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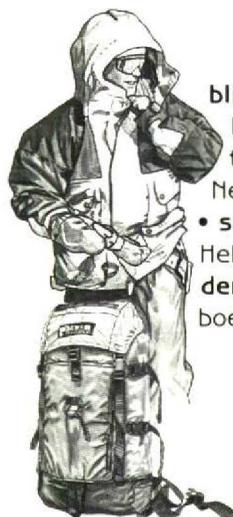
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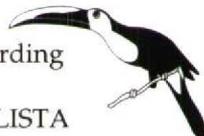
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Field identification of female and juvenile Montagu's and Pallid Harriers

Dick Forsman

Of the two smaller species of Western Palearctic harriers *Circus*, Montagu's Harrier *C. pygargus* and Pallid Harrier *C. macrourus*, the females and juveniles (the so-called 'ringtails') are notoriously difficult to identify in the field. Since Svensson's (1971) classic paper, which still remains the most comprehensive treatment of the subject, very little has been added to their identification. New underwing characters of the secondaries were presented by Svensson (in Cramp & Simmons 1980) and the identification has also been dealt with in depth by Forsman (1984, 1993), Génsbøl (1986) and Delin (1989). The most recent treatments are those by Lewington et al (1991) and Jonsson (1992).

This paper focuses on the field identification of these species, adding some important new field characters. These new characters, especially those of the primaries, will hopefully reduce field identification problems in the future.

The paper is based on studies of skins in the Natural History Museum at Tring, England, and the zoological museums of Stockholm, Sweden; Copenhagen, Denmark; and Helsinki, Finland. I have further analysed 100s of photographs of both species and carried out extensive field studies, mainly in Finland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Sweden and Turkey, during the last 10 years. All characters have been tested in the field to assess their value as field identification characters.

Important characters

By far the most important characters to look for when identifying ringtail harriers are the features of the underwing, especially those of the primaries. *Every individual can be positively identified if the underwing is seen well.* Another important, although slightly less reliable character is the head pattern. For adult females, the upperwing as well as the type of body streaking are of importance, whereas in juveniles ground colour and occurrence of streaking on the body may play an important role for the identification. Even the flight silhouette can be diagnostic, especially in adults. In the following, plumage tracts are

listed in order of importance to enable quick reference and facilitate comparison between the species. However, the importance of the different characters varies between plumages and species and may hence be presented in a slightly varying order accordingly.

PRIMARY PATTERN ON UNDERWING Diagnostic in all plumages. When judging this character, spacing and amount of barring important. Focus on pattern of 'fingers' and note also whether barring of primaries evenly spaced or confined to certain parts of leathers.

SECONDARY PATTERN ON UNDERWING Importance of this character for identification varying with age. Generally, juveniles of both species having very dark secondaries and, mostly, any pattern difficult to discern. There seems to be also considerable overlap in type of barring between juveniles of both species. Adult females, on other hand, usually easily separated on secondary pattern of underwing (and upperwing) alone.

UNDERWING-COVERTS Pattern important when identifying adult females; juveniles showing considerable overlap in this character.

AXILLARIES Important to check, especially on adults, when reasonable view of underwing impossible to get due to long distance, poor light conditions or when birds flying low over ground. Note whether armpits boldly marked or not.

HEAD PATTERN Since long one of the traditional field identification characters when separating ringtail Montagu's and Pallid. Reliability of head pattern increasing if bird's age known. Pay special attention to size of dark ear-coverts patch (cheeks) and its extension forwards in relation to eye and gape. Length, width and conspicuousness of pale collar in relation to ear-coverts and sides of neck also extremely important. Note also amount of white around eye and darkness of lores (face).

FLIGHT SILHOUETTE Often clearly different between adults, whereas juveniles may appear very similarly shaped. Note especially bulk of body (centre of gravity), proportional length of tail and proportions of wing (length of hand and arm and wing formula; cf figure 1 and 4). Usefulness of this character depending largely on observer's experience.

Separation from Hen Harrier

When dealing with identification of ringtail har-



FIGURE 1 General differences in shape between, from left to right, Montagu's *Circus pygargus*, Pallid *C macrourus* and Hen Harriers *C cyaneus* (Dick Forsman). Note long, narrow and pointed hand and small body and long tail of Montagu's compared with more triangular-handed and heavier-bodied Pallid. Hen has broadest wings with rounded tip and bulging trailing edge to arm and rather heavy body. See text for details

FIGURE 2 Silhouettes of soaring Montagu's *Circus pygargus* / Pallid *C macrourus* (left) and Hen Harrier *C cyaneus* (Dick Forsman). Note differences in width of wing and structure of hand/wing-tip. In Hen, whole wing appearing equally broad with rounded tip, whereas wing in Montagu's/Pallid widest at carpal with hand tapering clearly towards tip



riers, possible confusion with Hen Harrier *C cyaneus* cannot be overlooked. The risk of mis-identification is particularly great wherever or whenever Hen Harriers occur in places where Pallid and Montagu's Harriers are more likely, eg, in northern Africa and the Middle East. Experienced birders should, as a rule, have no problems identifying the heavier Hen, with its broad and round-tipped wings. However, Hen can sometimes be truly difficult to separate from Pallid, a problem largely overlooked in the literature. The most difficult Hens are moulting adult females in late summer/early autumn, showing a pointed wing-tip. Also small and narrow-winged juvenile males, with breast streaking confined to upper breast only, can appear confusingly similar to ringtail Pallids.

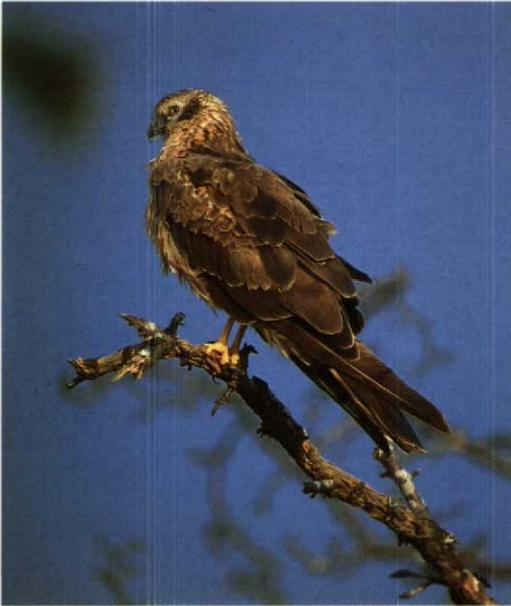
Normally, Hens clearly show five fingered

primaries at the wing-tip, whereas the smaller species only show four and the wing-tip itself is formed by the longest three (cf figure 2 and plate 39). This gives Hen a typical, almost *Accipiter*-like rounded wing-tip. However, the wing-tips of moulting Hens in August-September may look untypically pointed due to one or two missing or growing fingered primaries (plate 40). Despite the untypical wing-tip, the inner hand always appears broad and the arm is broad with a curved trailing edge. The flight is also heavier and slower than in the two lighter species. Remember that many female Pallids (not Montagu's) are as heavy-bodied and actually as big as Hens, but that they still differ by their narrower and more angled and straight-lined wings. The difference in jizz and flight is important when separating difficult juvenile male Hens which sometimes



34 Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, juvenile female, Finland, September 1982 (Dick Forsman). Compare with adult female Pallid Harrier in plate 38 and note especially differences in primary barring and wing formula. Pattern of darkish secondaries can be rather similar, but head appearing generally more streaked in Hen 35 Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*, typical adult female, Kazakhstan, 18 September 1993 (Paul Holt). Note evenly barred primaries, typical pattern of secondaries and coarsely rufous-patterned underwing-coverts and axillaries. Note also typical head pattern and rufous bars on outer rectrices





36 Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*, adult female, Sweden, 10 August 1991 (*Dick Forsman*). Note typical, rather pale head, with large amount of white around eye and restricted dark ear-coverts spot **37** Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*, juvenile, Kenya, 18 February 1987 (*Veikko Salo*). Note rather pale head with extensive white around eye, restricted dark ear-coverts patch and streaked sides of neck **38** Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*, adult female, Kazakhstan, 18 September 1993 (*Antti Mikala*). Note typically barred primaries and darkish secondaries. Compare also head and underwing pattern and streaking on underparts with female Montagu's in plate 35 and juvenile female Hen Harrier in plate 34



show a rather narrow hand due to the comparatively short fifth finger! Apart from the different structure and jizz, there are also plumage characters to look for. The underwing pattern of ring-tail Hen is rather close to adult female Pallid, adding to the difficulty of the problem (cf plates 39 and 45). The primaries are usually heavily barred, including the fingers, but the bases may show a pale 'boomerang' like in many Pallids. Some juvenile male Hens also seem to have irregularly barred fingers, showing sometimes a very similar pattern to ringtail Pallids. The secondaries appear darkish also in juvenile Hen (plate 34), whereas adult females show distinct barring. The pattern may resemble some adult female Pallids although Hens, on average, show less dark in the secondaries than Pallids.

Perched adult female Pallids can be practically impossible to tell from adult female Hens, as the plumage can be so similar. The dark cheek-patch (ear-coverts patch) is more streaked in Hen but appears darker and more solid in Pallid. Svensson (1991) gives further characters, such as differences in colour and pattern of the underparts, spacing of the primaries on the folded wing and the relation between the trailing edge of the arm and the tips of the primary coverts on the folded wing (equal in Pallid, whereas the primary coverts fall short of the trailing edge in Hen, indicating a broader arm). Juveniles are usually easy to separate on differences in underparts alone (streaked in Hen, plain in Pallid) and on the different head-pattern. Further, the ochre patch on the upper arm is more solid and distinct in Pallid and Montagu's but blotchy and obscured in Hen. The whitish nape-patch of juvenile Pallid or Montagu's is conspicuous compared with the streaked, rather inconspicuous patch on ringtailed Hen.

Ageing first

It is easier to separate ringtail Pallid and Montagu's Harriers when they are aged first. In autumn this is, normally, not difficult. Juveniles are deep tawny or ochre below with no streaking on breast (see, however, under juvenile Montagu's). They have very dark brown upperparts, with a bright ochre patch on the upperwing-coverts, and a striking head pattern. Adult females are clearly streaked below and more greyish-brown above and their head pattern is less distinct (see, however, under adult female Pallid). Spring birds are more difficult to age as many juveniles acquire breast streaking during their first winter and the upperparts become dull greyish brown due to

wear and bleaching, hence recalling adult females. The underwing pattern then remains the most diagnostic feature (see under 'Identification of first-winter-first-summer birds in spring').

