

# Bird counting in Iran in January 2004

Harvey van Diek, Rob Felix, Menno Hornman, Peter L Meininger, Frank Willems & Mark Zekhuis

From 9 to 29 January 2004, we were part of a group of 10 Dutch birders who visited Iran to participate in the international mid-winter count of waterbirds. The Iranian Department of the Environment (DoE) invited us not only to count birds but also to educate local employees how to identify and count them. Transport and housing in Iran were facilitated by the DoE; the Dutch participants arranged visa and the flights between Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and Tehran, Iran. After arrival in Tehran, the group split into five teams of two, each complemented with two or three employees of the DoE and a driver. The counts took place in a two-week period. During sparse moments between the counts, we enjoyed birds other than waterbirds, as well as other Iranian wildlife. On 26 January, the group gathered again in Tehran and, the next day, we all went to the Touran protected area for an encounter with the endemic Pleske's Ground Jay *Podoces pleskei*.

## Country

With a land surface of 1636 million km<sup>2</sup>, the Islamic Republic of Iran is 40 times the size of the Netherlands. The country is divided into 28 provinces and inhabited by almost 80 million people, of whom c 16 million live in Tehran. Iran is a rugged country; there is a high, central basin with deserts and mountains and only along both coasts, there are small, discontinuous plains. The highest mountain is Kuh-e Damavand (5671 m). The weather in the north and in the mountains can be wet and cold. In the south, temperatures are normally not below 5°C in winter, while in summer one should try to avoid these parts of the country because of high temperatures of up to 50°C.

The national language is Farsi and, although only few people speak English, Iran appears to be a very hospitable country. Travelling must be done by public transport or organized tours, since car rental is almost impossible and traffic is

422 Sunset near Touran, Semnan, Iran, 27 January 2004 (Harvey van Diek)



dangerous. We travelled with experienced drivers and each group was joined by at least one English-speaking person. We had a good experience with Ecotour-Iran ([www.ecotour-iran.com](http://www.ecotour-iran.com)), who took us to Touran. This is the only tour and travel agency in Iran that does nature trips with well-educated and English-speaking guides.

In Iran, c 492 species have been recorded (cf Firouz 2000). Considering the lack of birdwatchers, large size of the country, great range of habitats, and the country's position at the crossroads of three major faunal regions, it seems likely that many species will be added to this total.

### Counting

Each team visited a different province. In total, the five teams recorded 287 species. Most birds and species were found in the coastal areas. Our main task was to census waterbirds in as many wetlands as possible. One of the targets was to find Slender-billed Curlews *Numenius tenuirostris*, which have been claimed in the last 10 years but never by experienced birdwatchers and never with conclusive documentation.

In total, c 1.5 million waterbirds were counted in January 2004. This total was lower than expected. In previous years, c 3 million birds were recorded by Iranian birdwatchers. Unfavourable weather conditions (much rain and high temperatures in the north and south-west and drought in the south and south-east) may have been causes for the lower counts. Differences in experience in estimating large groups of birds could be an additional explanation. From all five provinces the highlights and some interesting bird numbers are presented in this paper. Full details of the census will be published in a separate report.

### Gilan

Peter de Boer and Menno van Straaten counted in Gilan province, in the north-west along the Caspian Sea, where c 220 000 waterbirds were noted. Highlights were a Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* (first for Gilan), Ferruginous Ducks *Aythya nyroca* (12), Mediterranean Gulls *Larus melanocephalus* (first for Gilan), Grey-headed Swamp-hens *Porphyrio poliocephalus* (21), Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus* (one, uncommon in the Caspian Sea) and Parasitic Jaeger *S parasiticus* (one, uncommon in the Caspian Sea).

### Mazandaran

Peter Meininger and Mark Zekhuis counted in Mazandaran province, along the Caspian coast to

the east. The 60 km long Miankaleh Peninsula and adjacent Gorgan Bay occupy an area of 97 200 ha. The Miankaleh wildlife refuge is a Ramsar Site and Biosphere Reserve. These areas hold the highest number of wintering waterbirds in Iran. During the census of 2004, a total of 1 041 000 birds were counted. The most numerous species was Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* with 810 960 individuals. This also proved to be a good wintering site for White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* (625), Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* (131), Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* (209), Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* (c 73 000) and White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (125). A single Caspian Seal *Phoca caspica* swimming in the bay was a surprise. These mammals normally have their young in winter on the ice in the northern part of the Caspian Sea.

Mazandaran is famous for the wintering of the tiny western population of Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus*, in particular now that the species no longer (since 2002) winters in Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, India. In total, six were observed: a pair with a juvenile in Fereidoonkenar Damgah and the surrounding rice-fields, as well as two ringed and recently released juveniles. Fereidoonkenar Damgah is an artificial wetland of c 150 ha used as a private duck-hunting area and as a water reservoir for the rice-fields in summer. Another adult was feeding in Sorkherud Damgah. This is also a small artificial wetland maintained for duck trapping. The cranes are protected by local hunters. More information on the status and conservation of Siberian Cranes in Iran and other countries is provided by Meine & Archibald (1996). Other interesting records included a Pomarine Jaeger and three Mediterranean Gulls, while Citrine Wagtails *Motacilla citreola* proved to be surprisingly common.

One full day of birding was spent in the mountains of the central Alborz region (protected area, 399 000 ha). This area is part of the Alborz range, north of Tehran and west of the road to Chalus. A rough day walking from Kanarbun to Haridzja (altitude 2500 m) with armed guides from the DoE through the snowy mountains brought us for instance Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*, Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*, Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris*, Western Rock Nuthatch *Sitta neumayer*, White-winged Snowfinch *Montifringilla nivalis* and, at last, five Caspian Snowcocks *Tetraogallus caspius*. In addition, tracks of Brown Bear *Ursus arctos*, Leopard *Panthera pardus* and



423 Great Knots / Grote Kanoeten *Calidris tenuirostris*, Tiab, Hormozgan, Iran, 15 January 2004  
(Rob Felix)

424 Great Thick-knees / Grote Grielen *Esacus recurvirostris*, Rud-e-Shur, Hormozgan, Iran, 14 January 2004  
(Rob Felix)



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Wolf *Canis lupus* and observations of Wild Goat *Capra aegagrus* suggested a true and undisturbed nature reserve.

*Khuzestan*

Harvey van Diek and Menno Hornman counted in Khuzestan province in the south-west, near the Iraqi border. In Khuzestan, c 111 600 water-birds were recorded. The largest group consisted of c 20 000 Eurasian Coots at Miangaran lake near Izeh in the north-east of the Khuzestan area. Also good numbers of Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris* (c 3200), White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus* (c 1200), Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* (c 350) and Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* (460) were recorded. Other highlights were two Sacred Ibises *Threskiornis aethiopicus* at Bamdej marsh (a small relict population breeds in the Hoor Alazim marshes in Iraq), a Little Crake *Porzana parva* at the Hovey-zeh surrounds, 28 Armenian Gulls *L. armenicus* and a total of 42 Iraq Babbblers *Turdoides altirostris*. The latter species was until recently known as a near-endemic of the marshes of southern Iraq but appears to be spreading, both to the east (Iran) and to the west (Syria, cf van

den Berg 2004). Up to 12 Caspian Stonechats *Saxicola maurus variegatus*, 10 Plain Leaf Warblers *Phylloscopus neglectus* and 242 Dead Sea Sparrows *Passer moabiticus* were recorded. Surprisingly, 35 Mesopotamian Crows *Corvus cornix capellanus* were seen. This taxon, sometimes treated as a separate species, is restricted to an area along the Euphrates in south-eastern Iraq and south-western Iran and has a contrasting black-and-white plumage, with the grey parts of Hooded Crow *C. c. cornix* much paler and almost white (cf Madge & Burn 1993). Near Bostan, an Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* was discovered on 18 January, providing the first observation for Iran. It was studied for c 20 min under good light conditions. Unfortunately, the distance was too large to take photographs and to see subtle identification characters as primary pattern, colour of the underparts, leg length and bill pattern. A description is given in appendix 1. At Aflok basin, a probable Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis* was observed. This would be the second sighting in winter after one reported in February 1998. The bird was observed for c 2 min at a distance of 20 m. A description is given in appendix 2. At Karun fishponds, a juve-

425 Crab-plovers / Krabplevieren *Dromas ardeola*, with Indian Reef Egret / Rode-Zeerifreiger *Egretta gularis schistacea*, Hara protected area, Hormozgan, Iran, 11 January 2004 (Rob Felix)





nile Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* was found and photographed. This species has only recently been discovered in Iran (Derek Scott pers comm). A calling male Pallid Scops Owl *Otus brucei* was found at Izeh cave. An adult Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* was seen near the border at Hoor Alazim marshes; this species is a breeding bird in Iran but not known as a winterer.

#### Hormozgan

Rob Felix and Frank Willems visited Hormozgan province in the south. Along the coastal area stretching from the Straits of Hormuz in the west to the border of Baluchistan in the east, 24 sites were visited. These sites can be characterized as intertidal areas with extensive mudflats, lagoons and creeks, some with extensive mangrove vegetations. The number of waterbirds (mainly waders) was huge. The vastness of the area and inaccessibility of the sites made that only 65 000 birds could be counted, while the true number of birds will be in the direction of several 100 000s.

Most numerous was Dunlin *Calidris alpina* with 7500. Crab-plover *Dromas ardeola* and Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* were second and third, both with c 4600. Most Crab-plovers (3000) were counted in Hara protected area on Qeshm island. Eurasian Curlew *N arquata* (4000), Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* (2200) and Lesser Sand Plover *C mongolus* (2000) were also numerous. Iran appears to be of invaluable importance for Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*, of which over 900 were counted. This species was present at almost every site and actual numbers must have been much higher. Great Knot *C tenuirostris* (133) and Red Knot *C canutus* (one) are two species of which small wintering populations have only recently been discovered in Iran (Keijl et al 2001). Two specialities of Hormozgan were Goliath Herons *Ardea goliath* (three) and Great Thick-knee *Esacus recurvirostris* (41). The herons were present in Khalasi in the eastern part of Hormozgan. A part of this area is covered with very old mangroves, which may house a relict breeding population of this species. Another highlight was a Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* in the Straits of Hormuz, probably the first record for this region. A single Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola* was seen at Jask harbour on 21 January. This species, which occurs in Africa and in Asia from Afghanistan and Pakistan east to Taiwan, is very rare in Iran. In 2001, Keijl et al (2001) observed eight birds (two flocks of four),

which appear to be the first records. Last but not least, a pair of Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis* was discovered during a short visit to the Gaz river, south of the town of Sirik, in the afternoon of 18 January. Both birds were seen briefly before they disappeared into their nesting hole at the top edge of a 50 m high cliff. This is apparently the first record in 50-100 years for Iran of this presumably overlooked species. In Iraq, this species is very rare but further east it is locally more common (Ebels 2002). The area of Gaz river is in fact a dry wadi, since the river has almost dried up in the past few years, leaving only a few shallow pools. Some scattered bushes and trees are present. Employees of the DoE kept an eye on the spot and, on 8 April 2004, breeding was confirmed (Babak Musavi in litt). On 16 April, an adult and a juvenile were seen at the same spot by an AviFauna tour group (Erik Hirschfeld in litt). Close to the nesting site of Brown Fish Owl, two other owl species were present: Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* (a calling male) and Spotted Owlet *Athene brama*.

#### Sistan and Baluchistan

Bernard Oosterbaan and Erik van Winden visited the province of Sistan and Baluchistan in the far south-east along the Gulf of Oman. In Sistan, a formerly very important bird area has been dried out for about eight years because of a great dam on the Afghanistan border. In Baluchistan, only 14 000 waterbirds were counted. Highlights were two Red-breasted Mergansers *Mergus serrator* at Tiss port, up to six Great Thick-knees at Khore-e-Galak, a group of 385 Kentish Plovers *C alexandrinus* at Khore-e-Tang, two Pintail Snipes *Gallinago stenura* at Lolakadan, up to 20 Desert Whitethroats *Sylvia curruca minula* at Lipar Marsh and one Brahminy Starling *S pagodarum* with a Rose-coloured Starling in the town of Chabahar. The Brahminy Starling is suspected to be an escape from captivity, because it was seen in an urban area. However, if considered a wild bird, it would be a new species for Iran. It is common in the Indian Subcontinent but occurs only locally further west in Pakistan and in eastern Afghanistan, where it was noted as 'common' in Kabul in summer 2002; its seasonal movements are not well understood (Feare & Craig 1998, Grimmett et al 1998, Kullberg 2002). According to Kullberg (2002), 'There seems to be a general westward and northward invasion of many originally Indian human habitation-bound bird species'.

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**426** Goliath Heron / Reuzenreiger *Ardea goliath*, Khalasi, Hormozgan, Iran, 20 January 2004 (*Rob Felix*)  
**427** Pleske's Ground Jay / Perzische Steppegaai *Podoces pleskei*, Touran, Semnan, Iran, 27 January 2004 (*Harvey van Diek*) **428** Pleske's Ground Jay / Perzische Steppegaai *Podoces pleskei*, Touran, Semnan, Iran, 27 January 2004 (*Menno Hornman*)





429 Iraq Babbler / Iraakse Babbelaar *Turdoidea althrostris*, Horeh Bamdej, Khuzestan, Iran, 23 January 2004  
(Harvey van Diek)

430 Siberian Cranes / Siberische Witte Kraanvogels *Grus leucogeranus*, pair with young, Fereidoonkenar Damgah,  
Mazandaran, Iran, 19 January 2004 (Mark Zekhuis)





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**Touran**

On 25 January, all teams gathered at a hotel in Tehran and prepared a workshop for the next day for c 70 DoE employees. We presented our first results, shared our experiences and explained counting methods. The final three days, a visit was made to Touran in Semnan province. In this desert area, 550 km east of Tehran and at 1200 m above sea level, the only (near-)endemic species in Iran is found: Pleske's Ground Jay, which only occurs in eastern Iran and marginally across the border in Afghanistan. Macqueen's Bustard *Chlamydotis macqueenii* is breeding in quite good numbers in this beautiful arid area with steppe vegetation. The area is also good for Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* (only a few left in Iran, cf Iranian Cheetah Society 2004), Leopard (quite common in this area) and Persian Wild Ass *Equus hemionus onager* (c 400 left in whole Iran, Strieker 2001). Our guides of Ecotour-Iran estimated the chance to see Pleske's Ground Jay at this time of year at 70%. In winter they are very elusive, do not sing and normally stay on the ground; even when disturbed, they prefer to run. The species inhabits extensive desert steppes with scattered low bushes and plains covered with *Zygophyllum*, where it mainly feeds on

insects and seeds of desert bushes. Birds live in solitary pairs, remaining together throughout the year. The spherical nest, camouflaged by a layer of interwoven twigs, is built among small shrubs. The three to six pale blue-green eggs are laid in April. Only the female incubates, for 17-19 days, and the male feeds her while she is on the nest. The chicks grow fast; two weeks after hatching, they are feathered and can already run fast. We were lucky to discover two very tame birds. Because the weather was rainy and cold, the birds showed less activity and allowed us to approach within c 5 m. This was the highlight of the trip for most of us. The next day we saw a few more, in total 10 individuals. A female Eversmann's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythronotus* and a Black-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis atrogularis* were the last noteworthy species of our visit to Iran.

After three weeks, we had seen many birds and counted most of them. The search for Slender-billed Curlew failed but more surveys are needed to make sure whether the species still exists. In addition, waterbird counts are paramount in the next years since Iran is very important for wintering waders and ducks.

431 Brown Fish Owl / Bruine Visuil *Ketupa zeylonensis*, Gaz, south of Sirik, Hormozgan, Iran, 8 April 2004  
(Babak Musavi)







**432** Breeding site of Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*, Gaz, south of Sirik, Hormozgan, Iran, 18 January 2004 (*Rob Felix*). The nest cavity is the black spot right below the tree just left of the centre. **433** Black-winged Kite / Grijze Wouw *Elanus caeruleus*, juvenile, Karun fish ponds, Khuzestan, Iran, 22 January 2004 (*Harvey van Diek*)  
**434** Mesopotamian Crow / Mesopotaamse Kraai *Corvus cornix capellanus*, near Hoveyzeh, Khuzestan, Iran, 19 January 2004 (*Harvey van Diek*) **435** Caspian Stonechat / Kaspische Roodborsttapuit *Saxicola maurus variegatus*, Amir Kabir sugar cane farm, Ahvaz, Khuzestan, Iran, 15 January 2004 (*Harvey van Diek*)

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#### Samenvatting

VOGELTELLINGEN IN IRAN IN JANUARI 2004 In januari 2004 bezochten 10 Nederlandse vogelaars Iran op uitnodiging van het Iraanse ministerie van milieu. In vijf groepjes van twee en met begeleiding van Iraanse medewerkers van het ministerie en een chauffeur werden vijf provincies bezocht. In totaal werden c. 1.5 miljoen watervogels geteld. De hoop om Dunbekwulpen *Numenius tenuirostris* aan te treffen werd niet vervuld. Per provincie wordt een selectie van opmerkelijke waarnemingen genoemd: de eerste Dwerggans *Anser erythropus* en de eerste Zwartkopmeeuw *Larus melanocephalus* voor de provincie Gilan, zes Siberische Witte Kraanvogels *Grus leucogeranus* in de provincie Mazandaran (de enige resterende overwinteringslocatie

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voor de minieme westelijke populatie), twee Heilige Ibiszen *Threskiornis aethiopicus* en een juveniele Grijze Wouw *Elanus caeruleus* in de provincie Khuzestan, de eerste Oosterse Vorkstaartplevier *Glareola maldivarum* voor Iran (beschrijving in appendix 1), de tweede melding in de winter van een Basrakarekiet *Acrocephalus griseldis* (beschrijving in appendix 2), en een Vale Oeverzwaluw *Riparia paludicola* en een paar Bruine Visuilen *Ketupa zeylonensis* in de provincie Hormozgan. De visuilen betroffen de eerste waarneming in 50-100 jaar en bleken later in het voorjaar succesvol te hebben gebroed. Soorten waarvan hoge aantallen werden geteld zijn bijvoorbeeld Marmereend *Marmaronetta angustirostris* (c 3200), Witkopeend *Oxyura leucocephala* (625), Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* (c 73 000), Krabplevier *Dromas ardeola* (c 4600) en Witstaartkievit *Vanellus leucurus* (c 1200).

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Harvey van Diek, Prins Willem Alexanderstraat 53, 6576 BL Ooij, Netherlands ([h.diek@chello.nl](mailto:h.diek@chello.nl))  
Rob Felix, Bijleveldsingel 42, 6524 AD Nijmegen, Netherlands ([felix@natuurbalans.nl](mailto:felix@natuurbalans.nl))  
Menno Hornman, Graafsedwardsstraat 13, 6512 EP Nijmegen, Netherlands ([m.hornman@minlnv.nl](mailto:m.hornman@minlnv.nl))  
Peter L Meininger, Lisztlaan 5, 4338 KM Vlissingen, Netherlands ([mein@zeelandnet.nl](mailto:mein@zeelandnet.nl))  
Frank Willems, Maerlantstraat 101, 6531 AW Nijmegen, Netherlands ([frank.willems@sovon.nl](mailto:frank.willems@sovon.nl))  
Mark Zekhuis, Eerste Weerdsweg 88, 7412 WV Deventer, Netherlands ([catbird@home.nl](mailto:catbird@home.nl))

APPENDIX 1 Description of Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* near Bostan, Khuzestan, Iran, on 18 January 2004

Long-winged wader, with tern-like flight sometimes also recalling Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, with dark upperwings and white tail and black tail bar. Tail short and shallowly forked with outer tail feathers only slightly longer than inner ones; tail length (longest, outer tail feathers) about same as breadth of wing. Upperparts dark brown, underwing-coverts rusty red and remiges dark, with no sign of white trailing edge to secondaries.

APPENDIX 2 Description of Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis* at Aflok basin, Khuzestan, Iran, on 17 January 2004

First impression that of olivaceous warbler *Acrocephalus opacus/pallidus*, foraging slowly, low above water level through reed stems. Size comparable with Common Reed Warbler *A scirpaceus*, not as heavy as Clamorous Reed Warbler *A stentoreus* but no direct comparison with other birds possible. Pale belly and undertail coverts striking. Long, dirty white to creamy supercilium. Bill slender and long, about same length as supercilium. Primary projection long, with primary length about equal to tertial length and at least seven primaries visible. Because of long primaries, bird looking rather short tailed. Upperparts and head olive-tinged (rather than yellowish-tinged) brown, quite dark looking and contrasting with pale, dirty white belly, chin and undertail coverts.

# Lachmeeuw in Nederland en Duitsland in 2000-02

Gert Ottens

In 2000-02 werd op verschillende locaties in Nederland en aangrenzend Duitsland een adulte Lachmeeuw *Larus atricilla* waargenomen waarvan wordt aangenomen dat het steeds dezelfde vogel betrof. Dit werd duidelijk toen de vogel die in 2001 in Duitsland werd gekleuringd later dat jaar in Nederland opdook. Het betreft het derde geval van deze Nearctische soort voor zowel Nederland als Duitsland. In dit artikel worden de waarnemingen van de vogel in beide landen gedurende deze periode beschreven.

## Nederland

Op 23 juli 2000 om 16:00 werd een adulte Lachmeeuw waargenomen door Carl Derks en Bert Pieterse op het Rutbekerveld bij Enschede, Overijssel. De vogel in (bijna) volledig zomerkleed hield zich hier korte tijd op tussen

Kokmeeuwen *L. ridibundus* en Kleine Mantelmeeuwen *L. fuscus* die rustten op de afvoerbuizen in het water. Rond 16:20 werd hij enkele minuten vliegend gezien voordat hij in noordelijke richting wegvloog met c. 50 Kokmeeuwen (Carl Derks in litt). Deze waarneming is pas recent ingediend bij de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) en dient dus nog aanvaard te worden; de beschrijving is echter volledig zodat de kans op aanvaarding groot is. In vervolg hierop ontdekte Stef Waasdorp op 13 augustus 2000 waarschijnlijk dezelfde Lachmeeuw, inmiddels ruiend naar winterkleed, langs de Nederrijn te Arnhem, Gelderland. De vogel werd hier in de avond van 15 augustus weer waargenomen door René Oosterhuis en SW en vervolgens werd het nieuws verspreid (Harvey van Diek pers meded). De daaropvolgende

436 Lachmeeuw / Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*, adult mannetje, Zwillbrocker Venn, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Duitsland, april 2002 (Martin Gottschling)





### Lachmeeuw in Nederland en Duitsland in 2000-02

avond werd hij door vele waarnemers kortstondig tijdens de schemering gezien, alvorens samen met Kokmeeuwen naar een onbekende slaappleats, waarschijnlijk De Bijland nabij Lobith, Gelderland, of Rhederlaag nabij Giesbeek, Gelderland, te vliegen. Die avond konden video-opnamen van de vogel worden gemaakt (Deuzeman 2000, Plomp et al 2001, van der Vliet et al 2001). Een melding uit Arnhem nabij de splitsing van Nederrijn en IJssel op 5 november 2000 werd helaas (nog) niet ingediend bij de CDNA maar kan betrekking hebben gehad op dezelfde vogel. Vervolgens ontdekte Arjen Poelmans op 27 oktober 2001 een adult-winter Lachmeeuw op de grote meeuwsaappleats van De Bijland. De vogel werd in de daaropvolgende dagen niet meer teruggevonden (Ottens 2001, van der Vliet et al 2002). Duidelijk werden de ringen gezien die de Lachmeeuw eerder dat jaar in Duitsland aangemeten kreeg (zie onder). Tenslotte werd (naar wordt aangenomen) dezelfde Lachmeeuw op 7 april 2002 bij het Beuven op de Strabrechtse Heide, Noord-Brabant, aangetroffen (van der Vliet et al 2003). Deze vogel werd hier korte tijd in de ochtend waargenomen, alleen in vlucht, waarna hij in noordelijke richting doorvlog. Hierbij kon niet worden vastgesteld of de vogel was geringd (Jan-Erik Kikkert in litt).

#### Duitsland

Op 11 april 2001 werd een adult-zomer Lachmeeuw ontdekt in de kolonie Kokmeeuwen in het Zwillbrocker Venn, Nordrhein-Westfalen,

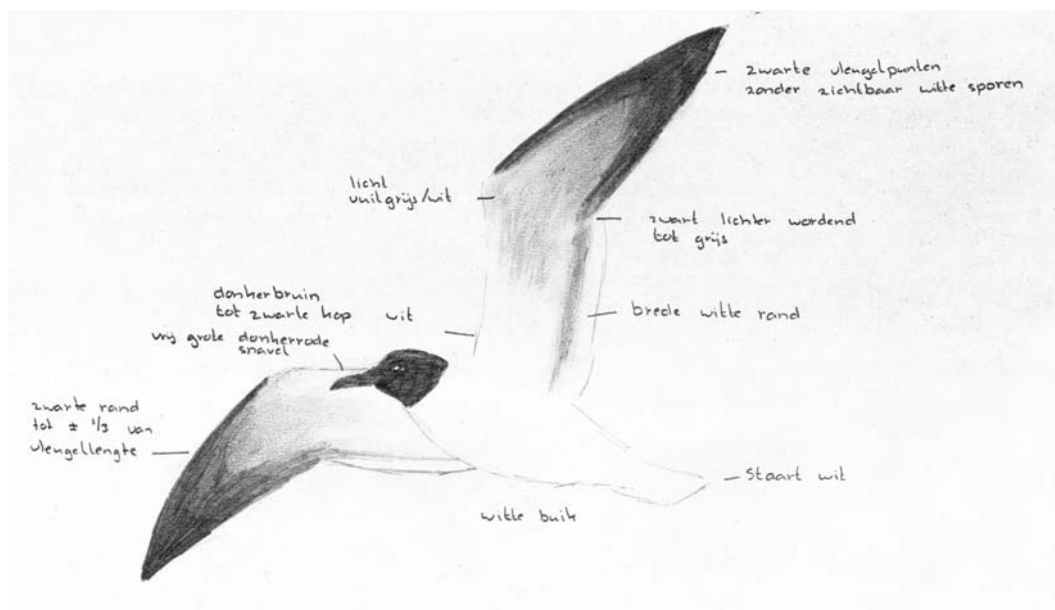
437 Lachmeeuw / Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*, adult, Arnhem, Gelderland, 16 augustus 2000 (Marc Plomp/Natuur Digitaal)



Duitsland, c 1 km over de grens bij Groenlo, Gelderland. De vogel werd op 1 juni 2001 gevangen en geringd (rechts: witte PVC-ring (tarsus) en aluminiumring (tibia)). De Lachmeeuw gedroeg zich zeer vocaal en territoriaal. Regelmatig werd de zogeheten 'long-call' waargenomen waarbij hij de vleugels enigszins liet afhangen, de kop omhoog gooide en een luid, lachend geluid voortbracht. De aanwezige Kokmeeuwen leken hierop niet te reageren (pers obs). Op grond van zijn gedrag werd vastgesteld dat het om een mannetje ging. Enige aanwijzingen voor een (gemengd) broedgeval zijn niet gevonden. Wel had de Lachmeeuw in juni een nest gemaakt of bezet en werd gezien dat hij een pas uitgekomen Kokmeeuw naar het nest sleepte om het dier vervolgens te verorberen. Ook de overblijfselen van Kokmeeuwenkuikens die na het vertrek van de vogel in het nest werden aangetroffen waren waarschijnlijk van dergelijke maaltijden afkomstig. De Lachmeeuw was hier aanwezig tot ten minste 3 juli 2001 (Andreas Buchheim in litt).

Mogelijk dezelfde vogel werd overigens al op 29 maart 2001 in Bad Neustadt an der Saale, Bayern, Duitsland, waargenomen (Birding World 14: 237, 2001). Foto's van de vogel van het Zwillbrocker Venn zijn onder meer gepubliceerd in Birding World (14: 145, 237, 2001), Dutch Birding (23: 162, plaat 184, 226, plaat 251, 2001) en Limicola (16: 245, 2002).

Op 13 april 2002 keerde de vogel, inmiddels 'Atze' genaamd (vrij naar de Duitse naam voor Lachmeeuw: Aztekenmöwe) terug in het Zwillbrocker Venn. Net als in 2001 ging hier een waarneming uit het zuiden van Duitsland aan vooraf; op 28 en 29 maart 2002 werd een (voor zover bekend ongeringde, Peter Barthel in litt) adult-zomer Lachmeeuw gefotografeerd te Oberzell, Baden-Württemberg (Limicola 16: 245-246, 2002). 'Atze' hield hetzelfde territorium als in het voorgaande jaar maar was daarin niet zo vasthoudend als in 2001. Ook werd hij bijvoorbeeld vaak gezien op het dak van de observatiehut die uitkijkt op de plaatselijke kolonie flamingo's *Phoenicopterus*, waarbij hij zich soms zeer dicht liet benaderen. De vogel had in 2002 geen nest maar wel werd in mei waargenomen dat hij met een Kokmeeuw copuleerde (Andreas Buchheim in litt). Overigens moet in het West-Palearctische gebied wel degelijk rekening worden gehouden met (gemengde) broedgevallen van deze soort (Hoogendoorn & Steinhaus 1990). Daarnaast werd regelmatig waargenomen hoe hij laag over de kolonie vloog om plotseling naar beneden te duiken om een Kokmeeuwjong te pakken dat



FIGUUR 1 Lachmeeuw / Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*, adult, Strabrechtse Heide, Noord-Brabant, 7 april 2002 (Jan-Erik Kikkert)

vervolgens werd verorberd (Andreas Buchheim in litt). De laatste waarneming dateert van 29 juni 2002. In 2003 werd de Lachmeeuw niet meer waargenomen.

