin te Knokke. De eerste zeven **Kraanvogels** *Grus grus* vlogen op 16 september over Testelt. De **Steltkluut** *Himantopus himantopus* te Fontenoy, Hainaut, bleef tot 2 augustus. Overtrekkende **Morinelplevieren** *Charadrius morinellus* werden gezien te Angre op 4, 6, 10 en 17 september. Te Zeebrugge verbleef telkens één juveniel op 16 en 17 en op 19 en 20 september. Bij het exemplaar dat op 17 en 18 september te Kallo-Doel aanwezig was, werd op 17 september een overvliegende vogel gezien. Op Blokkersdijk was van 30 augustus tot 12 september een juveniele **Gestreepte Strandloper**

Calidris melanotos aanwezig. Op 9 september werd een juveniel gezien bij Sint-Kruis-Winkel, Oostvlaanderen, en van 9 tot 17 september verbleef één juveniel bij Genappe, Brabant. Een **Poelsnip** *Gallinago media* werd op 31 augustus herkend bij Dudzele. Een andere werd op 19 september gemeld te Dudzele-Zeebrugge. Op 1 augustus werd te Kallo-Doel kortstondig een juveniele **Poelruiter** *Tringa stagnatilis* gezien. Op 3 augustus was er één bij Lokeren, van 10 tot 12 augustus één bij Moerbeke, Oostvlaanderen, en op 22 augustus één bij Zelzate, Oostvlaanderen. Na langsvliegende **Grauwe Franjepoten** *Phalaropus lobatus* te Oostende op 19 augustus en 7 september, werden pleisterende gezien te Zelzate van 9 tot 13 september, te Knokke op 12 september, te Longchamps van 14 tot 17 september en te Harchies van 23 tot ten minste 30 september. Een binnenlandverblijf van een eerste-winter **Rosse Franjepoot** *P fulicaria* vond plaats te Tienen van 9 tot 12 september. De in totaal 59 **Middelste Jagers** *Stercorarius pomarinus* werden gezien te Koksijde (zeven), Oostende (50) en Zeebrugge (twee). Op 12 augustus vloog de eerste (juveniele) **Kleinste Jager** *S longicaudus* langs Oostende. In augustus en september werden hier 29 exemplaren geteld, met dagmaxima van zes op 28 augustus en 10 op 1 september. Verder vlogen er één langs Sint-Idesbald en drie langs Zeebrugge. Een pleisterende adulte vogel verbleef in de Voorhaven van Zeebrugge op 29 en 30 augustus. Een hybride **Zwartkop- x Kokmeeuw** *Larus melanocephalus x ridibundus* werd op 14 augustus herkend op Blokkersdijk. Van de 37 (juveniele) **Vorkstaartmeeuwen** *L sabini* die tussen 28 augustus en 30 september te Oostende werden geteld, waren de dagmaxima vier op 6 september, 16 op 8 september en acht op 9 september. Te Zeebrugge werd er één gezien op 28 augustus en één op 27 september. Een tweede-winter **Grote Burgemeester** *L hyperboreus* verscheen van 1 tot ten minste 28 september nu en dan te Oostende. De enige **Lachstern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* vloog op 12 augustus langs Oostende. In Het Zwin te Knokke pleisterde op 9 september een **Reuzenstern** *Sterna caspia* en twee overtrekkende exemplaren vlogen op 20 september over de Kalmthoutse Heide. Op 23 augustus werd een adulte **Witvleugelstern** *Chlidonias leucopterus* gemeld te Duffel-Rumst. Een juveniel liet zich van 14 tot 19 september geregeld bekijken op Blokkersdijk en opnieuw van 26 tot 29 september.