Identification of adult females

Identification of adult females is usually straightforward if the pattern of the underwing is seen. Apart from the underwing (primaries, secondaries and coverts, which are all diagnostic) and axillaries, which are by far the most important areas, also body streaking, upperwing pattern and general shape in flight differ between the species. The head pattern of adult females is often indistinct and may be rather difficult to assess on distant birds but, if seen well, usually is also diagnostic.

Montagu's Harrier, adult female

Adult female Montagu's Harrier (plates 35-36, 41-42) varies much less in plumage than adult female Pallid Harrier. For instance, all important characters of the underwing seem to be very constant and are therefore reliable identification features.

PRIMARY PATTERN ON UNDERWING Primaries barred, with even spacing from base to tip, including 'fingers'. Individual bars prominent and squarish. Trailing edge of hand with distinct dark lining merging with broad dark trailing edge of arm.

SECONDARY PATTERN ON UNDERWING Secondaries having same ground colour as primaries, giving whole underwing uniformly palish appearance at distance, being important feature. Secondaries typically barred: dark trailing edge separated from inner two black wing-bars by wide pale gap, similar to underwing pattern of adult male Montagu's. Importantly, this pale band distinct and wide from hand to body (cf Pallid Harrier).

UNDERWING-COVERTS Pale, with uniform, bold rufous markings creating contrasting 'chess-board'-pattern, continuing onto axillaries.

AXILLARIES Especially on low-flying birds, boldly barred 'chess-board'-patterned axillaries often providing best single character as they flash in pace with wing-beats.

HEAD PATTERN Quite constant, head appearing normally rather pale and poor in contrast, except for darker, isolated ear-covert patch. White around eye extensive and lores typically pale and, especially in frontal views, whole face looking whitish, giving bird open-faced and mild expression.

UPPERWING Remiges often appearing greyish with darker barring, especially on hand. However, second-winter and second-summer females still having darker upperwings than full adults (Forsman 1984) and especially secondaries can appear rather uniformly dark above (rest of plumage and underwing pattern

Field identification of female and juvenile Montagu's and Pallid Harriers

already as in full adult). Distinct dark wing-bar across clearly greyish secondaries always clear indication of adult female Montagu's (see also Pallid).

BREAST STREAKING Lanceolated and rather broad rufous-tinged streaks, similarly shaped and evenly spaced over whole breast.

OUTER RECTRICES Showing diagnostic, vividly rufous-red bars on paler sandy ground colour, as opposed to dark barring of all Pallids and juvenile Montagu's.

Pallid Harrier, adult female

Adult female Pallid (plates 38, 43-45) varies a great deal more than adult female Montagu's. Especially the head pattern and body streaking show considerable individual variation but also the important characters of the underwing are more variable than in Montagu's. This increases the risk of confusion with, especially, first-winter-first-summer Montagu's. The primary pattern is rather constant and provides the single most reliable distinguishing character. Also the secondary pattern is a distinguishing character in most adult females.

PRIMARY PATTERN ON UNDERWING Very different from Montagu's. Primaries often pale contrasting clearly against darker secondaries, caused by lack of distinct dark trailing edge and by heaviest barring being confined to median section of each feather. In some, individual bars narrow and 'hook-like'. Bases of primaries frequently (not always) unbarred, creating pale 'boom-erang' surrounding darkish coverts, perhaps most useful single character over great distances when present. Also, distal parts of primaries usually only showing narrow, faint barring, or no barring at all, except for narrow dark 'finger tips' of longest primaries.

SECONDARY PATTERN ON UNDERWING Largely dark secondaries mostly contrasting sharply with paler primaries. Secondaries showing only narrow pale bars (usually narrower than dark bars), being typically wider at outer end, tapering and gradually vanishing towards body. Most common type showing underneath nearly all-black secondaries with only one pale bar across distal part of feathers. Other (old?) females showing two dark bars inside of dark trailing edge, recalling adult female Hen Harrier, but pale bars still narrower than in any adult female Montagu's.

UNDERWING-COVERTS Rather variable, as both ground colour and type and colour of pattern varying individually. In most individuals, lesser coverts paler with finer pattern compared with darker and more heavily patterned median and greater coverts. This creating rather contrasting pale leading edge to otherwise darkish arm, with darker coverts merging into dark secondaries. As opposite to adult female Montagu's, pattern of coverts generally difficult to discern. Coverts may be variably streaked to nearly all-brown with pale spots. Greater primary coverts often standing out as dark crescent surrounding carpal area, feature not found in adult female Montagu's.

AXILLARIES Armpit usually appearing darkish from distance, lacking distinct pattern. If axillaries showing any pattern, usually consisting of pale spotting on darker background, never bold and distinct barring of adult Montagu's.

HEAD PATTERN Very variable. Some (younger?) adults showing rather contrasting head markings, in this respect being very similar to juveniles, except for dark-spotted collar. Other (older?) females very poor in contrast, being very similar to adult female Hen, with indistinct cheek-patch and streaked crown and sides of neck. Pale neck-collar always present but often narrow and difficult to see from distance and actually very similar to that of Hen.

39 Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, adult female, Finland, 1 July 1993 (*Dick Forsman*). Note broad and rounded wings with 5 clear 'fingers' (primaries numbered ascendantly, p6 growing). Compare head, underwing and underparts with adult female Pallid Harrier in plate 38

40 Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, adult female, Finland, September 1985 (*Dick Forsman*). Note pointed wing-tip due to moult (growing inner 'fingers'), yet broad wings and heavy body (compare with Pallid Harrier in plate 45). Barring of remiges different from ringtail Pallid

41 Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*, adult female, Sweden, May 1992 (*Jens B Bruun*). Note typical barring of secondaries and primaries, coarsely rufous-patterned underwing-coverts and especially axillaries and isolated dark ear-coverts

42 Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*, adult female, Sweden, 8 August 1991 (*Dick Forsman*). Note same details as in plate 41

43 Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*, adult female, Kazakhstan, 7 June 1987 (*Jyri Heino*). Note pattern of primaries and secondaries, contrast and pattern of underwing-coverts and contrast on upper breast

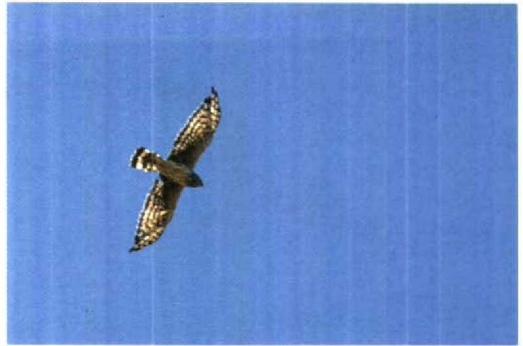
44 Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*, adult female, Israel, April 1985 (*Markku Huhta-Koivisto*). Rather average individual. Apart from structural and plumage details, note also paler forearm, generally darker arm and paler hand and more heavily streaked upper breast. Head pattern rather similar to Hen Harrier

45 Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*, adult female, Kazakhstan, 14 September 1993 (*Dick Forsman*). Note paleness and bulk as well as rather broad wings of this (moulting) adult female and compare with Hen Harrier in plate 40

46 Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*, juvenile, Kazakhstan, 8 September 1993 (*Dick Forsman*). Note typical underwing, with dark fingers and largely unbarred, greyish bases to outer primaries



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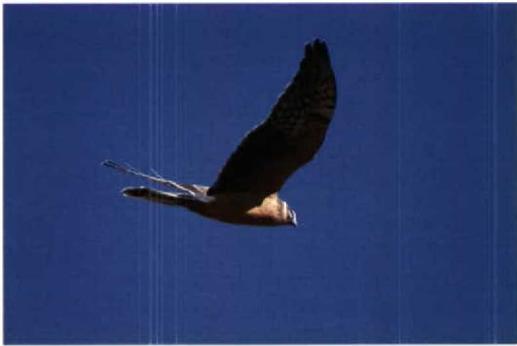
Field identification of female and juvenile Montagu's and Pallid Harriers



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UNDERPARTS Variable, following coloration of underwing-coverts, both with respect to ground colour as well as to intensity of streaking. Some individuals rather deep brownish-ochre, like juvenile Hen, with bold dark streaking, while other (older?) females more whitish below with faint streaks only. Female Pallid (like Hen) tending to have more bold streaking on upper breast, whereas lower breast and belly finer streaked. This also visible in field as contrast between darker upper breast and paler belly, similar to contrast on underwing. Adult Montagu's normally showing uniformly streaked underparts with darker head only. However, beware of first-summer female Montagu's, where partial body moult frequently causing similar pattern (see below).

UPPERWING Mostly darker than adult Montagu's and barring of remiges more difficult to see. Often, contrast between brownish primaries and slightly darker secondaries can be seen. Normally, secondaries appearing just dark but in favourable light faint darker barring can be seen, although never with striking median bar as in adult Montagu's.

OUTER RECTRICES Bars of outer rectrices dark, not rufous, as in adult female Montagu's.

Distant adults may be very difficult to identify and ageing should preferably be a prerequisite to species identification (see above). Adult female Montagu's appears rather uniform, lacking contrasts, and the wings appear pale below. The chequered axillaries are often obvious over remarkable distances. Adult female Montagu's also mostly appears very small-bodied, strikingly long-tailed and long- and narrow-handed and the flight is light and graceful (figure 1). Adult female Pallid appears on average more contrasting, with darkish upperparts and paler underparts, and the underwing is clearly bi-coloured, with a dark arm and pale hand. The streaking on the underbody is heavier on the upper breast, contrasting with the clearly paler lower breast and belly. Adult female Pallid can be very similar to Hen in build, with a fuller vent, and they can

appear rather broad-winged, too. However, the wing, especially the hand, is still narrower than that of Hen and the hand is more pointed and triangular, never rounded and *Accipiter*-like (figure 2).

Identification of juveniles

The identification of juveniles in autumn is more difficult than that of adult females. At a distance, both species appear very dark above and rich ochre or rusty below with dark secondaries and a paler hand. A positive identification requires reasonable views of the underwing, especially of the primaries, preferably supported by the head pattern. Sometimes, identification can be based on the axillaries alone. Secondary pattern and body streaking are more variable and therefore less reliable. Unlike in adult females, the flight silhouettes of juveniles do not differ notably between the species. This is especially important to remember when identifying birds in spring (see below under 'Identification of first-winter–first-summer birds in spring').

Montagu's Harrier, juvenile

Juvenile Montagu's Harrier (plates 37, 46-47) is best identified on all-dark 'fingers', often with uniformly greyish bases to the outer primaries, and on head-pattern. After fledging, juveniles lack the extreme proportions of the adults and the flight is much less elegant. At the time of autumn migration, they normally have acquired the slim outline and the flight is more like that of adults.