### Beschrijving

Onderstaande beschrijving is zowel gebaseerd op de waarneming van het Rutbekerveld (Carl Derks in litt, adult zomerkleed), eigen aantekeningen gemaakt te Arnhem op 16 augustus 2000 (ruiend naar adult winterkleed; cf Dutch Birding 23: 327, plaat 369, 2001) en het Zwillbrocker Venn in april 2001 (adult zomerkleed), veldschetsen van de waarneming van het Beuven van 7 april 2002 (Jan-Erik Kikkert in litt, adult zomerkleed), en de eerder genoemde foto's en video-beelden.

**GROOTTE & BOUW** Waarneembaar (maar niet veel) groter en iets zwaarder gebouwd dan aanwezige Kokmeeuwen; duidelijk kleiner dan Kleine Mantelmeeuw. Poot en vleugel duidelijk langer dan bij Kokmeeuw. Snavel lang en 'zwaar' in verhouding met Kokmeeuw en enigszins omlaag gebogen naar punt toe.  
**KOP & HALS** Zomerkleed: kop zwart (inclusief keel en achternek, vergelijkbaar met Zwartkopmeeuw *L. melanocephalus*), op 23 juli 2000 met enkele witte winterplekjes. Boven en onder oog duidelijke witte 'halve maantjes'. Ruiend naar winterkleed: kop wit/lichtgrijs met een donkergrijs 'masker' rond het oog en grijs

gevlekte (achter)kruin tot in de nek. Voorhoofd en teugel wit.

**BOVENDELEN** Mantel donker leigrijs.

**ONDERDELEN** Wit met lichtgrijze tint.

**VLEUGEL** Bovenvleugel donker leigrijs, met zwarte handpennen. Kleine witte vlekjes op top van handpennen. Duidelijke witte achtervleugelrand. Ondervleugel wit, met donkere onderzijde van handpennen (donkergrijs) en armpennen (grijs).

**STAART** Wit.

**NAAKTE DELEN** Donkere iris. Donkerrode oogrand. Snavel diep rood met zwarte subterminale 'ring' en kleine, lichte punt. Poot zeer donker (donkergrijs).

**GELUID** In Nederland alleen op Strabrechtse Heide gehoord. Zowel hier als in Zwillbrocker Venn regelmatig hard, lachend geluid voortbrengend, duidelijk te onderscheiden van geluid van aanwezige Kokmeeuwen en (enkele) Zwartkopmeeuwen (Zwillbrocker Venn).

**GEDRAG** Voor gedrag in Zwillbrocker Venn, zie boven.

### Determinatie

De combinatie van kenmerken in verenkleed en naakte delen sluit alle andere soorten uit, waaronder Franklins Meeuw *L. pipixcan*, waarmee soms verwarring mogelijk is. De belangrijkste kenmerken die op Lachmeeuw wijzen zijn het formaat (iets groter dan Kokmeeuw), de zeer lange vleugels, de lange en iets 'afhangende' snavel, de zwarte kopkap met duidelijke witte tekening boven en onder het oog, de donkergrijze mantel en de rode snavelkleur en donkergrij-

ze pootkleur (Grant 1986, Jonsson 1997, Svensson et al 2000).

### Bespreking

Na eerdere gevallen te Harderwijk, Gelderland, van 25 september tot midden oktober 1993 (Ebels & van Heusden 1999) en te Groningen, Groningen, van 22 augustus tot 20 oktober 1997 (Olthoff 1997, 1998) betekenen de waarnemingen in 2000-02 het derde geval voor Nederland (van den Berg & Bosman 2001). Vanwege de onderlinge afstand (zowel in tijd als plaats) tussen de Nederlandse waarnemingen in de zomer van 2000, en de wetenschap dat de (inmiddels) geringde vogel van het Zwillbrocker Venn in De Bijland opdook mag worden aangenomen dat het hier steeds hetzelfde exemplaar betreft. Dit geldt ook voor de waarneming bij het Beuven, hoewel daar de aanwezigheid van ringen niet werd (of kon worden) vastgesteld. Voor deze aanname bestaan bovendien nog andere aanwijzingen. Zo hadden de waarnemingen steeds betrekking op een adulte vogel en werden de waarnemingen gedaan op afstanden van meer dan 100 km van de Noordzee, terwijl de soort in Noord-Amerika relatief weinig buiten de kuststrook wordt gezien (Cramp & Simmons 1983). Uit onderzoek aan geringde en gezenderde adulte Lachmeeuwen is overigens wel gebleken dat exemplaren op foerageervluchten regelmatig tot 40 km en bij uitzondering zelfs tot 90 km landinwaarts van de broedkolonie kunnen worden waargenomen (Dosch 2003). Als dwaalgast is de soort in het binnenland van Europa evenwel een zeldzame verschijning. Zo werden in Frankrijk tot en met 1998 van in totaal 19 gevallen er slechts twee ver in het binnenland vastgesteld (Dubois et al 2000). In Brittannië gaat het op een totaal van 94 gevallen (tot en met 2003) om c vijf in het binnenland (Pete Fraser in litt). Het is wat dat betreft opmerkelijk dat de twee eerdere Nederlandse gevallen evenmin nabij de Noordzee of Waddenzee plaatsvonden. Hoogendoorn & Steinhaus (1990) suggereerden dat sommige Lachmeeuwen in hun eerste winter Europa bereiken en daarna blijven rondzwerven in het Noordzeegebied. Men kan daarom stellen dat de meeste gevallen in het Noordzeegebied aan een klein aantal rondzwervende vogels kunnen worden toegeschreven. Deze veronderstelling wordt ondersteund door het hoge aantal zomergevallen van adulte exemplaren in Noordwest-Europa. Daarnaast is het opmerkelijk dat in Europa van Lachmeeuw meerdere gevallen van jaarlijks terugkerende exemplaren bekend zijn. Dit is

onder meer ook bekend van Kleine Kokmeeuw *L philadelphia*, Ringsnavelmeeuw *L delawarensis* en Grote Burgemeester *L hyperboreus*.

De Duitse waarnemingen in het Zwillbrocker Venn zijn als derde geval voor Duitsland de boeken ingegaan, na eerdere gevallen van een adulte vogel in Rieselfelder Münster, Nordrhein-Westfalen, op 3 april 1997 (ook ver in het binnenland) en een eerste-winter op Husum, Schleswig-Holstein, op 28 en 29 november 1999. De overige bovengenoemde gevallen zijn momenteel nog in behandeling bij de Duitse dwaalgastencommissie (Peter Barthel in litt).

Dankzij de kleurringen die de Duits/Nederlandse vogel in 2001 kreeg kan hij als 'test-case' fungeren waarbij vervolgwarnemingen inzicht kunnen verschaffen over zijn verplaatsingen. Zo zou de waarneming van een adulte Lachmeeuw met een metalen ring aan de rechter tibia te San Remo, Liguria, Italië, van 18 januari tot eind februari 2004 (Dutch Birding 26: 204, 2004) dezelfde vogel kunnen betreffen mits hij inmiddels zijn kleurring had verloren. Het verliezen van kleurringen komt bij meeuwen namelijk nu en dan voor (Frank Majoor pers meded). Overigens betrof het hier het eerste geval van deze soort voor Italië (Andrea Corso in litt). Op basis van de foto's kan de ring helaas niet worden afgelezen. Er is afgezien van de vogel van het Zwillbrocker Venn maar één ander geval bekend van een Lachmeeuw die in Europa werd geringd. Het betreft de eerste-winter vogel van Husum in 1999, die aan zijn linker tarsus van een metalen ring werd voorzien (Andreas Buchheim in litt).

### Dankwoord

Hierbij wil ik Andreas Buchheim en Martin Gottschling bedanken voor informatie en het ter beschikking stellen van foto's van de vogel van het Zwillbrocker Venn. Daarnaast was de hulp van Peter Barthel (Deutsche Seltenheitenkommission), Max Berlijn (CDNA), Andrea Corso (Comitato Italiano Rarità), Carl Derks, Harvey van Diek (SOVON), Adriaan Dijkens, Enno Ebels, Pete Fraser (British Birds Rarities Committee), Ted Hoogendoorn, Jan-Erik Kikkert, Frank Majoor (SOVON), Bert Pieterse, Arjen Poelmans, Ivo Seelen, Henk Sierdsema (SOVON), Gerard Steinhaus en Stef Waasdorp onontbeerlijk. Fred Hustings (SOVON) voorzag een eerdere versie van een kritische noot.

### Summary

LAUGHING GULL IN THE NETHERLANDS AND GERMANY IN 2000-02 In July-August 2000, late October 2001 and early April 2002, an adult Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*



was observed at several inland sites in the eastern half of the Netherlands. The same bird was also present in a Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus* colony c 1 km across the border in Germany at Zwillbrocker Venn, Nordrhein-Westfalen, during the breeding seasons of 2001 and 2002. Here, the bird was ringed in June 2001 (right leg; tarsus: white colour ring, tibia: aluminium ring). These rings confirmed that the Dutch record of October 2001 concerned the same bird. Moreover, because of the (relative) proximity in both space and time, the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA) considers all records to relate to the same bird, which constitutes the third record for both Germany and the Netherlands. The extreme rarity of the species in mainland Europe and the fact that all observations of this individual were well inland have also been taken into account.

A case can also be made for the hypothesis that most records of Laughing Gulls in the North Sea area can be attributed to a small number of 'wandering' birds. This is supported by the relatively high number of summer records of adult birds in north-western Europe. Now that the Dutch/German bird has been colour-ringed, repeat sightings may clarify this aspect of the species' occurrence in Europe. The first Italian record in January-February 2004 of an adult bird with a metal ring on its right tibia might have concerned the same individual (assuming it had lost its colour ring, which happens occasionally in gulls).

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Gert Ottens, Ganzebloem 14, 3984 CG Odijk, Nederland (glanskraai@hotmail.com)

## Ruim 33 jaar oude Stormmeeuw in Groningen

Op 26 december 1988 ontdekte Klaas van Dijk, op zoek naar geringde Kokmeeuwen *Larus ridibundus*, een Stormmeeuw *L. canus canus* bij de Korrebrug in de stad Groningen, Groningen. De vogel droeg een metalen ring aan het rechter loopbeen. Met een telescoop kon het opschrift worden afgelezen (Zoologisch Museum Copenhagen 5003247). Hij bleek op 24 juni 1970 als nestjong door Lars Halling Sørensen te zijn geringd op het eiland Amager bij Kopenhagen, Sjælland, Denemarken. KvD zag de vogel op dezelfde plek op 27 december 1988 en 5 en 13 februari 1989. Daarna duurde het meer dan zes jaar voordat hij weer werd gezien. Op 6 augustus

1995 zag KvD hem op dezelfde plek en opnieuw op 18 juli 1996. Weer ruim vier jaar later, op 18 oktober 2000, ontdekte Derick Hiemstra hem op een botensteiger bij Kaap Hoorn langs het Hoornsemeer c 6.5 km ten zuid-zuidwesten van de Korrebrug en nog net in de provincie Groningen. DH zag hem hereens op 24 oktober en 30 november 2000 en op 25 februari 2001. Uit de winter van 2001/02 ontbreken waarnemingen maar op 22 juli 2002 zag DH hem weer bij de Korrebrug. KvD zag hem hier op 29 september en daarna ontdekte DH hem op 12 oktober langs de Kardingerplas, Groningen, 1.5 km ten noordoosten van de Korrebrug en op 30 oktober weer bij Kaap Hoorn. DH zag hem hier op 17 en 24 november en op 2 december 2002. Kort daarna viel de winter in en ving een

### *Ruim 33 jaar oude Stormmeeuw in Groningen*

vorstperiode aan. We vonden nogal wat dode meeuwen en vreesden dat 'onze' vogel ook het loodje had gelegd maar DH zag hem weer op 24 januari 2003 bij Kaap Hoorn. Vanaf 17 december 2003 zagen we hem regelmatig langs het Hoornsemeer, en wel op 18 (DH & KvD), 27 en 29 (Rudy Offereins) en 30 december 2003 (KvD). In 2004 werd hij gezien op vier dagen in januari, acht dagen in februari en vier dagen in maart; de laatste datums waren 24 (DH) en 25 maart 2004 (KvD). Tussen de ringdatum en (voorlopig) laatste waarneemdatum liggen 33 jaren, negen maanden en één dag.

De bejaarde Stormmeeuw is vanaf december 1988 in zes van de in totaal zestien winterseizoenen (1988/89 tot en met 2003/04) in Groningen gezien. Het aantal waarneemdagen verschilt van één (1995/96 en 1996/97) tot 21 (2003/04). Hoewel de jaarlijkse afleesinspanning in en rond de stad sinds 1986 ongeveer gelijk is, is de laatste jaren veel meer tijd besteed aan het aflezen bij Kaap Hoorn. Vóór 1986 was de afleesinspanning in de stad veel minder.

#### *Uiterlijk en gedrag*

In de winter van 2003/04 is de vogel vaak lange tijd geobserveerd en uitvoerig bestudeerd. Op basis van grootte ging het naar alle waarschijnlijkheid om een vrouwtje. In directe vergelijking met andere Stormmeeuwen zag het verkleed er niet geheel gaaf uit: het leek minder glanzend en sommige veren leken niet meer helemaal goed. In februari werd gezien dat minimaal één staartpen ontbrak. De kopvlekking week niet noemenswaardig af van andere aanwezige adult-winter Stormmeeuwen. De poten waren grijsblauwachtig groen en de snavel was groenig met een vrij brede donkere subterminale band. Van Stormmeeuwen is bekend dat de kleur van de naakte delen in de winter per individu nogal kan variëren maar het is onbekend in hoeverre leeftijd hierbij een rol speelt. Het voorhoofd leek wat ingevallen, waardoor de snavel wat stakerig overkwam. De ogen waren wat waterig en het rechteroog was fletser dan het linkeroog. De vogel liep moeizaam, vooral met de rechterpoot. De pootgewrichten leken nogal stram en dit is naar alle waarschijnlijkheid de reden dat ze niet meer soepel kon lopen. Ze had moeite met het pootkrabben van de kopveren, vooral met de rechterpoot. In directe vergelijking met andere Stormmeeuwen ging het poetsen langzaam en leek het met de nodige voorzichtigheid te worden uitgevoerd. Ook het vleugelstrekken werd veel trager uitgevoerd dan bij andere Stormmeeuwen.

Op sommige dagen zat de vogel al één tot twee uur voor zonsondergang op de steiger maar op andere dagen arriveerde ze pas rond zonsondergang. In een enkel geval vloog ze vlak voor donker op en verdween naar de slaappleats op het nabijgelegen Paterswoldsemeer, Drenthe, maar vaak bleef ze zitten tot het bijna donker was. Het is niet bekend of ze op de steiger bleef slapen of dat altijd op het Paterswoldsemeer werd geslapen. Ze pleisterde zowel tussen andere meeuwen op één van de steigers als solitair op één van de vele aanlegpaaltjes die tussen de steigers in het water staan.

#### *Ringdetails*

De waarneming van een vrijlevende Stormmeeuw van 33 jaar en negen maanden is de oudste melding voor Europa (Staav 1998, 2001, archief Nederlandse Ringcentrale; Kjeld Pedersen, Kalev Rattiste & Roland Staav in litt). Er zijn buiten Groningen geen waarnemingen bekend van deze vogel. Het is dus niet bekend of en, zo ja, waar de vogel broedt. De metalen ring is na al die tijd nog redelijk goed leesbaar maar wel zichtbaar flink gesleten en aardig dun. Destijds werden Deense Stormmeeuwen geringd met ringen van aluminium gemengd met zink. In de jaren 1960 en begin jaren 1970 bevond zich op Amager een kolonie van 1000-en broedparen maar in de jaren 1980 is deze kolonie verdwenen door grootschalig afschot op en rond het nabijgelegen vliegveld en predatie door Vossen *Vulpes vulpes*. Momenteel broeden in de omgeving van Amager nog hooguit 500 paren op het eiland Saltholm en minder dan 400 op Holme Sø bij Brøndby Strand (Kjeld Pedersen in litt).

In de databank van de Nederlandse Ringcentrale (stand 5 april 2004) bevinden zich 18 Stormmeeuwen die 25 jaar of ouder werden, met leeftijden van 25 (5), 26 (6), 27 (2), 29 (2), 30 (1), 32 (1) en 33 jaar (dit geval). De op één na oudste vogel was op 16 juni 1970 als nestjong geringd in de duinen bij Schoorl, Noord-Holland, en werd op 9 mei 2003 bij Texel, Noord-Holland, vers dood gevonden, 32 jaren, 10 maanden en 23 dagen na de ringdatum. De op twee na oudste vogel was op 10 juni 1955 geringd als nestjong bij Castricum, Noord-Holland, en werd op 15 februari 1986 op Wieringen, Noord-Holland, dood gevonden, 30 jaren, acht maanden en vijf dagen na de ringdatum. Van de 18 vogels van minimaal 25 jaar oud zijn er maar liefst 11 waarvan de ring bij levende vogels in het veld werd afgelezen. Daarnaast is er een exemplaar dat op 5 juli 1973 als nestjong werd geringd in de dui-



**438** Stormmeeuw / Common Gull *Larus canus canus*, Hoornsemeer, Groningen, eind december 2003 (*Rudy Offereins*). Deze vogel werd geringd in Sjælland, Denemarken, op 24 juni 1970; op het moment dat deze foto werd gemaakt was de vogel 33 jaar en 6 maanden oud.

nen bij Zandvoort, Noord-Holland, en dat op 17 december 2002 door een ringer werd gevangen nabij Hoogstraten, Antwerpen, België, 29 jaren, vijf maanden en 12 dagen na de ringdatum. Vermeldenswaard is dat DH de ring van een andere 29-jarige Stormmeeuw heeft afgelezen. Deze werd op 22 juni 1971 als nestjong geringd in de duinen bij Schoorl en op 16 juli 2000 door DH in Schoorl gezien, 29 jaren en 24 dagen na de ringdatum. Alle 12 meldingen van levende vogels hebben betrekking op exemplaren die in of na 1969 zijn geboren en het is goed mogelijk dat ze nog in leven zijn. Gezien het relatief hoge aandeel ringaflezingen van nog levende individuen bij de terugmeldingen is het waarschijnlijk dat in de toekomst Stormmeeuwen worden teruggemeld die ouder zijn dan het in dit artikel besproken geval.

De voor zover bekend op één na oudste Stormmeeuw uit andere Europese landen werd 31 jaren en ruim negen maanden na het ringen voor het laatst gezien. Deze was op 24 juni 1960 als nestjong geringd in het Kandalaksha-natuurreservaat op het Kola-schiereiland, Rusland, en werd op 30 maart 1992 voor het laatst vastgesteld in Kopenhagen (Kjeld Pedersen in litt). In januari 1987 was deze vogel in Kopenhagen gevangen, opnieuw geringd en tevens van een kleurring voorzien. Daarna werd hij in januari-maart 1990 en in januari 1991 ook bij Motala, Östergötland, Zweden, gezien.

#### *Verspreiding en voorkomen*

Stormmeeuw is een vrij talrijke broedvogel in Nederland, voornamelijk langs de Noordzeekust, en een zeer talrijke wintergast; het overgrote deel broedt in landen rond de Oostzee tot ver oostelijk in noordelijk Rusland (Koopman 1988, 1989, Bijlsma et al 2001). In de stad Groningen overwinteren tegenwoordig 100-en Stormmeeuwen die hoofdzakelijk afhankelijk zijn van voedsel dat door de mens beschikbaar wordt gesteld. Daarnaast pleisteren 1000-en Stormmeeuwen op weilanden rondom de stad. Ze slapen 's nachts op het Paterswoldsemeer, waar de aantallen kunnen oplopen tot meer dan 5000 met een zelfde aantal andere meeuwen (Boekema et al 1983, Bonder 1999). De botensteiger bij Kaap Hoorn wordt in de zomermaanden door plezierboten gebruikt. In de loop van de herfst verdwijnen deze boten en wordt de steiger met een groot hekwerk afgesloten. In de maanden daarna gebruiken meeuwen de steiger als poets- en rustplaats, vooral in de tweede helft van de middag. Meestal verdwijnen ze in de avondschemering van de steiger naar de slaapplek op het Paterswoldsemeer. Tegen de avond kan het aantal Stormmeeuwen op de steiger oplopen tot 300-500. De jarenlange ringaflezingen in en rond de stad Groningen hebben duidelijk gemaakt dat de overwinterende Stormmeeuwen uit verschillende landen rond de Oostzee komen (cf van Dijk 1990). Er is sprake van een zekere plaatstrouw maar er zijn ook behoorlijk wat



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exemplaren die slechts één winterseizoen worden gezien. Andere worden twee of meer winters achtereen waargenomen en weer andere worden na een kennelijke afwezigheid van meerdere winters plotseling weer vastgesteld. Een zelfde fenomeen is bekend bij Stormmeeuwen die in Kopenhagen overwinteren (Kjeld Pedersen in litt). Het is dus niet uitzonderlijk dat de bejaarde Stormmeeuw met flinke tussenpozen in Groningen is gezien.

#### Ouderdomsrecords bij andere Europese meeuwensoorten

Een volledig overzicht van ouderdomsrecords bij andere meeuwen valt buiten de reikwijdte van dit artikel maar er kunnen wel enkele vergelijkingen worden getrokken. Hierbij moet worden aangetekend dat de kans om oude exemplaren te ontdekken sterk afhangt van het aantal geringde exemplaren en van het aantal teruggevonden of afgelezen exemplaren per soort. Dit laatste heeft weer een duidelijke relatie met (de toegankelijkheid van) het verspreidingsgebied in zomer en winter. Van verschillende Europese meeuwen zijn ondertussen één of meer gevallen bekend van individuen ouder dan 30 jaar. Onderstaand overzicht is ontleend aan Staav (1998, 2001, 2004) en heeft betrekking op als nestjong geringde individuen, tenzij anders vermeld. De oudste in Nederland geringde Zilvermeeuw *L argentatus* werd 34 jaren en bijna 10 maanden na het ringen dood teruggevonden (Vinkentouw 97: 47, 2002), een Kleine Mantelmeeuw *L fuscus* uit Brittannië werd na 32 jaren en acht maanden dood teruggemeld en een in de voormalige Sovjet-Unie geringde Dunbekmeeuw *L genei* werd ruim 31 jaar. Ook enkele Kokmeeuwen werden 30 jaren of ouder, onder andere één uit Finland en minimaal twee uit Nederland. De oudste Kokmeeuw in Nederland werd minimaal 32 jaar (geringd als ouder dan tweede-kalenderjaar in mei 1972, voor het laatst afgelezen in mei 2002; René Oosterhuis in litt). Een in Brittannië geboren Drieteenmeeuw *Rissa tridactyla* werd na ruim 28 jaar het slachtoffer van een olieramp en een Grote Mantelmeeuw *L marinus* in Finland vond na 26 jaar de dood door afschot.

Uit het bovenstaande kan geconcludeerd worden dat de maximale leeftijd bij diverse soorten meeuwen in dezelfde orde ligt als de bejaarde Stormmeeuw van dit artikel. Daarnaast is de laatste 20 jaar de afleesintensiteit sterk toegenomen

en is pas de laatste decennia het gebruik van stalen ringen in plaats van de sneller slijtende aluminium ringen gebruikelijk geworden. Het valt daarom te verwachten dat in de toekomst het aantal meldingen van meeuwen met een hoge leeftijd zal toenemen.

#### Dankzegging

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#### Summary

COMMON GULL IN GRONINGEN MORE THAN 33 YEARS OLD Since 1988, a ringed Common Gull *Larus canus canus* has been regularly observed in and around the city of Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands. The first observation was on 26 December 1988, followed by sightings in the winters of 1995/96, 1996/97, 2000/01, 2002/03 and 2003/04. So far, the last observation was on 25 March 2004. The bird, presumably a female, was ringed as a nestling on 24 June 1970 on Amager, Sjælland, Denmark, 33 years, nine months and one day before the last sighting. This recovery constitutes the oldest Common Gull for Europe. Other records of old Common Gulls are summarized and a brief comparison is made with longevity in other European gull species.

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Klaas van Dijk, Vermeerstraat 48, 9718 SN Groningen, Nederland ([klaas.vdijk@hetnet.nl](mailto:klaas.vdijk@hetnet.nl))  
Derick Hiemstra, Damsterwaard 9, 9734 CK Groningen, Nederland ([derickhiemstra@hetnet.nl](mailto:derickhiemstra@hetnet.nl))

## Probable escapes in the Netherlands: part 2

After my publication documenting probable escapes observed in the Netherlands (Ebels 1996), I have continued to collect information on sightings of contentious species. Most have been reported to the Dutch Birding birdline, were reported directly to me upon a request on the bulletin board of the Dutch section of EuroBirdNet (EBNNL), or were taken from websites of local birding groups. An overview of new reports is presented here. Most are from 1996-2003 but also a few earlier reports have become known to me after the first publication and are now included, as well as a few from 2004. For background information, see Ebels (1996). Not included are species for which there is little or no discussion that all sightings relate to escapes, such as parrots and parakeets, bulbuls, laughing-thrushes, minlas, mynas and most (other) tropical African, Australian-Pacific and South American (near-)passerines. Also excluded are proven escapes wearing one or more rings, leather strings and/or bells. Examples are Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* (a ringed bird at various sites in Noord-Holland in late July 2003 and two ringed birds at Stolwijk, Zuid-Holland, in late October 2003), Saker Falcons *Falco cherrug* (eg, ringed birds at Eemshaven, Groningen, in April 2001, at Harlingen and Surch (Zurich), Friesland, in August 2001 and near Leiden, Zuid-Holland, in early January 2004) and two Alpine Choughs *Pyrrhonorax graculus* (one ringed bird) at Borculo, Overijssel, in early March 1997. Without such signs of captive origin, these birds might have been included in the list below.

It should be noted that reports of species seen with some frequency and generally regarded as escapes (eg, Yellow-billed Grosbeak *Eophona migratoria*, Desert Finch *Rhodospiza obsoleta* and Long-tailed Rosefinch *Uragus sibiricus*) are rarely submitted to the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA), and observers can hardly be 'blamed' for not doing so. As a consequence, for species like these it is difficult to judge the identification and to uphold the distinction between *reports* (unsubstantiated) and *records* ('identification accepted'). An additional problem is that many suspected escapes are not well studied by observers and that literature to identify them is sometimes hard to find. However, the increasing number of popular monographs covering all species of certain families helps to overcome that problem and makes observers aware of confusion species.

Reports without description, photographs or other documentation available to me have been placed between square brackets. It is indicated whether reports have been submitted to CDNA and, of these, only the ones are listed of which the identification has been confirmed by the CDNA. All other reports have not (yet) been submitted. The numbers after each species refer to **1** the number of individuals in Ebels (1996), and **2** the number of individuals listed in this paper (including the reports between square brackets).

### Trumpeter Swan / Trompetzwaan

*Cygnus buccinator* (0,1)

31 May to 27 June 2004, Sophiapolder, *Oostburg*, Zeeland, adult, unringed, photographed (P Dhaluin et al).

### Emperor Goose / Keizergans

*Anser canagicus* (0,4+)

24 January to 15 February 1983, Maatweg, *Lelystad*, and Meerkoetweg, *Zeewolde*, Flevoland, adult, unringed (submitted) (K J Eigenhuis, N Marra sr et al).

6 February 1999, Den Bommel, *Middelharnis*, Zuid-Holland, photographed (A B van den Berg, S Moss, W Oddie).

[February 1999, Hank, *Werkendam*, Noord-Brabant, adult (Q L Slings).]

15 October 2001, Oostvaardersplassen, *Lelystad*, Flevoland, adult (C Mulder, H Remmen, J Remmen et al).

There have been more reports of this species but they are rarely documented, let alone submitted; confusion with several types of *Anser* hybrids can be a pitfall. In recent years, several single birds have been seen in south-western Friesland, including one wearing a small green ring; other birds, however, were unringed (Trinus Haitjema in litt).

### Cinnamon Teal / Kaneeltaling

*Anas cyanoptera* (0,15+)

18 February 1995, Gansooiense Uiterwaard, *Waalwijk*, Noord-Brabant, male (A Kolen).

[28 July 1997 and 18 February 1998, Klotputten, Eindhoven, *Eindhoven*, Noord-Brabant (T Geerts et al).]

9-20 December 1999, Starrevaart, *Leidschendam-Voorburg*, Zuid-Holland, male (submitted; identification accepted) (M Berlijn et al).

[16 January to 21 April 2002, Kraaijenbergseplas, *Uden*, Noord-Brabant, male (H van Diek, E van Winden, F Aarts et al).]

13 April 2002, Steenwaard, *Houten*, Utrecht, male (G Ottens, A van Kleunen).

23-26 April 2002, *Nederweert*, Limburg, male, unringed, videoed (submitted; identification accepted) (M Berlijn et al).