HOPPEN TOT GORZEN Een **Hop** *Upupa epops* liet zich op 13 en 14 september bekijken bij de Vandammesluis te Zeebrugge. Er waren 37 meldingen van **Draaihalzen** *Jynx torquilla*. De eerste **Grote Piepers** *Anthus richardi* verschenen op 30 september te Lier en te Zeebrugge-Achterhaven. Zoals gewoonlijk werden er weer heel wat **Duinpiepers** *A campestris* gemeld, onder meer te Angre (45, waarvan 33 op 12 september); Beerse (11); Bekkerzeel, Brabant (drie); Deurne (negen); Diepenbeek (101, waarvan 95 op 12 september); Genk, Limburg; Harchies; Heverlee, Brabant (twee); Kallo-Doel (12); Laakdal, Antwerpen; Lier (drie); Neerpelt (42 waarvan 13 op 12 en 15 op 15 september); Oostakker (zes); Oostmalle-Zoersel, Antwerpen (17); Pulle (vier); Vilvoorde, Brabant (vijf); en Zeebrugge (twee). Er werden **Roodkeelpiepers** *A cervinus* vastgesteld te Angre en te Bredene op 19 september; te Genappe op 16 september; te Lier op 17, 23 en 30 september en te Raversijde, Westvlaanderen, op 23 september. Verrassend genoeg werd reeds op 12 augustus een eerstewinter **Citroenkwikstaart** *Motacilla citreola* ontdekt te Lier-Anderstad. Op 23 augustus werd een **Noordse Nachtegaal** *Luscinia luscinia* geringd bij Korbeek-Lo. Bij Neerpelt werd op 30 augustus een **Roodsterblauwborst** *L svecica svecica* geringd. Een vrouwtje **Aziatische Roodborsttapuit** *Saxicola torquata maura* zat in de avond van 14 september op De Maten te Diepenbeek. Buiten de gekende broedplaatsen waren er **Cetti's Zangers** *Cettia cetti* te Knokke op 10 en 25 september en te Lier van 16 tot 20 september. Veldwaarnemingen van **Waterrietzangers** *Acrocephalus paludicola* te Lier waren op 4 augustus, 11 augustus, op 13 en 14 augustus en van 26 augustus tot 3 september. Op 13 augustus was er één bij Diepenbeek en op 14 augustus één te Zeebrugge-Achterhaven. Vangsten waren te Beerse op 9 en 14 augustus; te Bokrijk op 14 en 21 augustus; te Mechelen, Antwerpen (12); te Neerpelt (één in september); te Veurne, Westvlaanderen (10); en te Willebroek op 10 augustus. Op 14 augustus werd een **Orpheusspotvogel** *Hippolais polyglotta* gemeld in Het Zwin te Knokke. Een mannetje **Kleine Zwartkop** *Sylvia melanocephala* werd op 21 september ontdekt te Heist en bleef daar aanwezig tot ver in oktober. Dit betrof het derde (maar eerste twitchbare) geval voor België. De enige gemelde vangst van een eerste-winter **Sperwergrasmus** *S nisoria* gebeurde in de eerste helft van september te Beerse. Lang verwacht maar bijzonder leuk was de ontdekking van de eerste in het veld twitchbare **Noordse Boszanger** *Phylloscopus borealis* voor de Benelux, van 6 tot 8 september te Heist. Dit is een nieuwe soort voor België. Verrassend vroeg was de skulkende **Bruine Boszanger** *P fuscatus* die op 20 september op precies dezelfde plaats werd ontdekt. De eerste **Bladkoning** *P inornatus* voor dit najaar werd gezien op 25 september bij Knokke. Op 23 september werd kortstondig een **Kleine Vliegenvanger** *Ficedula parva* waargenomen bij Bredene. Op 29 september landde een **Notekraker** *Nucifraga caryocatactes* bij Wijnegem, Antwerpen, maar de vogel werd snel uit het oog verloren. Rond 20 september werd bij Willebroek een **Grijze Gors** *Emberiza cia* geringd; het ging om een vogel met aanzienlijke sleet zodat het niet uitgesloten is dat het om een uit gevangenschap ontsnapt exemplaar ging.