PRIMARY PATTERN ON UNDERWING Although pattern varying more than in adults, some fairly constant characters enable identification. 'Fingers' and trailing edge of hand dark in most birds, often creating 'Buteo-like' dark lining and widely dark tip to hand, rather different from generally paler hand of Pallid Harrier. Most birds

47 Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*, juvenile, Finland, 14 August 1994 (*Dick Forsman*). Note typical head pattern with isolated ear-coverts patch, finely barred primaries with darkish fingers

48 Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*, juvenile male, Kazakhstan, 16 September 1993 (*Antti Mikala*). Dark cheek reaching onto lower mandible, dark lores and restricted white around eye all typical for juvenile Pallid. Note also how collar appearing to go completely around neck. Sides of neck more streaked than on average. Sexing based on pale iris

49 Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*, juvenile, Kazakhstan, 14 September 1993 (*Dick Forsman*). Primaries showing diagnostic pale bases with heavy barring confined to median part of feathers. Collar sharply defined and cheek-patch reaching onto lower mandible

50 Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*, juvenile, Kazakhstan, 14 September 1993 (*Dick Forsman*). Note diagnostic head and primary pattern

51 Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*, juvenile female, Kazakhstan, 16 September 1993 (*Antti Mikala*). Note typical pattern of primaries with pale 'boomerang', as well as diagnostic head pattern. Sexing based on dark iris

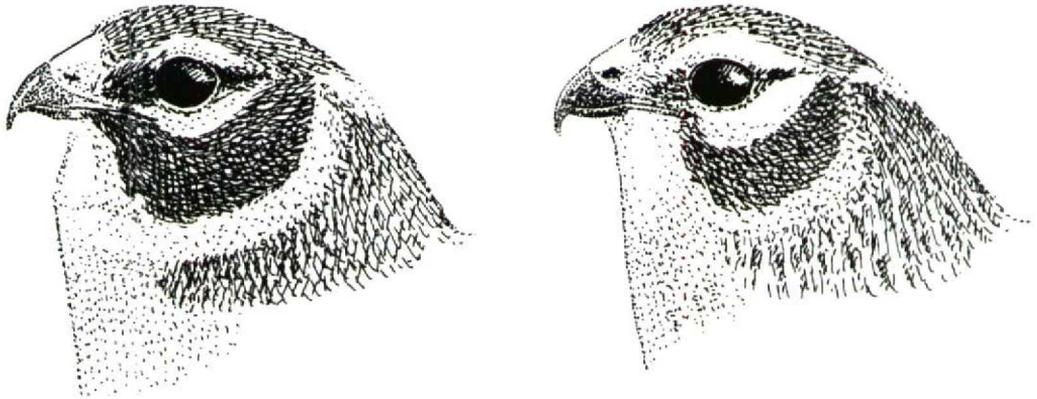


FIGURE 3 Head patterns of juveniles of Pallid *Circus macrourus* (left) and Montagu's Harrier *C pygargus* (Dick Forsman). Note especially difference in size of dark cheek-patch, amount of white around eye and distinctiveness and shape of pale collar. See text for details

showing no barring at bases of fingered primaries, as barring confined to inner four to five primaries. This adding to 'Buteo-like' effect, leaving central palm of hand paler. Small minority of birds ('barred-type') showing completely barred primaries and hence resembling Pallid in this respect. They can still be told on mostly uniformly greyish 'fingers', on regularly spaced, rather fine barring from base to tip and on darkish trailing edge to hand (cf Pallid).

HEAD PATTERN (figure 3, plate 37) Often quite contrasting and sometimes appearing very similar to juvenile Pallid. Montagu's generally showing more white around eye, especially above eye, and due to pale lores, eyes becoming prominent and surrounded by white. Especially in frontal views, whole face may look mostly white (appearing dark in Pallid). Dark ear-coverts patch usually not reaching further than to gape or eye, leaving widely pale throat, as opposite to juvenile Pallid (see below). Also, pale collar shorter and crescent-shaped, tapering towards both ends, not connecting across throat, as in Pallid, where collar also equally wide over entire length. Dark copper-brown birds (see below) having accordingly darker heads, with less white around eye, darker lores and more extensive ear-coverts patch, and hence may recall juvenile Pallid. Collar of these birds, however, even less distinct than in 'normal' juveniles, thus immediately excluding Pallid. Sides of neck, behind collar, mostly streaked in juvenile Montagu's but some darkish birds may show rather uniformly brown neck sides, more similar to juvenile Pallid.

AXILLARIES Some juveniles already showing bold axillary pattern typical for adult female Montagu's. This 'chess-board'-pattern always indication of Montagu's, whereas lack of it might indicate either species.

SECONDARY PATTERN ON UNDERWING Secondaries of most juvenile Montagu's dark slaty-grey and mostly too

dark to reveal any pattern in field. Secondaries generally darker and more uniformly coloured than in juvenile Pallid but variation in both darkness and spacing of barring overlapping considerably between species, offering no help to identification in most cases.

UNDERPARTS Juvenile Montagu's seeming more variable than juvenile Pallid, with two different colour-types. Deep copper-brown underparts probably diagnostic for Montagu's, as no similarly coloured juvenile Pallids known. Paler birds warmer in tones, more yellowish-ochre and quite similar in colour to juvenile Pallid. Important to remember, however, that underparts bleaching considerably during winter and that colour of no use when identifying spring birds. As opposed to juvenile Pallid, many Montagu's showing faintly streaked underparts. Streaking usually confined to upper breast and flanks and often conspicuous enough to be noted in field.

UNDERWING-COVERTS Varying from largely streaked to largely unstreaked. Often greater and median coverts streaked, while lesser coverts appearing uniform. Coverts on average more streaked in Montagu's than in Pallid, but overlap in juveniles too great to rely on this character.

OUTER RECTRICES Barring of outermost rectrices usually visible from below on juvenile Montagu's, whereas only dark terminal band visible on juvenile Pallid.

Pallid Harrier, juvenile

Juvenile Pallid Harrier (plates 48-51) is usually easy to identify on the diagnostic primary- and head-pattern.

PRIMARY PATTERN ON UNDERWING More variable than in adult Pallid but usually primaries appearing rather evenly barred from base to tip. Also, juveniles frequently showing unbarred primary bases, leaving pale

'boomerang' outside darker primary coverts, like in adult females. This character, when present, probably best single field-character, often visible at great distance, but seeming to occur less regularly in juveniles than in adult females. Greyish trailing edge of hand faint (yet darker than in adults) and fingers either evenly barred or pale with narrow dark tips only, never all-dark as in most juvenile Montagu's. Bars on average bolder and more irregular in Pallid and concentrating to median section of feathers, compared with finer and regularly spaced barring in 'barred-type' juvenile Montagu's.

HEAD-PATTERN (figure 3, plates 48, 51) Very diagnostic due to contrasting, distinct pale and dark areas; less variable than in juvenile Montagu's. White around eye reduced compared with juvenile Montagu's, and ear-coverts patch more extensive, mostly reaching half-way out along lower mandible. In flight, dark cheeks well visible from below, leaving only narrow pale throat compared with widely pale throat of Montagu's. Pale collar clear-cut and distinct, running equally wide all way from white nape-patch to throat. Collar often appearing to encircle head completely, as do sometimes prominent dark sides of neck bordering it from behind. Dark lores adding to contrast giving darkish face rather grim expression compared with mild-faced juvenile Montagu's.

SECONDARY PATTERN ON UNDERWING Secondaries appearing dark at distance, but looking often paler and, above all, more distinctly barred than average juvenile Montagu's. Many individuals showing typical adult female pattern, with one pale bar across distal part of secondaries, getting gradually narrower and darker towards body. Variation in juveniles of both species, however, too great to merit secondaries any higher status, apart from typical individuals. Secondaries should, however, not be totally overlooked, as it may provide additional support to identification.

AXILLARIES Usually faintly streaked or uniform, like underwing-coverts, not showing bold pattern of some juvenile Montagu's.

UNDERPARTS Typically unstreaked, warm yellowish-ochre. Ground colour varying only slightly and copper-brown birds not known (cf juvenile Montagu's). Underparts always appearing unstreaked in field, although some individuals may show slightly darker shafts upon close examination (in hand).

UNDERWING-COVERTS Generally, less streaked than in juvenile Montagu's. Streaking often limited to greater coverts, leaving median and lesser coverts unmarked. Despite average differences between species, overlap too extensive to allow separation of juveniles.

OUTER RECTRICES Barring of outermost rectrices usually not visible from below on juvenile Pallid, as feathers appearing plain sandy, apart from outermost tail-band showing as prominent black spot.

Distant juveniles are generally very difficult to identify unless the underwing is seen well. The emphasis should always be on the most reliable

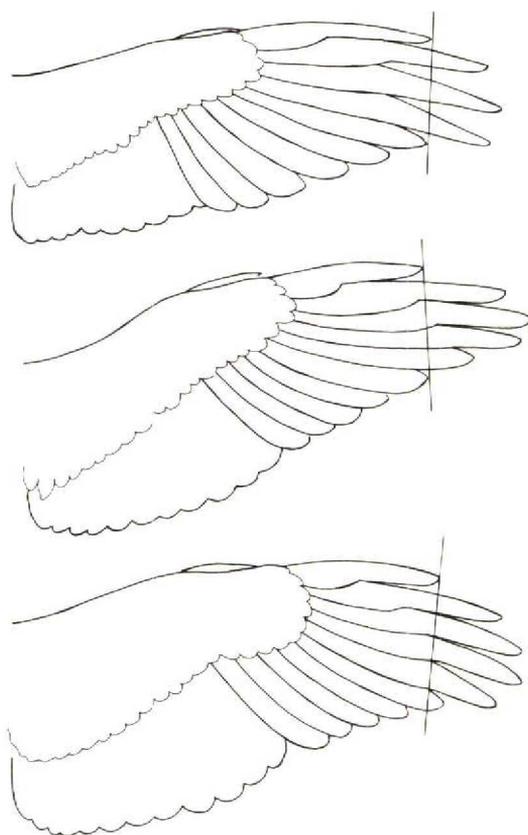


FIGURE 4 Wings of Montagu's *Circus pygargus* (upper), Pallid *C. macrourus* (middle) and Hen Harrier *C. cyaneus* (lower) (Dick Forsman). Note difference in wing formulas: Montagu's has long outermost primary (p1, numbered ascendantly), roughly equalling p5. In adults, tip of p5 closer to p6 than p4, in juveniles often like in Pallid. In Pallid, p1 shorter, tip falling between p5-6. P5 longer than in adult Montagu's, tip falling half-way between p4-6. Especially some juvenile Pallids and Montagu's may show rather similar wing formula. In Hen, p1-5 clearly 'fingered'. Tip of p1=p6, or falling between p6-7 and tip of p5 close to p4. Note also large hand and short arm of Montagu's compared with Pallid, and broad and rounded arm of Hen. Always take care when judging wing-formulas on moulting birds!

characters, like those of primaries and head. The secondaries provide additional characters to support the identification. Care should be taken with rare, untypical birds, like dark-headed or distinctly collared juvenile Montagu's or juvenile Montagu's with complete and evenly spaced primary barring.