26 June to 14 July 2002, Ezumakeeg, *Dongeradeel*, Friesland, male (R Cazemier et al).

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**439** Trumpeter Swan / Trompetzwaan *Cygnus buccinator*, adult, Sophiapolder, Zeeland, 27 June 2004 (Pieter Dhaluin) **440** Emperor Goose / Keizergans *Anser canagicus* and Barnacle Geese / Brandganzen *Branta leucopsis*, Den Bommel, Zuid-Holland, 6 February 1999 (Arnoud B van den Berg) **441** Cinnamon Teal / Kaneeltaling *Anas cyanoptera*, first-year male, De Bijland, Gelderland, 19 October 2002 (Rik Winters) **442** Cinnamon Teal / Kaneeltaling *Anas cyanoptera*, second-year male, De Bijland, Gelderland, 28 September 2003 (Rik Winters). Probably the same bird as in plate 441.

18-19 October 2002, De Bijland, *Rijnwaarden*, Gelderland, juvenile or first-winter male, unringed, photographed (A Poelmans, R Winters et al).

29 December 2002 to 5 January 2003, Kraaijenbergseplas, *Uden*, Noord-Brabant, adult male (L Ballering, R Winters et al).

13 December 2002 to 27 June 2003, Vliet and Starrevaart, *Leidschendam-Voorburg*, Zuid-Holland, male, photographed (A Zevenhoven, A de Groot et al).

[26-27 January 2003, Abtskolk, Petten, *Zijpe*, Noord-Holland, adult male (M Dekker, M van Zweeden, L Edelaar).]

17 March 2003, Burgum (Bergum), *Tytsjerksteradiel*, Friesland, male, photographed (H van Kampen).

28 September 2003, De Bijland, *Rijnwaarden*, Gelderland, second calendar-year male, unringed, photographed (R Winters).

7 December 2003, De Bijland, *Rijnwaarden*, Gelderland, female (R Winters).

[1-3 June 2004, Engelsche Werk, *Zwolle*, Overijssel, male (L Steen).]

The sightings at Kraaijenbergseplas could well relate to the same individual, as may be the case for the sightings in 1999 and 2002-03 at Starrevaart. In addition, a male was reported at Schildmeer, Slochteren, Groningen on 29 May 2003, and there are several older reports without full details. A bird at Broekpolder, Zuid-Holland, on 6 May 2001 showed clear indications of captive origin (one shorter wing; Ben Gaxiola pers comm). A pair has apparently been present near Zwolle and Hattem, Overijssel, since 2001-02 and the male at Engelsche Werk in June 2004 may have been one of this pair (Lennaert Steen in litt).



**443-444** Turkey Vulture / Roodkopgier *Cathartes aura*, Ellerhuizen, Groningen, 21 June 2000 (*Theo Bakker/Cursorius*) **445** American Black Vulture / Zwarte Gier *Coragyps atratus*, Knardijk, Oostvaardersplassen, Flevoland, 20 May 1997 (*Wim Jautze*) **446** American Black Vultures / Zwarte Gieren *Coragyps atratus*, Knardijk, Oostvaardersplassen, Flevoland, 20 May 1997 (*Wim Jautze*)

**Pink-backed Pelican / Kleine Pelikaan**

*Pelecanus rufescens* (2,3+)

10-12 September 1985, Bantpolder, *Dongeradeel*, Friesland, immature, photographed (K van Dijken).

20 August to 19 September 2000, Oostpolder, *Haren*, Groningen, and 27 September 2000, Veenhuizerstukken, *Stadskanaal*, Groningen, immature, photographed (E Koops et al; *Grauwe Gors* 28: 159, 2000).

19 September to at least 11 December 2001, Wedderbergen and Blijham, *Bellingwedde*, Groningen, adult, photographed (H Lanfers et al).

In addition, in 2000, a bird was reported at Kekerdom, Ubbergen, Gelderland, on 9 August and possibly the same individual at Epe, Gelderland, on 29 August. Between 10 July and at least 29 August 2001, a bird was seen at various localities along the IJssel river, Overijssel/Gelderland. On 26 September 2001, one was reported flying past Den Haag, Zuid-Holland.

**Rüppell's Griffon Vulture / Rüppells Gier**

*Gyps rueppellii* (0,1)

20 April 2004, *Schoonhoven*, Zuid-Holland, and 21-22 April 2004, *Reeuwijk*, Zuid-Holland, and 22 April 2004, *Gouda*, and Lage Bergsche Bos, *Rotterdam*, Zuid-Holland, adult, photographed, videoed (N van Duivendijk, E B Ebels et al).

This bird was unringed. It was reported to be an escape from a bird trader in Apeldoorn, Gelderland, who had apparently lost one during transport on 20 April 2004. Proven escapes were a bird with two leather strings photographed at Pieterburen, Groningen, on 5-6 May 2004, presumably the same bird with two leather strings over Huisduinen and Middenmeer, Wieringermeer, Noord-Holland, on 1 June, and a bird photographed in a garden at Roosendaal, Noord-Brabant, on 31 May and 1 June 2004.



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**447-448** Rüppell's Griffon Vulture / Rüppells Gier *Gyps rueppellii*, Reeuwijk, Zuid-Holland, 21 April 2004  
(Leo J R Boon/Cursorius)



**Turkey Vulture / Roodkopgier**

*Cathartes aura* (0,4+)

From 23 April to 26 November 2000, two to three different birds were reported throughout the Netherlands, of which four sightings were submitted and considered to relate to escapes: 23 April, Achterhoek, Gelderland; 29 April, Wilsum, *IJsselmuiden*, Overijssel; 30 April, *Monster*, Zuid-Holland (D Laponder); 1 May, Werkhoven, *Bunnik*, Utrecht, subadult (J Scharringa); 5-6 May, Oostvoorne, *Westvoorne*, Zuid-Holland (identification accepted, considered escape; cf Dutch Birding 23: 343, 2001) (D Kok et al); 13 May, Stroe and Den Oever, *Wieringen*, Noord-Holland, photographed, (identification accepted, considered escape; cf Dutch Birding 23: 343, 2001) (M de Jonge); 13 May, Bakkeveen, Friesland; 14 May, *Haren*, Groningen; 14 May, Eemshaven, *Eemsmond*, Groningen, photographed (R Offereins, E Koops et al); 14-16 May, *Texel*, Noord-Holland; 24 May, Rosmalen, *'s-Hertogenbosch*, Noord-Brabant; 3-4 June, Hartwert (Hartwert), *Wûnseradiel*, Friesland; 8-27 June, *Vlieland*, Friesland, photographed (C Zuhorn et al); 16 June, Maassluis, *Maassluis*, Zuid-Holland; 21 June, Ellerhuizen, *Groningen*, Groningen, photographed (T Bakker); 28 June to 19 July, Paddepoel, *Groningen*, Groningen, adult (identification accepted, considered escape; cf Dutch Birding 23: 343, 2001) (A de Bruin, J-A de Roos et al); 27-29 July, Breezanddijk, *Wûnseradiel*, Friesland; 4 August, Ouddorp, *Goedereede*, Zuid-Holland, adult (identification accepted, considered escape; cf Dutch Birding 23: 343, 2001); 8-9 August, Lauwersmeer, *De Marne*, Groningen; 8-23 October, Anjum and Bantpolder, *Dongeradeel*, Friesland; 26 November to early December, Eenrum and Uithuizermeden, *Eemsmond*, Groningen.

[25 June 2001, Diemen, *Diemen*, Noord-Holland (R Sjouken).]

[3 October 2003, Markweg, Strijbeek, *Breda*, Noord-Brabant, photographed and filmed (A van Dun).]

At least two observations in 2000 concerned birds that showed considerable damage in one wing, indicative of captive origin.

**American Black Vulture / Zwarte Gier**

*Coragyps atratus* (0,3)

20 May 1997, Knardijk, Oostvaardersplassen, *Lelystad*, Flevoland, two, photographed (submitted) (W Jautze et al).

2 June 1997, Breede Water, *Westvoorne*, Zuid-Holland (B Brieffies, A Buhr et al).

**[Barbary Falcon / Barbariïse Valk**

*Falco pelegrinoides* (0,1)

7-11 April 1997, De Cocksdorp, *Texel*, Noord-Holland, adult (A Wassink).]

**Japanese Quail / Japanse Kwartel**

*Coturnix japonica* (0,1)

14-17 July 1988, De Haukes, *Wieringermeer*, Noord-Holland, male, calling, sound-recorded (identification accepted, considered escape) (O de Vries, J van Dorland, K J Eigenhuis).

**Grey-headed Swamp-hen / Grijskoppurperkoet**

*Porphyrio poliocephalus* (0,1)

21 December 1988 to 15 February 1989, Schuddebeurs, *Schouwen-Duiveland*, Zeeland, photographed (identification accepted, considered escape) (H van der Tuin, G M Janse, T C J Sluijter et al; Ebels et al 1999, Dutch Birding 21: 328, 1999).

This record was fully documented by Ebels et al (1999). It most probably concerned the nominate subspecies *P p poliocephalus*, which makes genuine vagrancy extremely unlikely. A Grey-headed Swamp-hen observed in a garden at Venlo, Limburg, on 10 July 2001 was wearing a ring and is therefore listed as an escape.

**African Swamp-hen / Smaragdpuurperkoet**

*Porphyrio madagascariensis* (0,3)

22 July 1874, *Amstelveen*, Noord-Holland, adult male, collected, skin retained at Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum Naturalis, Leiden (cf van den Berg & Bosman 1999, 2001, Ebels et al 1999).

7 April 1939, Noordwijk aan Zee, *Noordwijk*, Zuid-Holland, collected, skin retained at Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum Naturalis, Leiden (cf van den Berg & Bosman 1999, 2001).

5 February 1959, Naardermeer, *Naarden*, Noord-Holland, adult male, found dead, skin retained at ZMA, Amsterdam (cf van den Berg & Bosman 1999, 2001, Ebels et al 1999).

**swamp-hen / purperkoet**

*Porphyrio* (0,18)

In Ebels et al (1999), all 18 known swamp-hens *Porphyrio* are listed, currently all treated as escapes. This list includes 14 birds not identified to species (the other four refer to Grey-headed Swamp-hen (one) and African Swamp-hen (three), see above), including several most probably referring to African Swamp-hen.

**Blacksmith Lapwing / Smidsplevier**

*Vanellus armatus* (0,3)

15-18 November 1995, Diermen, *Putten*, Gelderland (R E van der Vliet et al).

27 August 1997, Westplaat, *Westvoorne*, Zuid-Holland, photographed (R E van der Vliet, D Kok et al).

4 March 2001, Maasplassen, *Roermond*, Limburg, photographed (L Kleijne, J-P Kleijne).

**Kittlitz's Plover / Herdersplevier**

*Charadrius pecuarius* (0,1)

4-9 September 1999, Het Rutbeek, *Enschede*, Overijssel, adult, photographed (identification accepted, considered escape; cf Dutch Birding 22: 268, 2000) (P Knolle et al; Birding World 12: 361, 1999, Dutch Birding 21: 288, plate 308, 1999).

This bird showed a deformed bill and many irregularities in the wing feathers; combined with its very tame behaviour and peculiar location – a recreation site close to the German border – this led to the conclusion that it was an escape, even though Kittlitz's Plovers are little known in captivity. The only record of a presumed

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wild individual in Europe (excluding Cyprus) concerns a bird collected in Rogaland, Norway, in May 1913 (Snow & Perrins 1998, van den Berg 2003).

### **Egyptian Plover / Krokodilwachter**

*Pluvianus aegyptius* (0,4+)

6-9 May 1996, Deestsche Waarden, *Druuten*, Gelderland, photographed (identification accepted, considered escape) (R Lensink, H Veraart).

Spring 1995 and 12-15 May 1996, Zwaansmeerpad, Krommeniedijk, *Zaanstad*, Noord-Holland, adult, photographed (C van den Akker, M van den Akker, P Zwitter).

Late June to at least 18 July 1999, *De Bilt*, Utrecht, photographed (A van Kleunen, W Braaksma et al).

6-13 August 1999, Starrevaart, *Leidschendam-Voorburg*, Zuid-Holland, adult, found dead on last date, photographed (R van Rossum et al; Duinstag 1999 (2): 16-17).

The bird in Noord-Holland was reportedly present at this locality in spring 1995 and disappeared in autumn, to return one year later (C van den Akker & M van den Akker in litt). In addition, one was reported at Winterswijk, Gelderland, on 19 June 2000.

### **[African Collared Dove / Izabeltortel**

*Streptopelia roseogrisea* (0,2)

22 June 1989, Europoort, *Rotterdam*, Zuid-Holland, first-year, trapped and ringed (ring number Arnhem 3.449.205) (N D van Swelm).

28 July 1989, Europoort, *Rotterdam*, Zuid-Holland, second-year or older, trapped and ringed (ring number Arnhem 3.450.702) (N D van Swelm).

The locality of both birds could raise speculations about ship-assisted passage rather than captive origin.]

### **Laughing Dove / Palmtortel**

*Streptopelia senegalensis* (0,3+)

October 1966, ringing station Meijendel, *Wassenaar*, Zuid-Holland, trapped, photographed (M J Tekke).

[28 March 1998, Breskens, *Oostburg*, Zeeland (Lilipaly et al 2000).]

17 April 1999, Heeze, *Heeze-Leende*, Noord-Brabant (submitted) (M Feenstra).

In addition, birds were reported at Reusel, Reusel-De Mierden, Noord-Brabant, on 13 August 1983 and at IJmuiden, Velsen, Noord-Holland, on 24 September 2000.

### **Namaqua Dove / Maskerduif**

*Oena capensis* (0,1)

18 August 2003, Zuurdijk, *De Marne*, Groningen, male, photographed (H J Freije).

### **[grackle / troepiaal**

*Quiscalus* (0,1)

A bird photographed at Arnhem, Gelderland, on 12-13 December 1995 (Justin Jansen et al) was reported as Great-tailed Grackle *Q mexicanus*. However, some observers considered the identification not beyond doubt and suggested that an African glossy-starling

*Lamprolornis* may have been involved; the bird showed a damaged tail, indicative of captive origin (Roland van der Vliet in litt). Several glossy starlings have been reported as escapes in recent years. In addition, a bird presumed to be either Great-tailed Grackle or Boat-tailed Grackle *Q major* was reported at Hongerige Wolf, Reiderland, Groningen, on 22 April 2000 (Justin Jansen in litt).]

### **Japanese Waxwing / Japanse Pestvogel**

*Bombycilla japonica* (0,2)

5 June 1995, Midsland, *Terschelling*, Friesland (via A Ouwerkerk).

23 June 1997, Northsea, 3 km north of Schiermonnikoog, Continentaal Plat, photographed (via B Feij).

The 1997 bird was seen on board the fishing boat MS Sirryp.

### **Japanese Thrush / Zwartklijster**

*Turdus cardis* (0,1)

30 April 1998, Hengelo, *Hengelo*, Overijssel, second-year male, singing, videoed, sound-recorded (submitted) (R A de By, C Derks).

### **Chestnut Thrush / Kastanjelijster**

*Turdus rubrocanus* (0,2)

August 1996, *Almere*, Flevoland, photographed (G Geertse).

June 2004, St Odilienberg, *Ambt Montfort*, Limburg, male, singing, photographed (S Jansen, R Jansen).

The grey head of both birds indicates the nominate (western) subspecies *T r rubrocanus* which is resident in southern Central Asia from Pakistan to Sikkim, India.

### **Kessler's Thrush / Kesslers Lijster**

*Turdus kessleri* (0,1)

26-27 July 2001, Peelslenk, *Deurne*, *Deurne*, Noord-Brabant, male, photographed (J A H Verbraak).

### **Grey-backed Thrush / Grijsruglijster**

*Turdus hortulorum* (1,1)

18-19 October 1998, Hortus Botanicus, *Leiden*, Zuid-Holland, adult male (K de Jong et al).

A female showing obvious signs of captive origin present in gardens at Boxtel, Noord-Brabant, from December 1999 to at least 4 February 2000 was either this species or Brown-headed *T chrysolaus* or Black-breasted Thrush *T dissimilis* (Enno Ebels & Gerard Steinhaus pers obs).

### **Pied Crow / Schildraaf**

*Corvus albus* (0,1)

December 1995, Rhoon, *Rotterdam*, Zuid-Holland (R E van der Vliet et al).

### **Red-billed Quelea / Roodbekwever**

*Quelea quelea* (0,2)

18 September 1998, Rottumeroog, *Eemmond*, Groningen, male (R E van der Vliet et al).

2 October 2000, Robbenjager, *Texel*, Noord-Holland, immature (E B Ebels et al).



- 449 Blacksmith Lapwing / Smidsplevier *Vanellus armatus*, Roermond, Limburg, 4 March 2001 (*L Kleijne*)  
 450 Chestnut Thrush / Kastanjelijster *Turdus rubrocanus*, St Odilienberg, Limburg, June 2004 (*Steven Jansen*)  
 451 Kessler's Thrush / Kesslers Lijster *Turdus kessleri*, male, Deurne, Noord-Brabant, 27 July 2001 (*J A H Verbraak*)  
 452 Grey-capped Greenfinch / Chinese Groenling *Chloris sinica*, male, Rottumeroog, Groningen, 14 June 1997  
 (*Koen van Dijken/Cursorius*)

**Brahminy Starling / Pagodespreeuw**

*Sturnus pagodarum* (0,1)

8 May to mid-May 1994, Oost-Vlieland, *Vlieland*, Friesland (C Zuhorn).

**Red-billed Starling / Zijdespreeuw**

*Sturnus sericeus* (0,5)

24 October 1996, Petten, *Zijpe*, Noord-Holland, photographed (D Kok, A van Kleunen).

31 December 1996 to early spring 1997, Nes, *Dongeradeel*, Friesland, adult male, winter plumage, photographed (submitted) (K Sars, E Douwma, O Töl).

30 April 1999, Maasvlakte, *Rotterdam*, Zuid-Holland, photographed (R Hofland, M Scholte et al).

20 December 2002, Helmond, *Helmond*, Noord-Brabant, photographed (M Iven).

26 June to 14 August 2004, Rottumerplaat, *Eemsmond*, Groningen, photographed (R Hovinga).

**Purple-backed Starling / Daurische Spreeuw**

*Sturnus sturninus* (0,2)

15 May 1999, Stevinsluizen, Den Oever, *Wieringen*, Noord-Holland, male (identification accepted, considered escape; cf Dutch Birding 23: 344, 2001) (J van der Laan, R de Haas, L P Heemskerk et al).

5 November 1999, Duiven, *Duiven*, Gelderland, male, photographed (identification accepted, considered escape) (A J Meeuwissen).

This species is on the Western Palearctic list on basis of a first-year male shot at Lillestrøm near Oslo, Akershus, Norway, on 29 September 1985 (cf Snow & Perrins 1998). An adult male on Fair Isle, Shetland, Scotland, on 7-28 May 1985 (ringed on 21 May) was first admitted to Category A of the British list but was later placed in Category D1 because a captive origin was considered more likely than genuine vagrancy (cf Evans 1994, British Ornithologists' Union 1999). The second and



Probable escapes in the Netherlands: part 2



**453** Purple-backed Starling / Daurische Spreeuw *Sturnus sturninus*, Duiven, Gelderland, 5 November 1999 (*A J Meeuwissen*) **454** Zijdespreeuw / Red-billed Starling *Sturnus sericeus*, Rottumerplaat, Groningen, August 2004 (*Roelf Hovinga*) **455** Long-tailed Rosefinch / Langstaartroodmus *Uragus sibiricus*, first-winter male, Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland, 31 October 1999 (*Arnoud B van den Berg*) **456** Meadow Bunting / Weidegors *Emberiza cioides*, Castenray, Limburg, 16 April 2000 (*Patrick Palmen*)

third British records, also placed in Category D1, concern males at Ponteland, Northumberland, England, from 26 August to 5 September 1997 and at Durness, Highland, Scotland, on 24- 27 September 1998.

**White-shouldered Starling / Mandarijnspreeuw**

*Sturnus sinensis* (2,3)  
22 November 1997, Usquert, *Eemsmond*, Groningen, adult, photographed (T Bakker et al).  
10 May 2001, Breskens, *Oostburg*, Zeeland (P M Gnodde et al).  
28 October 2002, Lauwersoog, *De Marne*, Groningen, photographed (W E M van der Schot).

**Grey-capped Greenfinch / Chinese Groenling**

*Chloris sinica* (1,2)  
14 June 1997, Rottumeroog, *Eemsmond*, Groningen,

male, photographed (K van Dijken).  
8-10 October 1999, Oostpunt, *Vlieland*, Friesland, male, photographed (G J ter Haar, J van der Laan, F Ossendorp et al).

**Yellow-billed Grosbeak / Witvleugeldikbek**

*Eophona migratoria* (0,16+)  
21 January 1997, Katwijk aan Zee, *Katwijk*, Zuid-Holland, photographed (identification accepted, considered escape; cf Dutch Birding 22: 269, 2000) (M van der Bent).  
[April 1997, Sloterpark, *Amsterdam*, Noord-Holland, male, singing, photographed (L van der Veen).]  
[4 May 1997, AW-duinen, *Bloemendaal*, Noord-Holland, male, singing, photographed (L J Edelaar et al).]  
[6-12 May 1998, male and female, AW-duinen, *Bloemendaal/Zandvoort*, Noord-Holland (M Kuiper).]

[17-18 May 1998, Hoornderbos en Noordvaarder, *Terschelling*, Friesland (T Hek, A B van den Berg et al).]

[19 May 1999, Breskens, *Oostburg*, Zeeland (Lilipaly et al 2000).]

13 June 1999, Berkheide, *Wassenaar*, Zuid-Holland, adult, singing (H Groen; Duinstag 1999 (2): 6-7).

Spring 1999, Oost-Maarland, *Maastricht*, Limburg, pair, breeding (J Stoffels).

June 2000, Naardermeer, *Naarden*, Noord-Holland, two adults and at least three young (fledged), photographed (H Kruitwagen, J van Galen Last, R de Wijs).

[17 May 2002, Breskens, *Oostburg*, Zeeland (H van Diek, E van Winden).]

[14 January 2003, Naarden, *Naarden*, Noord-Holland (F Derriks).]

In addition, single individuals were reported twice at the migration observation post near Breskens, Zeeland, in May 2000. The pair at AW-duinen was seen nest building in May 1998 but could not be relocated on 19 May (Mark Kuiper in litt). The successful breeding at Naardermeer produced three fledged young but probably four young were seen on the nest (Rombout de Wijs in litt). Three young are included in the totals.

**[Japanese Grosbeak / Maskerdikbek**

*Eophona personata* (0,1)

2 May 1997, Eemshaven-Oost, *Eemsmond*, Groningen, male (Grauwe Gors 25: 115, 1997).]

**[Crimson-winged Finch / Rode Woestijnvink**

*Rhodopechys sanguineus* (0,1)

18 October 1990, Maasvlakte, *Rotterdam*, Zuid-Holland (N D van Swelm).]

**Desert Finch / Vale Woestijnvink**

*Rhodospiza obsoleta* (3,3)

20 December 1995, Franeker, *Franekeradeel*, Friesland, videoed (via J Fokkema in litt).

1-3 May 1997, Lange Paal, *Vlieland*, Friesland (C Zuhorn).

March to at least 5 April 2000, De Kerf, *Bergen*, Noord-Holland, female, photographed (H H Niesen).

**[Pallas's Rosefinch / Pallas' Roodmus**

*Carpodacus roseus* (1,1)

14 May 1999, Hargen aan Zee, *Bergen*, Noord-Holland (G van Duin et al).]

**Long-tailed Rosefinch / Langstaartroodmus**

*Uragus sibiricus* (2,12+)

19 May 1996, Koarnwertersan (Kornwerderzand), *Wûnseradiel*, Friesland, photographed, showing leucistic plumage (identification accepted, considered escape) (G J ter Haar, L P Heemskerk et al).

1-3 October 1996, Noordvaarder, *Terschelling*, Friesland, photographed (identification accepted, considered escape) (A Ouwerkerk, R Offereins, R E van der Vliet et al).

[17 October 1996, De Cocksdorp, *Texel*, Noord-Holland, adult male (A Wassink).]

[8-9 April 1997, 't Horntje, *Texel*, Noord-Holland, two, male on 8 April, male and female on 9 April (A Wassink).]

3 June to 17 October 1997, male, singing, ringed on 23 July, *Terschelling*, Friesland (A Ouwerkerk et al).

[19 July 1997, Abtskolk, Petten, *Zijpe*, Noord-Holland, male and female (L J Edelaar, S Lagerveld, N F van der Ham).]

[21 May 1999, Maasvlakte, *Rotterdam*, Zuid-Holland, photographed (N D van Swelm).]

31 October to 8 November 1999, Hoek van Holland, *Rotterdam*, Zuid-Holland, immature male, photographed, videoed, sound-recorded (identification accepted, considered escape; cf Dutch Birding 22: 268, 2000) (J Bisschop et al; Dutch Birding 21: 367, plate 393, 1999).

early July to 29 July 2000, Castricum, *Castricum*, Noord-Holland, adult female, trapped and ringed on 29 July, photographed (A J van Loon et al).

24 October 2003, Huizen, *Huizen*, Noord-Holland, male (R F J van Beusekom).

The bird in 2000 had been present around the ringing station for a few weeks before finally being trapped; its plumage was in a very poor state, with missing feathers on many parts of head and body (André van Loon in litt). In addition, a male was reported at Knardijk, Flevoland, on 31 May 1997. Another bird on Terschelling, seen during the summer months in the late 1990s, has not been included since month and year of observation are not known (Theo Bakker in litt).

**Yellow-throated Bunting / Geelkeelgors**

*Emberiza elegans* (1,2+)

2 December 1996, *Vriezenveen*, Overijssel, male, photographed (R Brunnink, T Kruissink).

6 December 2000, Sassenheim, *Sassenheim*, Zuid-Holland, male, winter plumage (J Wierda).

The bird at Sassenheim was seen drinking on the roof of an office building. In addition, a bird was reported near Sittard, Limburg in 1997 (Bob Streutjens in litt) and one was reported at Gorssel, Gelderland, on 28 March 1997.

**Meadow Bunting / Weidegors**

*Emberiza cioides* (0,3)

9-11 April 1999, Meinerswijk, *Arnhem*, Gelderland, immature male, photographed (identification accepted; considered escape; cf Dutch Birding 23: 344, 2001) (H P Derks, D J Moerbeek, E A W Ernens et al).

[28 April 1999, Oostvaardersdijk km 26.0, *Lelystad*, Flevoland, female or immature male (R van der Vliet, N Slabbekoorn).]

16 April 2000, Castenray, *Venray*, Limburg, male, photographed (P Palmen et al).

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## Probable escapes in the Netherlands: part 2

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Enno B Ebels, Joseph Haydnlaan 4, 3533 AE Utrecht, Netherlands (ebels@wxs.nl)

## Varia

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### Spectacled Eider's window of time

Spectacled Eider *Somateria fischeri* is one of the most elusive Holarctic species. Its remote distribution and the male's weird plumage with goggles and blue eyes renders it as one of the world's least known and most spectacular ducks (cf van der Laan 1993). Even when one has the opportunity to travel to its breeding areas, it can be tricky to find. It breeds in coastal wet tundra with small freshwater pools in north-eastern Siberia, Russia, and western and northern Alaska, USA. As a vagrant, it has been recorded south off California, USA, and west to northern Norway. The Norwegian records include an adult male shot at Vardø harbour, Finnmark, on 12 December 1933, a sighting of two males and a female at the same place on 23-24 February 1988, and a sighting of an adult male flying past Mortensnes, Nesseby, Finnmark, on 15 June 1997 (van den Berg 1997).

In recent decades, there have been concerns about Spectacled Eider's survival. In Alaska, it was listed as 'threatened' by May 1993 (only Aleutian Canada Goose *Branta hutchinsii leucopareia* has a similar status). In Spectacled's best-studied breeding area, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta in western Alaska, up to 70 000 pairs were counted in 1977 but only up to 3000 pairs in 1992. The situation in Alaska's North Slope was

unclear but, for Prudhoe Bay, a similar decline of 80% since 1981 had been reported. Siberian populations were not surveyed systematically but already by 1967 dwindling numbers were reported for the Indigirka delta.

The most visible threats for Spectacled Eider appear to be guns, oil and predators. Hunting seems to play a role, not only because Eskimos consider it the best tasting eider species but, remarkably, ingestion of lead from other hunting activities appears to pose a threat of poisoning. Oil drilling activities in the remote arctic bring about far-reaching disruptions in the food chain. One example is the fact that Arctic Foxes *Alopex lagopus* and Red Foxes *Vulpes vulpes* can now survive the winter by scavenging at garbage dumps, meaning these predators do not have to move south in winter. Another predator of eider eggs and ducklings, Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*, is also likely to thrive under these new circumstances. Because of the possibility of interference with oil and gas drilling plans, Alaska's North Slope was not included in the habitat designation for Spectacled Eider. Another ecological factor affecting eiders might be the ecosystem collapse of the Bering Sea, possibly caused by commercial fishing, and illustrated by the remarkably fast decline of many species including Sea Otter *Enhydra lutris* and Steller's Sealion *Eumetopias jubatus*.