Deze waarnemingslijst kwam tot stand met medewerking van Hugues Dufourny (Hainaut), Koen Leysen (Schulen), Dirk Symens (VLAVICO) en Willy Verschueren (Linkeroever). Ook de hulp van diegenen die (hun) waarnemingen meedeelden op de Belgische Dutch Birding-vogellijn (03-4880194) was hier onontbeerlijk.

Gerald Driessens, Bosstraat 44, 2500 Lier, België

DB Actueel

Havikarend veroorzaakt commotie op Vlieland en Texel In de vroege ochtend van 17 september 1995 bezocht Peter Waanders de (alleen op zondag vrij toegankelijke) Vliehors op Vlieland, Friesland. In één van de duinenrijen op de uitgestrekte zandplaat vloog om 08:10 een grote roofvogel op, die langzaam naar het laatste duin vloog. Eventjes kwam er een Grote Mantelmeeuw *Larus marinus* bij vliegen zodat de grootte vergeleken kon worden; de spanwijdtes van beide vogels waren ongeveer gelijk. De volgende 20 min kon PW de vogel zowel in zit als in vlucht goed bekijken. Opvallend waren met name de zwaar bevederde, lange poten, de ver buiten het lichaam stekende kop en nek, de lange staart en de oranjebruine kop, onderdelen en ondervleugeldekveren die door een dun zwart lijntje van de grijze slagpennen gescheiden werden. PW kon niet anders concluderen dan dat het een jonge Havikarend *Hieraaetus fasciatus* betrof. Hij keerde zo snel mogelijk terug naar de bewoonde wereld om zijn vogelgids te raadplegen, fotospullen te halen en anderen te waarschuwen. Hij kwam Justin Jansen tegen die het nieuws direct verspreidde zodat de c 30 vogelaars die één van hun vaste najaarweekenden op Vlieland doorbrachten op de hoogte kwamen. Enig ongeloof overheerste aanvankelijk, maar toen om c 11:00 de roofvogel werd teruggevonden kwam snel aan de laatste twijfels een eind; het was echt een juveniele Havikarend! De vogel werd aanvankelijk vooral in zit en op grote afstand gezien maar vloog even later prachtig enkele ererondjes over de gestaag groeiende groep vogelaars. Op dat moment konden foto's en video-opnames worden gemaakt en alle relevante kenmerken worden vastgesteld. Vanaf de punt van de Vliehors werd Arend Wassink gebeld die rond de middag de arend op grote afstand vanaf de noordpunt van Texel, Noordholland, te zien kreeg.

Met de middagboot arriveerden c 25 vogelaars, waaronder een grote groep die het weekend op Ameland, Friesland, had doorgebracht. Dankzij de van tevoren afgehuurde 'Vliehors-expres', die bij het Posthuis klaarstond en direct de Vliehors op reed, hadden zij al rond 17:00 succes. Een aantal vogelaars, die door een verplichte overnachting op Vlieland in problemen zouden komen, konden via het toeristenbootje van de Vliehors naar Texel nog dezelfde dag weer voet op de vastewal zetten. De reis van Erik Ernens en Patrick Palmen mag gerust als één van de meest opmerkelijke 'twitches' uit het Nederlandse vogelen worden beschouwd: per boot van Ameland naar Holwerd; per auto naar Harlingen; per boot naar Vlieland; per bus, Vliehors-expres en boot naar Texel; per auto meegereden naar 't Horntje; per boot naar Den Helder; per bus naar Harlingen; per trein naar Groningen (waar hun eigen auto's stonden); en tenslotte per auto naar Doetinchem, Gelderland, respectievelijk Horst, Limburg. Anderen gokten op Texel en slaagden erin de arend van daar, zij het als stipje in de verte, te zien.