Identification of first-winter–first-summer birds in spring

The juveniles of both species undergo a partial body moult in the winter quarters, which varies between but also within species (Forsman 1984, 1993). Because of this variable moult, spring juveniles can appear in a plumage varying from a nearly fully retained (but faded and worn) juvenile plumage to an almost adult-looking plumage. Identifying spring birds becomes easier if first the bird is aged correctly. As a rule, Pallid Harrier moults less and the variation between individuals is also less than in Montagu's Harrier, where the moult is, on average, more advanced and the individual variation is extensive. The birds are most reliably aged on their juvenile remiges, which are gradually replaced during the summer (Forsman 1984, 1993). If the birds are not aged accurately before identification, there is a risk of advanced first-summer female Montagu's being misidentified as adult female Pallid, as many of the plumage characters, like head, secondaries and underparts, may appear quite similar. The underwing pattern of the primaries (often also of the coverts and axillaries) is, however, always a reliable identification feature, if seen.

Montagu's Harrier, first-summer in spring

UNDERWING PATTERN (PRIMARIES & COVERTS) Coverts varying individually according to extent of moult. Advanced birds may have replaced all juvenile coverts with adult-type, heavily barred feathers. At same time, retarded individuals may still retain all juvenile coverts. Juvenile remiges always retained, and hence identification should be based on them. As pattern of mostly dark secondaries overlapping between juveniles of both species, focus should be on primaries, which differ clearly between species (see under 'Identification of juveniles').

AXILLARIES Fortunately, nearly all birds have moulted their axillaries, showing diagnostic 'chess-board'-pattern, thus facilitating identification.

HEAD PATTERN Varying also in accordance with extent of body moult. Some females already showing adult-like head, whereas others having contrasting head-pattern, appearing rather similar to juvenile Pallid. In worn plumage, juveniles may even be more Pallid-like than in autumn, as wear and bleaching adding to contrasts of head (see under 'Identification of juveniles').

UNDERPARTS Varying from uniformly pale buff to completely streaked, according to moult. Most birds seeming to moult parts of head, and upperbreast showing clear contrast between these and retained and unstreaked juvenile feathers of lower breast and belly. At distance, this pattern, with streaked upper breast and paler lower breast and belly, rather similar to appearance of many female Pallids.

UPPERWING Generally rather dark and poor in contrast

and pattern. Coverts varying according to state of moult from bleached greyish-brown in retarded juveniles to darker brown with ochre covert patch in advanced, moulted birds. Secondaries always appearing uniformly dark, being darkest part of upperwing, and contrasting clearly against browner and faintly barred primaries.

TAIL May consist of retained juvenile rectrices, then appearing rather short. Often, however, containing few moulted, longer (often central) rectrices, adding to long-tailed image of adult Montagu's. Note also colour of barring on outer rectrices (see under juvenile and adult female).

FLIGHT SILHOUETTE Note that many first-summer Montagu's have not yet acquired long rectrices and remiges of adults, making their shape more compact and rather Pallid-like, compared with long-winged and long-tailed adult female Montagu's.

Pallid Harrier, first-summer in spring

UNDERWING, HEAD AND UNDERPARTS Generally rather similar to autumn juveniles. Body moult less extensive than in Montagu's and many birds turning up in spring in worn and bleached juvenile plumage, including head and body. Thus, first-summer Pallid hardly likely to be confused with Montagu's in any plumage. Some birds moulting head partially and many also showing necklace of streaked feathers across upper breast, but still general impression very similar to bleached autumn juvenile.

UPPERWING Usually showing pattern similar to retarded and unmoulted, worn first-summer Montagu's: uniformly dark secondaries contrasting with browner primaries and even paler greyish-brown coverts.

TAIL Similar to that of autumn juveniles.

Distant first-summer birds can be very difficult, if not impossible, to identify, unless important characters of underwing, axillaries and head can be seen. Again, the primary pattern of the underwing is the single most reliable feature.

Other characters

There are several other characters that separate the two species, which, unfortunately, are of little use in the field. The emargination on the outer web of the second outermost primary falls well outside the tips of the longest upper primary coverts in Montagu's Harrier, but falls around equal with the tips of the coverts in Pallid Harrier (cf Svensson 1971, Forsman 1984, 1993). Svensson (1971) also showed that the pattern of the uppertail-coverts of adult females on average differs between the two species. Adult Montagu's tends to have streaked uppertail-coverts, whereas Pallid has barred uppertail-coverts. The juveniles of both species have whitish uppertail-coverts with a rufous wash and faint shaft-streaks in some individuals.

A possible difference in wing-formula has been brought up to discussion before (eg, Svensson 1971, Delin 1989). According to my own field experience, adults definitely have a different wing-shape, noticeable even in the field, whereas juveniles may appear very similar (figure 4). Adult Montagu's has a proportionately longer, narrower and more drawn-out hand, with the three longest primaries (p2-4, numbered ascendingly) protruding as a group and p5 being proportionately shorter than in Pallid. In Pallid, the primary-tips follow each other more regularly, the wing-tip is less drawn-out and p5 is proportionately longer than in Montagu's, making the hand look fuller and the trailing edge straighter. The wing-formula can be difficult to note in the field but it is a good photo-character. In the field, Montagu's gives the impression of having a longer, more pointed and softly curved hand and a shortish arm compared with the shorter, more ample, straight-angled and shorter hand (and longer arm) of Pallid.

Though there is a size difference between the species, especially between the females, it is rarely of any use in the field. The sexes are highly size-dimorphic in Pallid, but not in Montagu's, which makes the identification of unsexed juveniles difficult. Montagu's has the lightest and most graceful flight (lowest wing-loading). Male Pallid has a rather fast, somewhat falcon-like flight, with quick wing-beats, whereas female Pallid is clearly heavier and slower and may at times appear only marginally lighter and quicker-winged than Hen Harrier.

Identification summary

When trying to identify a suspected Pallid or Montagu's Harrier, first focus on the pattern of the underwing, especially that of the primaries, but also of the secondaries. The underwing is often easy to see and holds important characters for identification in all plumages. In side-views, the axillary pattern of adult female Montagu's is a very useful feature, as it can be seen over distances of several 100s of metres through a telescope. Head pattern can be difficult to judge on birds in flight but is of importance when seen well, and especially when perched birds are studied. The difference in flight silhouette, though existing, should only be used by experienced observers, and even then only as a tentative character. The identification is easier if the bird is aged first. When identifying adult female Pallid, one should remember that female Hen Harrier is a more likely confusion species, rather than Montagu's.

Montagu's Harrier

Adult females usually easy to identify on their striking underwing pattern of secondaries and axillaries/wing-coverts. Also head pattern giving good indication, as variation only slight.

In juveniles, identification should be based on primary characters and head-pattern. Some juveniles also already showing diagnostic axillary pattern, typical for adults. Head and secondary characters of some juveniles can be confusingly similar to juvenile Pallid.

Pallid Harrier

Adult females best identified on primary and secondary pattern, while underwing-coverts providing additional support. Great care should be taken to rule out possible confusion with rather similarly plumaged Hen, especially during moult in late summer and early autumn.

Juveniles quite easily identified on their underwing primary pattern and diagnostic head pattern.

Finally, the identification should always be based on not one but several identification characters – the more the merrier!

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to several people for their help. First, thanks to the staffs of the zoological museums in Helsinki, Tring, Copenhagen and Stockholm, who kindly gave me access to the collections. Thanks to Pekka Rusanen, who was the first to draw my attention to the trailing-edge-character of the hand, and to Matti Kapanen and Visa Rauste, who both have been good sparring partners in the field on many joint expeditions, and to Visa Rauste also for commenting on the manuscript. I would also like to thank all the photographers who have lent me photographs during the past years, especially Jens Bruun, Paul Doherty, Jyri Heino, Paul Holt, Markku Huhta-Koivisto, Antti Mikala and Veikko Salo. Finally, I would like to thank Lars Svensson, my friend and master and one of the founders of the modern identification approach, whose earlier works have inspired my own thinking.

Samenvatting

HERKENNING VAN VROUWTJES EN JUVENIELE GRAUWE EN STEPPEKIEKENDIEF De veldherkenning van vrouwtjes en juveniele (de zogenaamde 'ringtails') Grauwe Kiekenkief *Circus pygargus* en Steppekiekendief *C. macrourus* is een klassiek probleem. In dit artikel wordt een aantal nieuwe veldkenmerken besproken. Determinatie is het eenvoudigst als de vogel eerst op leeftijd wordt ge-

bracht. In het najaar zijn juvenielen ongestreept oranjebruin op de onderdelen en hebben een opvallende koptekening. In het voorjaar krijgen ook eerstejaars vogels gestreepte onderdelen en is de bepaling van de leeftijd moeilijker; de eerstejaars vogels zijn echter nog herkenbaar aan de oude juveniele hand- en armpennen.

Voor beide soorten en voor adulte vrouwtjes en juvenielen worden, in volgorde van belangrijkheid, de kenmerken behandeld. De belangrijkste soortkenmerken bevinden zich op de ondervleugel, met name de patronen op hand- en armpennen en dek- en okselveren. Het koppatroon is bij een vliegende vogel minder goed bruikbaar maar is van belang bij de determinatie van een zittende vogel.

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Herkenning en voorkomen van IJslandse Grutto in Nederland

Peter van Scheepen & Gerald J Oreel

Op 1-4 april 1989 bevond zich een mannetje IJslandse Grutto *Limosa limosa islandica* (hierna *islandica*) in adult zomerkleed in de Boscherwaarden, Wijk bij Duurstede, Utrecht (waarneming 9) (van Scheepen 1989). Deze waarneming vormde voor ons de aanleiding om de herkenning en het voorkomen van *islandica* in Nederland te onderzoeken. In dit artikel bespreken wij de resultaten van het onderzoek.

De verzamelde waarnemingen van *islandica*, met inbegrip van de naar aanleiding van een verzoek in Dutch Birding (11: 185, 1989) ontvangen waarnemingen, zijn, voorzover in maart-augustus 1942-92, opgenomen in appendix 1. Hierin staan niet vermeld de waarnemingen op Wieringen, Noordholland, en in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, Zeeland. Er zijn 51 waarnemingen (met 282 exemplaren) opgenomen in appendix 1.