457 Spectacled Eider / Brileider *Somateria fischeri*, adult male, Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, USA, 14 June 2004 (Arnaud B van den Berg)

458 Spectacled Eider / Brileider *Somateria fischeri*, adult male, Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, USA, 14 June 2004 (René Pop)







**459** Spectacled Eider / Brileider *Somateria fischeri*, adult male, Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, USA,  
14 June 2004 (René Pop)

**460** Spectacled Eider / Brileider *Somateria fischeri*, adult female, on nest, Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, USA,  
14 June 2004 (René Pop)





**461** Spectacled Eiders / Brileiders *Somateria fischeri*, pair, Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, USA, 12 June 2004 (René Pop)

**462** Spectacled Eiders / Brileiders *Somateria fischeri*, pair, Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, USA, 13 June 2004 (René Pop)



Until recently, Spectacled Eider's winter haunts were unknown. This '120-year old mystery' about its at-sea distribution was solved in recent years thanks to the use of implanted satellite transmitters in birds from the three extant breeding grounds, ie, arctic Russia and the two in Alaska (cf van den Berg & Sangster 1996, Balogh 1997). This resulted in the spectacular discovery of tightly packed flocks of 50 000 and 20 000 roosting in open leads of the ice pack south of St Lawrence Island, Alaska, in March 1995 (Petersen et al 1999; [www.absc.usgs.gov/research/Banding/bering\\_wintering.htm](http://www.absc.usgs.gov/research/Banding/bering_wintering.htm)). Recent surveys in late winter and early spring now suggest that more than 330 000 individuals winter in dense single-species flocks in polynias of the pack-ice of the Bering Sea. It seems obvious that most of these birds breed in the vast and underwatched tundra of arctic Russia and Alaska's North Slope. At least 13 400 km<sup>2</sup> of the coastal plain of Alaska's North Slope may be suitable nesting habitat of which less than 2000 km<sup>2</sup> have been developed as oil production fields. No more than 5% of these 2000 km<sup>2</sup> tundra wetlands have been destroyed. The discovery of the species' winter habits also points to another factor determining its survival as it seems likely that extended periods of dense sea-ice concentrations and bad weather during the previous winter inhibit the recovery of breeding populations (Petersen & Douglas 2004).

Probably, the easiest place and time to see both sexes of Spectacled Eider is Deadhorse near Prudhoe Bay, northern Alaska, in the second week of June. One can reach Deadhorse by driving north from Fairbanks on the Dalton Highway along the 1500 km long trans-Alaska pipeline. There are only very few car rental companies allowing customers on this remote gravel road, one of them being National at Fairbanks (pickup trucks only). It is a beautiful though risky and lengthy 800 km drive across the Brooks Range, with only two service stations, and one may prefer flying to Deadhorse airport instead. Deadhorse is situated c 10 km from the arctic coast and consists of many oil company buildings, one petrol station, a car rental, and two or three hotels, which are expensive though basic with plenty of accommodation (see, eg, [www.arcticcaribouinn.com](http://www.arcticcaribouinn.com)). The access to the coast is restricted to organized sightseeing bus tours. However, the pools

between the buildings at Deadhorse itself continue to attract a few nesting pairs of Spectacled Eider and also King Eider *S. spectabilis*. These species share the same habitat at Prudhoe Bay and raise broods in active oil fields in numbers typical of low density nesting habitat. In contrast, Pacific Eider *S. mollissima v-nigra* nests only within a few 100 m from salt water on beaches and among driftwood. The timing to see Spectacled Eider at Deadhorse can be tricky as there is a narrow 'window of time' during which males accompany females to and from nesting sites. That period of up to two weeks may shift depending on the weather situation, and may fall at any time between the last days of May and the fourth week of June, but the second week of June seems to offer the best bet. As soon as a female starts to incubate, her mate flies off to sea. After that time, it may be very hard not only to find a male but also an incubating female as she is not only well camouflaged but also very protective, often not leaving the nest when approached. Incubation takes 24 days and it is another 50 days before the young fledge.

During a visit from 11 to 15 June 2004, René Pop and I found four pairs and witnessed the pair bonds dissolving. On 12-15 June, we spent much time watching and photographing a pair at a nest on a grassy patch in a pool surrounded by construction sites of Halliburton, Schlumberger and the likes. The female started to incubate on the second day, 'digging-in' and no longer leaving the nest; that day, the male simply flew off north – not to return again.

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Arnoud B van den Berg, Duinlustparkweg 98, 2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid, Netherlands  
([arnoud.vandenberg@planet.nl](mailto:arnoud.vandenberg@planet.nl))

# Recensies

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ANDREAS SCHULZE 2003. *Die Vogelstimmen Europas, Nordafrikas und Vorderasiens / The bird songs of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East*. 17 Audio-CDs and 64-page booklet in German, which can also be downloaded in English. Musikverlag Edition AMPLE, Untere Bahnhofstraße 58, 82110 Germering, Germany; e-mail ample@ample.de, websites www.ample.de or www.tierstimmen.de. ISBN 3-935329-49-0. EUR 58.40.

With a total duration of 19 h and 20 min and no less than 2817 recordings of 819 species, this new sound guide is more ambitious in scale than any previous audio publication on Western Palearctic bird sounds. It includes not only the regular breeding, migrant and wintering species but also most of the birds recorded as vagrants in the region, even if these are often represented by songs and other vocalizations unlikely to be heard away from their breeding grounds. For most species, 'song' and 'calls' are put on separate tracks, and sometimes there are extra tracks for significant geographical variations, for non-vocal sounds or for sounds of nestlings, fledglings and juveniles. The attention given to young birds, although limited mainly to larger and commoner species and mainly to birds at the nestling/fledgling stage, is one of the better features of the work.

Such a long list of species naturally includes many for which recordings have previously been difficult or impossible to obtain. Some may have never been published before, while many others were only available in publications covering other regions, or on CD-ROM or DVD-ROM. The inclusion of so many species in the same collection makes it easy to compare some sounds for the first time, such as songs of Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata* and Macqueen's Bustard *C. macqueenii*. Just as important is the publication of a wider range of sounds for some species, for which other sounds were already available on CD. For example, even those listeners with many CDs in their collections are unlikely to have heard the bubbling and crooning displays of male King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* before. This publication goes further west than previous publications (Azores Bullfinch *Pyrrhula murina* is included) and includes many species from the eastern parts of the region omitted from Roché & Chevereau (2002), such as Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*, Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* and Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*. Some African birds are included for the first time in a Palearctic sound guide, eg, Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegyptius* and Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*. The only area still inadequately covered is the Caucasus. To the best of my knowledge, sounds of Caucasian Snowcock *Tetrao gallus caucasicus*, Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilla* and G黶denst鋎t's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythrogaster* have still not been published, unless that happened in the former Soviet Union.

On the whole, the quality of the recordings is more

than adequate for most purposes. The editing has been done with care, although the overzealous use of noise reduction software has occasionally introduced unwanted special effects into the recordings. With a handful of exceptions, the recordings are mono, and they sound best through speakers rather than headphones. A few recordings deserve a special mention, because they are very beautiful, interesting or must have been difficult to obtain. For me, the highlights include the recordings of Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* and Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus*. Intimate recordings of females with young of Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* and Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* are fascinating. Track 8/35 Common Swift *Apus apus* has been specially 'designed' to attract swifts to breed. Song of White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* is very difficult to capture as well the recording in track 10/7 does, simply because it usually sings in soundscapes dominated by rapidly streaming water. The second recording of Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus* in track 16/81 shows that it can produce surprisingly sweet and 'liquid' tones few people will be aware of. It is a great pity that these recordings are not individually credited to their recordists. The names of most recordists are listed in the front of the booklet but we will never know which one deserves praise for any given recording.

Inevitably, such a large collection does also include some very poor, or crudely processed recordings. I will only mention a few here, which have reached the point where they no longer adequately resemble what they are supposed to be. In track 2/59 the male Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus* has so much reverberation and has been so heavily filtered that it sounds like some kind of large marine mammal! Track 3/12 Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* is difficult to recognise for similar reasons. The calls of Corn Crane *Crex crex* in track 4/60 also seem to have some added special effects. Calls of Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* in 5/44 have been 'processed' beyond recognition by an overzealous sound-hacker. The second recording of Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* song in track 7/7 is badly overmodulated and sounds like somebody trumpeting on a very long toilet roll. For many if not all of the woodpeckers, the intervals between bursts of drumming have been shortened considerably. While this may seem to be a minor offence, the difference could be significant if the recording is used for playback. It seems possible that such an altered recording may represent an unusually fit and intimidating rival to a same-sex woodpecker listening, or a more attractive mate to its partner. Also, the playback-user may be tempted to persist too long when the reaction turns out to be much less intense (ie, longer gaps between drum-rolls) than the CD has led him to expect. It would have been better to economize on space in these CDs by shortening the long silences between tracks. The



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White-winged Lark *Melanocorypha leucoptera* calls in track 9/19 seem much too slow and low-pitched (cf examples on van den Berg et al 2003), and there may have been an error with tape speed or sampling frequency.

The CDs were originally intended for the German-speaking market, and the accompanying 64-page booklet is in German with only scientific names to help the non-German-speaker. However, they have also proven popular outside this market, and the publisher has provided an English translation of the booklet which was used for this review, and which can be downloaded from: [www.birdsongs.de/birdsongs.pdf](http://www.birdsongs.de/birdsongs.pdf). The notes are generally very limited, often stating little more than 'calls' or 'song of male' (the author is apparently unaware of the extent to which females sing in some species). Occasionally, however, much more extensive and useful information is given: it is clear for example that Common Swift and various owls *Strigiformes* are of particular interest to the author. The begin times of each separate cut within the track are stated, so that it is clear which comment or description refers to which individual cut. This is an improvement on Roché & Chevereau (2002) where it is often unclear which part of the track is being referred to. The bad news for English-speakers is that the quality of the translation is poor, and is liable to result in some head scratching and maybe a few smiles. It is hard to resist the temptation to mention a few oddities: one soon gets used to 'kind' meaning species, 'troop' a flock, and one gradually realizes that 'mating' is being used to mean displaying. Usually, the aerial display sound of Common Snipe is referred to as 'drumming', not 'grouching'! 'Breeding cave' seems to have been used to mean a nest-hole, and do European Blue Tits *Parus caeruleus* really nest in caves? Misspelled names include 'Red Kont', 'Black Guillemont' and 'Pygmy Sumbird'. For most of the unconventional names encountered, such as 'Yellow-hooded Wagtail' for Citrine Wagtail, and 'Fulvous Chatterer' for Fulvous Babbler *Turdoides fulvus* it is not difficult to guess which species is being referred to. However, 'Pallas's Warbler' is an unfortunate abbreviation for Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola*, and the confusion is made worse by the fact that 'Lemon-rumped Warbler' is used for Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*. The strangest of all, the English name for *Dendroica petechia* is given as 'Yellow Warbler Big Lump'!

The major criticism of this new set is the same as for Roché & Chevereau (2002): the very scant documentation severely limits the usefulness of the publication for the more enquiring user. In the introduction, the author himself states: 'In no other animal classification do sounds play such an exceptional and multi-faceted role as in the world of birds'. The complete lack of information about recording locations and dates means that it becomes very difficult or impossible to say which taxon or geographical population a vocalization belongs to. Examples for which more geographical information would have been particularly informative include the following (CD and track number are given

here for each example). 1/24 The recordings of 'Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*' are in fact Scopoli's Shearwater *C diomedea*, based on well-established vocal criteria (eg, Thibault et al 1997). 1/31 'Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*' in this publication must be *baroli*, because of Cory's Shearwater in the background, and not *boydi* of the Cape Verde Islands or an extralimital taxon. 2/14 'Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*' sounds likely to be Greater Canada Goose *B canadensis* at the start. From 40 sec it sounds like a smaller taxon, presumably of Lesser Canada Goose *B hutchinsii*. 2/16 It appears that the species called 'Brant *Branta bernicla*' is meant to also include Pale-bellied Brent Goose *B hrota* and Black Brant *B nigricans*, although we are left guessing. 2/29 'Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca*' is presumably Eurasian Teal *A crecca*, not Green-winged Teal *A carolinensis*, although we can only be reasonably sure in the fifth cut thanks to the presence of a Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* in the background. 2/53 'Black Scoter *Melanitta nigra*': at least the last recording is presumably Common Scoter *M nigra* (one can also hear a Eurasian Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*) but the other two recordings could be Black Scoter *M americana* for all we know. 2/54 Velvet Scoter *M fusca* has only rarely been sound-recorded, possibly less often than American White-winged Scoter *M (deglandi) deglandi* or Asian White-winged Scoter *M (d) stejnegeri*. A location would have made it clear which one can be heard here. 3/56 Shikra *Accipiter badius*, when treated as a polytypic species, occurs from southern Africa to central and southern Asia. There is no way of knowing which taxon is presented on the CDs. 6/3 Common Snipe is presumably the Eurasian nominate, but locations and/or the inclusion of Wilson's Snipe *G delicata* as a separate taxon would have removed any ambiguity. 7/7 'Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*' may or may not include Pharaoh Eagle Owl *B ascalaphus*: it is impossible to be sure. 7/19 'Little Owl *Athene noctua*' could equally be Desert Little Owl *A n lilith* without more specific information. 7/66 'Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*' is more likely to be *orientalis* than *meena*, because there is a singing Arctic Warbler *P borealis* in the background. 9/64-9/65 'Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*' and 9/71 'White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*': there is no mention of which taxa are involved. 11/4 'European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*' is a good example of why geographical information should always be included. This track features a 'song of a male of the subspecies *E r superbus* found on Gran Canaria and Teneriffa'. However, a recent study (Dietzen et al 2003) has shown that populations from Tenerife (*superbus*) and Gran Canaria (*marionae*) may even be specifically distinct from each other, as well as from continental populations. Sadly, the CD text does not specify the island where the recording was made. 12/13-12/14 'Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*': there is no mention of which geographical population/species (eg, Atlas Pied Flycatcher *F speculigera*) is involved. 12/18-12/19 'Rufous-tailed Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*' could be

Turkestan Shrike *L. phoenicuroides*, Daurian Shrike *L. isabellinus* or Chinese Shrike *L. arenarius*: we are left guessing. **13/17-13/18** 'Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*' could equally be Western Subalpine *S. cantillans*, Eastern Subalpine *S. albistriata* or Moltoni's Warbler *S. moltonii*. **14/72** 'Mountain Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus sindianus*': the calls presented are indeed *sindianus*, which is unhelpful because Caucasian Chiffchaff *P. lorenzii* is the only 'mountain chiffchaff' occurring in the geographical area covered. Calls of *lorenzii* are very different from the sharply rising *huit* of *P. sindianus*, and bear a closer resemblance to the more or less straight *peep* of Siberian Chiffchaff *P. collybita tristis*. **15/19** The decision to give 'Canary Islands Tit *P. teneriffae*' its own separate track, while 'Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*' is treated as a polytypic species including African Blue Tit (*ultramarinus*), seems to be based on a misunderstanding. In fact *ultramarinus* and the Canarian taxa have been shown to form one branch of the 'blue tit' group, while the other branch includes all other 'blue tits' and Azure Tit *P. cyanus* (Salzburger et al 2002). So, to be consistent, either *ultramarinus* should have been included under *teneriffae*, or all including Azure Tit should have been treated together! **16/55** In the case of 'Citril Finch *Serinus citrinella*', it is not clear whether Corsican Finch *S. corsicanus* has been treated as conspecific. The recording could be of either. **17/32-17/33** For 'Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza cineracea*', there is no information regarding which of the two distinctive taxa is involved. **17/53** Calls included under 'Pallas' Bunting *E. pallasii*' are different from those of birds recorded in autumn in South Korea (van den Berg et al 2003), so it would be interesting to know where the recording was made. Knowing the strengths of German sound collections, it seems likely to have been one of the poorly known central Asian taxa, but if only one could know for sure. Finally, locations can also be of interest for other reasons. The recording of Grey-necked Bunting *E. buchanani* song in track **17/36** is of particular interest because of the two species in the background, Booted Warbler *Acrocephalus caligatus* (not Syke's Warbler *A. rama*) and Pale Rockfinch *Carpospiza brachydactyla*. Where do the breeding ranges of these two and Grey-necked Bunting overlap, or was the Booted Warbler a migrant?

For a number of species pairs, only one is included, with the excuse that the two are often treated as a single species. Are we to believe that these taxa sound the same, or is it assumed that nobody needs to know the difference? Only the first-named of the following pairs (all names are listed in the booklet) is included on the CDs. **10/61** Black-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis atrogularis* / Red-throated Thrush *T. r. ruficollis*. **11/54** Persian Wheatear *Oenanthe chrysopygia* / Red-tailed Wheatear *O. xanthopygma*. **12/28-12/30** Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis* / Steppe Grey Shrike *L. pallidirostris*. **13/1** Pygmy Sunbird *Anthreptes platurus* / Nile Valley Sunbird *A. metallicus*. **13/9-13/10** Marmora's Warbler *Sylvia sarda* / Balearic Warbler *S. balearica*. **13/26-13/27** African Desert Warbler

*S. deserti* / Asian Desert Warbler *S. nana*. **13/36-13/37** Lesser Whitethroat *S. curruca* / Hume's Whitethroat *S. althaea* / Desert ('Small') Whitethroat *S. c. minula*. **15/54-15/55** Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla* / Madeira Kinglet *R. madeirensis*. **16/67-16/68** Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* / Lesser Redpoll *C. cabaret*. For most of these pairs, some vocal differences between the taxa have been described, and it is a pity that both species are not presented on the CDs. In a few cases, it is not even made clear which one can be heard in the recording: **10/57-10/58** Naumann's Thrush *T. naumanni naumanni* / Dusky Thrush *T. n. eunomus*, **11/47-11/48** Western Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* / Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *O. melanoleuca*, **12/56** Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* / Hooded Crow *C. cornix*. One could name many more examples where the lack of more specific geographical and/or systematic detail leaves considerable room for confusion and ambiguity.

The inclusion of dates might have enabled the user to draw a distinction between calls limited to the breeding season and those that can be heard throughout the year. In fact many species that are most often observed by European birdwatchers on migration or in winter are represented on the CDs by sounds almost entirely limited to the breeding season. Waders are, as usual, the least adequately covered group in this publication: sounds on the CDs are, in many cases, limited to displays and alarm calls from breeding grounds which may lie well outside the region being treated. Characteristic migration calls of, eg, American Golden Plover *P. dominica*, Curlew Sandpiper *C. ferruginea*, Western Sandpiper *C. maura*, Red-necked Stint *C. ruficollis*, Baird's Sandpiper *C. bairdii*, Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*, Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*, Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* and Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* are all missing, while several others are only represented by very poor recordings. In track **5/40** Little Stint *C. minuta*, the birds in the first recording may be this species, but I have never heard these calls from migrating, wintering or breeding birds. I suspect the recording is of feeding Dunlin *C. alpina* or another medium-sized *Calidris*. The poor quality of the next recording means that we are left without a good example of migration flight calls. Track **5/58** Long-billed Dowitcher *L. scolopaceus* includes call variations unlikely to be heard from vagrants in Europe. Given the singing Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* in the background, it seems to have been recorded on breeding grounds in Siberia. Only a single call in track **5/86** is typical of Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* heard in autumn or winter. The strange frog-like, vibrant calls in track **6/2** Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus* are certainly not the ones most often heard from migrating or wintering birds. Other Arctic breeders are treated similarly: Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus* is represented in tracks **17/10-17/11** by 2 min of song and calls characteristic of the breeding season; a typical example of the rattle characteristically given by migrant and wintering birds is lacking. Among the pipits two parti-

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cularly unhelpful recordings can be found. Track **9/42** Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* features a series of alarm calls, unlikely to be heard in the Western Palearctic. Only the second of the four calls resembles a call likely to be heard in Europe, but it would have been better to use an example from a migrant. Similarly, track **9/44** Blyth's Pipit *A godlewskii* also features alarm calls only likely to be heard at the nest, 1000s of kilometers from the Western Palearctic; flight calls are missing.

I found a rather high number of identification errors, wrongly described sounds and other anomalies while listening to the 17 CDs. Many though not all of these have been inherited from the Roché collection, which forms the most important source of recordings for this publication. Indeed, anyone who has bought Roché & Chevereau (2002) should be aware that they already have a great many of the recordings in the new Schultze set. A full review of the former (Robb 2004) can be found online at: [www.britishbirds.co.uk](http://www.britishbirds.co.uk). The following should not be seen as a complete and definitive list of errata. It is up to the publisher to make such a list: it will be necessary to check the source material, and information about location, date and recordist not available to this reviewer. **1/49** Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*: the second recording sounds suspiciously like European Shag *P aristotelis*. **1/56** Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*: these 'flight calls' may indeed belong to this species, but this is not the most usually heard flight call. Perhaps this was a very alarmed bird. **1/66** Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*: the flight calls in the first recording sound suspiciously similar to Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*, and in the second recording dangerously similar to Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*. **1/75** Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*: this track may include taxa other than nominate *albus* which sound a little different. In particular, the recording after 0:30 sounds unusually high-pitched and may be one of several smaller extralimital taxa. **1/84** Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor*: perhaps this recording should be treated with caution as it sounds identical to Greater Flamingo *P roseus*. **2/6** Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*: the calls from 1:47 to the end sound to me like Bewick's Swan *C bewickii*. **2/54** Velvet Scoter: the second recording sounds suspiciously like Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*. **2/56** Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*: the sexing of these calls is almost certainly wrong, perhaps due to misinterpretation of the very limited information in Cramp & Simmons (1977). **3/40** Montagu's Harrier *C pygargus*: in the second recording, after 12 sec, at least the first four *psii* calls are a yellow wagtail *Motacilla*, not a female Montagu's Harrier, to which they do bear some resemblance! **4/55** Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*: these calls are very strange and intriguing, and the lack of any real explanation is unforgivable. Given the difficulty of recording such sounds, and especially of seeing who is making them, recordings of less familiar calls of such secretive birds as this species and Little Crake *P parva*, need to be treated with great caution unless they are backed up with observation notes. **4/92** Black-

winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*: there may have been a Black-winged present when the first recording was made, but all the most prominent vocalizations (eg, loud songs after 19 sec) in this track are Collared Pratincole *G pratincola*. Songs of Black-winged (its most useful sound for identification) are not included in this or the next cut. **5/19** American Golden Plover: the third recording (from 0:24) is Pacific Golden Plover *P fulva*, an error that will only add to the confusion already surrounding calls of these two species. The same recording can be heard on Chappuis (2000a) under 'American (Lesser) Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*' (apparently *sensu lato*) and was made on Norfolk Island in the southwest Pacific, northwest of New Zealand, by W V Ward. No doubt this was in the days when Pacific and American Golden Plover were considered to be the same species. The calls in the first two tracks are breeding season alarm calls. **5/22** Eurasian Golden Plover: after 1:13 the 'druedrued' of the female' is in fact an alarmed Dunlin (the same recording can be found in **5/53** Dunlin after 0:22). **5/24** Spur-winged Lapwing *V spinosus*: I very much doubt whether 'song' is an accurate description of the very irregularly structured sounds in this track. **5/51** Purple Sandpiper *C maritima*: the first recording is unmistakably a Dunlin. **5/57** Short-billed Dowitcher: this is a recording of the song of this species (not 'calls'), although the song starts with a sound similar to flight calls. **5/56** Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*: the gruff sounds in the first recording are Spotted Redshank vocalizations I have also recorded myself from feeding birds. **5/90** Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris*: I could match the calls in the first recording one for one with calls recorded of Eurasian Curlew *N arquata*. Both this and the second recording were also featured on Chappuis (2000a), where one can read that the first recording concerns 'individuals in flight, February, Manfredonia, S.E. Italy' and was made by N Baccetti, L Serra and M Zanatello (Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica), presumably the group of up to 19 observed there in the mid-1990s (van den Berg 1995). Even if one accepts without question that a group of Slender-billed Curlews was present in Italy in 1995, I have great difficulty believing this is what we are hearing in the recording. The second recording sounds much more exotic, and I am sure no Eurasian could sound like this. However, it is a serious omission that the notes do not tell us this was a computer-assisted reconstruction from a field recording by A Greton made in Morocco, in which the Slender-billed Curlew was masked by simultaneously calling Eurasian Curlews (Chappuis 2000a). In my opinion it would have been best to publish both the original of this recording for its documentary value, and the reconstruction for its more practical use. **6/8** Pintail Snipe *G stenura*: a flight display of this species can be heard in the background, but the *toc-tic* song in the foreground is Common Snipe, which often breeds in the same habitat. The equivalent two-note song-type of Pintail Snipe is much harsher in tone and only seems to be given in short bursts (pers obs). **6/14** Pomarine

Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*: the name of the recordist (Arnoud B van den Berg) of the second recording is missing from the booklet. The recording was made in Noord-Holland on 12 November 1985 during a rare invasion of this species in the Netherlands, and concerned immature birds feeding on fish waste in the harbour of IJmuiden. **6/35** European Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*: the fifth recording (from 0:53) concerns Great Black-backed Gull *L. marinus*. The latter species is also the most prominent one in the last recording (from 2:14). **6/37** Yellow-legged Gull *L. michahellis*: the last recording (from 1:54) appears to be European Herring Gull, or are these 'lusitanicus' from the Atlantic coast of Iberia which sound more like *argentatus/argenteus*? Whatever they are, they are certainly not typical *michahellis*. **8/27** Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*: the calls in these recordings do not resemble any of a wide range of sounds of this species recorded during a recent trip to the Cape Verde Islands (pers obs), the only place in the region where it occurs. Is this due to geographical variation, or is it yet another misidentified recording? **8/47-8/48** Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*: the labels 'song' and 'calls' should be swapped (ie, track 47 should be 'calls' and track 48 should be 'song'), to be homologous with the terms used for the other woodpecker sounds. **8/67** Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*: the last recording (from 1:06) is almost certainly Middle Spotted Woodpecker *D. medius*. **9/7** Bar-tailed Lark *Ammomanes cincturus*: after 0:50 the bird in the recording is a Desert Lark *A. deserti*. **9/21** Black Lark *M. yeltoniensis*: these calls are too close to Lesser/Asian Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens/cheleensis* for comfort. Perhaps this was an imitation? **9/45** Tawny Pipit *A. campestris*: the fourth and fifth song types (from 0:58) are either Long-billed Pipit *A. similis* or Desert Lark, but certainly not Tawny Pipit. The last 'song' (from 2:07) would have been better included under 'calls'. **9/50** Long-billed Pipit: these *piu* calls are very odd for a pipit, and probably belong to something else. Nothing similar was described for this species in Alström & Mild (2003). **9/54** Tree Pipit *A. trivialis*: the calls in the third recording (from 0:38) are Water Pipit *A. spinoletta* (cf track 63). **9/60** Rock Pipit *A. petrosus*: all three songs appear to be Meadow Pipit *A. pratensis*. A song so similar that it may be the same individual can also be heard as the last example of Meadow Pipit song (track 9/56 from 1:36). For anyone wishing to hear Rock Pipit singing, track 6/67 Razorbill *Alca torda* has Rock Pipit song in the background. **9/61** Rock Pipit: at least the second recording (from 0:25) of calls appears to be Meadow Pipit. **9/77** Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*: the first recording is a colony of House Martins *Delichon urbicum*. **10/12-10/18** Accentors *Prunella*: it would be interesting to know how the singers were all sexed as males, since both sexes are known to sing (eg, Langmore 1996). **10/61** Black-throated Thrush: this is the discredited recording of a claimed vagrant in Sweden, which seems most likely to have been a Song Thrush *T. philomelos* (Arkhipov et al 2003). **11/38** Isabelline

Wheatear *O. isabellina*: it would be interesting to know the location, age and sex for the whistle calls after 0:05. My own examples from Turkey (all adults) are all considerably lower pitched, while this recording is a perfect match for my recordings of the equivalent call of Northern Wheatear *O. oenanthe* (eg, adults from Iceland and Scotland). **11/42** Seebohm's Wheatear *O. seebohmi*: these calls are very strongly reminiscent of Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*, and could be an imitation, or an error. **11/48** Western Black-eared Wheatear/Eastern Black-eared Wheatear: the last recording (from 0:22) may be Northern Wheatear. Whistle calls of both *hispanica* and *melanoleuca* are generally much lower pitched (recordings of *hispanica* by Arnoud B van den Berg and my own recordings of *melanoleuca*). **12/26** Great Grey Shrike *L. excubitor*: I cannot escape the suspicion that the calls in the first recording are Common Whitethroat *S. communis*. Perhaps it was an unseen warbler reacting to a shrike perched in the same bush? The sound is certainly similar to one call type of Great Grey Shrike (cf same track from 0:24), but in my opinion closer to alarm calls of Common Whitethroat. **13/58** Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*: the first recording is Common Whitethroat or an imitation of one. **14/12** Marsh Warbler *A. palustris*: the calls in the first recording do not seem typical for this species, but are strongly reminiscent of Garden Warbler *S. borin*. The recording also appeared on Chappuis (2000b) and was made by Chappuis in 'June, N.W. France'. **14/40** Eastern Crowned Warbler *P. coronatus*: these 'calls' are in fact a type of song. **14/52** Hume's Leaf Warbler *P. humei*: both examples of 'calls' are in fact an alternative type of song, and there are no calls here likely to be heard in the Western Palearctic. **14/54** Radde's Warbler *P. schwarzi*: these calls are made by a Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*! **14/63** Plain Leaf Warbler *P. neglectus*: this song does not belong to a *Phylloscopus* warbler, and I suspect it concerns some kind of stonechat *Saxicola*. For descriptions and a sonagram of the song of Plain Leaf Warbler, see Eriksen (1988). **14/64** Plain Leaf Warbler: these calls belong to a Rock Bunting *E. cia*! A sonagram of what seems likely to be the same recording was printed on p 604 in Cramp (1992), also under Plain Leaf Warbler. **14/74** 'Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus tristis*' (a split according to Schulze): these are a type of calls which usually precede song strophes, and not the mournful whistles which earned this bird its scientific name, and which are far more likely to be heard in Europe. **16/9** Desert Sparrow *Passer simplex*: the last recording (from 0:52) of 'calls' appears to be song of another species, probably House Bunting *E. sahari*. **16/36** Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*: the song from 1:19 is African Chaffinch *F. c. africana/spodiogenys*, and in fact the same bird is featured as *spodiogenys* in track 16/38. **16/40** Common Chaffinch: the calls from 1:15 sound so similar to flight calls of Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera bifasciata*, and atypical for Common Chaffinch, that they demand an explanation. Is this a localized 'rain call' and if so, from where? **16/66** Twite



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*Carduelis flavirostris*: these 'calls' are a type of song known as 'rambling song' (Marler & Mundinger 1975). **16/71** 'White-winged Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera*': these are indeed recordings of White-winged Crossbill, ie, *L l leucoptera* of the Nearctic, which has not yet been recorded in the Western Palearctic, and not Two-barred Crossbill *L l bifasciata* of the Palearctic. **16/72** White-winged Crossbill: these 'calls' belong to neither *leucoptera* nor *bifasciata*. In fact, part of a song of Common Crossbill *L curvirostra* can be heard. **16/74** Common Crossbill: the calls from 0:52-1:13 are very similar to calls of Parrot Crossbill *L pytyopsittacus*. It would be interesting to know where the recording was made. **16/80** Desert Finch *Rhodospiza obsoleta*: this is song of Blyth's Reed Warbler *A dumetorum*! **17/22** Cirl Bunting *E cirius*: 'calls' in the first recording are probably wrong, and may be part of a song of House Bunting. The calls in the second recording are also questionable for Cirl Bunting. **17/35** Ortolan Bunting *E hortolana*: the second recording of calls (from 0:13) is so unusual that it warrants an explanation. Is this a juvenile?