De volgende dag was de Vliehors vanwege schietoefeningen afgesloten voor publiek. Gelukkig voor de c 10 waaghalzen die toch naar Vlieland waren gegaan bleken de aanwezige militairen buitengewoon behulpzaam. Vogelaars werden per militair voertuig naar de grote uitkijkpost midden op de Vliehors gebracht en kregen op die manier de arend te zien, die zich weinig leek aan te trekken van de oefeningen. Op dinsdag slaagden op deze wijze ruim 20 vogelaars erin de vogel te zien. In tegenstelling tot de maandag lukte het deze dag enkele vogelaars de Havikarend weer vanaf Texel te 'spotten'. Op de laatste dag van het seizoen dat het toeristenbootje in de vaart was, 20 september, stak een groep vogelaars over vanaf Texel. Zowel zij als enkele vogelaars die via de normale route naar Vlieland waren gekomen zagen de arend nog net hoog opschroeven boven de Vliehors. Even later zag een viertal op Texel achtergebleven Katwijkse vogelaars hem hoog over Texel in zuidelijke richting verdwijnen. Sindsdien ontbreekt ieder spoor....

De eerste Havikarend voor Nederland betrof een juveniel mannetje dat op 24 januari 1958 dood werd gevonden bij Gendringen, Gelderland, vlak bij de Duitse grens (Limosa 32: 107-110, 1959). Destijds was dat het meest noordelijke geval in Europa. Het aantal overige gevallen van deze schaarse Zuideuropese standvogel in Noord- en Westeuropa is bijna op één hand te tellen. PETER J WAANDERS & ENNO B EBELS

Drie nieuwe soorten voor België Op 6 september 1995 ontdekte Steven Vanthiegem een Noordse Boszanger *Phylloscopus borealis* in de bosjes van de Seaman's Club te Heist, Westvlaanderen. Deze langverwachte nieuwe soort voor België maakte hiermee zijn 'velddebuut' in de Benelux (er waren acht vondsten en vangsten in Nederland). De vogel bleef aanwezig tot 8 september en werd door 10-tallen Belgische en Nederlandse vogelaars bekeken.

De ontdekking van een juveniele Bairds Strandloper *Calidris bairdii* door Bruno Nef op 4 oktober 1995 lokte het peloton naar Longchamps, Namen. De directie van de suikerraffinaderij pakte uit met een medewerkingsstunt voor twitchend België: de parkeerplaats mocht zonder aanmelding gebruikt en het fabrieksterrein doorlopend betreden worden. Deze nieuwkomer op de Belgische lijst bleef tot 8 oktober. Wie echter dacht dat dit de topsoort van 1995 zou worden had het mis.

Op 13 oktober 1995 toverden Dirk Verroken en Luc Verroken als donderslag bij heldere hemel '775' op de semafoon: een Roodoogvireo *Vireo olivaceus*! Deze droomsoort hipte wat rond in de bosjes bij de Fonteintjes te Blankenberge, Westvlaanderen, en liet zich tot in zijn slaap – wat moeizaam – fotograferen en filmen. Tot grote spijt van de meeste vogelaars kon het beestje echter geen weerstand bieden aan de nachtelijke heldere sterrenhemel... Twee dagen later doken in deze bosjes als troost een Kleine Zwartkop *Sylvia mela-*