Met ingang van 1 januari 1990 worden waarnemingen van *islandica* niet meer beoordeeld door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse

Avifauna (CDNA) (van den Berg et al 1992; cf de By & CDNA 1991). Vier van de 13 in appendix 1 opgenomen waarnemingen in 1942-89 werden aanvaard (waarnemingen 1, 6, 8 en 9). De overige negen waarnemingen werden niet ter beoordeling opgestuurd. Ze zijn zodanig gedocumenteerd (waarnemingen 7, 10 en 11 bovendien fotografisch) dat redelijkerwijs niet hoeft te worden getwijfeld aan de juistheid van de determinatie.

Herkenning (figuren 1-2)

Na bestudering van de in de literatuur gepubliceerde kenmerken en beschrijvingen van *islandica* (Salomonsen 1935, Timmermann 1949, Harrison & Harrison 1965, Glutz von Blotzheim et al 1977, Prater et al 1977, Hale 1980, Cramp & Simmons 1983, Martejn & Swennen 1984, Hayman et al 1986, Chandler 1989, Harris et al 1991, Roselaar & Gerritsen 1991, Lonergan 1992, van Beusekom 1993, Gerritsen 1994) en



Ruud van Beusekom 1995

FIGUUR 1 IJslandse Grutto / Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, mannetje in adult zomerkleed (onder), en Grutto / Black-tailed Godwit *L. limosa*, mannetje in adult zomerkleed (boven) (Ruud F J van Beusekom)



52 IJslandse Grutto / Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, adult zomerkleed, Birdaard, Friesland, 1e week april 1988 (waarneming 7) (Piet Munsterman). Grijs vleugelpaneel gedeeltelijk bedekt door flankveren



53 IJslandse Grutto's / Icelandic Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa islandica* (midden) en Grutto's / Black-tailed Godwits *L. limosa* (links en rechts), Zuiderwoude, Noordholland, 16 april 1989 (waarneming 11) (Oscar Endtz). Vergelijk grootte, bouw en ruistadium

54 IJslandse Grutto's / Icelandic Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa islandica*, adult zomerkleed, Wormer- en Jisperveld, Noordholland, 1e week mei 1993 (Danny Ellinger & Oene Moedt/Foto Natura). Korte snavel en tibia. Grijs vleugelpaneel goed zichtbaar. Linker exemplaar waarschijnlijk vrouwtje (groter en minder warm-roodbruin) en rechter waarschijnlijk mannetje



Break-through of Lesser White-fronted Geese wintering in the Netherlands

The numbers of Lesser White-fronted Geese *Anser erythropus* in Europe have dwindled since the 1950s and the species has disappeared from many areas where it was regularly wintering. The flock of more than 4000 which used to winter in Iran along the south-eastern shores of the Caspian Sea, for long considered to be the species' major winter stronghold (Madge & Burn 1988), may have disappeared more than 10 years ago (cf Dutch Birding 15: 33, 1993). In Fenno-Scandinavia, the numbers were reduced to 90 breeding pairs in 1980, of which 10 in northern Sweden. Therefore, during 1979-81, a re-introduction scheme was started by the *Svenska Jägarförbundet*. For details on the scheme, see von Essen (1991) and von Essen et al (1993). In recent years, this project showed increasing success with colour-ringed re-introduced birds, often paired with unringed individuals, rearing large numbers of young. Since Barnacle Geese *Branta leucopsis* were used as foster parents, the re-introduced birds learnt to migrate to and from the Netherlands and, in their turn, they guided their partner and offspring to the Dutch wintering areas as well.

Until the 1980s, the species has always been rare in the Netherlands, where it was notoriously difficult to find among the numerous White-fronted Geese *A. albifrons*. However, the numbers gradually increased in recent years and, as a consequence, it was dropped from the list of species considered by the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA) on 1 January 1990. In 1992, a flock of 10 was reported in October-December at Anjum, Friesland, and four at Strijen, Zuidholland (Dutch Birding 15: 33, 1993). In late October 1993, up to 14 had arrived at Anjum and three at Strijen (Dutch Birding 15: 276, 1993). In the winter of 1994/95, the numbers were even higher: at Anjum, two families of six individuals were present and at Strijen a family of six and a family of five. Moreover, up to 10 solitary unringed individuals were seen at various places and in early February, couples stayed at Workum, Friesland, and Groede, Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, Zeeland, giving a total of more than 35 birds reported throughout the winter. Individuals in flocks of

Barnacle Geese were likely from Swedish stock. However, there were also single birds associating with White-fronted Geese, such as the one near Goedereede, Zuidholland, during February, which possibly originated from breeding areas as far east as Russia.

For the first time ever, one had to be unlucky not to find this species during a visit to either Anjum or Strijen. The families were often staying together, creating flocks of 12 or 11, which increased the chances of spotting them amidst the huge flocks of White-fronted and Barnacle Geese. Since Lesser White-fronted Geese arrive earlier (mid-October) and leave later (mid-April) than the large numbers of other species, they are quite easy to find in the first and last month of their stay. In late March and early April, numbers at the Anjum area often increase and it seems that individuals from southern areas, including Strijen, use Anjum as a stop-over site during migration. On 22 March 1995, for instance, 17 birds were counted at Anjum and three unringed individuals were seen in the nearby Lauwersmeer, Groningen.

In both Strijen families, one of the parents appeared to be a colour-ringed individual from the Swedish re-introduction scheme, and at Anjum four colour-ringed birds were seen. Unlike other years, the families were present at Anjum and Strijen during the entire winter, from mid-October 1994 onwards. In previous years, the birds were absent for lengthy periods, possibly because of disturbance or severe winter weather. The colour-ringed bird named 'Hudik' or 'male 655', of which the life history was described by von Essen et al (1993), was not reported this winter. Another well-known individual, a female born in 1989 which had been limping since May 1993, therefore aptly nicknamed 'Limping Lotta' (Lambart von Essen in litt), raised four young despite her handicap and wintered at Strijen. In the winter of 1993/94, the latter bird had stayed at Strijen in November-January and was seen at Anjum on 10 April 1994.

When in June the four families safely return to their traditional breeding areas at Svaipa, Lapland, Sweden, there is a good chance that even more Lesser White-fronted Geese will come to the Netherlands during the next winter. As a result, the geese areas in Friesland and southern



57 Lesser White-fronted Geese / Dwergganzen *Anser erythropus*, two families, Anjum, Friesland, 10 March 1995
(Theo Bakker)

58 Lesser White-fronted Geese / Dwergganzen *Anser erythropus*, family of 'Limping Lotta', Strijen, Zuidholland,
February 1995 (Marten van Dijl)





59 Lesser White-fronted Goose / Dwerggans *Anser erythropus* and White-fronted Geese / Kolganzen *A albifrons*, Goedereede, Zuidholland, 12 February 1995 (Arnoud B van den Berg)

Zuidholland might soon become the most reliable and most convenient places to see this species in Europe. The Hortobágy, Hungary, is the only other European birding area where regularly winter flocks are reported such as, for example, 350 in November 1992 (Dutch Birding 15: 33, 1993) and 140 in early November 1993 (Dutch Birding 16: 33, 1994).

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CDNA-mededelingen

Russische Stormmeeuw en Taigaboomkruiper niet meer beoordeeld Vanaf 1 januari 1995 worden gevallen van de Russische Stormmeeuw *Larus canus heinei* en de Taigaboomkruiper *Certhia familiaris* niet meer door de CDNA beoordeeld. De beslissing om de Russische Stormmeeuw niet langer te beoordelen is genomen omdat op grond van vondsten van dode vogels blijkt dat deze ondersoort minder zeldzaam is dan voorheen werd gedacht en omdat deze in het veld vrijwel onmogelijk herkend kan worden (cf Dutch Birding 15: 254-258, 1993).

De Taigaboomkruiper blijkt een schaarse jaarlijkse doortrekker te zijn en broedt tegenwoordig ook in Nederland (cf Dutch Birding 16: 221-225, 1994). Men wordt vriendelijk verzocht om alle waarnemingen van vóór deze datum alsnog en bij voorkeur zo spoedig

mogelijk te sturen naar: CDNA, Postbus 45, 2080 AA Santpoort-Zuid, Nederland. JELLE SCHARRINGA

Adviseurs en personele bezetting CDNA Om te assisteren bij het beantwoorden van vraagstukken betreffende de systematiek en status van zeldzame (onder)soorten, zijn Arnoud van den Berg en Kees Roselaar aangezocht als adviseurs van de CDNA. Zij zullen op verzoek aan de commissie advies uitbrengen hoe om te gaan met bepaalde vragen op deze terreinen.

Cock Reijnders heeft de commissie inmiddels per 1 januari 1994 verlaten en is opgevolgd door Jan van der Laan. Voor een volledig overzicht van de huidige bezetting van de CDNA zij verwezen naar het colofon op de binnenzijde van de omslag van Dutch Birding. JELLE SCHARRINGA

begeleiding van de nieuwe 06-lijn-apparatuur. In de loop van het jaar zal het nu vijf koppige bestuur, dat bestaat uit Gijsbert van der Bent, Roy de Haas, Chris Quispel, Peter Meijer en Arnold van den Berg, zich eventueel gaan beraden op een opvolger. GIJS VAN DER BENT

Afscheid Hans Gebuis als beheerder Dutch Birding-vogellijn Eind april heeft de DBA in besloten kring afscheid genomen van haar bekendste medewerker: Hans Gebuis. Ruim vier jaar is Hans als beheerder en inspreker van de Dutch Birding-vogellijn de stem geweest van vogelend Nederland. In die periode is de Dutch Birding-vogellijn (06-32032128) uitgegroeid tot een volwassen en niet meer weg te denken informatievoorziening voor de Nederlandse vogelaar. Bovendien is de 06-lijn van steeds groter belang geworden bij het verzamelen en vastleggen (onder meer in de rubriek Recente Meldingen) van waarnemingen van zeldzame en schaarse soorten in Nederland. Het is de verantwoordelijkheid van de mensen uit het veld dat er voldoende wordt doorgegeven. Hans Gebuis, die uiteraard ook als vogelfotograaf bekendheid geniet, heeft zich de laatste jaren met grote toewijding en plichtsbechtiging ingezet voor de verwerking van al die waarnemingen en de regelmatige verversing van uitgaande berichten. Omdat de vogellijn een belangrijke inkomstenbron is voor de DBA, is hij ook in letterlijke zin van grote waarde geweest voor onze organisatie. Aan Remco Hofland komt de moeilijke taak toe om Hans vanaf eind april te gaan vervangen. Vanaf die tijd krijgt Hans weer wat meer vrijheid bij het plannen van zijn eigen vogel/foto-tochten. GIJS VAN DER BENT