Background sounds are noted from time to time in the text. In many recordings, however, a second unnamed species is at least as prominent as the main one, and because it is not mentioned in the text, the user might assume that all of the sounds are from the only named species. For instance, in track **2/36** Garganey *A querquedula*, the text for the second recording (from 0:19) makes no mention of the loud male Northern Shoveler *A clypeata* calls which can also be heard. **2/44** Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*: there is no mention of the loud Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* calls, which can be heard at times. **2/60** Smew *Mergellus albellus*: the loud *gok-gok-gok* in the foreground is not made by the female Smew as claimed in the notes. Rather, this is the (female) King Eider listed as a background species. **5/56** Ruff: from 0:19 the loud calls of an alarmed Red-necked Phalarope *P lobatus* are not mentioned. **6/60** Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*: the White-winged Tern *C leucopterus* in the background of the second recording (heard from 0:33) should have been noted. **10/68** Redwing *T iliacus*: in the second recording, listeners with high frequency hearing loss may only hear the loud Fieldfares *T pilaris* (from 0:19), which are not mentioned in the notes. The third recording (from 0:30) contains, besides Redwing, loud Common Blackbird *T merula* and Song Thrush. **12/10** Semi-collared Flycatcher *F semitorquata*: the loud Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *P orientalis* calls should have been mentioned.

Such a conveniently packaged, species-rich and inexpensive sound guide seems likely to become the new standard reference for bird sounds of the region. But does the content merit this honour? Anybody still reading this after the long (but probably far from complete) list of errors and anomalies will probably have drawn their own conclusion, and it is certainly to be hoped that rarities committees and authors of identification papers will not rely too heavily on the work in its current state. Nevertheless, for those who, like me, were deeply disappointed by this new sound guide,

there may still be hope. The author has stated his intention to extend and, presumably, improve the work. I sincerely hope that at the very least this will involve the correction of errors and the addition of recordist, location and date information. MAGNUS S ROBB

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MIKE PENNINGTON, KEVIN OSBORNE, PAUL HARVEY, ROGER RIDDINGTON, DAVE OKILL, PETE ELLIS & MARTIN HEUBECK 2004. *The birds of Shetland*. Christopher Helm/A & C Black Publishers Ltd, 37 Soho Square, London W1D 3QZ, UK; e-mail ornithology@acblack.com, website www.acblack.com. 576 pp. ISBN 0-7136-6038-4. GBP 40.00.

The easiest way to review this book is to compare it with the earlier published *The birds of Scilly* by Peter Robinson (2003; reviewed in Dutch Birding 26: 122-123, 2004). Published by the same publisher, following the same format and lay-out, dealing with an equally famous – from an ornithological point of view – group of British islands, almost as thick (576 instead of 608 pages) and slightly less expensive than the Scilly book, *The birds of Shetland* confirms in every aspect that Scilly and Shetland are on par level when it comes to recording birds and especially migrants and vagrants. Much that I have said about the Scilly book can also be said about this book. It is very complete, thoroughly researched, well written and a pleasure to thumb through. On the more critical side, the layout is just as basic as the Scilly book and apart from a few black-and-white illustrations, little has been done to increase the attractiveness of text, tables and figures. An extra colour to support the layout would have enhanced the general ‘feel’ of the book. Shetland has a list of c 430 species, of which less than 70 breed – compared with c 426 and c 60, respectively, in Scilly. Luckily, the book took more time to publish than anticipated, which meant that Fair Isle, part of Shetland but often treated separately and honoured with a book of its own, *The birds of Fair Isle* by Nick Dymond (1991), could be included in full. With so many rare birds turning up especially on this small island with its famous Fair Isle Bird Observatory established in 1948, this book would have lost much of its attraction without this coverage.

Compared with *The birds of Scilly*, I found this book better in almost every aspect and in the friendly rivalry between the islands, Shetland has clearly taken the lead in this respect. The text reads more easily and seems to be more to the point. The choice of colour photographs is more extensive (105, of which more than half concern rare birds) and much more complete, including plates of almost all famous rare birds seen on the islands, such as the Yellow-browed Bunting *Emberiza chrysophrys* of 1980, Northern Hawk Owl *Surnia ulula* of 1983, Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* of 1985, Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* of 1990, Pallas’s Sandgrouse *Syrhaptes paradoxus* of 1991, Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator* of 1992 and Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus* of 1997. In addition, the ‘Fair Isle specialities’ (vagrants more or less annual on Fair Isle but much rarer elsewhere in Shetland, let alone elsewhere in Britain) are all illustrated, most famous being Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* (59 British records up to 2002, of which 47 in Shetland, of which 30 on Fair Isle), Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lan- ceolata* (95 British records up to 2002, of which 78 in

Shetland, of which 64 on Fair Isle) and Yellow-breasted Bunting *E aureola* (more than 200 British records up to 2002, of which 127 in Shetland, of which more than 100 on Fair Isle). Definitely adding spice to the book is the small but fine selection of black-and-white photographs scattered throughout the species texts, including Britain’s last breeding wild White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (an albino female photographed at North Roe in c 1912), the second and most recent Great Bustard *Otis tarda* for Shetland (on Fair Isle in 1970), Britain’s second Thick-billed Warbler *Acrocephalus aedon* (on Whalsay in 1971), Britain’s first Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope* and first Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina* (both on Fair Isle in 1975) and the first live Brünnich’s Murre *Uria lomvia* for Shetland (on Fair Isle in 1980). The quality of reproduction of the photographs is also better than in the Scilly book.

As in Scilly, some species are remarkably rare in Shetland, due to the large distances to mainland Scotland and Norway. Examples include Bearded Reedling *Panurus biarmicus* (one record), Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* (three records involving nine birds), Coal Tit *Parus ater* (12 records involving 14 birds), Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* (two records involving four birds, both from the 19th century), Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica* (one record) and Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* (one record). Focusing on the rarities, Shetland differs from Scilly by its much larger proportion of Asian vagrants compared with Nearctic species, whereas in Scilly the reverse is true. This is clearly a result of the different geographical positions of the two island groups.

Similar to Scilly, seabirds are the most notable breeding birds, some of them occurring in huge numbers. Being the most northerly part of Britain, Shetland also holds (or held) a few breeding species that are absent or much rarer further south, such as Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* (100% of the British population, comprising just a handful of pairs), Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus* (breeding on Fetlar in 1967-75 with a total of 23 chicks fled, the only British breeding records), Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (90% of the British population) and Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* (almost 70% of the British population).

The book is up to date to 2002, with a separate appendix listing all notable records from 2003. The text is well edited, probably benefiting from the involvement of so many authors, all giving their attention to the detailed information. I only raised my eyebrows when I read that Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica* (the subspecies breeding in Shetland) is larger than Continental Black-tailed Godwit *L l limosa*, whereas *islandica* is shorter billed and shorter legged (and thus appears smaller in the field) than the nominate. This said, this is a very fine book which leaves little to desire – at least until an update is due, because no doubt new rare birds will continue to find the islands on their journeys and decide to make a stop-over there. ENNO B EBELS

## Recensies

H LEE JONES 2004. *Birds of Belize*. Christopher Helm/ A & C Black Publishers Ltd, 37 Soho Square, London W1D 3QZ, UK; e-mail ornithology@acblack.com, website www.acblack.com. 484 pp. ISBN 0-7136-6760-1. EUR 42.50, GBP 26.99.

It seems just a matter of time before every Latin American country has its own field guide. Given the avian richness of the Neotropics, the growing number of high-quality bird books is fully justified. In this perspective, it is no surprise that Belize now has its own field guide, even though there were no real gaps to fill as the country's birdlife was already covered in the well-known *A guide to the birds of Mexico and northern Central America* by Steve Howell and Sophie Webb (1995). This new guide is quite up to date: the last information was added in early 2003. Being a tiny country, roughly half the size of the Netherlands, the number of recorded species in Belize is amazing: 574 and growing, with c five species added to the list every year. This high number is caused by the tropical geographical setting with its many different ecological zones, of which the main ones are described in the introduction pages. With his knowledge and experience, Lee Jones was probably the best man for the job. This American biologist and bird guide, who lives on and off in Belize, has over a decade of field experience in the country. He wrote numerous articles and several books, including the *Annotated checklist of the birds of Belize* (2001) together with A C Vallely.

When I was reviewing this book, two questions popped up. The first is the general question for every review: is it a good book? In trip reports, I noticed a different approach between birders from two continents when visiting Belize: birders from North America tend to see Belize as a single-destination holiday, while European birders mostly include Belize in their itinerary when birding a larger area, including Yucatán, Mexico, and Tikal, Guatemala. With Howell & Webb's bestseller available, the second question is obviously: is this book worth buying for European birders? To answer the first question: yes, it is a good book, but being a member of a spoiled generation – demanding the ultimate guide – I do have some points of criticism.

Roughly, the book is divided in four main chapters, respectively: the introduction, colour plates, species accounts and distribution maps. Belize has no true endemics but many regional, mostly Yucatán, endemics occur. To start with, it is a missed chance that these are not summed up in the introduction pages. The species accounts, placed in the chapter after the plates, are short but thorough and include size, plumage features, voice descriptions, habitat and status in the country. There is a short introduction to each family, highlighting the characteristics and behaviour, which is handy to become more familiar with families that are new to the user of the guide. The texts are certainly sufficient for bird identification but for more background information other sources are needed (but then, after all, this is not a handbook). Opposite to the colour plates there is a short piece of text for every species, making a quick

reference in the field possible. The 56 colour plates are by Dana Gardner, who worked on *A guide to the birds of Costa Rica*. As is often the case in Neotropical bird books, some species are not on the colour plates but only have black-and-white drawings (mostly the vagrants) in the species account section. Some recently recorded vagrants are described but not depicted at all. As a European birder accustomed to the Killian Mullarneys of this world, I find the quality of the plates rather variable. Most are good, but some are quite static, not doing justice to the bird's jizz (eg, the flying raptors) or are even a bit cartoon-like, such as Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* and Cedar Waxwing *Bombicilla cedrorum*. However, Gardner's skills have improved since the Costa Rica book and compared with Webb's sketchy and rather dull paintings, the use of stronger lines and colours gives this guide a far more pleasant look. Most important however is that the plates do serve their purpose: they enable identification of birds. For most species several plumages are depicted and, in contrast with Howell & Webb (1995), the North American migrants are fortunately included. Distribution maps are given only for the 234 species that are not widespread (probably to save space), which is somewhat confusing. A bigger withdrawal however is that the maps are placed in the last section of the book, so for unknown reasons the species accounts and the distribution maps are separated. This means that when identifying a bird in the field, you will have to check three different pages: first the plate, then the species account and finally the distribution map. Any birder knows that this can be frustrating as time is often limited. The author chooses to follow the taxonomical order of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), because, as explained in the introduction, New World readers are most familiar with these systematics. For Old World birders, this is a rather conservative approach. The only relatively new insight that is apparent is the placement of the New World vultures in the stork group (but not on the plates to make comparison with raptors easier in the field). In the introduction pages, it is clear that the author is well aware of possible future splits but unlike Howell & Webb (1995) this is not always obviously pointed out in the species accounts, which is a real pity. Recently, for instance, there have been proposals to split the regional endemic Cozumel Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola caboti* from Bananaquit, based on both differences in plumage and vocalization. Another example is that nothing is mentioned about the Yellow-headed Parrot *Amazona oratrix* complex, while Belize holds a virtually endemic and highly endangered subspecies (*A o belisensis*). As a result, this book gives no new taxonomical insights.

To answer the second question: birdwatchers from older generations tell heroic stories about birding the Neotropics decades ago, when virtually no decent literature was available. Nowadays, with all the available books, birders often start complaining about the weight they have to carry when travelling. Well, to me there's nothing heroic about being unable to identify a bird, so I prefer to carry as many books as possible. The pain in

my back from former trips is long forgotten but I can still remember every single bird I could only identify by bringing an extra book. So, as long as you do not suffer from hernia problems, take the extra weight for granted

and bring both books along when visiting the region, as this book is at least supplementary, if not a standard in its own right. VINCENT VAN DER SPEK

## DBA-nieuws

**Waarnemingen van zeldzame vogels binnenkort op mobiele telefoon** De Dutch Birding Association is bezig met het opzetten van een nieuwe service die het mogelijk maakt waarnemingen van zeldzame vogels via tekstberichten op een mobiele telefoon te ontvangen. Voorwaarde is dat de telefoon de mogelijkheid heeft voor het ontvangen van e-mail/i-mail-berichten. Met de nieuwe service kan uitgebreidere informatie worden doorgegeven dan thans het geval is (bijvoorbeeld GPS, Amersfoortcoördinaten, korte plekbeschrijvingen, telefoonnummer waarnemer). Vooralsnog blijft het semafoonsysteem in de huidige vorm bestaan. De semafoonhouders kunnen zelf beslissen of ze overgaan op het nieuwe informatiesysteem. Omdat de verwachting is dat het systeem snel operationeel zal zijn, is besloten om geen nieuwe semafoons uit te geven. De reden dat wordt overgegaan op het verzenden van berichten via de mobiele telefoon is de verwachting dat het huidige semafoonsysteem op termijn niet meer ondersteund wordt door KPN. Bovendien kan de DBA

met het nieuwe systeem gemakkelijker technische uitbreidingen realiseren.

Degenen die in het nieuwe systeem geïnteresseerd zijn kunnen dit kenbaar maken via het volgende e-mailadres: [michel.veldt@dutchbirding.nl](mailto:michel.veldt@dutchbirding.nl). Zij zullen bericht ontvangen als het systeem operationeel is. Naar verwachting zal dit medio december zijn.

De voordelen van het nieuwe systeem op een rijtje: **1** waarnemingen van zeldzame vogels via tekstberichten op de mobiele telefoon; **2** uitgebreidere informatie dan thans het geval is; **3** mogelijkheden tot digitale uitbreidingen voor verzending van informatie; en **4** snelle en directe ontvangst van alle informatie

Meer gedetailleerde informatie zal via de website ([www.dutchbirding.nl](http://www.dutchbirding.nl)) bekendgemaakt worden. Informatie is ook te verkrijgen bij Wietze Janse, telefoon 015-2121974, e-mail [wietze.janse@dutchbirding.nl](mailto:wietze.janse@dutchbirding.nl). WIETZE JANSE

## Aankondigingen & verzoeken

**Rare Birds Weekly** Lee Evans staat bekend om zijn uitvoerige documentatie van het voorkomen van schaarse en zeldzame vogels in Brittannië. Hij heeft al veel publicaties op zijn naam staan. Sinds juli 2004 is daar een publicatie bijgekomen: Rare Birds Weekly. Rare Birds Weekly verschijnt wekelijks en bevat naast een overzicht van de in de voorafgaande week waargenomen soorten gedetailleerde artikelen over de meest interessante waarnemingen. De nadruk ligt duidelijk op Brittannië en Ierland maar er zijn ook artikelen over waarnemingen in Nederland en elders in het Paeartische gebied verschenen. Alle artikelen worden rijkelijk geïllustreerd met foto's. Rare Birds Weekly is verkrijgbaar in pdf-formaat voor GBP 40.00 (jaarabonnement) of in de vorm van een tijdschrift voor GBP 4.00 per nummer. Als speciale aanbieding voor alle nieuwe abonnees op de UK400Clubonline.co.uk website van de UK400 Club krijgt men 10 pdf-nummers gratis. Een jaarabonnement op de UK400Clubonline.co.uk website kost GBP 20.00. Neem contact op met Lee Evans voor meer informatie en/of het aanvragen van een abonnement (8 Sandycroft Road, Little Chalfont, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, Engeland, e-mail [LGREUK400@aol.com](mailto:LGREUK400@aol.com)).

**Rare Birds Weekly** Lee Evans is well known for his publications and extensive documentation of scarce and rare birds in Britain. Since July 2004, a new publication can be added: Rare Birds Weekly. Rare Birds Weekly is published every week and contains, besides a weekly summary of the previous week's bird news, papers on the most interesting sightings. The emphasis is clearly on British and Irish rarities but papers on Dutch and other Palearctic records have also been published. All papers are richly illustrated with photographs. Rare Birds Weekly is available in pdf format at GBP 40.00 (annual subscription) or as a full colour printed hard copy version at GBP 3.50 per issue (GBP 4.00 overseas). As a special introductory offer to all new members of UK400Clubonline.co.uk (the website of the UK400 Club), 10 pdf copies will be sent free of charge (annual subscription for UK400Clubonline.co.uk is GBP 20.00 per year). Contact Lee Evans for more information and/or to subscribe (8 Sandycroft Road, Little Chalfont, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, England, e-mail [LGREUK400@aol.com](mailto:LGREUK400@aol.com)).



# Masters of Mystery



## Solutions of fourth round 2004

The solutions of mystery photographs VII and VIII (Dutch Birding 26: 260, 2004) appear below.

**VII** Mystery photograph VII shows a small warbler seen from behind. The small size of the bird and the head pattern with obvious supercilium and dark eye-stripe looks rather *Phylloscopus*-like. Indeed, a few entrants (7%) opted for Willow Warbler *P trochilus*. However, Willow does not have the brown-coloured upperparts as shown by the mystery bird and, moreover, the whitish sides of the (left) outer tail-feather exclude all *Phylloscopus* warblers easily. Note also the colour of the leg. It is pinkish and the foot and toes are dark grey, which is quite unlike any *Phylloscopus* warbler.

The brown colour of the upperparts and the pattern of the outer tail-feather indicate that this mystery bird is one of the smaller *Acrocephalus* warblers. Some entrants thought the mystery bird was an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *A pallidus* (4%). However, most entrants went for Booted Warbler *A caligatus* (55%) or Sykes's Warbler *A rama* (25%). Assuming the mystery bird is one of these three species, identifying it can be a tough job because some birds can be hardly distinguishable under field conditions or from a single photograph. Especially some Eastern Olivaceous of the subspecies *A p elaeicus* from south-eastern Europe and Central Asia are very similar to some Sykes's, a species widespread in Central Asia. To identify the mystery bird one has to focus on the bill (both structure and colour), head pattern, wing formula and tertial pattern and the precise pattern of the outer tail-feathers.

The first question to answer is if the mystery bird can be an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler. In this species, the bill is quite long and shows a rather down-curved tip. In addition, the lower mandible is all pale. At first glance, the mystery bird seems to have an all-pale lower mandible. However, because of the dorsal view of the bill, this is very difficult to judge properly and it even seems possible that the bird is opening its bill a bit so that no details of the lower mandible can be seen. The bill of the mystery bird is not strikingly long and seems to be quite straight, which does not support Eastern Olivaceous. More importantly, in Eastern Olivaceous, a hint

of a pale wing-panel is present and also, especially in fresh birds, whitish tips to the folded secondaries, and it rarely shows a pronounced supercilium behind the eye, usually having a rather bland facial expression (plate 463). Because the mystery bird was photographed in May, some characters like the pale wing-panel or the whitish tips to the secondaries, can be less clear due to wear. However, the combination of characters does not fit the mystery bird and it can, therefore, be concluded that the mystery bird is either a Sykes's Warbler or a Booted Warbler. Other characters supporting this conclusion are the overall rather brown colour of the upperparts, which is more greyish in Eastern Olivaceous. The primary projection in Eastern Olivaceous, especially in the subspecies *A p elaeicus*, is c 70% of the visible tertials length, whereas in the mystery bird this is only c 50-60%. In addition, unlike the mystery bird, the whitish parts of the outer tail-feathers in Eastern Olivaceous show an abrupt demarcation with the darker parts and at the tip of the outer tail feather the dark centre forms a point. In the mystery bird, the whitish parts show very diffuse borders and the dark parts do not form a point but are rather rounded.

So, the choice is now between Sykes's Warbler and Booted Warbler, which are very similar in both plumage and structure. The overall colour in Sykes's is rather uniform greyish-brown, whereas Booted shows a darker and more rusty-tinged colouration. However, due to the strong light in which the bird has been photographed, this character is very difficult to judge properly and, therefore, of little use. In the mystery bird, the tertials, which can be seen best on the left wing, show dark brown centres with contrasting paler edges and dark shafts, which is typical for Booted. In Sykes's, the tertials are more uniformly coloured with less contrast and plain brown shafts. Note that also the central tail-feathers of the mystery bird show these dark shafts, which is another character supporting the identification as Booted. Other differences between Sykes's and Booted can be found in the head pattern, which is plainer and more non-descript in Sykes's than in Booted. In the mystery bird, a fairly long supercilium, a dark loreal stripe and a dark side of the forehead, creating a *Phylloscopus*-like expression, are visible. These characters indicate Booted again.



**463** Eastern Olivaceous Warbler / Oostelijke Vale Spotvogel *Acrocephalus pallidus elaeicus*, Adana, Turkey, 23 April 1987 (*Arnoud B van den Berg*). Note greyish upperparts, slightly down-curved bill-tip, long primary projection, whitish tip to folded secondaries and hint of pale wing-panel. **464** Booted Warbler / Kleine Spotvogel *Acrocephalus caligatus*, first-winter, Kyzylkol, Kazakhstan, September 2003 (*Arend Wassink*). Note contrasting tertials with dark shaft and short bill with fine tip and dark spot on tip of lower mandible.





465 Booted Warbler / Kleine Spotvogel *Acrocephalus caligatus*, Karazhar, Tengiz, Aqmola Oblast, Kazakhstan, 20 May 2003 (Arnoud B van den Berg). Note contrasting tertials and rusty-tinged flanks and upperbreast.

Note, however, that the dark crown-sides may be influenced shadow effects and that dark crown-sides can also appear faintly in Sykes's. In addition, in Sykes's, the supercilium is often shorter and ending just behind the rear edge of the eye.

In addition to the above-mentioned characters, there are also a few structural differences between Sykes's Warbler and Booted Warbler. Sykes's has a longer tail and a shorter primary projection than Booted. In the mystery bird, the tail is relatively short and the primary projection of c 50-60% seems just too long for Sykes's, creating a more compact looking jizz, typical for Booted. Furthermore, Sykes's shows on average a longer bill, which can look similar to that of *A p elaeicus*. Seen from above or below, another subtle difference in bill structure between Sykes's and Booted is sometimes visible. In most Booted, the sides of the bill are distinctly concave, producing a narrow or thin tip to the bill. In Sykes's, the sides are more convex, producing a broader bill when viewed from above. In the mystery bird, the bill looks rather short with a broad base, a very fine tip and slightly concave sides and is therefore typical for Booted.

In conclusion, especially based on the pattern

of the tertials and supported by other characters like head pattern, bill length and bill structure, primary projection and tail length, this mystery bird is a Booted Warbler. This Booted was photographed by Arnoud van den Berg in a garden at Karazhar, Tengiz, Aqmola Oblast, Kazakhstan, on 20 May 2003. Another photograph of a Booted from the same garden on the same date is shown in plate 465. In this bird, many of the characters mentioned above can be seen. Note especially the contrasting tertials and the rusty-tinged flank and upperbreast, which are normally more whitish grey in Sykes's.

**VIII** Entrants identified the mystery bird in photograph VIII either as a Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* or a pipit *Anthus*. Those voting for Eurasian Skylark (31%) were probably misled by the rather short tertials, resulting in a considerable primary projection. A closer look, however, reveals that the secondaries are longer than the longest tertial, indicating that the tertials are still growing. The boldly streaked upperparts and the white outer tail-feathers are other clues that lead to pipits. Moreover, also the slender structure with the thin legs and the upright stance



of the bird are indicative for pipits.

In addition to the boldly streaked upperparts, the mystery bird shows pink legs and a few broad flank streaks, which are just visible on the right side of the bird. These characters exclude all pipits except Pechora *A. gustavi*, Meadow *A. pratensis* and Red-throated Pipit *A. cervinus*. An attentive observer notes the strongly marked rump between the middle tertials, which eliminates Meadow.

In distinguishing Pechora Pipit and Red-throated Pipit, the longer primary projection of Pechora is often a useful character. In this case, however, it can not be used because both species will show active pre-breeding moult in March. The pale 'tramlines', rather typical of both species, are palest and strongest in Pechora. Although the mantle-feathers and scapulars of the mystery bird are dishevelled, the pale 'tramlines' can easily be seen but are buffish rather than whitish. This indicates Red-throated. While the pale panels in the outer tail-feathers of Red-throated are clean white as in the mystery bird, these are often more pale brownish in Pechora. The best characters to identify this bird can be found in the tertial pattern. Both Pechora and Red-throated typically show a black tertial centre, while Meadow shows a marginally paler centre. The right middle tertial is rather worn with a white fringe indicating that the bird is in its second calendar-year. It shows the typical tertial pattern of first-winter Red-throated: a white fringe with a rather long, clear-cut extension onto the inner web. In Pechora, this pattern is more reminiscent of Meadow, with the pale fringe less clear-cut and extending less far onto the inner

web. Using these characters, the mystery bird can be safely identified as a Red-throated Pipit.

This Red-throated Pipit was photographed by Rudy Offereins at Eilat, Israel, on 20 March 2000. It was correctly identified by 35% of the entrants. Other entrants went for Richard's *A. richardi* (5%), Tawny *A. campestris* (2%), Pechora (13%) and Meadow Pipit (9%).

In the fourth round, there were 55 entrants of which 11 managed to identify both mystery birds correctly (20%). From them, Arthur Geilvoet was drawn as the winner of a copy of the double video *Birds of the Macaronesian Islands* by Leo Boon and donated by Cursorius. After four rounds, the leading positions of the overall competition are now taken by Niels Gilissen, Felix Heintzenberg (Sweden) and Paavo Liimatta (Finland) with seven correct identifications. They are followed by seven entrants with six correct answers and six with five. The names of all entrants with at least one correct answer can be viewed at [www.dutchbirding.nl](http://www.dutchbirding.nl).

### Fifth round 2004

Photographs IX and X represent the fifth round of the 2004 competition. Please study the rules

Mystery photograph X (June)



Mystery photograph IX (May)





## Masters of Mystery

(Dutch Birding 26: 55, 2004) carefully and identify the birds in the photographs. Solutions can be sent in three different ways:

- by postcard to Dutch Birding Association, Postbus 75611, 1070 AP Amsterdam, Netherlands
- by e-mail to [masters@dutchbirding.nl](mailto:masters@dutchbirding.nl)
- from the website of the Dutch Birding Association at [www.dutchbirding.nl](http://www.dutchbirding.nl)

Entries for the fifth round have to arrive by **1 November 2004**. Please indicate if you are

subscribed to Dutch Birding. From those entrants having identified both mystery birds correctly, one person will be drawn who will receive a copy of the field guide including three CDs *Warbler songs and calls of Britain and Europe* by Geoff Sample and donated by HarperCollins Publishers. Swarovski Benelux generously agreed to sponsor this competition again in 2004. This year, the overall winner after six rounds will receive a Swarovski ATS 65 telescope, with a 20-60x zoom eyepiece.