nocephala en een Kleine Vliegenvanger *Ficedula parva* op. GERALD DRIESSENS

Bartrams Ruiter op Maasvlakte Op zaterdagochtend 28 oktober 1995 waren Hans Mom en Dave van der Spoel aan het vogelen op de Maasvlakte, Zuidholland. Om 10:15 vloog voor ons een vreemde steltloper op uit de helm van het hoge duin ten noorden van de vuurtoren en ging op 75-100 m afstand op het strand staan. HM richtte zijn telescoop op de vogel en riep gelijk dat het een Bartrams Ruiter *Bartramia longicauda* was. Hoewel wij deze soort nog nooit hadden gezien, herkenden wij hem direct aan de karakteristieke vorm. HM begon een beschrijving van de vogel te maken terwijl DvdS zijn fototoestel en de Jonsson-vogelgids haalde. HM noteerde onder meer een in verhouding tot het lichaam kleine kop met donkere kruin, een lichte hals, schouderveren donkerder dan dekveren, witte veerzomen op bovenzijde, een zwart oog omgeven door wit, een rechte gele snavel met donkere bovenkant en punt, stevige donkergele poten en het voortdurend van voor naar achteren bewegen van de kop. DvdS maakte acht foto's en in de vogelgids zagen wij al gauw dat alles klopte voor deze nieuwe soort voor Nederland. Wij waarschuwden twee andere vogelaars, Magnus Robb en Ilse Schrama, die even verderop stonden en de vogel een paar keer heen en weer zagen vliegen tussen duinen en strand, waarbij ook de donkere stuit en lange staart konden worden gezien. HM besloot om 10:35 naar de electriciteitscentrale te gaan om de vogellijn in te spreken. Hierna zag hij Hans Groot, Bertus de Lange en Kees de Vries, die snel werden ingelicht. Het duurde daarna meer dan een uur voordat de vogel omstreeks 12:00 in het veld achter de vuurtoren werd teruggevonden en vervolgens op het strand goed kon worden bekeken, zodat pas om 12:15 een semafoonbericht werd verzonden. Hierop arriveerden de rest van de dag meer dan 100 vogelaars.

De vogel werkte niet erg mee en was inmiddels weer in het hoge gras verdwenen. Pas tegen 14:00 werd hij ten zuiden van de vuurtoren opnieuw gelokaliseerd door Hans Gebuis, die hem als een Bokje *Lymnocryptes minimus* vlak voor zijn voeten opstootte.

206 Bairds Strandloper / Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*, juveniel, Longchamps, Namen, 4 oktober 1995 *(Han Remaut)*

In de tijd die volgde zou hij zonder duidelijke aanleiding nog ten minste zeven keer opvliegen waarna hij steevast een heel eind wegvloog, soms over de duinen naar de zeekant maar meestal in zuidelijke richting. De meeste keren landde hij in hoog gras waarin hij niet te zien was. Ook streek hij driemaal neer op een veld met kort gras, waar hij zich met korte sprints snel voortbewoog. In de vlucht liet hij telkens een kenmerkende, vrij zachte fluitroep horen, een driedelig *kwiebelib* dat deed denken aan een verkorte roep van de Regenwulp *Numenius phaeopus*. De laatste keer dat hij opvloog vormde een aanval van een Torenvalk *Falco tinnunculus* de aanleiding. Hij verdween om 15:15 hoog en ver in oostelijke richting en werd niet meer teruggevonden. De talloze vogelaars bleven diep onder de indruk achter; daarvan getuigde onder meer het feit dat drie telescopen op hun statief bij de laatste waarnemingsplek achterbleven (alle eigenaren hebben zich inmiddels gemeld). HANS E MOM & DAVE VAN DER SPOEL

207 Bartrams Ruiter / Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*, Maasvlakte, Zuidholland, 28 oktober 1995 *(Dave van der Spoel)*

208 Bartrams Ruiter / Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*, Maasvlakte, Zuidholland, 28 oktober 1995 *(René Pop)*

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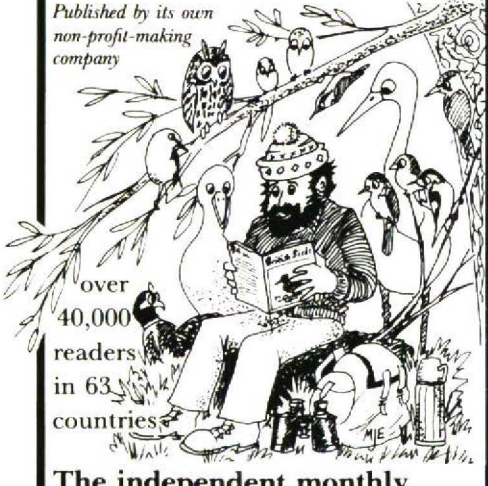

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