Nieuwe 06-apparatuur Eind april gaat de Dutch Birding-vogellijn werken met geheel nieuwe en technisch

meer geavanceerde apparatuur. Vanaf die tijd zal Remco Hofland het beheer van de vogellijn overnemen van Hans Gebuis. De voorbereiding, programmering en installatie van de apparatuur is zeker niet van een leien dakje gegaan. Vóór de vogelrijke maand mei wilde het bestuur in ieder geval van apparatuur en beheerder wisselen. Zoals het er nu uitziet zal de nieuwe (digitale) apparatuur vooralsnog in grote lijnen werken als de oude, maar uiteraard met het voordeel dat Remco (uitgerust met pieper en draagbare telefoon) van afstand de uitgaande boodschappen op ieder moment en van waar ook in Nederland kan veranderen. De talloze extra mogelijkheden (zoals meerkeuze-menu's en automatisch semafoonalarm) worden zo snel mogelijk geïnstalleerd terwijl de 'basis-vogellijn' al draait. Voor allerhande problemen die eventueel (of onvermijdelijk?) gepaard zullen gaan met de introductie van de nieuwe apparatuur vraagt het DBA-bestuur bij voorbaat begrip. GIJS VAN DER BENT

Nieuw adres fotoredactie Wij maken u erop attent dat per 1 juni 1995 het adres van de fotografisch redacteur, René Pop, zal veranderen. Het nieuwe adres luidt: René Pop, Zusterhuis 10, 4201 EH Gorinchem, Nederland, telefoon 01830-30585. REDACTIE

New address photographic editor Please note that the address of the photographic editor, René Pop, will change from 1 June 1995. The new address is: René Pop, Zusterhuis 10, 4201 EH Gorinchem, Netherlands, telephone +31-183030585. EDITORS

Recensies

DAVID G MC ADAMS 1994. *Complete photographic index to premier birding periodicals and books*. Second edition (August 1994). 85 pp. Published by David G Mc Adams, Helenenallee 5, 24937 Flensburg, Germany, telephone/fax +49-46124684. DEM 23.00 (incl p & p).

This privately published index can be considered an important step forward for the whole birding community. Whether keen amateur, professional ornithologist, twitcher or whatever kind of birder, nobody with a strong interest in the identification of birds should be without an index like this one. David Mc Adams has done a wonderful (and non-enviable) job by compiling a complete survey of all published photographs in 10 leading European birding journals: *Birding World* (with *Twitching*), *Birdwatch*, *British Birds*, *Dutch Birding*, *Ornithologischer Jahresbericht Helgoland*, *Irish Birds* (with *Irish Bird Report*), *Irish Birding News*, *Limicola*, *Ornithos* and *Vår Fågelvärld*. (For a next edition to

appear in June 1995, a series of additional Scandinavian journals (including *Bliki*, *Lintumies* and *Linnut*) is currently being indexed.) Also included are references to photographs in no less than 41 major books with a wealth of photographs. After an explanation of the used abbreviations and codes, this leads to c 75 pages crammed with information on photographs of almost all species recorded in the WP and of several species in other zoographical regions (listed in separate appendices). Under each species' name photographs are listed and every reference includes information on several aspects of the photograph (colour or black-and-white; plumage, age and sex of bird(s); and additional information if relevant, such as subspecies, posture, activity). Well-known subspecies are conveniently listed separately. The wealth of information leads to the use of a large number of symbols, which require some practice. The lay-out is simple and typically 'home-made'. The small printing makes reading somewhat dif-

WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic in **February-March 1995** and focuses on north-western Europe. Additional information covering earlier or later reports is included as well. 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 records committee of the relevant country.

In England, long-staying **Pied-billed Grebes** *Podilymbus podiceps* remained during the entire period on Tresco, Scilly, and at Stithians Reservoir, Cornwall (the latter accompanied by its single hybrid young). Another individual was seen at Wexford North Slob, Wexford, Ireland, between 1 January and 19 February. An adult-summer **Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus* on 8-10 April at Pilismarót, Szobi inlet, is a rare record for Hungary. In Finland, a **Northern Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis* was seen following a ship at Uusikaupunki on 9 February. In September 1993 and August 1994, the second **Cape Verde (Fea's) Petrel** *Pterodroma feae* for the Azores was trapped and retrapped on an islet, reinforcing the possibility of the existence of a small breeding population (cf Bull Br Ornithol Club 115: 9-14, 1995). Amidst **Mediterranean Shearwaters** *Puffinus yelkouan mauretanicus* at Cap Rhis, Morocco, two individuals showing characters of the eastern subspecies *P. y. yelkouan* were reported on 4 February. In September 1993, Europe's first breeding record of **Red-billed Tropicbird** *Phaethon aethereus* was established when an adult of the tropical North Atlantic subspecies *P. a. mesonauta* was found on an islet off Graciosa, Azores, incubating a single egg (cf Bull Br Ornithol Club 115: 6-8, 1995). In Israel, up to two **Brown Boobies** *Sula leucogaster* and two **Striated Herons** *Butorides striatus* were present at Eilat North Beach during March. In 1994, **Black Storks** *Ciconia nigra* bred successfully for the first time in Italy, at Monte Fenere NP, Piedmont.

In Poland, three **Lesser White-fronted Geese** *Anser erythropus* were seen at Zmigrod on 28 January. In Bulgaria, a first-winter stayed at Durankulak on 19 February together with **White-fronted Geese** *A. albifrons* (of which 100 000 were counted at a roost). The **Ross's Goose** *A. rossii* at Stellendam, Zuidholland, the Netherlands, was frequently seen until at least 10 March. Vagrant **Lesser Canada Geese** *Branta canadensis* were reported on Islay, Strathclyde, Scotland, from 3 January to 7 February and at Martin Mere, Lancashire, England, on 14-19 February. At least some of those reported in recent years in western Europe (cf Dutch Birding 16: 33, 78, 1994; 17: 29, 1995) could refer to *B. c. hutchinsii* which might be a separate species (cf Auk 108: 585-593, 1991). A male **Falcated Duck** *Anas falcata* was

present at Kirkby, Lincolnshire, England, on 19-21 February. In Scilly, the long-staying **American Black Duck** *A. rubripes* remained the entire period on Tresco. The third for Norway was a male at Vasshusvatnet, Klepp, Jæren, Rogaland, from 4 March. The first **Blue-winged Teal** *A. discors* for Hungary was a bird found dead in Heves in February. On Tenerife, Canary Islands, a first-winter male **Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* was seen at Balsa de Valle Molina from 11 November 1994 to 3 March. The first for Poland was an adult male near Brzeg, Lower Silesia, on 5-11 April. The female **Lesser Scaup** *A. affinis* staying at Roquito del Fraile, Tenerife, from 17 November 1994 was last seen on 12 March (cf Dutch Birding 17: 29, 1995; Birding World 8: 52-55, 1995). The male present for its third winter at Vevey Harbour, Vaud, Switzerland, from 10 February was last seen on 20 March. In England, a first-winter male was seen at Barton-upon-Humber, Humber-side, on 13-16 February and from 5 March a first-winter male was back at Carnforth, Lancashire. In Northern Ireland, a male was reported at Washing Bay, Lough Neagh, Tyrone, on 25-26 March. In the Netherlands, the first-winter male which stayed on Walcheren, Zeeland, from 21 November 1994 until 15 January was seen again from 26 March to at least 24 April. In England, the adult female **White-headed Duck** *Oxyura leucocephala* at Abberton Reservoir, Essex, remained the entire period. An unringed female at Csajto, Hungary, on 24-26 February concerns the second record of a wild bird since the reintroduction programme ceased in 1986.

In the first week of October 1994, a juvenile **Crested Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus* was picked-up exhausted at Raydah, in south-western Saudi Arabia (cf Dutch Birding 16: 205-206, 1994). The pair of **Black-shouldered Kites** *Elanus caeruleus* holding territory from 22 August 1994 near the mouth of the Seine at Marais Vernier, Eure, France, was still present during March. One was seen on 2 April at Wittersdorf and Hésingue in the French-German border area near Basel, Switzerland. In 1994, a two-year-old **Lammergeier** *Gypaetus barbatus* on 21 March and a four-year-old on 6 May were seen at vulture feeding stations near Madzharovo, Bulgaria, where this species was sighted for the last time in 1980. Also in Bulgaria, two pairs **Monk Vulture** *Aegypius monachus* probably bred successfully in 1994 in the area where this species first nested in 1993. A **Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga* was seen at El Rocio, Coto Doñana, on 15-16 February. Up to five were present in the Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, France, in March.

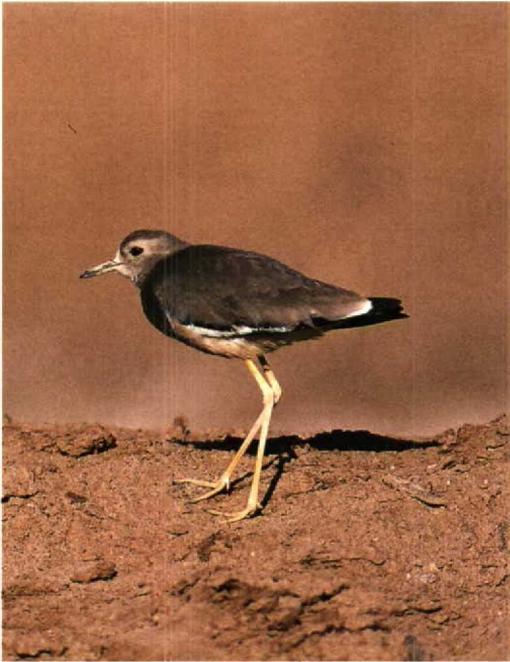
A **Demoiselle Crane** *Anthropoides virgo* stayed at the Aqaba salt-pans, Jordan, on 20-21 March and could be



60 Glaucous-winged Gull / Beringmeeuw *Larus glaucescens*, adult, with Yellow-legged Gull / Geelpootmeeuw *L. cachinnans*, Essaouira, Morocco, 31 January 1995 (Theo Bakker)

61 Royal Terns / Koningsters *Sterna maxima* with Caspian Tern *S. caspia* and Sandwich Terns *S. sandvicensis*, Ad Dakhla, Western Sahara, February 1995 (Theo Bakker)