*Rob S A van Bemmelen, Gouwee 20, 1423 DV Uithoorn, Netherlands ([masters@dutchbirding.nl](mailto:masters@dutchbirding.nl))*  
*Dick Groenendijk, Elzenstraat 14, 4043 PB Opheusden, Netherlands ([masters@dutchbirding.nl](mailto:masters@dutchbirding.nl))*

# CDNA-mededelingen

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**Recente CDNA-besluiten** Op de halfjaarlijkse vergadering van de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) op 11 september 2004 zijn de volgende besluiten genomen. Er worden vooralsnog geen (onder)soorten afgevoerd van de lijst van te beoordelen taxa en ook geen taxa (opnieuw) toegevoegd. In de eerste vergadering van 2005 zal nader bekeken worden of een aantal soorten (met name Griel *Burhinus oedecnemus* en Orpheusspotvogel *Hippolais polyglotta*) afgevoerd zouden kunnen worden omdat het aantal betrouwbare meldingen structureel 'te hoog' lijkt te worden. Ten aanzien van nieuwe taxa voor de Nederlandse lijst is besloten om eerste waarnemingen alleen te aanvaarden wanneer alle CDNA-leden een positief oordeel geven; bij alle andere gevallen wordt een geval aanvaard wanneer er maximaal één tegengestem is (op determinatie). Voor aanvaarding op status (wilde of niet-wilde herkomst) volstaat een meerderheid van stemmen; deze regel is niet gewijzigd. Deze afspraak betekent dat Wenkbrauwwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris* (Vlieland, Friesland, 20 juli 2001) en Rotszwaluw *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* (Hoogkerk, Groningen, 29 juli 2001) niet worden toegelaten tot de Nederlandse lijst omdat bij beide waarnemingen sprake was van één tegengestem. Op de vergadering worden nieuwe (onder)soorten voor Nederland die zijn uitgerouleerd formeel bekrachtigd. Dit is gebeurd voor Wilsons Stormvogeltje *Oceanites oceanicus* (Westkapelle, Zeeland, 7 november 2002), Audouin's Meeuw *Larus audouinii* (Neeltje Jans, Zeeland, 1 mei 2003), Blauwe Rotslijster *Moniticola solitarius* (Westkapelle, Zeeland, 20 september 2003) en Woestijnvink *Buca-*

*netes githagineus* (Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, 31 mei 2003). Andere (potentiële) nieuwe taxa uit 2003 en eerdere jaren zijn nog niet ingediend of nog in roulatie. Bij een aantal oudere gevallen wordt bekeken of er voldoende aanleiding is om tot herroulatie over te gaan, zoals nieuwe inzichten omtrent de determinatie of mogelijke verwarring met andere taxa. Wanneer deze 'nul-ronde' met een meerderheid van stemmen wordt afgesloten wordt het betreffende geval formeel in herroulatie gebracht. De herroulatie van alle gevallen van Fluitzwaan *Cygnus columbianus*, Kleine Spotvogel *Acrocephalus caligatus* (om te bezien of bij alle gevallen Sykes' Spotvogel *A rama* met voldoende zekerheid is uitgesloten), Siberische Tjiftjaf *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* en Geelkoptroepiaal *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* (determinatie en status) moeten nog gestart worden of zijn gaande. De herziening van alle gevallen van Baardgrasmus *Sylvia cantillans* om de betrokken ondersoort(en) te bepalen is vrijwel afgerond.

Er is inmiddels een veilige locatie gevonden om het CDNA-archief op te slaan (zie Dutch Birding 26: 52, 2004) en de commissie is druk bezig om documentatie van kwijtgeraakte gevallen via verschillende wegen te achterhalen en op die wijze het archief weer zo goed mogelijk aan te vullen.

De belangrijkste personele verandering is dat Nils van Duivendijk en Roland van der Vliet stuuvertje wisselen: Roland wordt voorzitter en Nils neemt de taken van archivaris over. Per 1 januari 2005 zal Max Berlijn de commissie verlaten vanwege het aflopen van zijn tweede termijn. Zijn opvolger wordt binnenkort benoemd. BERT DE BRUIN & ROLAND VAN DER VLIET

## WP reports

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This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic mainly in **late July-early September 2004** and focuses on north-western Europe. The reports are largely unchecked and their publication here does not imply future acceptance by the rarities committee of the relevant country. Observers are requested to submit records to each country's rarities committee. Corrections are welcome and will be published.

**SWANS TO GREBES** In Iceland, the long-staying adult male **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor* at Hóll, first present in 1996, was found dead on 8 September. The maximum number of summering **Ruddy Shelducks** *Tadorna ferruginea* at the traditional site of Eemmeer, Flevoland/Utrecht, the Netherlands, was 250 in late July. In Iceland, three birds were seen at Hjarðarnes, Nes, on 9 June (a previous record dates from 1892 when seven birds were found). Two eclipse males **Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* were observed at Catalina Garcia on Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, on 27 July. The alleged first Baer's Pochard *A baeri* for the Southern Hemisphere at Werribee, Victoria, Australia, from 3 July (cf Dutch Birding 26: 261, 2004) turned out to be a **Hardhead** *A australis*. An eclipse male **Boreal Eider** *Somateria mollissima borealis* drifted slowly south past

the foghorn station of Flamborough Head, East Yorkshire, England, on 10 July. A male **White-winged Scoter** *Melanitta deglandi* at Valtþófsstaðir, Núpasveit, in April-May 2003, thought to be an American White-winged Scoter *M (d) deglandi*, now appears to have been an **Asian White-winged Scoter** *M (d) stejnegeri*, constituting the first for Iceland and the second for the WP (the first was in Finland in May-June 1996). There are five records of **American White-winged Scoter** in Iceland, all since 1993 (Birding World 17: 337-347, 2004). First breeding records of **Goosander** *Mergus merganser* occurred both in Hungary and Romania in July. The adult male **White-headed Duck** *Oxyura leucocephala* at Saltholme Pools, Cleveland, England, remained until at least 26 July. A male **Cinnamon Teal** *Anas cyanoptera* on Loch Tuamister, Lewis, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, from 13 May attracted many twitchers (Birding World 17: 200-201, 2004). In this context, it is of interest that the only Blue-winged Teal *A discors* ringed in Britain on 23 October 1979 was an immature that was later shot and identified as an adult male Cinnamon Teal in France on 22 February 1981; initially accepted as a wild Blue-winged Teal in Britain it was rejected in 1982 but not (yet) accepted as the first Cinnamon Teal (cf Br Birds 97: 428, 2004). From

**466** Red-footed Falcon / Roodpootvalk *Falco vespertinus*, first-summer male, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, USA, 10 August 2004 (*Jeremiah Trimble*)



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**467** Green Heron / Groene Reiger *Butorides virescens*, Hali, Suðursveit, Iceland, 3 June 2004 (Yann Kolbeinnson)

**468** Great White Pelican / Roze Pelikaan *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, Raszyn fish ponds, Warszawa, Poland, 6 August 2004 (Pawel Gebski)





**469** Long-legged Buzzard / Arendbuizerd *Buteo rufinus*, Espoo, Finland, 8 July 2004, 21 July 2004  
(Sampo Laukkanen)

**470** Eurasian Black Vulture / Monniksgier *Aegypius monachus*, Lancenieki, Tukums, Latvia, 16 June 2004  
(Karlis Millers)





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471 Buff-breasted Sandpiper / Blonde Ruitter *Tryngites subruficollis*, juvenile, Sein, Finistère, France, 13 September 2004 (Aurélien Audevard)

472 Baird's Sandpiper / Bairds Strandloper *Calidris bairdii*, juvenile, Sein, Finistère, France, 14 September 2004 (Aurélien Audevard)







473 Great Shearwater / Grote Pijlstormvogel *Puffinus gravis*, Bay of Biscay, 10 miles north-west of Bilbao, Spain, 23 August 2004 (Hugh Harrop/Shetland Wildlife)

474 Bonaparte's Gull / Kleine Kokmeeuw *Larus philadelphia*, Porspaul, Lampaul-Plouarzel, Finistère, France, 19 September 2004 (Aurélien Audevard)



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**475** Long-legged Buzzard / Arendbuizerd *Buteo rufinus*, Espoo, Finland, 2 August 2004 (*Sami Tuomela*) **476** Long-tailed Shrike / Langstaartklauwier *Lanius schach*, adult, Aqaba, Jordan, April 2004 (*Guy Conrady & Edouard Melchior*) cf Dutch Birding 25: 207, 2004 **477** Paddyfield Warbler / Veldrietzanger *Acrocephalus agricola*, Brekka, Lón, Iceland, 18 September 2004 (*Daniel Bergmann*)



26 August into September, a male **American Black Duck** *A rubripes* was again present at Tønsberg, Vestfold, where it had also been on 19-21 September 2003 as the third for Norway. The long-staying male at Garður, Iceland, was noted again for 22 August. On 8 August, a juvenile **Marbled Duck** *Marmaronetta angustirostris* was found at Lagune de la Belle Henriette, Vendée, France. An unringed juvenile at Pannerden, Gelderland, on 14-16 August may be the first for the Netherlands (two unringed adults photographed at Bath, Zeeland, on 27-28 September 1981 are still under consideration; cf Wielewaal 47: 123-124, 1981). The first **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* for Iceland was found at Baulutjörnn á Mýrum on 17 September.

**SEABIRDS** In Orkney and Shetland, Scotland, an unprecedented failure of seabird nesting occurred this summer. The cause appears to be starvation; species like Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* and Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* produced virtually no young this year. A **Black-browed Albatross** *Thalassarche melanophris* was videoed flying past Kilcummin Head, Mayo, Ireland, on 11 September. In Spain, from the ferry between Cadiz and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, seven **Fea's Petrels** *Pterodroma feae* and 48 **Bulwer's Petrels** *Bulweria bulwerii* were seen on 21 July. On Madeira, 1729 Bulwer's Petrels were counted in one evening at Ponta da Cruz in late July (www.madeirabirds.com). **Fea's Petrels** were also noted off Galley Head, Cork, Ireland, on 21 July, off Devon, England, on 18 August, at the Scilly pelagic, England, on 28 August and 6 September, off the Bridges of Ross, Clare, Ireland, on 25 August and 1 September, and past Brandon Head, Kerry, Ireland, on 1 September. On 2 August, a **Scopoli's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea* was identified from photographs made six miles south of St Mary's, Scilly (Birding World 17: 334-336, 2004). On 15 August, the first **Cape Verde Shearwater** *C edwardsii* for North America was photographed off Hatteras, North Carolina, USA (www.patteson.com). Inland in England, a **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus* was present at the northern end of the dam at Rutland Water, Leicestershire, from 16 July to at least 4 August. A total of 186 past Westkapelle, Zeeland, on 15 September represents the highest day count for the Netherlands. On the same day further south, 495 flew past De Panne, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, and 645 past Dunkerque, Nord, France. If accepted, a **Wilson's Storm-petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus* passing north at Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Northumberland, England, on 31 August will be the second for the British North Sea and the first watched from land. From 21 July through August, quite a few were seen off Ireland and off Scilly. These included up to three photographed west off Dingle Peninsula, Kerry, on 14 August. In addition, on 25 August, several flew off Bridges of Ross, Clare. In Spain, at least four were seen off A Coruña on 21 August and three 12 km off Oriñon, Cantabria, on 26 August. On 21 July, 21 **White-faced Storm-petrels** *Pelagodroma marina* were seen from the ferry between

Cadiz and the Canary Islands; on 22 July, 12 flew past the ferry between Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and Santa Cruz de Tenerife (as did 48 Bulwer's Petrels); and on 29 July, 27 were counted from the ferry between Puerto del Rosario, Fuerteventura, and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (as were 13 Bulwer's Petrels). On 8 July, one was seen off Funchal, Madeira. The first **Black-bellied Storm-petrel** *Fregetta tropica* for North America was photographed off Oregon Inlet, North Carolina, on 31 May (it had been identified as a White-bellied Storm-petrel *F grallaria* until photographs were studied). The fourth **Swinhoe's Storm-petrel** *Oceanodroma monorhis* for Israel was picked up at Eilat on 21 September. On 8 July, a **Red-billed Tropicbird** *Phaethon aethereus* was seen a few miles south off Madeira. An adult **Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra* photographed at Rishon Letzion on 16 July was the first for Israel; a previous record for the Mediterranean was an adult in Cadiz and Malaga, Spain, on 10 October and 14 December 1985, respectively. The first **Cape Gannet** *Morus capensis* for the Middle East was an adult photographed on Shinayz Island, Al Hallaniyat archipelago, Oman, on 14 March 2004 (Sandgrouse 26: 146-148, 2004).

**CORMORANTS TO FLAMINGOS** A **Pygmy Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* stayed near Hannover, Niedersachsen, Germany, from 19 July to at least 23 August. The second for north-eastern Poland turned up at Siemianowka reservoir on 29 August. The second **Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* for Iceland was at Hali, Breiðabólstaður, Suðursveit, from 28 May to 18 July; the first was shot on 29 October 2001. In the Netherlands, aerial surveys at Oostvaardersplassen, Flevoland, revealed the presence of 22 breeding pairs of **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*, 43 pairs of **Great Egret** *Casmerodius albus* and 203 pairs of **Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*. If accepted, a **Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis* at Hula on 25 August will be the 20th for Israel. The best-ever breeding result of **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* for Spain occurred this year with more than 2000 nestlings being ringed at Doñana National Park. The first breeding of **Eurasian Spoonbill** for Armenia since 50 years occurred in Ararat in July 2003 with two pairs. The number of breeding pairs of **Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus* in Sardinia, Italy, was 7500 in two large colonies, at Macchiareddu salt pans and Molentargius pond in the Cagliari area; on 31 August, c 500 young were colour-ringed (white ring with letter M) at the Molentargius site.

**RAPTORS** On 16 August, a massive movement of 38 000 **Black Kites** *Milvus migrans* took place across the Straits of Gibraltar from Spain to Morocco. The ninth **Eurasian Black Vulture** *Aegypius monachus* for Latvia was an immature at Lancenieki, Tukums, from 2 June to at least 31 July; the eighth record was in 1933. In northern Germany, up to six **Short-toed Eagles** *Circaetus gallicus* were still reported from two sites in Niedersachsen in the last days of August (cf Dutch Birding 26: 262, 2004). The first **Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus* for Scilly was present on 13-14 September.

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The sixth **Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus* for Finland (and the first twitchable) was a very pale morph first seen at Hanko on 4 July and then at Espoo and Vantaa from 8 July to at least 10 August. In Friesland, one was photographed at Ezumakeeg on 9 July. In Sweden, **Steppe Eagles** *Aquila nipalensis* were seen on Öland and at Falsterbo, Skåne, in July and early August. In Germany, a second-year was reported in Niedersachsen on 8 August. After last year's first breeding of **Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus* for Finland at Kemi, the species bred again in the area this year raising three young. The first for America was a first-summer male on a small airstrip at Katama, Martha's Vineyard, Edgartown, Massachusetts, USA, from 8 August onwards. The 10th **Eleonora's Falcon** *F. eleonora* for Sweden and the third for Öland was a dark-morph first-summer photographed on 7 August.

**WADERS** The seventh **Cream-coloured Courser** *Cursorius cursor* for France stayed in the Crau, Bouches-du-Rhône, on 11-15 September, together with seven Eurasian Dotterels *Charadrius morinellus*. Two **Collared Pratincoles** *Glareola pratincola* were seen in Niedersachsen on 4 August and a **Black-winged Pratincole** *G. nordmanni* was in Uppland, Sweden, on 8 August. Two new breeding wader species for the Palearctic and Eurasia were found during an expedition in Chukotsky Peninsula, Siberia, Russia, in spring 2002: **Semipalmated Plover** *C. semipalmatus* and **Black Turnstone** *Arenaria melanocephala* (Alula 10: 106-119, 2004). The third **Mongolian Plover** *C. mongolus mongolus* for Britain (and the second for Scotland) was an adult-summer male at Aberlady Bay, Lothian, on 8-9 July. A female (either a Lesser Sand Plover of the subspecies *C. m. atrifrons/pamirensis* or a Mongolian Plover) was present at Rømø, Sønderjylland, Denmark, on 9-15 July and at Lakolk Klitsø on 12-17 August. The seventh **Greater Sand Plover** *C. leschenaultii* for the Netherlands stayed for less than 2 h at Battenoord, Zuid-Holland, on 16 September. After surveys of the last-known breeding areas of **Sociable Lapwings** *Vanellus gregarius* in the steppes of the Tengiz depression in central Kazakhstan in 2001-03 revealed a serious decline with perhaps only 120 adults remaining (Sandgrouse 24: 22-27, 2002; Dutch Birding 25: 263, 2003), no less than 22 adults and 94 chicks were trapped and colour-ringed here during May-July 2004. For each individual, a different colour combination has been applied in an effort to obtain a better understanding of survival and movements during the non-breeding season. Sightings with details of colour-ring combinations, location and date should be sent to will.creswell@st-andrews.ac.uk. In Germany, the adult at Holtgaster See, Rheiderland, Niedersachsen, stayed from 4 July to 21 August. The third **Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris* for Britain was an adult-summer at the Wyre Estuary, Lancashire, on 31 July and again on 16-17 August. What may have been the same bird visited Swords Estuary, Ireland, on 25 July. The first **Semipalmated Sandpiper** *C. pusilla* for Lancashire was an adult at Brockholes Quarry on 25 July. In Spain, one

was seen at Itsmo de la Lanzada, O Grove, Pontevedra, on 22 and 29 August. A juvenile was reported at Banc d'Arguin, Gironde, France, on 5 September. In the Netherlands, the adult-summer **Red-necked Stint** *C. ruficollis* photographed at Slikken van Flakkee, Zuid-Holland, on 6 July was not seen subsequently. **Least Sandpipers** *C. minutilla* were reported from Texel, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, on 10 August and Maché, Vendée, France, on 13 August. In Germany, a juvenile **Baird's Sandpiper** *C. bairdii* stayed at Rieselfelder Münster, Nordrhein-Westfalen, on 28-31 August. Others were, eg, at Tacumshin, Wexford, on 25 July (an adult), at Minsmere, Suffolk, England, on 7 August, at Lissagriffin Lake, Cork, Ireland, on 9 August (an adult), at Lady's Island Lake, Wexford, on 14 August, on Tresco and on St Mary's, Scilly, from 30 August to at least 5 September, in Gwent, Britain, on 3 September, at Tacumshin from 2 September (a juvenile; together with a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** on 5 September), and at Sein, Finistère, France, on 14 September. The second Baird's Sandpiper for Norway was at Røstlandet, Nordland, on 12-14 September, following the first on 31 May 2004 at the same location. The first **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *C. acuminata* for Cornwall and the 25th for Britain was an adult at Drift Reservoir on 6-7 August. The third **Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus* for Ireland remained from 30 June to 15 August at Lady's Island Lake, Wexford. A **Hudsonian Whimbrel** *Numenius hudsonicus* reportedly flew west past Pendeen Watchpoint, Cornwall, on 20 August. A **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* flew over Ghadira, Malta, on 26 August. The **Greater Yellowlegs** *T. melanoleuca* in Northern Ireland stayed at Quoile Pondage, Down, from 24 May to at least 3 August. The second **Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* for Ireland, was at Blennerville, Kerry, from 6 September. A juvenile **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* discovered at Étang de Léhan, Finistère, as early as 22 August was still present on 11 September; it was the 14th for France. An adult **Red Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius* was present in the Riga bay at Mersrags, Latvia, from 28 July.

**GULLS TO TERNS** An adult **Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla* was at the Hayle Estuary, Cornwall, on 23-24 August. The fifth **Franklin's Gull** *L. pipixcan* for the Netherlands stayed near Kesteren, Gelderland, on 18-24 September. In France, an adult **Bonaparte's Gull** *L. philadelphia* was seen at Porspaul, Lampaul-Plouarzel, Finistère, from 18 September. In the Netherlands, the **Ring-billed Gull** *L. delawarensis* at Goes, Zeeland, last seen on 8 February had returned by 27 July for its eighth consecutive 'winter' (the first sighting was on 18 January 1998). Another returning adult in the Netherlands, first present at Tiel, Gelderland, from 4 January to 11 March was seen again from 4 August. The long-staying first-summer **American Herring Gull** *L. smithsonianus* remained through August at Nimmo's Pier, Galway, Ireland. The largest colony of 400 pairs of **Audouin's Gull** *L. audouinii* for Italy was situated in a coastal saltmarsh in south-western Sardinia this summer, with another colony of





**478** Masked Booby / Maskergent *Sula dactylatra*, adult, Rishon Letzion, Israel, 16 July 2004 (*Itzik Amir*) **479** Pallas's Gull / Reuzenzwartkopmeeuw *Larus ichthyaetus*, second-winter, Bugaj fish ponds, Zator, Poland, 16 September 2004 (*Damian Wiehle*) **480-481** Great Knot / Grote Kanoet *Calidris tenuirostris*, adult, Skipool Creek, Lancashire, England, 16 August 2004 (*Mike Malpass*) **482** Greater Sand Plover / Woestijnplevier *Charadrius leschenaultii*, Battenoord, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 16 September 2004 (*Pim A Wolf*) **483** Lesser Sand Plover / Mongoolse Plevier *Charadrius mongolus*, Aberlady Bay, Lothian, Scotland, 8 July 2004 (*Tristan Reid*)



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**484-485** Purple Martin / Purperzwaluw *Progne subis*, juvenile, Butt of Lewis, Lewis, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, 6 September 2004 (*Martin Scott*) **486-487** Purple Martin / Purperzwaluw *Progne subis*, juvenile, Butt of Lewis, Lewis, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, 6 September 2004 (*Adrian Webb*) **488** White-winged Lark / Witvleugelleeuwerik *Melanocorypha leucoptera*, female, Vardø, Finnmark, Norway, 19 July 2004 (*Kjetil Bekkeli*) **489** Brown Shrike / Bruine Klauwier *Lanius cristatus*, Skaw, Whalsay, Shetland, 22 September 2004 (*Hugh Harrop/Shetland Wildlife*)

100 pairs nearby. An **Ivory Gull** *Pagophila eburnea* was reported from Vågan, Nordland, Norway, on 7 July. In France, a **Royal Tern** *S maxima* was photographed at Banc d'Arguin, Gironde, on 9 July (the first for France) and an **Elegant Tern** *S elegans* in Morbihan on 14 July. Following the rediscovery of **Chinese Crested Tern** *S bernsteini* in 2000 in the Taiwanese held Matsu group within 10 km from the Chinese mainland, surveys were conducted along the south-eastern coasts of China by ornithologists from Zhejiang and Xiamen. These surveys resulted this summer in the discovery of two different locations for the species, one on an uninhabited island off northern Zhejiang province, where 20 individuals were found in a colony of 4000 Greater Crested Terns *S bergii*, and another not far from Xiamen city in Fujian province where two individuals were seen ([www.wvfchina.org/list.shtm?id=6727](http://www.wvfchina.org/list.shtm?id=6727)). Meanwhile, at least 10 individuals were again seen on Matsu on 3 July (cf Dutch Birding 22: 248-249, plate 249, 2000, 23: 300, 2001, 24: 378, 2002, 26: 267, 2004). The adult (orange-billed tern showing characters of) **Elegant Tern** paired with a Sandwich Tern *S sandvicensis* remained with a hybrid chick at Ebro delta, Tarragona, until 17 August. At the same site, a pair of **Lesser Crested Terns** *S bengalensis* bred this summer. A record 14 **Arctic Terns** were seen at Eilat's north beach, Israel, on 16-20 July. The first **Aleutian Tern** *S aleutica* for South Korea was an adult found 70 km east-south-east of Socheong island on 23 August. In Israel, an adult **White-cheeked Tern** *S repressa* remained at Ma'agan Michael from 25 July into September (possibly, it concerned the same individual as one in 2003). The first **Bridled Tern** *S anaethetus* for Norway photographed at Hamningberg in Varanger, Finnmark, was seen on 6 July only. Another turned up at Mosteiros, São Miguel, Azores, on 11 July. Up to four were seen at Eilat's north beach during July. An individual at Ma'agan Michael on 21-22 August was probably the same as the one in 2003 (which was then the first for the Mediterranean coast of Israel).

**CUCKOOS TO SWIFTS** The Finnish rarities committee decided to remove **Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus* from the Finnish list as the identification of all individuals remains in doubt due to the fact that their vocalizations differed in details from what is known for the species in European Russia and Asia. Singing birds had been reported annually at Lieksa, Savijärvi, in 1998-2001 and in some of these years at Karstula and Joutsa as well; in May 2001, one was trapped (cf Dutch Birding 20: 132, 187, 1998; 21: 176, 1999; 22: 168, 2000; 23: 228, 2001). A male **Snowy Owl** *Bubo scandiacus* was seen on Arranmore Island, Donegal, on 11-13 August. If accepted, a **White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer* at Funchal on 29 June will be the first for Madeira. Up to six were seen at El Castillo in Monfragüe National Park, Extremadura, Spain, on 1 August.

**LARKS TO WARBLERS** The second **White-winged Lark** *Melanocorypha leucoptera* for Norway was a female at Vardø, Finnmark, from 19 July to 25 August. In Scotland, the first **Purple Martin** *Progne subis* for the WP

was an immature at Butt of Lewis lighthouse, Outer Hebrides, on 5-6 September. Another juvenile was reported from Flores, Azores, on 6 September. A **Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia* at Tardinghen, Pas-de-Calais, on 20-24 August was only the fifth for France. The first **Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus* for Russia was collected at Dzhennet, Chukotka, on 1 June 2002 (a **White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys* was also shot here; Alula 10: 106-119, 2004). If accepted, a **Swainson's Thrush** *C ustulatus* at Suðursveit on 10 August will be the third for Iceland. In Germany, a **Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* was present in Nordrhein-Westfalen on 16-21 August. This summer, five singing **Lanceolated Warblers** *Locustella lanceolata* and three pairs of **Booted Warbler** *Acrocephalus caligatus* were present in Finland. The first **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** *A pallidus elaeicus* for Norway was trapped at Titran, Sør-Trøndelag, on 12 September. On 18 August, the third or fourth **River Warbler** *L fluviatilis* for Italy was ringed in the Piemonte region. In Armenia, six singing **Paddyfield Warblers** *A agricola* were recorded in Ararat in May-July. One was trapped at Vrhnika ringing station, Slovenia, on 15 August. The first for Iceland was at Brekka, Lón, on 18-20 September. A **Blyth's Reed Warbler** *A dumetorum* was trapped and ringed on Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, the Netherlands, on 29 July. On Utsira, Rogaland, Norway, one was ringed on 30 August. If accepted, an **African Desert Warbler** *Sylvia deserti* 5 km from Corralejo on Lanzarote on 23 July will be the second or third for the Canary Islands (this taxon has also been found, eg, in Cape Verde Islands, Linosa (off southern Sicily), Madeira and Malta). The second **Green Warbler** *Phylloscopus nitidus* for Israel was near Menagemya, Jordan valley, on 24-25 August (the first was at Eilat in October 1987). On the British east coast, at least 14 **Greenish Warblers** *P trochiloides* turned up on 10-17 August, nearly all in Scotland. **Arctic Warblers** *P borealis* occurred on Sylt, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, on 5 September and Norwick, Shetland, on 7 September. Probably the first **Yellow-browed Warbler** *P inornatus* for this autumn in Europe was trapped at Joensuu, Finland, on 4 September.

**SHRIKES TO BUNTINGS** An adult male **Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus* was present at Skaw, Whalsay, Shetland, from 19 September onwards. In Britain, adult **Lesser Grey Shrikes** *L minor* were present at Derby, Derbyshire, on 11-12 July, at Gulberwick, Shetland, from 17 to at least 30 August (the 19th for Shetland), and at Windwick, South Ronaldsay, on 23 August (the fifth for Orkney). The one at Sebybadet, Öland, remained from 14 to 31 July. In Finland, one stayed at Vaasa from 24 July onwards and two were reported in southern Finland on 8 August. In Norway, one was seen at Farsund, Vest-Agder, on 6 August. In Germany, an adult male was found in Sachsen-Anhalt on 15 August. A **Steppe Grey Shrike** *L pallidirostris* was at Ångermanland, Fällsvikshamn, Sweden, on 19 and one was found at Yotvata, Israel, on 22 September. The autumn's first **Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* for

## WP reports

the WP (and the earliest ever) was trapped on Cape Clear Island, Cork, on 5 September, and was followed by one at Smerwick Harbour, Kerry, on 14 September. A juvenile **Trumpeter Finch** *Bucanetes githagineus* was seen on Linosa off Sicily in early August. The first nest of **Mongolian Finch** *B. mongolicus* for Armenia was under construction in Ararat on 10 June and fledglings were seen on 20 July. A small number of **Two-barred Crossbills** *Loxia leucoptera bifasciata* was observed in early July in northern Finland during an influx of Common Crossbills *L. curvirostra*. One was reported at Hamburg, Germany, on 4 August. In July, 14 nesting pairs of **Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala* with young (of which 12 near Constanta) constituted the first evidence of breeding for Romania. A first-winter on Inner Farne on 23 August was the fourth for Northumberland.