62 White-tailed Lapwing / Witstaartkievit *Chettusia leucura*, Eilat, Israel, March 1995 (Felix Heintzenberg)



63 Dunn's Lark / Dunn's Leeuwerik *Eremalauda dunnii*, Eilat, Israel, March 1995 (Felix Heintzenberg)

seen from across the Israeli border. In Ireland, a **Killdeer Plover** *Charadrius vociferus* stayed at Tacumshin, Wexford, on 1-9 April. Later in the month, one was reported in Scotland. In early March, nine **Greater Sand Plovers** *C. leschenaultii* were noted within a week near Paphos lighthouse, Cyprus. A male **Caspian Plover** *C. asiaticus* was seen at Yotvata, Israel, on 20 March. **Sociable Plovers** *Chettusia gregaria* were reported at Kefar Ruppim, Israel, in mid-March and at Ulm, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, in late March. In Israel and Jordan, two **White-tailed Lapwings** *C. leucura* were alternately staying at the Eilat Sewage Canals or the salt-pans at Aqaba from 22 March into April. The first **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* for the Netherlands seen during 30 min on 15 January at Grijpskerke, Zeeland (Dutch Birding 17: 30, 34, 40, plate 32, 1995), was rediscovered on 20 April at De Braakman, Zeeland, where it stayed until at least 30 April. Presumably, the same individual had been photographed between Dudzele and Zeebrugge, Westvlaanderen, Belgium, during 27 November to 2 December 1994 and presumably also at Rockliffe, Cumbria, England, during 15 October to 13 November 1994 (cf Dutch Birding 16: 250, 1994; 17: 27, 30, 34, 88, plates 21 & 33, 1995). On 18 January, 54 **Great Knots** *Calidris tenuirostris* were counted during a census on Merawah Island, United Arab Emirates, and up to 25 were seen

at Khor Al Beidah from 3 March. On 2 April, a **Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* was seen at Lady's Island Lake, Wexford. It is of importance to know that the sighting of **Eskimo Curlew** *Numenius borealis* in Argentina in 1993 has proven to be erroneous; rumours may have referred to the hypothetical record in October 1990 (Cotinga 3: 69, 1995; contra Birding World 7: 122, 1994). The male **Slender-billed Curlew** *N. tenuirostris* at Merja Zerga, Morocco, remained until at least 6 February. At the very moment that the Moroccan bird was generally believed to have become the last surviving individual of the species, spectacular news came from southern Italy. After a report of four individuals in mid-January, a flock of 10 foraging birds was found on 26 February (Dutch Birding 17: 40, 1995). In the following days, until mid-March, up to 19 individuals were identified and photographed (Birding World 8: 90, 1995). Apparently, these birds were passing through from (an) unknown wintering area(s), possibly somewhere in Tunisia, to their unknown breeding area, presumably somewhere in Russia. A recently published review of the status and distribution of this species in Italy, based on no less than 141 museum skins, shows that southern Italy was (and might still be) an important stop-over site, and also that the sex ratio during wintering and spring migration was in favour of males (Ric Biol Selvaggina 94: 1-18, 1995).



64 Slender-billed Curlews / Dunbekwulpen *Numenius tenuirostris*, southern Italy, March 1995 (Marco Basso)

65 Pale Rock Sparrow *Carpospiza brachydactyla*, Paphos, Cyprus, 6 March 1995 (Bas van Gennip)

66 Isabelline Shrike / Izabelklauwier *Lanius isabellinus*, Kefar Ruppim, Israel, March 1995 (Felix Heintzenberg)

13 April. In the Netherlands, two **House Crows** *Corvus splendens* first seen in April 1994 at Hoek van Holland, Zuidholland, remained through March. In Israel, up to 23 **Pale Rock Sparrows** *Carpospiza brachydactyla* were seen near Eilat during March. Seven individuals north-west of Paphos on 6 March constituted the second record for Cyprus. In Belgium, a successful breeding record of **Parrot Crossbill** *Loxia pytyopsittacus* occurred at Kalmthout, Antwerp, near the Dutch border, and four young were seen during April. In Sweden, the first-winter male **Pine Bunting** *Emberiza leucocephalos* at Umeå, Västerbotten, was last seen on 17 February. The first-winter male at Wexford North Slob, Wexford, Ireland, stayed until at least 19 February. In Norway, a male was found at Egersund, Rogaland, on 19 March. From 29 March, an elusive male was reported at Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire. The first ever for the UAE

was seen at Das Island on 8 November 1994. The fifth **Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirrus* for the Netherlands killed itself against a window at Hoogerheide, Noordbrabant, in mid-March. In south-eastern Belgium, a **Rock Bunting** *E. cia* was reported in Luxembourg on 3 April.

For a number of reports, publications in Birding World, Birdwatch, Bird Watching, British Birds, Cotinga, Irish Birdwatching, Limicola, Limosa, Linnut, Ornithos, Vår Fågelvärld, Vår Fuglefauna, Winging It 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 Peter Arctander, Mindy Baha El Din, Sherif Baha El Din, Jan-Joost Bakhuizen, Peter Barthel, Roelof de Beer, Marcel Capello, Tony Clarke (Canary Islands), Gerald Driessens, Marc Duquet, Enno Ebels, Zoltán Ecsedi, Annika



67 Ross' Gans / Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*, Plaat van Scheelhoek, Stellendam, Zuidholland, januari 1995
(Marten van Dijk)

68 Kleine Burgemeester / Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*, eerste-winter, Groningen, Groningen, 9 maart 1995
(Eric Koops)



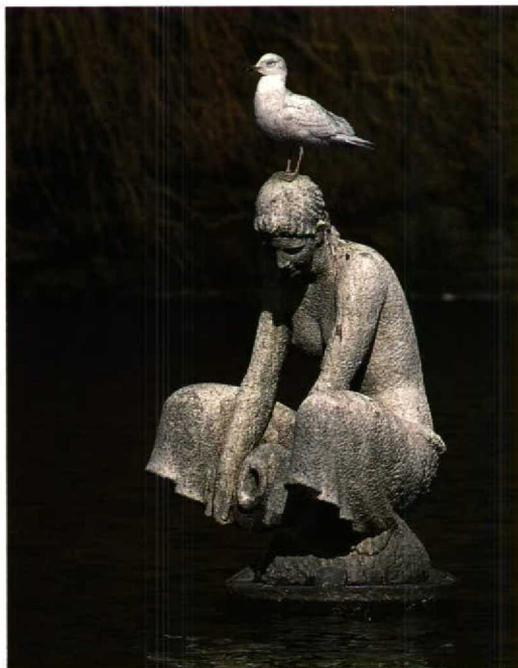
Recente meldingen

aan Zee, Zuidholland. Vanaf 19 maart verbleef een exemplaar in de stad Groningen. **Grote Burgemeesters** *L hyperboreus* werden doorgegeven van 10 plekken. Voor langere tijd zaten er exemplaren bij de Brouwersdam tot 19 februari, bij Ilmuiden (twee) van 3 januari tot in april, op het Spaarne te Haarlem van 14 januari tot 27 februari en van 8 februari tot 4 maart bij Stellingdam, Zuidholland. Een leuke waarneming betrof een **Drieteenmeeuw** *Rissa tridactyla* op 4 maart bij Grevenbicht, Limburg. Voor de volledigheid vermelden we hier nogmaals de **Forsters Stern** *Sterna forsteri* die op 5 januari bij Kinderdijk, Zuidholland, werd gefotografeerd (Dutch Birding 17: 33, 40, 1995). De **Zwarte Zeekoet** *Cephus grylle* van Terschelling bleef tot 16 januari. **Kleine Alken** *Alle alle* werden gezien op 21 januari op het Veerse Meer en op 27 januari (negen) en op 28 januari (één) bij Camperduin. **Papegaiduikers** *Fratercula arctica* werden opgemerkt bij Camperduin op 3 januari (één) en op 27 januari (twee) en bij Westkapelle op 12 januari en op 6 maart. Deze laatste werd ter plekke verorberd door een Grote Mantelmeeuw *L. marinus*.

SPECHTEN TOT GORZEN Naar verluidt hield zich in maart een **Middelste Bonte Specht** *Dendrocopos medius* op in Limburg. Een zeer ongewone melding was die van een **Duinpieper** *Anthus campestris* op 16 januari

bij de Mokkebank, Friesland. Langsvliegende **Pestvogels** *Bombycilla garrulus* werden gerapporteerd op 5 januari (drie) bij Haren, Groningen, en op 24 januari (vier) in Arnhem. Een exemplaar bij Meerkerk, Zuidholland, werd op 15 maart gegrepen door een langszuizende auto. Een **Waterspreeuw** *Cinclus cinclus* werd op 25 februari gemeld bij de Carnisse Grienden bij Rhoo, Zuidholland. Vanaf 12 maart liet een exemplaar zich bezichtigen ten noorden van Gasteren, Drenthe. Een groep Britse vogelaars meldde op 25 maart enige tijd een **Naumanns Lijster** *Turdus naumanni naumanni* bij Cadzand, Zeeland, te hebben geobserveerd. Op 14 februari was er een melding van een **Bladkoning** *Phylloscopus inornatus* in Rotterdam. Op 2 februari werden bij een waterzuivering te Zeist, Utrecht, zeven **Tjiftjaffen** *P collybita* aangetroffen, waarvan er twee hun liedje ten gehore brachten; op 7 januari was er een melding van een **Siberische Tjiftjaf** *P c tristis* in Dordrecht, Zuidholland. **Taigaboomkruipers** *Certhia familiaris* waren aanwezig tot 21 januari bij Lauwersoog, op 18 januari bij Ede, Gelderland, op 21 januari in Meyendel, Zuidholland, op 22 januari bij Bovensmilde, Drenthe, op 27 januari bij Groningen, op 20 februari bij Wijk bij Duurstede, Utrecht, op 24 en 27 februari op Vlieland, en op 26 maart bij Bakkeveen, Friesland; in maart werden in Zuid-Limburg zeker 10 territoria vastgesteld. De eerste **Buidelmezen**

69 Kleine Burgemeester / Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*, eerste-winter, Groningen, Groningen, 9 maart 1995 (Roef Mulder)



70 Kraanvogels / Common Cranes *Grus grus*, Serooskerke, Schouwen, Zeeland, januari 1995 (René Pop)





71 Zwarte Zeekoet / Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*, West-Terschelling, Terschelling, Friesland, januari 1995 (Arie Ouwerkerk)



72 Russische Kauw / Russian Jackdaw *Corvus monedula soemmerringii*, Leiden, Zuidholland, januari 1995 (Teus J C Luijendijk)

Remiz pendulinus van het seizoen werden opgemerkt op 26 februari langs de Knardijk, Flevoland, op 23 maart (twee) bij het Veerse Meer en op 30 maart in de Brabantse Biesbosch, Noordbrabant. Op 11 januari werd een **Notekraker** *Nucifraga caryocatactes* gezien bij het Engelermeer, Noordbrabant. Een **Russische Kauw** *Corvus monedula soemmerringii* verbleef een groot deel van de winter in Leiden, Zuidholland. Op 5 februari werden er enkele 10-tallen gezien in de omgeving van Wijster, Drenthe. Beide **Huis kraaien** *C splendens* van Hoek van Holland, Zuidholland, blijken de winter te hebben doorstaan, waarschijnlijk op een dieet van patat. Behoorlijk buiten zijn verspreidings-

gebied was de **Raaf** *C corax* die op 30 maart op Texel gezien werd. Tot 11 februari bleven **Grote Kruisbekken** *Loxia pytyopsittacus* gemeld worden vanaf de Loenermark, Gelderland. Het exacte aantal was moeilijk vast te stellen maar kan geschat worden op nul tot 14 (!?). Leuk is de waarneming van 65 **Appelvinken** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* op een camping aan het Nuldernaauw, Flevoland. De vijfde **Cirlgors** *Emberiza cirulus* voor Nederland belandde na een onfortuinlijke ontmoeting op 13 maart met een raam te Hoogerheide, Noordbrabant, in het Zoologisch Museum te Amsterdam, Noordholland.

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België

DUIKERS TOT VALKEN Naast de talrijke waarnemingen van **Parelduikers** *Gavia arctica* aan de kust was er slechts één binnenlandwaarneming, te Warneton, Hainaut, op 14 en 15 januari. **Ijsduikers** *G immer* waren nog aanwezig te Heist, Westvlaanderen, tot 10 januari; te Walem, Antwerpen, van 13 januari tot 22 februari en dezelfde vogel in het Mechels Broek, Antwerpen, van 4 maart tot in april; te Zeebrugge-Achterhaven, Westvlaanderen, van 14 januari tot 5 maart; op de Barrage de l'eau d'Heure, Hainaut, op ten minste 16 januari; en bij Kluizen, Oostvlaanderen, van 22 tot 24 januari. Bovendien werden nog langstreckende exemplaren opgemerkt te Oostende, Westvlaanderen, op 2 januari en te Zeebrugge op 27 en 28 februari. Op 3 januari

vloog een **Grauwe Pijlstormvogel** *Puffinus griseus* langs Oostende. Op 2 januari vloog hier al een **Vaal Stormvogeltje** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* voorbij en op 12 januari werd een kortstondig pleisterend exemplaar gezien. Bij Oud-Heverlee, Brabant, werd op 12 januari een dode **Jan-van-gent** *Morus bassanus* opgeraapt. **Kuifaalscholvers** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* deden het rustig aan met één kust- en één binnenlandwaarneming, respectievelijk te Oostende op 3 januari en bij Tildonk, Brabant, op 6 januari. Op 19 februari was er een eerste-winter **Kwak** *Nycticorax nycticorax* op de gekende plek te Dudzele-Zeebrugge. Een **Koereiger** *Bubulcus ibis* vloog op 11 maart over de Zoutekreek bij Zandvoorde, Westvlaanderen. Tussen 14 januari en 19 februari was er weer geregeld een **Kleine Zilverreiger** *Egretta garzetta* te Dudzele-Zeebrugge-Lissewege en op

Recente meldingen

3 en 4 februari zaten er hier telkens twee. Te Knokke-Zwin, Westvlaanderen, waren er waarnemingen op 19 januari en 3 februari. De **Grote Zilverreiger** *E alba* bleef nog aanwezig te Harchies, Hainaut, tot 23 februari en op 18 januari waren er hier weer twee. Van 14 januari tot 12 februari verbleef een **Ooievaar** *Ciconia ciconia* met Nederlandse ring bij Alken, Limburg. Er waren 32 maartgegevens van trekkende vogels, waaronder een groep van 12 over Geel, Antwerpen, op 10 maart. Een mogelijke albino **ibis** *Plegadis* (wit met oranje snavel) was op 12 maart aanwezig bij Schulen, Limburg. Op 21 en 22 maart pleisterde een schuwe, eerste-zomer **Zwarte Ibis** *P falcinellus* te Harchies en op 23 maart vloog vrijwel zeker dezelfde vogel over Lier. Bij Meetkerke, Westvlaanderen, verbleef van 1 tot 5 januari een **Roodhalsgans** *Branta ruficollis*. Het mannetje **Siberische Taling** *Anas formosa* was op 4 januari weer terug bij Hofstade, Brabant, en op 25 februari werd hij opgemerkt bij Mechelen en op 12 maart op de Schelde ter hoogte van Hemiksem, Antwerpen. Een vrijwel zekere hybride **Blauwvleugel- x Kaneeltaling** *Anas discors x cyanoptera* zwom van 5 tot 7 maart bij Gent, Oostvlaanderen. **Krooneenden** *Netta rufo* werden gezien op Blokkersdijk (twee); bij Broechem, Antwerpen; Duffel-Lier-Kessel; Hofstade; Gent-Blaarmerseen (vier); Kessel-Lo, Brabant; Temse, Oostvlaanderen; en Willebroek, Antwerpen. Het mannetje **Ringsnaveleend** *Aythya collaris* verbleef nog op Blokkersdijk tot 21 februari, van ten minste 1 tot 12 maart zat deze vogel bij Hoboken, Antwerpen, van 16 tot 22 maart terug op Blokkersdijk en op 23 maart bij Wintham,

Antwerpen. Een mannetje dat van 25 februari tot 6 maart bij Kessel verbleef, was spijtig genoeg geringd en baltste bovendien met Krakeenden *A strepera* en Smienten *A penelope*. Het al even klassieke mannetje **Witoegeend** *A nyroca* bleef te Lier-Duffel aanwezig tot 29 januari, daarna van 4 tot 7 februari bij Kessel, op 11 februari terug te Lier-Duffel en vanaf 15 februari (tot ten minste 21 maart) bij Pulle, Antwerpen. Een tweede, onvolwassen mannetje verbleef van 18 januari tot half februari bij Chertal, Liège, en mogelijk dezelfde vogel werd van 19 tot 22 februari waargenomen bij Hermal-le-sous-Argenteau, Liège. Bij Doornzele, Oostvlaanderen, pleisterde van 1 februari tot 14 maart een vrouwtje **Rosse Stekelstaart** *Oxyura jamaicensis*. Bij Oostende zwom een mannetje op 3 en 4 februari. De eerste **Zwarte Wouw** *Milvus migrans* pleisterde op 16 maart bij Haasdonk, Oostvlaanderen. **Rode Wouwen** *M milvus* vlogen over Soignies, Hainaut, op 2 januari; over Vorselaar, Antwerpen, op 6 januari; over Wiers, Hainaut, op 20 februari; over Oostende op 27 februari; over Bertem-Bos, Brabant, op 1 maart; over Paal-Berlingen, Limburg, en over Pulle op 11 maart; over Lier op 24 maart en over Kontich, Antwerpen, op 31 maart. De tweede-winter **Zeearend** *Haliaeetus albicilla*, die tot 31 december bij Sint-Agatha-Rode, Brabant, werd waargenomen, was daar wederom aanwezig op 29 januari en 5 februari. De vogel van Bourdon, Luxemburg, werd voor het laatst gezien op 20 februari. Er werden **Ruigpootbuizers** *Buteo lagopus* opgemerkt te Sint-Pieters-Kapelle, Westvlaanderen (27 januari). **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus* werden reeds gezien op 19 maart bij

73 Kortbekzeekoet / Brünnich's Guillemot *Uria lomvia*, Bredene, Westvlaanderen, 21 januari 1995 (*Filip de Ruwe*)



Professor dr K.H. Voous

IN DE BAN VAN VOGELS*Ornithologisch Biografisch Woordenboek van Nederland*

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Register op persoonsnamen

BERG, Gerrit, 18 september 1893 - 13 april 1958, timmerman en, samen met Dirk Hoos, een der laatste Nederlandse beroepsvinkers. Berg stamde uit een Haagse vinkersfamilie en was vanaf zijn vroege schooljaren vogelvanger in hart en nieren. In die tijd waren er nog zeker 25 vinkers werkzaam in de duinen en aan de binnenduinrand tussen Wassenaar en Hoek van Holland. Een dode Vink bracht toen 1 cent per stuk op, een levende (alleen op bestelling) 3 1/2 cent. In Bergs jeugd waren bij hem thuis tussen oktober en mei Vinken een veel voorkomend menu. In de zomer werkten zijn vader en hij als bouwvakker.

Van 1947 tot 1958 was hij in dienst van de Stichting Vogeltrekstation Texel op de vinkenbaan van Loosduinen en later van Meijndel, Wassenaar, waar hij met zijn beroemde spreekwefluitje (foto in Jaarverslag 1958,

Limosa 32 (1959): 89) onder meer Spreuwen ving voor de verplaatsingsproeven van A.C. Perdeck. Zie *Meijndel Mededelingen* 8 (2) 1980: 130-135. Berg was zowel vriend als rivaal van Hoos, die, hoewel 12 jaar ouder, hem 12 jaar overleefde. Evenals deze was Berg een uitstekend vakman aan wie het Vogeltrekstation veel te danken heeft. Hij had het land aan druktemakende of eigenwijze bezoekers op zijn vinkenbaan en had gevoel voor *showing-off*, zowel in gedrag als in kleding (vlinderdasje en glimmend geïpoetste schoenen bij "hoog bezoek"). Wijmand Bleumink (Den Haag) en Riet Voorham (Wassenaar) hebben het vinkersvak van Berg geleerd.

Biografie GIEL BAKKER (*Het Vrije Volk*, 27 nov. 1956). [27.IX.1990]

(Uit: *In de ban van vogels*)

Professor Karel H. Voous (geboren 1920) was hoogleraar Systematiek en Verspreiding der dieren aan de Vrije Universiteit te Amsterdam (1955-1975).

Zijn publicaties zijn talrijk en zijn verschenen in vele Nederlandse en buitenlandse tijdschriften en verzamelwerken. Mede door zijn *Atlas van Europese vogels* (1961, 1962, in drie talen verschenen) ontving hij de gouden medaille van de Britse Ornithologische Unie (1975).

Voous is ere- of corresponderend lid van tien organisaties in binnen- en buitenland, lid van de Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van Wetenschappen, Letteren en Schone Kunsten van België (1969) en is ere-voorzitter van het XXI Internationale Ornithologische Congres (IOC) in Wenen (1994).