For a number of reports, Birding World, British Birds, Rare Birds Weekly, Sovon-nieuws, World Birdwatch, www.birdguides.com

and www.netfugl.dk were consulted. I wish to thank Gary Allport, Vasil Ananian (Armenia), Mindy Baha El Din (Egypt), Chris Batty, Chris Bell, Vegard Bunes, Mike Carter, Agris Celmins, Alain Chappuis, Tony Clarke, Andrea Corso (Italy), Jochen Dierschke, Hugues Dufourny, Enno Ebels, Lee Evans, Dick Forsman, Raymond Galea (Malta), Martin Garner, Barak Granit, Marcello Grussu (Sardinia), Ricard Gutiérrez (Spain), Martin Helin, Erik Hirschfeld, Gaukur Hjartarson (Iceland), Niklas Holmström, Maris Jaunzemis, Yann Kolbeinsson, Justin Jansen, Erling Jirle (Sweden), Adrian Jordi, Krys Kazmierczak (OBC), Yann Kolbeinsson (Iceland), Tomasz Kulakowski, Vern Laux, Harry LeGrand, Pierre Le Maréchal (France), André van Loon, Richard Millington, Dominic Mitchell, Niall Moores, Killian Mullarney, Gerald Oreel, Gert Ottens, Menotti Passarella, Andrew Paterson, Yoav Perlman (IRDC), Brett Richards, Colin Richardson (UAE), Edward Rickson, Magnus Robb, Alex Roetemeijer, Luciano Ruggieri, Michael Sammut, Nir Sapir (Israel), Holger Schritt, Dare Sere, Chen Shuihua (Zhejiang), Tadeusz Stawarczyk, Jeremiah Trimble, Pierre Unge (Sweden), Jared Wilson, Frank Zino and Maxime Zucca (France) for their help in compiling this review.

Arnoud B van den Berg, Duinlustparkweg 98, 2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid, Netherlands  
(arnoud.vandenberg@planet.nl)

## Recente meldingen

Dit overzicht van recente meldingen van zeldzame en interessante vogels in Nederland en België beslaat voornamelijk de periode **juli-augustus 2004**. 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, e-mail cdna@dutchbirding.nl. Hiertoe gelieve men gebruik te maken van CDNA-waarnemingsformulieren die eveneens verkrijgbaar zijn bij bovenstaand adres, of via de website van de DBA op www.dutchbirding.nl.

### Nederland

**GANZEN TOT VALKEN** Na de waarneming eind mei werd wederom een groep **Sneeuwganzen** *Anser caerulescens* waargenomen in het Lauwersmeergebied, Groningen. Ditmaal betrof het 14 exemplaren, waaronder één blauwe vorm, die op 9 en 10 augustus werden gezien. Een achtergebleven **Witbuikrotgans** *Branta hrota* verbleef van 24 juli tot 9 augustus in de Putten van Camperduin, Noord-Holland. Vanaf 22 augustus foerageerde een vroege **Zwarte Rotgans** *B. nigricans* op Vlieland, Friesland. De jaarlijkse telling van **Casarca's Tadorna ferruginea** op het Eemmeer bij Huizen, Noord-

Holland, leverde eind juli een maximum van 250 exemplaren op. Vooral in augustus werden kleinere groepen elders opgemerkt: 29 in de Workumerwaard, Friesland, maximaal 23 in de Lauwersmeer en 15 op de Ventjagersplaten, Zuid-Holland. Op 25 augustus vlogen er 21 in oostelijke richting langs Schiermonnikoog, Friesland. Een ongeringde juveniele **Marmereend** *Marmaronetta angustirostris* van 14 tot 16 augustus bij Pannerden, Gelderland, bracht de gemoederen in beroering over een mogelijk wilde herkomst en de mogelijke toevoeging aan de Nederlandse lijst. **Wit-ooggeenden** *Aythya nyroca* werden gezien op 9 juli in het Harderbroek, Flevoland, en op 8 augustus bij telpost IJmeerdijk bij Almere, Flevoland. Het mannetje **Ringsnaveleend** *Aythya collaris* van de Horsmeertjes op Texel, Noord-Holland, werd daar nog gezien op 11 juli en – inmiddels in eclipskleed – op 1 en 22 augustus. Het mannetje **Blauwvleugeltaling** *Anas discors* van dit eiland zwom daar nog op 1 juli. Bijzonder is de overzomerende **Ijseend** *Clangula hyemalis* vanaf 9 juli bij Den Oever, Noord-Holland. Vanaf 13 augustus werden 18 **Grauwe Pijlstormvogels** *Puffinus griseus* waargenomen. Van de negen gemelde **Noordse Pijlstormvogels** *P. puffinus* vlogen er acht voorbij in de eerste helft van juli. Slechts twee **Vale Pijlstormvogels** *P. mauretanicus* werden gemeld: op 8 juli langs Camperduin en op 26 augustus bij Bloemendaal aan Zee, Noord-Holland. Redelijk uitzonderlijk waren de **Vale Stormvogeltjes** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* al op 10 juli langs Camperduin en op 30 juli langs de Langevelderslag, Zuid-

Holland. Vanaf 30 augustus werden er nog eens 10 gezien. **Kuifaalscholwers** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* werden gemeld op 2 juli bij Westkapelle, Zeeland, op 21 augustus bij de Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, en op 26 en 29 augustus bij IJmuiden, Noord-Holland. Eind juli werden twee verschillende juveniele **Woudapen** *Ixobrychus minutus* gezien bij Budel-Dorplein, Noord-Brabant. Andere exemplaren waren er op 28 juli vliegend over Wieringerwerf, Noord-Holland, van 1 tot 4 augustus bij Diependal, Drenthe, vanaf 13 augustus een juveniele in de Bokkedoorns, Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland, en van 28 tot 29 augustus twee mannetjes in de Rottemeren bij Zevenhuizen, Zuid-Holland. Bij Tienhoven, Utrecht, kwam het totaal in juni op twee en mogelijk drie vogels. **Kwakken** *Nycticorax nycticorax* verbleven op 3 juli in Rotterdam-Overschie, Zuid-Holland, van 18 tot 28 juli in Bergen, Noord-Holland, op 2 augustus over De Horde bij Lopik, Utrecht, op 4 augustus bij Capelle aan den IJssel, Zuid-Holland, en op 8 augustus in een tuin te Oudenbosch, Noord-Brabant. Van eind juli tot 21 augustus pleisterde een **Koereiger** *Bubulcus ibis* in de polder bij Camperduin. Een andere verbleef van 5 tot 29 augustus in de Bantpolder, Friesland. De grootste aantallen **Kleine Zilverreigers** *Egretta garzetta* werden gezien in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, Zeeland, met 32 op 16 juli in het Verdrongen Land van Saeftinge en 22 op 25 augustus tussen Nummer Eén en Terneuzen. De tellingen van langstreckende **Purperreigers** *Ardea purpurea* over de Gorzen bij Ridderkerk, Zuid-Holland, leverde

in augustus een totaal van 306 exemplaren, waarvan slechts 27 voor 15 augustus en een maximum van 107 op 31 augustus. Van 4 tot 8 september kwamen er nog eens 282 over. De aankomst dan wel doortrek van **Zwarte Ooievaars** *Ciconia nigra* deze zomer nam buitengewone proporties aan; daarmee zet de opwaartse trend van de laatste jaren sterk door. Na enkelingen begin juli werden vanaf 18 juli c 240 exemplaren gemeld. Locaties waar op meerdere dagen enkele exemplaren werden gezien waren: De Hamert en De Banen in Limburg, de Ooijpolder en omstreken, Gelderland, de Oostvaardersplassen, Flevoland, de Oelermars bij Losser, Overijssel, en Midwolda, Groningen. De grootste aantallen werden gezien op 19 augustus (14) bij Langbroek, Utrecht, en vanaf 20 juli eerst enkele en vanaf 2 augustus meer dan 10 bij het Grafven op de Strabrechtse Heide, Noord-Brabant, met als maximum 18 op 29 augustus. Een uitzonderlijk grote groep van ruim 425 **Ooievaars** *C. ciconia* had zich op 15 augustus verzameld tussen De Wijk en Meppel, Drenthe. Een **Zwarte Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* met een aluminium ring aan de rechterpoot verbleef van 15 tot 29 augustus bij Akersloot, Zuid-Holland. Een ander exemplaar werd gezien op 22 augustus langs de A7 bij Toppenhuzen (Oppenhuizen), Friesland. **Zwarte Wouwen** *Milvus migrans* en **Rode Wouwen** *M. milvus* zijn in het najaar aanzienlijk schaarser dan in het voorjaar. Toch werden er in deze periode redelijk wat gemeld met respectievelijk 22 en 23 exemplaren. Ook dit jaar waren er weer zomermeldingen van

490 Dougalls Stern / Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, adult, Neeltje Jans, Zeeland, 13 augustus 2004 (Pim A Wolf)





*Recente meldingen*



**491** Marmereend / Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris*, juveniel, Pannerden, Gelderland, 15 augustus 2004  
(Patrick Palmen)

**492** Porseleinhoen / Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*, Starrevaart, Leidschendam, Zuid-Holland, 18 augustus 2004  
(Chris van Rijswijk)





**Zeearenden** *Haliaeetus albicilla*, en wel van 10 tot 15 juli en op 27 augustus in de Oostvaardersplassen, op 17 juli over Noordpolderzijl, Groningen, op 1 augustus bij Haarlem, Noord-Holland, en op 15 augustus in de Wieringermeer, Noord-Holland. Op 6 juli werd een **Vale Gier** *Gyps fulvus* gemeld bij Midwolda. Vanaf 7 juli werd wederom een **Slangenarend** *Circaetus gallicus* gezien op het Deelensche Veld op De Hoge Veluwe, Gelderland. Tot 31 juli werd de soort hier regelmatig gemeld. Andere meldingen kwamen op 5 juli van De Hamert en op 9 juli van de Engbertsdijksvenen, Overijssel. Buiten de broedgebieden werden in augustus slechts drie doortrekkende **Grauwe Kiekendieven** *Circus pygargus* gezien. Een **Arendbuizerd** *Buteo rufinus* werd op 9 juli gezien en gefotografeerd in de Ezumakeeg, Friesland; op 28 augustus was er ook een melding boven Sint Laurens, Zeeland. Een lichte vorm **Dwergarend** *Hieraetus pennatus* werd op 7 juli gemeld over Leiden, Zuid-Holland. Tussen 21 juli en 22 augustus werden 16 **Roodpootvalken** *Falco vespertinus* gezien, met een piekje tussen 6 en 10 augustus.

**RALLEN TOT ALKEN** Het **Kleinste Waterhoen** *Porzana pusilla* van het gebied Lentevreugd bij Wassenaar, Zuid-Holland, riep daar nog tot 12 augustus; mogelijk waren er twee exemplaren aanwezig. Buiten de omgeving van het Focheloërveen, Drenthe/Friesland, werden **Kraanvogels** *Grus grus* gezien tot 20 augustus bij Midwolda, op 9 augustus acht over Boerakker, Groningen, van 13 tot 29 augustus vijf bij het Jaap Deensgat in de Lauwersmeer, Groningen, en van 28 augustus tot in september bij de Landschotse Heide, Noord-Brabant. Een broedgeval van **Steltkluit** *Himantopus himantopus* vond dit jaar plaats bij Cillaarshoek, Zuid-Holland; drie jongen werden grootgebracht. Op 18 juli werden de ouders nog gezien met twee jongen. Andere verbleven op 20 juli (drie) in de Sloehaven, Zeeland, en op 30 juli (vier) in de Autrichepolder bij Sas van Gent, Zeeland. Een **Griël** *Burhinus oedichnemus* kwam op 7 juli bij Westkapelle aanvliegen over zee, landde op de dijk en pleisterde vervolgens enkele uren achter de dijk. **Morinelplevieren** *Charadrius morinellus* werden gezien vanaf 11 augustus, maar vooral na 22 augustus met als grootste groepen pleisteraars maximaal 17 van 24 tot 26 augustus in de Prunjepolder. Voorts werden er 20 ter plaatse en niet minder dan 73 overvliegers opgemerkt, waaronder een groep van 37 op 26 augustus langs de Vijfhoek bij Diemen, Noord-Holland. Spectaculair maar helaas niet te bezoeken was de vierde **Roodkeelstrandloper** *Calidris ruficollis* voor ons land: een adult in zomerkleed verbleef op 6 juli nog geen twee uur op de Slikken van Flakke, Zuid-Holland. Een mogelijke **Kleinste Strandloper** *C minutilla* werd op 10 augustus (te) kort gezien in het Wagejot op Texel. **Bonapartes Strandloper** *C fuscicollis* behoort inmiddels tot de regelmatige zeldzaamheden in de zomermaanden met in deze periode vijf meldingen: van 12 tot 15 juli in de Ezumakeeg, op 24 juli in polder Breebaart, Groningen, van 24 tot 26

juli in polder IJdoorn bij Durgerdam, Noord-Holland, op 31 juli en 1 augustus bij Westhoek, Friesland, en op 1 augustus op Terschelling, Friesland. Op 14 augustus zou er wederom één de Ezumakeeg hebben bezocht. De jaarlijkse oogst aan **Gestreepte Strandlopers** *C melanotos* bedroeg in juli en augustus 18 exemplaren op 14 locaties. De **Steltstrandloper** *C himantopus* van de Ezumakeeg bleef daar tot 12 juli. Er werden meer **Breedbekstrandlopers** *Limicola falcinellus* dan gebruikelijk gezien: van 11 tot 13 juli in polder IJdoorn, van 17 tot 26 juli in polder Breebaart met een maximum van vijf op 24 juli, en op 21 en 22 augustus met op de eerste dag drie, van 10 tot 14 augustus in de Scherpenissepolder, Zeeland, met op de laatste dag twee, vanaf 10 augustus regelmatig één in de Prunjepolder, Zeeland, op 13 augustus bij Wierum, Friesland, op 14, 22 en 29 augustus bij Zwarte Haan, Friesland, op 15 augustus op Vlieland, op 15 augustus twee en 29 en 30 augustus één bij Westhoek, op 15 augustus bij het Stinkgat op Tholen, Zeeland, op 16 augustus op de Hooge Platen in de Westerschelde, Zeeland, en op 17 augustus bij Achter de Zwarten in de Lauwersmeer, Groningen. Op 6 augustus werd een **Poelsnip** *Gallinago media* gemeld in het gebied De Wilck bij Hazerswoude-Rijndijk, Zuid-Holland. In de Lauwersmeer werden van 12 juli tot 18 augustus meerdere **Poelruiters** *Tringa stagnatilis* gezien met een maximum van drie op één dag. Buiten het Lauwersmeergebied werden vanaf 10 juli niet minder dan 25 exemplaren gezien, waaronder twee op 25 juli in de Scherpenissepolder en drie op 12 augustus bij Den Oever, Noord-Holland. De **Kleine Geelpootruiter** *T flavipes* van de Scherpenissepolder werd daar weer gezien vanaf 30 juli tot in september. Andere werden gemeld op 31 juli bij Nummer Eén, en op 10 en 11 augustus in de Eemshaven, Groningen. De 47 doorgegeven **Grauwe Franjepoten** *Phalaropus lobatus* werden, op enkele exemplaren na, alle in augustus gezien, waaronder op 8 augustus drie bij het Rammegors, Zeeland, op 14 augustus vier in de Ezumakeeg en op 31 augustus vijf in het Wagejot op Texel. Een binnenlandwaarneming van een **Middelste Jager** *Stercorarius pomarinus* vond plaats op 31 augustus langs de telpost IJmeerdijk. Vanaf 10 augustus vlogen c 15 **Kleinste Jagers** *S longicaudus* langs de kust; het merendeel (12) trok langs Westkapelle waarvan alleen al zeven op 31 augustus. In het binnenland vloog een vogel over de Landschotse Heide op 15 augustus en was een juveniele ter plaatse op het Ringselven bij Budel-Dorplein van 21 tot 27 augustus, toen de vogel in verzwakte staat werd opgeraapt (en later overleed). Vanaf 26 augustus vlogen alweer vier **Vorkstaartmeeuwen** *Larus sabini* langs de kust. Zowel de **Ringsnavelmeeuw** *L delawarensis* van Goes, Zeeland, als die van Tiel, Gelderland, werden weer gezien, respectievelijk vanaf 27 juli en 4 augustus. Voor de vogel van Goes is dit het achtste seizoen. Vanaf 29 augustus was voor het negende jaar de adulte **Grote Burgemeester** *L hyperboreus* aanwezig in Den Helder, Noord-Holland. Onvolwassen vogels werden gemeld van 11 juli tot 1 augustus in Katwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland, op 22 juli langs de Langevelder-

Recente meldingen



**493** Woudaap / Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*, adult mannetje, Zevenhuizen, Zuid-Holland, 30 augustus 2004 (Chris van Rijswijk) **494** Zwarte Ooievaars / Black Storks *Ciconia nigra*, Strabrechtse Heide, Noord-Brabant, 9 september 2004 (Harm Niesen) **495** Zwarte Ooievaar / Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, juveniel, Larserweg, Flevoland, 6 september 2004 (Hans ter Haar) **496** Griel / Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicanus*, Westkapelle, Zeeland, 7 juli 2004 (Pim A Wolf)





**497** Kleinste Jager / Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*, juveniel, Budel-Dorplein, Noord-Brabant, 21 augustus 2004 (*Ran Schols*)

**498** Kleinste Jager / Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*, juveniel, Budel-Dorplein, Noord-Brabant, 26 augustus 2004 (*Rob G Bouwman*)





Recente meldingen



**499** Witwangstern / Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*, adult, Budel-Dorplein, Noord-Brabant, 12 augustus 2004 (Rob G Bouwman) **500** Lachstern / Gull-billed Tern *Gelocheilidon nilotica*, Schagerbrug, Noord-Holland, 17 augustus 2004 (Harm Niesen) **501** Ringsnavelmeeuw / Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*, adult, Goes, Zeeland, 23 augustus 2004 (Harm Niesen) **502** Reuzenster / Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*, met Visdief / Common Tern *S hirundo*, Stellendam, Zuid-Holland, 30 augustus 2004 (Rudi Dujardin)

slag, op 7 augustus op het Kennemermeer bij IJmuiden, op 22 en 26 augustus bij de Bokkedoorns en op 31 augustus langs de Maasvlakte. De eerste **Lachstern** *Gelocheilidon nilotica* werd vanaf 6 juli gezien in de polders bij 't Zand, Noord-Holland. Hier waren regelmatig exemplaren aanwezig, met van 15 tot 22 augustus een maximum van 13 vogels. Vanaf 17 juli werden elders in het land 18 langsvliegende en 10 ter plaatse gezien. Aan de Friese IJsselmeerkust pleisterden vanaf 4 juli meerdere **Reuzenster** *Sterna caspia* waarvan het aantal in de loop van augustus toenam tot maximaal c 75 (verspreid over de locaties Makkum, Piaam, Workumerwaard en Steile Bank). Het hoogste aantal op één plek was 71 op 21 augustus in de Makkumerzuidwaard. Andere pleisterplaatsen (met maxima in augustus) waren: 13 in het Lauwersmeergebied, eveneens 13 in het gebied Drontermeer-Vossemeer, Flevo-

land, en zes bij Stellendam, Zuid-Holland. Elders werden nog c 35 exemplaren gemeld, al dan niet ter plaatse. Op 13 augustus werd aan de Oosterscheldekering, Zeeland, een adulte, aan beide poten geringde, **Dougalls Stern** *S dougallii* ontdekt die evenwel niet lang bleef zitten; de vogel bleek te zijn geringd op Rockabill, Dublin, Ierland. Later die dag werd daar mogelijk ook een juveniele gezien. Op 2 augustus was er een claim van een **Bristern** *S anaethetus* in de vaargeul voor de kust van Dishoek, Zeeland. **Witwangstern** *Chlidonias hybrida* werden waargenomen op 4 en 5 juli in de Onnerpolder bij het Zuidlaardermeer, Groningen, op 10 augustus bij de Grevelingendam, Zeeland, op 12 augustus bij Budel-Dorplein en op 24 en 30 augustus langs Westkapelle. Er werden vanaf 10 juli c 75 **Witvleugelstern** *C leucopterus* doorgegeven met het zwaartepunt van de waarnemingen in augustus





**503** Zwarte Wouw / Black Kite *Milvus migrans*, Kennemermeer, IJmuiden, Noord-Holland, 10 augustus 2004 (Ronald van Dijk) **504** Ortolaan / Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*, Zuidpier, IJmuiden, Noord-Holland, 18 augustus 2004 (Maarten Pieter Lantsheer) **505** Breedbekstrandloper / Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*, adult, IJdoorn, Noord-Holland, 12 juli 2004 (Leo J R Boon/Cursorius) **506** Bonapartes Strandloper / White-rumped Sandpiper *Caldidris fuscicollis*, Ezumakeeg, Friesland, 12 juli 2004 (Dušan M Brinkhuizen)

en voornamelijk in het IJsselmeergebied. Pleisterplaatsen (met maxima in augustus) waren bijvoorbeeld 13 bij Delfzijl, Groningen, zes in de Workumerwaard, vier op de Steile Bank en vier bij Den Oever. Op 29 juli vloog een **Zwarte Zeekoet** *Cephus grylle* langs Camperduin.

**GIERZWALUWEN TOT GORZEN** **Alpengierzwaluwen** *Apus melba* vlogen op 15 juli bij Deventer, Overijssel, en op 19 juli in de AW-duinen bij Zandvoort, Noord-Holland. Op 4 en 5 juli waren acht **Bijeneters** *Merops apiaster*, waaronder enkele juveniele, aanwezig in de Scherpenissepolder. Andere vlogen op 20 juli over het Jan van den Boschpad, Flevoland, op 28 juli (alleen roepend gehoord) over Vlaardingen, Zuid-Holland, op 6 augustus over Castricum, Noord-Holland, en op 9 augustus over de duinen bij Bergen. Een **Hop** *Upupa*

*epops* verbleef op 20 augustus bij Montfort, Limburg. Het vermelden waard is het verhaal van twee juveniele **Rotszwaluwen** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* die door een zorgzame vogelaar op vakantie vanuit de Ardèche, Frankrijk (waar een nest met drie jongen van een wand was gevallen en twee jongen overleefden), werden meegenomen naar Den Haag, Zuid-Holland; één jong ontsnapte daar bij thuiskomst en de andere werd op 22 augustus losgelaten. Op 31 augustus werd al een **Grote Pieper** *Anthus richardi* gemeld bij Wieringerwerf. De eerste **Duinpieper** *A campestris* vloog op 27 juli over het Grafven op de Strabrechtse Heide. De overige 21 die doorgegeven werden volgden in augustus. Een **blonde tapuit** *Oenanthe hispanica/melanoleuca* werd op 14 juli gemeld bij Herkingen, Zuid-Holland, maar kon door toegesnelde vogelaars niet worden teruggevonden. **Cetti's Zangers** *Cettia cetti* werden waargenomen

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507 Struikrietzanger / Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*, Groene Glop, Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, 29 juli 2004 (Henri Bouwmeester)

men op 18 en van 29 tot 31 augustus bij Stellendam, op 23 augustus in het Zwanenwater, Noord-Holland, en op 29 augustus bij Cadzand-Bad, Zeeland. De vogel van het Zwanenwater was daar naar verluidt al vanaf april aanwezig. Er waren **Graszangers** *Cisticola juncidis* aanwezig op 7 en 21 juli en 3 en 28 augustus bij Westkapelle, op 16 juli – maar vermoedelijk de hele periode – in het Verdronken Land van Saeftinge, vanaf 18 juli één en in augustus minstens vier op het schor bij Hoofdplaat en het Paulinaschor, Zeeland, op 24 juli in de Lauwersmeer, en op 4 en 11 augustus bij Westenschouwen, Zeeland. De drie **Orpheusspottvogels** *Hippolais polyglotta* bleven tot 4 juli bij De Weerribben, Overijssel, en bij Terziet, Limburg, en tot 5 juli bij Ter Apel, Groningen. Op 29 juli werd een **Struikrietzanger** *Acrocephalus dumetorum* geringd op Schiermonnikoog. Vanaf die datum werden c 40 **Waterrietzangers** *A. paludicola* vastgesteld waarvan er 18 werden gevangen en geringd; de hotspot wat betreft vangsten was het Verdronken Land van Saeftinge. De Bakkersdam bij Petten, Noord-Holland, en het Kennemermeer waren de plaatsen waar er meerdere werden gezien, met dagmaxima van drie. **Sperwergrasmussen** *Sylvia nisoria* werden vastgesteld op 2 augustus (vangst) te Westenschouwen, op 9 augustus (vangst) op Schiermonnikoog, op 11 augustus (vangst) in De Kennemerduinen, Noord-Holland, op 14, 15 en 16 augustus bij Westkapelle, op 15 augustus op Texel, op



508 Waterrietzanger / Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*, Bakkersdam, Petten, Noord-Holland, 7 augustus 2004 (Harm Niesen)

24 augustus op Schiermonnikoog, op 28 augustus twee op de noordoostpunt van Vlieland en op 29 augustus op de Maasvlakte. **Grauwe Fitissen** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* werden gemeld op 4 augustus in Wageningen, Gelderland, op 24 augustus in Groningen, Groningen, en op 27 augustus bij Rolde, Drenthe. Er was een vangst op 9 augustus in het Groene Glop op Schiermonnikoog; er was dit jaar echter geen bewijs voor een broedgeval op het eiland. Het verblijf van een zingend mannetje **Withalsvliegenvanger** *Ficedula albicollis* van 8 mei tot 27 juni op de Noord-Ginkel bij Ede, Gelderland, werd helaas pas achteraf bekend gemaakt. Een vrouwtje **Roodkopklauwier** *Lanius senator* werd op 16 juli aangetroffen bij Muntendam, Groningen. **Ortolanen** *Emberiza hortulana* waren met slechts 12 exemplaren vanaf 14 augustus schaars.

Ruud M van Dongen, Taalstraat 162, 5261 BJ Vught, Nederland

Klaas Haas, Turkooisstraat 8, 9743 KZ Groningen, Nederland (klaas.haas@dutchbirding.nl)

Peter W W de Rouw, Schoolstraat 3-bis, 3581 PM Utrecht, Nederland (prouw@magma-group.nl)

## België

EENDEN TOT REIGERS Op 13 juli vlogen twee **Casarca's** *Tadorna ferruginea* over Lier-Anderstad en op 22 augustus pleisterde er een bij Lokeren, Oost-Vlaande-

ren. Twee suspecte **Marmereenden** *Marmaronetta angustirostris* zwommen op 1 september op de Leie in Deinze, Oost-Vlaanderen. De hele maand bleef een paar **Krooneenden** *Netta rufina* aanwezig in Harchies, Hainaut. Van 1 tot 29 juli verbleef een mannetje op

Blokkersdijk, Antwerpen, en op 5 juli werd een geslaagd broedgeval vastgesteld bij Oostende. Op 8 en 28 augustus zwom een vrouwtje op het Meer van Virelles, Hainaut. Verrassend was de wel erg vroege terugkeer van het mannetje **Ringsnaveleend** *Aythya collaris* naar de Hamputten in Waasmunster, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 22 augustus. De aanwezigheid van het vrouwtje **Witoogend** *A nyroca* op 28 augustus in Harchies-Hensies, is dubieus te noemen. Op 14 augustus zwom een mannetje **Topper** *A marila* in de Voorhaven van Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen. Een **Nonnetje** *Mergellus albellus* in vrouwtjeskleed werd op 31 juli waargenomen bij Ieper, West-Vlaanderen. Van 8 tot 29 juli pleisterde de **Roodhalsfuut** *Podiceps grisegena* weer op Blokkersdijk. De eerste juveniele dook reeds op 15 augustus op in Duffel-Rumst, Antwerpen. Het exemplaar van de Gavers in Harelbeke, West-Vlaanderen, bleef de hele periode aanwezig. In Iltre, Brabant-Wallon, werd op 21 augustus een **Noordse Stormvogel** *Fulmarus glacialis* opgeraapt. Op 26 en 29 augustus vloog er telkens één **Grauwe Pijlstormvogel** *Puffinus griseus* langs De Panne, West-Vlaanderen, en op 30 augustus passeerden er daar vier. Op 9 juli vloog reeds een **Noordse Pijlstormvogel** *P puffinus* langs De Panne. Op 30 en 31 augustus trokken hier respectievelijk negen en één voorbij. Ook de enige twee **Vale Pijlstormvogels** *P mauretanicus* werden opgemerkt langs De Panne, en wel op 26 augustus. Op dezelfde dag werden hier ook de eerste twee **Vale Stormvogeltjes** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* gezien. Op 31 augustus waren er waarnemingen langs De Panne (drie) en Oostende, West-Vlaanderen (twee). Nu en dan was er in augustus lichte beweging van **Jan-van-genten** *Morus bassanus* waar te nemen, met als uitschieter 761 langs De Panne op 26 augustus. Naast de broedparen bleef een ongepaard mannetje **Woudaap** *Ixobrychus minutus* aanwezig in Heverlee, Vlaams-Brabant. Het eerste juveniele exemplaar dook op bij Wachtebeke, Oost-Vlaanderen, en op 11 juli was er een ringvangst bij Liedekerke, Vlaams-Brabant. Drie **Kwakken** *Nycticorax nycticorax* (twee adulte en een eerste-zomer) bleven nog tot 4 juli in Zonhoven, Limburg. Op 15 augustus vlogen hier drie exemplaren luid roepend over en op 21 en 22 augustus was hier nog één adulte aanwezig. Op 3 en 4 juli werd een exemplaar in eerste zomerkleed gezien in Lier-Duffel, Antwerpen. Op 29 juli vloog er één over Oudenaarde, Oost-Vlaanderen. Juveniele verschenen bij Attenhoven, Limburg (tot twee exemplaren van 3 tot 18 augustus), in De Gavers in Harelbeke (15 augustus) en in De Maat in Mol, Antwerpen (tot drie exemplaren van 17 tot 20 augustus). Er werden weer de normale aantallen **Kleine Zilverreigers** *Egretta garzetta* vastgesteld. De tellingen op de bekende verzamelaarsplaatsen lagen echter hoger dan de vorige jaren: maximaal 10 in de IJzermondung in Nieuwpoort, West-Vlaanderen (12 en 17 augustus); 14 aan de Verrebroekse Plassen, Oost-Vlaanderen (5 augustus); 58 in Het Zwin in Knokke, West-Vlaanderen (8 augustus); en 83 in Lissewege, West-Vlaanderen (26 augustus). Op de volgende plaatsen werden **Grote Zilverreigers** *Casmerodius albus* gezien: Brecht,

Antwerpen; Etalle, Luxembourg; vijf in Harchies-Hensies; Knokke; Schulen, Limburg; Willebroek, Antwerpen; en maximaal drie in Zonhoven. Vanaf 24 juli kwam de trek van **Purperreigers** *Ardea purpurea* opgang, met in totaal 18 exemplaren. Het aantal najaarswaarnemingen van **Zwarte Ooievaars** *Ciconia nigra* buiten de Ardense broedgebieden blijft elk jaar toenemen: vanaf 27 juli werden 11 exemplaren getotaliseerd (waarvan negen op 29 juli) en in augustus volgden nog eens 31 met een doortrekkie van 18 tot 20 augustus. In Wallonië werden trekkende Zwarte Ooievaars gezien in Anhée, Namur; Bersillies, Hainaut; Châtillon, Luxembourg (vijf); Feluy, Hainaut (vier); Géroville, Luxembourg (vier); en Torgny (acht). De toename ligt bij **Ooievaar** *C ciconia* nog veel extremer: de eerste twee trokken op 22 juli over Amay, Liège, en op 30 juli over Lier, gevolgd door drie op 1 augustus (Alken, Limburg) en twee op 8 augustus (Lier). Vanaf 12 augustus werden er bijna 1000 opgemerkt (zonder dubbelmeldingen). De grootste groepen telden 52 (Mechelen, 22 augustus), 70 (Liège, Liège, 29 augustus), 85 (Merendre, Oost-Vlaanderen, 23 en 24 augustus), 92 (Thuin, Hainaut, 25 augustus) en 99 exemplaren (Mechelen, 28 augustus). Er waren weer geslaagde broedgevallen in Horion, Liège, en in Daknam, Oost-Vlaanderen.

**WESPENDIEVEN TOT ALKEN** Vanaf 10 juli kwam de trek van **Wespendieven** *Pernis apivorus* langzaam op gang. Het hoogtepunt van de trek viel tussen 18 en 23 augustus met bijvoorbeeld 12 over Mechelen en over Brecht en 16 over Anhée. Op 5 juli vloog een **Zwarte Wouw** *Milvus migrans* over Gooreind-Wuustwezel. Vanaf 16 augustus volgden waarnemingen in Geel-Oosterlo, Antwerpen (16 augustus); Torgny, Luxembourg (twee op 18 en een op 20 augustus); Watervliet, Oost-Vlaanderen (20 augustus); Clermont, Liège (26 augustus); en in Harchies (28 augustus). In totaal 10 tot 15 **Rode Wouwen** *M milvus* trokken op 11 augustus over Freux-Moiry, Luxembourg; één vloog al op 28 juli over Schulen en op 14 augustus waren er waarnemingen in Oostmalle-Zoersel, Antwerpen, en Kortrijk, West-Vlaanderen. Verder waren er waarnemingen van trekkers in Torgny op 19 en 28 augustus en in Amberloup, Luxembourg, op 29 augustus. In aanvulling op de vorige rubriek (Dutch Birding 26: 281-283, 2004) dient te worden vermeld dat op 20 mei een laag overvliegende **Schreeuwend** *Aquila pomarina* werd opgemerkt boven het Schulensbroek. Op 13 juli joeg een **Grauwe Kiekendief** *Circus pygargus* in de Uitkerkse Polders en op 31 juli was er een waarneming in Vichte, West-Vlaanderen. Er waren verder meldingen in Torgny op 15 en 18 augustus; in Gerny, Liège, op 17, 18, 25 en 26 augustus; in Fize-Fontaine, Liège, op 21 augustus; in Harchies en in Waterloo, Brabant-Wallon, op 24 augustus; in Burdinne, Namur, op 25 augustus; en in Clermont en in Othée, Liège, op 26 augustus. Er waren juliwaarnemingen van **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus* in Ligneuville, Liège, op 21 juli; in Lier-Duffel op 24 juli en in Tienen op 29 juli. De trek barstte los op 10 augustus waarna er nog c 51 exemplaren werden getotali-

## Recente meldingen

seerd; als maximum vlogen er op 18 augustus vier over de telpost bij Torgny. Er werden **Roodpootvalken** *Falco vespertinus* gezien in Fintele, West-Vlaanderen, op 19 augustus en in Kieldrecht, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 21 augustus. Verrassend was de verschijning van een – weliswaar mak – vrouwtje **Korhoen** *Tetrao tetrix* bij Zichem, Vlaams-Brabant, op 17 en 18 juli. **Porseleinhoenders** *Porzana porzana* deden het met in totaal 45 exemplaren beter dan de voorgaande najaren. Een te korte waarnemingsduur liet geen specifieke determinatie toe van een **Klein/Kleinst Waterhoen** *P. parva/pusilla* op de opgespoten terreinen van Oudenaarde op 9 augustus. Een juveniel **Klein Waterhoen** liet zich van 26 augustus tot 1 september wel regelmatig en goed zien op de bezinkingsputten van Hologne-sur-Geer, Liège. Er waren ringvangsten van **Kwartelkoningen** *Crex crex* in Anzegem, West-Vlaanderen, op 15 augustus en in Nokere, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 22 augustus. In Harchies werden op 6 juli twee **Steltkluten** *Himantopus himantopus* waargenomen. De ontsnapte hybride **Steltkluut** x **Kluut** *Recurvirostra avosetta* bleef de hele periode aanwezig in de moerassen van Harchies-Hensies. Een juveniele **Griël** *Burhinus oediacnemus* liet zich van 20 tot 31 augustus gemakkelijk vinden op een akker bij Boneffe, Namur. Een **Morinelplevier** *Charadrius morinellus* vloog op 14 augustus over Relegem, Oost-Vlaanderen. Boneffe pakte uit met een Morinellenshow die van dag tot dag verschilde, zo werden hier eind augustus vermoedelijk rond de 100 exemplaren opgemerkt met als maxima 28 op 20 augustus, 26 op 25 augustus en 44 op 26 augustus. Ook andere plaatsen volgden: Donceel, Liège (drie); Hérimnes, Hainut (zeven); Leefdaal (drie); Merdorp, Namur (vijf); en Overwinden, Vlaams-Brabant (c 46). Maxima waren 29 exemplaren bij Burdinne op 26 augustus; 19 bij Overwinden op 19 en 20 augustus; en 12 bij Seraing-le-Chateau, Luxembourg, op 24 augustus. Er verbleven **Temmincks Strandlopers** *Calidris temminckii* in Hologne-sur-Geer (17 juli), Tienen (twee

op 18 en 19 juli); Stuivekenskerke, West-Vlaanderen (twee op 20 juli); Longchamps (22 juli en tot maximaal vijf van 4 tot 9 augustus); Uitkerke (29 juli); en Zeebrugge (21 augustus). Op 31 juli was er een waarneming van een **Gestreepte Strandloper** *C. melanotos* in Veurne, West-Vlaanderen, maar echt pleisterende exemplaren zijn erg zeldzaam in België. Een **Kleine Geelpootruiter** *Tringa flavipes* foerageerde op 30 juli in Het Zwin in Knokke; waarschijnlijk deze vogel werd een dag later in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, Nederland, opgemerkt. **Poelruiters** *T. stagnatilis* deden het niet echt slecht met waarnemingen in Longchamps van 17 tot 26 juli; in de Uitkerkse Polders op 5 augustus; kortstondig in Nieuwpoort op 14 augustus; in Hologne-sur-Geer op 14 augustus (twee juveniele); en in de Achterhaven van Zeebrugge op 17 augustus. Op 20 augustus zwom kortstondig een **Grauwe Franjepoot** *Phalaropus lobatus* in de Baai van Heist. Van 23 tot 28 augustus liet een eerste-winter zich vaak mooi bekijken op het Noordelijk Eiland in Wintam en op 28 augustus pleisterde er een op het Spaarbekken van Merkem. Op 14 augustus vlogen er al 24 **Middelste Jagers** *Stercorarius pomarinus* langs De Panne en zes langs Koksijde. Langs De Panne vlogen er nog eens vier op 26 en één op 30 augustus. In Oostende was er nog een waarneming op 31 augustus. Langs Relegem, Vlaams-Brabant, vlogen op 14 augustus twee **Kleine Jagers** *S. parasiticus* en langs Torgny vloog er één op 18 augustus. Zes **Kleinste Jagers** *S. longicaudus* vlogen langs De Panne en één langs Oostende op 26 augustus. Bij De Panne volgde er nog één op 27 augustus. Drie **Grote Jagers** *S. skua* werden gezien in De Panne op 9 juli. Op 14 augustus was er een binnenlandwaarneming in Hogue, Namur. Langs De Panne vloog één exemplaar op 21 augustus, telkens twee op 26 en 31 augustus en drie op 30 augustus. Tot 22 juli bleef er een redelijke spreiding van waarnemingen van **Zwartkopmeeuwen** *Larus melanocephalus*. Daarna was de soort plots opvallend afwezig met in augustus slechts

509 Klein Waterhoen / Little Crake *Porzana parva*, Hologne, Liège, 27 augustus 2004 (Vincent Legrand)



510 Graszanget / Zitting *Cisticola juncidis*, Bourgoyen-Ossemeersen, Gent, Oost-Vlaanderen, 9 september 2004 (Benny Cottele)







5211 Krekelzanger / River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis*, Viersels Gebroekt, Antwerpen, 9 juli 2004 (Kris De Rouck)

drie waarnemingen van solitaire vogels. De enige **Vorkstaartmeeuw** *L. sabini* vloog op 15 augustus langs Oostende; het ging om een adulte. Op 17 juli werden in de Maasvallei bij Amay, Liège, meer dan 40 **Geelpootmeeuwen** *L. michahellis* geteld. In augustus waren er gespreid over Vlaanderen nog 13 waarnemingen. Er verbleven **Pontische Meeuwen** *L. cachinnans* in Gaurain-Ramecroix, Hainaut, op 27 juli; in Lier-Duffel op 4 en 5 augustus (twee); in Nieuwpoort op 21 augustus en in Drongen op 27 augustus. Op 14 en 15 augustus pleisterde er verrassend een juveniele **Drieteenmeeuw** *Rissa tridactyla* op Blokkesdijk. Dezelfde vogel bezocht op 14 augustus het Noordelijk Eiland in Wintam en op 16 augustus vloog hij boven de Schelde in Antwerpen, Antwerpen. Over zee bij Oostende passeerden op 15 augustus twee adulte **Lachsterns** *Gelochelidon nilotica* en op 21 augustus trok er één langs De Haan. De adulte **Dougalls Stern** *Sterna dougallii* werd op 22 juli nog een laatste maal gezien in de Voorhaven van Zeebrugge. Op 4 en 5 juli vertoefde een adulte **Witwangstern** *Chlidonias hybrida* in zomerkleed op het Noordelijk Eiland in Wintam. Langs De Panne vloog op 14 augustus zowel een adulte als een juveniele **Witvleugelstern** *C. leucopterus*. Een dode **Alk** *Alca torda* werd op 14 augustus opgeraapt in de Voorhaven van Zeebrugge. Een **Zwarte Zeekoet** *Cephus grylle* in juveniel kleed of winterkleed vloog op 30 augustus langs De Panne.

GIERZWALUWEN TOT GORZEN Voor het eerst konden

Belgische trektellers een geconcentreerde trek van **Gierzwaluwen** *Apus apus* optekenen. Het gros passeerde op 10 augustus met topaantallen van 1624 over Moen, West-Vlaanderen, en 1506 over Mechelen. **Hoppen** *Upupa epops* bleven het nog relatief goed doen met waarnemingen in Dadizele, West-Vlaanderen, op 11 augustus, bij Leefdaal op 21 augustus en in Oudergem, Vlaams-Brabant, op 22 augustus. In Wachtebeke waren tijdens dit broedseizoen negen tot 10 **Bijeneters** *Merops apiaster* aanwezig. Er waren drie succesvolle broedgevallen met eenmaal drie en tweemaal tenminste twee jongen. Bovendien was er nog een vierde broedgeval bij Oostakker, Oost-Vlaanderen. Op 5 augustus werden de eerste twee **Draaihalzen** *Jynx torquilla* van het najaar geringd in Willebroek. Vanaf 12 augustus volgden er in totaal nog minstens 35. Op 23 augustus was er een melding van een **Kortteenleeuwerik** *Calandrella brachydactyla* in de Voorhaven van Zeebrugge. Zeer uitzonderlijk voor de periode was een **Roodstuitwaluw** *Hirundo daurica* die op 21 augustus foerageerde in Kallo-Melsele, Oost-Vlaanderen. De eerste trekkende **Duinpieper** *Anthus campestris* werd op 10 augustus opgemerkt in Maubray, Hainaut. In totaal werden er nog 102 opgetekend waaronder de maximumtelling van 18 vogels in Merdorp-Thisnes op 25 augustus. De kleine influx verliep ongeveer simultaan met die van Morinelplevieren, zowel wat timing als biotoopkeuze betreft; de enige uitzondering hierop vormde het vliegveld in Oostmalle-Zoersel, dat traditioneel tekent voor het gros van de Vlaamse waarne-

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mingen. Een vogel met de kenmerken van een mannetje **Iberische Kwikstaart** *Motacilla iberiae* werd op 28 juli gezien in de Oude Vrede in Knokke. **Noordse Nachtegalen** *Luscinia luscinia* werden geringd in Tongeren, Limburg (begin augustus) en in Binche, Hainaut, op 15 augustus. Zingende **Graszangers** *Cisticola juncidis* waren aanwezig in de Verdrongen Weiden in Ieper (10 juli); in Gent-Malem (11 juli); in de Uitkerkse Polders (14 juli); in Kallo-Doel (29 juli tot 5 augustus); in de Gentse Kanaalzone (vanaf 22 augustus, geslaagd broedgeval); en in Knokke (27 augustus). In Beernem, West-Vlaanderen, vloog een exemplaar langs op 5 augustus en in de Achterhaven van Zeebrugge handhaafde de vaste populatie zich met ten minste 16 exemplaren. Op 1 juli zong een **Krekelzanger** *Locustella fluviatilis* in Harchies en van 6 tot 10 juli was er één zeer goed te zien in het Viersels Gebroekt, Antwerpen. **Snorren** *L. luscinioides* zongen nog in Emblem en in het Viersels Gebroekt op 14 juli. Tussen 16 juli en 24 augustus waren er 34 ringvangsten van deze soort. Er waren veldwaarnemingen van **Waterrietzangers** *Acrocephalus paludicola* in Lier-Anderstad op 22 augustus in de Gentse Kanaalzone bij Oostakker vanaf 28 augustus tot in september. Er werden ten minste 35 ringvangsten gemeld met vier keer vier vogels per plaats per dag. Wellicht ligt het werkelijke aantal ringvangsten veel hoger. Tussen 25 juli en 27 augustus werden er ook minimaal acht **Grote Karekieten** *A. arun-*

*dinaceus* geringd. In Koksijde werd op 22 juli een **Orpheusspotvogel** *Hippolais polyglotta* geringd en op 17 augustus vloog er een in de netten op De Kuifeend bij Antwerpen. Op 24 juli was er een veldwaarneming in Lier-Anderstad. De eerste **Sperwergrasmus** *Sylvia nisoria* voor het najaar werd op 27 augustus geringd in Turnhout, Antwerpen. Hier pleisterde op 6 augustus kortstondig een **Buidelmees** *Remiz pendulinus*. Op 24 augustus zat er een **Grauwe Klauwier** *Lanius collurio* in De Maten in Genk en op 24 augustus was er een ringvangst van een juveniele vogel in het Grenspark in Essen, Antwerpen. Op 18 juli verbleef een **Roodkopklauwier** *L. senator* bij Sohier, Luxemburg. De onder-tussen klassieke zomertrek van **Kruisbekken** *Loxia curvirostra* bouwde gestaag op in juli en bereikte een duidelijke piek tussen 27 en 30 juli (maximum met 51 vogels in Gooreind-Wuustwezel). Rond 20 augustus nam het aantal waarnemingen sterk af. Er werden **Ortolanen** *Emberiza hortulana* waargenomen in Tienen op 2 augustus; in Oostmalle-Zoersel op 21 augustus en 7 september; en in Torgny (twee) op 28 augustus.

De hulp van al diegenen die (hun) waarnemingen inspraken op de Natuurpunt-Vogellijn was hier onontbeerlijk. De Natuurpunt-Vogellijn is alleen vanuit België bereikbaar op het nummer 0900-00194 (EUR 0.45/min), de Natuurpunt-Inspreklijn is te bereiken op 0800-11194 (gratis). De Waalse gegevens werden in hoofdzaak geput uit de AVES-website.

Gerald Driessens, Pastoriestraat 16, 2500 Lier, België (gerald.driessens@pandora.be)

## DB Actueel

**New species of rail** A new species of rail was discovered on the remote island of Calayan, 70 km north of Luzon, Philippines. It was named **Calayan Rail** *Gallirallus calayanensis* after the island on which it was found, which is the largest island in the Babuyan island group lying between Batanes and Luzon (Allen, D, Española, C P, Oliveros, C H, Broad, G & Gonzales, J C T 2004. A new species of *Gallirallus* from Calayan island, Philippines. Forktail 20: 1-7). Calayan is still largely covered by rainforest and has c 8500 residents; it was last visited by ornithologists 100 years ago, in 1903-04. The discovery was made by a team of nine volunteer wildlife researchers from Britain and the Philippines, led by Genevieve Broad and Carl Oliveros, conducting a survey of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians on the islands from April to June 2004. On 11 May, Carmela Española, a Filipino wildlife biologist, found a group of the dark brown rails with conspicuous orange-red bill and legs foraging in the undergrowth near a stream in the rainforest, at an altitude of c 300 m. Her notes and photographs, and recordings of the birds' loud, harsh, rasping calls, later helped determine that the species was new to science. Locals, however, know it by the name

'piding' and apparently birds are sometimes even caught for food. Although its orange-red bill and legs look similar to those of Okinawa Rail *G. okinawae* from Okinawa in the Ryukyu Islands in southern Japan, c 1000 km north of Calayan, Calayan Rail lacks the white stripe below the eye and black and white barring on the underparts. During their stay on the island, the expedition team saw adult and juvenile birds on several occasions. Within a 2-km range of the rainforest camp, an estimated 100-200 pairs were recorded; one bird was collected and deposited as holotype at the National Museum of the Philippines, Manila. Further research will be conducted to determine the habitat requirements, abundance and distribution of the rail, working closely with local residents to minimize threats and to encourage long-term initiatives to protect the forest. Although apparently not under immediate threat, the limited distribution of the new species makes it vulnerable to habitat loss and predators introduced to the island such as cats and rats. The species will probably be classified as 'vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List.

Rails and other similar species are among the bird families with the highest record of recently extinct or

endangered birds. Of the 20 living species of flightless rail, 18 are considered threatened, and the majority of rail species that have become extinct since 1600 were flightless. Calayan Rail also appears to be nearly or completely flightless and birds were seen skulking in undergrowth or out on open trails, sometimes alone, sometimes in family groups. Rails are obviously a very vulnerable group but it is also a group that still produces new species to science every few years: Okinawa Rail in 1981, Talaud Rail *Gymnocrex talaudensis* and Talaud Bush-hen *Amauornis magnirostris* from Talaud island, Indonesia, both in 1998 and now Calayan Rail in 2004. More information and photographs of the new rail can be found at [www.birdlife.org/news/pr/2004/08/calayan\\_rail.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/pr/2004/08/calayan_rail.html).  
ENNO B EBELS

**Marmereend bij Pannerden** Vogelen in het oostelijke rivierengebied, Gelderland, is doorgaans andere koek dan pakweg 'een dagje Lauwersmeer' – dat was me de afgelopen twee jaar vanuit mijn nieuwe woonplaats Ede, Gelderland, wel duidelijk geworden. Het is hard werken om een paar krenten in de pap te vinden. Zaterdag 14 augustus 2004 was weer zo'n dag: ploeterend door de zeggeveldjes joeg ik slechts een paar Rietgorzen *Emberiza schoeniclus* op en De Bijland leverde alleen enkele Zwarte Sterns *Chlidonias niger* op. De 'meeuwenhoek' bracht hier nog enig soelaas met twee juveniele Kleine Strandlopers *Calidris minuta* en een juveniele Temmincks Strandloper *C. temminckii*, zowaar een leuke soort! Na het pontje bij Pannerden genomen te hebben, stopte ik op de weg terug rond 14:15 bij de Klompenwaard om het plasje te checken op steltlopers: Groenpootruiter *Tringa nebularia*, Witgat *T. ochropus*, Oeverloper *Actitis hypoleucos*, Marmereend *Marmaronetta angustirostris*... Marmereend? Marmereend! Jawel, daar zwom zomaar een Marmereend mijn beeld binnen. Nog eens kijken: de vogel leek in direct zonlicht heel egaal zandkleurig, had geen

zichtbare kuif en de snavel leek erg lang maar de donkere oogvlek was opvallend. Toen de zon achter een wolk verdween kwamen de vlekken op de bovendelen terug. De vogel was misschien wel contrastarm maar dit kon toch alleen een Marmereend zijn, waarschijnlijk een juveniel of een vrouwtje – die stonden echter niet (goed) geïllustreerd in de gids die ik bij me had. Snel een paar plaatjes gemaakt. Eerdere meldingen van mogelijk 'goede' Marmereend schoten me te binnen: Oostvaardersdijk, Culemborg, Zwartewaal... Maar dat was allemaal een tijdje geleden en die hebben nooit de CDNA gehaald. Maar als alles in orde zou blijken, zou het toch een nieuwe voor Nederland zijn – weliswaar geen Kaspische Plevier *Charadrius asiaticus* of iets van die orde, maar toch. Ik belde eerst met Robert Keizer om te vragen hoe hij tegenover de soort stond. Het antwoord was duidelijk: hij ging direct weg van de Oosterscheldekering en kwam eraan. Omdat de vogel er goed uit zag, heb ik hem doorgepiept en Klaas Haas gebeld om hem te informeren. Toen was het zaak aanwijzingen voor een niet-wilde herkomst na te gaan. Al snel werd de vogel opgeschrikt door een laag overvliegende Geelpootmeeuw *Larus michahellis*, waarbij hij enkele 10-tallen meters vervloog: niks mis met de vleugels. Kort daarna zwom hij naar de kant om daar te gaan poetsen: ongeringde poten. Bovendien was hij zeer alert en schuw. Nogmaals KH gebeld om te vertellen dat de vogel negatief had gescoord op elke indicatie voor een escape.

De eend was inmiddels gaan slapen, waardoor het wachten op versterking lang leek te duren. Pas tegen 16:00 arriveerden de eerste vogelaars. Rond 16:15 zagen c 10 man hoe de vogel – waarschijnlijk door verstoring – opvloog en achter de dijk van het Pannerdensch Kanaal verdween, pas later gevolgd door de andere eenden in de plas. Zoeken in de omgeving leverde in eerste instantie niets op. Inmiddels was RK gearriveerd en samen met Erik Ernens en Reinoud Vermoolen ging ook hij zoeken, niet in de Lobber-

512-513 Marmereend / Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris*, juveniel, Pannerden, Gelderland, 15 augustus 2004 (Patrick Palmen)





514 Franklins Meeuw / Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan*, Kesteren, Gelderland, 18 september 2004 (Toy Janssen)

densche Waard waar iedereen al keek, maar bij het plasje ten noorden van het pontje. Hier vonden zij de vogel zittend op de kant en zo werden vele 10-tallen vogelaars in de gelegenheid gesteld om hem te bekijken. Vroeg in de avond verdween hij om teruggevonden te worden langs het kanaal; later op de avond keerde hij terug naar het plasje bij de veerpont. Hier was hij de hele volgende dag en ook op maandag tot laat in de avond aanwezig. Op dinsdag 17 augustus werd hij niet meer aangetroffen en uitgebreide zoekacties in de omgeving leverden niets op.

Bestudering van de literatuur had inmiddels bevestigd dat het om een juveniele vogel ging. Hoewel Marmereenden met enige regelmaat waargenomen worden, betreft het doorgaans vogels die tekenen van een herkomst uit gevangenschap tonen. Er zijn in Nederland of omliggende landen geen waarnemingen bekend van gekleurde Spaanse Marmereenden maar oude waarnemingen maken duidelijk dat wilde vogels uit het Middellandse-Zeegebied of verder oostelijk ver ten noorden van hun broedgebieden als dwaalgast kunnen voorkomen, tot in Zuid-Duitsland. Daarom is er een reële kans dat de waarneming van Pannerden als nieuwe soort voor Nederland aanvaard kan worden. RIK WINTERS

**MARBLED DUCK** A juvenile Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris* stayed near Pannerden, Gelderland, the Netherlands, on 14-16 August 2004. The bird was fully winged, unringed and wary. It may therefore be

accepted as the first record for the Netherlands. Previous reports relate to (presumed) escapes or lack sufficient documentation.

**Franklins Meeuw bij Blauwe Kamer** Op zaterdag 18 september 2004 arriveerde ik rond 13:00 – een uur of zes later dan gepland en niet top-fit – op de telpost in de Blauwe Kamer bij Rhenen, Utrecht, waar Bas van de Meulengraaf, Merijn Salverda en Reinoud Vermoolen aan het tellen waren. De tweede vogel die ik bekeek was een kleine meeuw die vanuit het westen over de rivier naar het oosten vloog, zoals veel Kokmeeuwen *Larus ridibundus* doen. 'Franklins Meeuw!' Stilte. Wat gemor en gegaap was de reactie. 'Kijk NU naar die meeuw die eraan komt, dat is een Franklins Meeuw'. Enige consternatie was nu wel het gevolg: kijkers werden opgeroepen, koffiebekers neergezet en wat verbaasde blikken gingen mijn kant op, wellicht meer vanwege mijn euforisch gebrul dan vanwege de claim van een Franklins Meeuw *L. pipixcan*. Weer een korte stilte. 'Het is er echt een...', een Franklins Meeuw! Gekkenhuis. De vogel vloog rustig langs de telpost en duidelijk werd dat het inderdaad ging om een Franklins Meeuw en niet om een Lachmeeuw *L. atricilla*, vanwege de geringe grootte, de koptekening, het Dwergmeeuw *L. minutus*-achtige voorkomen en vooral de witte band die duidelijk zichtbaar was voor de zwarte vleugelpunt. Na c 3 min verdween de vogel uit zicht, ons verbouwereerd achterlatend. Even Wageningen bellen en doorpiepen.



Hoe zou hier op worden gereageerd in Nederland, na twee dolle weken op de telpost met onder andere een juveniele Kleinste Jager *Stercorarius longicaudus*, een juveniele Middelste Jager *S pomarinus* en een Roodmus *Carpodacus erythrinus*, op een nogal gemiddelde post, ergens in het binnenland?!

Groot was echter de opluchting toen de meeuw rond 14:00 terugkeerde: hij vloog rustig over de post terug naar west, onderwijl insecten vangend boven onze hoofden. Hij viel in op de Rijn zodat de net aankomende vogelaars hem op redelijk grote afstand zwemmend konden bekijken. Kort daarna vloog hij op en verdween laag achter een dijk. Na inspectie bleek dat de vogel zich tussen Kokmeeuwen en Stormmeeuwen *L canus* op een akker met een ploegende boer bevond net buiten Kesteren, Gelderland. Hier werd hij prachtig en langdurig gezien en werden foto's gemaakt op ongeveer 50 m afstand. Waarschijnlijk betrof het een tweede kalenderjaar of misschien een adulte vogel in winterkleed. Nagrijnzend en vooruitkijkend op 'een avond ter stimulering van de Wageningse middenstand', keerden de tellers terug naar hun telpost. Rond 17:00 was de boer klaar en vloog de vogel

met andere meeuwen in zuidwestelijke richting weg en kon daarna niet meer worden teruggevonden. Hoewel een poging de avond na de ontdekking zonder resultaat was gebleven, ging Aart Vink op zondag 19 september wederom zoeken tussen de meeuwen langs de Waal bij IJzendoorn, Gelderland. Rond 18:40 vond hij de Franklins Meeuw hier terug tussen Kokmeeuwen en Stormmeeuwen op een strandje aan de zuidzijde van de rivier. Na enige tijd vloog de vogel naar de nabijgelegen meeuwenslaapplaats op het zandgat bij Boven-Leeuwen, Gelderland, waar hij tot donker kon worden bekeken; ook de avonden daarna werd de vogel hier weer aangetroffen, het laatst op 24 september. Het betreft het vijfde geval voor Nederland. HERMAN VAN OOSTEN

FRANKLIN'S GULL On 18-24 September 2004, a Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* was seen near Rhenen, Utrecht, and nearby Kesteren and Boven-Leeuwen, Gelderland. It was probably an advanced second-year or adult in winter plumage. This is the fifth for the Netherlands.