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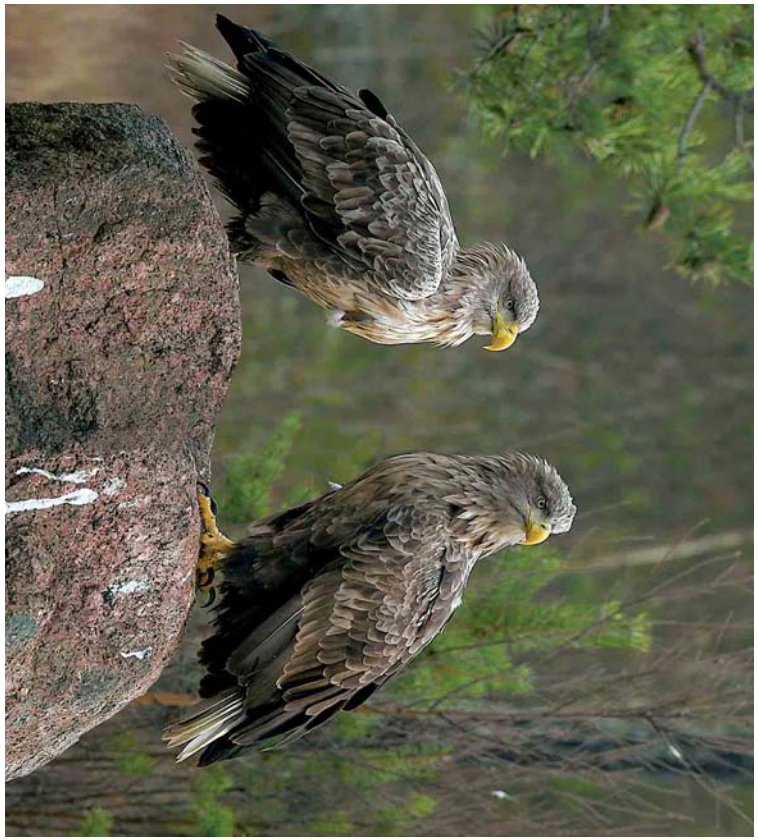

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Dutch Birding

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

De volgorde van vogels in Dutch Birding volgt in eerste instantie een klassieke 'Wetmore-indeling'. Binnen dit raamwerk worden voor taxonomie en naamgeving de volgende overzichten aangehouden: *Dutch Birding-namen* door A B van den Berg (2006, Amsterdam) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke, Nederlandse en Engelse namen van West-Palearctische vogels); *Vogels van de wereld – complete checklist* door M Walters (1997, Baarn) (Nederlandse namen van overige vogels van de wereld); en *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world* (derde editie) door E C Dickinson (redactie) (2003, Londen) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke en Engelse namen van overige vogels van de wereld).

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

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Short-billed Gull on Terceira, Azores, in February-March 2003 and identification of the 'Mew Gull complex'

Peter Alfrey & Mashuq Ahmad

On 18 February 2003, Peter Alfrey was watching a pre-roosting site for gulls *Larus* on the beach of Praia da Vitoria, Terceira, Azores, when he came across a very unusual adult-type 'Mew Gull' *L canus*. It had a distinctive long-necked and small-headed appearance, showed a pale olive-yellow iris and, in flight, showed extensive white in the wing-tip. The distinctly pale iris was immediately obvious. With other birds in the vicinity including 33 Ring-billed *L delawarensis*, a first-winter Bonaparte's *L philadelphia*, four immature American Herring Gulls *L smithsonianus* and a first-winter Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*, PA's thoughts turned to the Nearctic (sub)species of the 'Mew Gull complex', Short-billed Gull *L c brachyrhynchus*. A second-year Common Gull *L c canus* (only the fourth for the Azores) was present alongside the presumed Short-billed Gull, enabling direct comparison of size, posture and coloration. The next day, the presumed Short-billed was still present and could be photographed. On PA's return to Britain, various identification consultants were approached and after much discussion the bird was concluded to be, indeed, a Short-billed Gull – a new taxon for the Western Palearctic. Mashuq Ahmad visited Terceira the next month and relocated the bird on 16 March; he obtained a detailed videographic record, which was instrumental towards securing the identification. It was still present on 24 March. The observation was submitted to the Portuguese Rarities Committee (PRC) and, in April 2007, accepted as the first record for the Azores and the WP (João Jara in litt).

Description

The description is based on photographs and field notes by PA on 18 and 19 February and field notes and video footage by MA on several occasions between 16 and 24 March.

SIZE & STRUCTURE Noticeably smaller than majority of Ring-billed Gulls present, being about size of second-winter Common Gull. In majority of postures, appeared slimmer bodied and more elongated than either second-winter Common and Ring-billed. In comparison with former, appearing relatively long necked with a smaller more rounded head and, narrower, slightly shorter bill.

HEAD Head markings diffuse, with grey-brown wash on rear of head and hind neck, extending faintly on to breast-sides. Diffuse, ill-defined flecks, also on crown and ear-coverts.

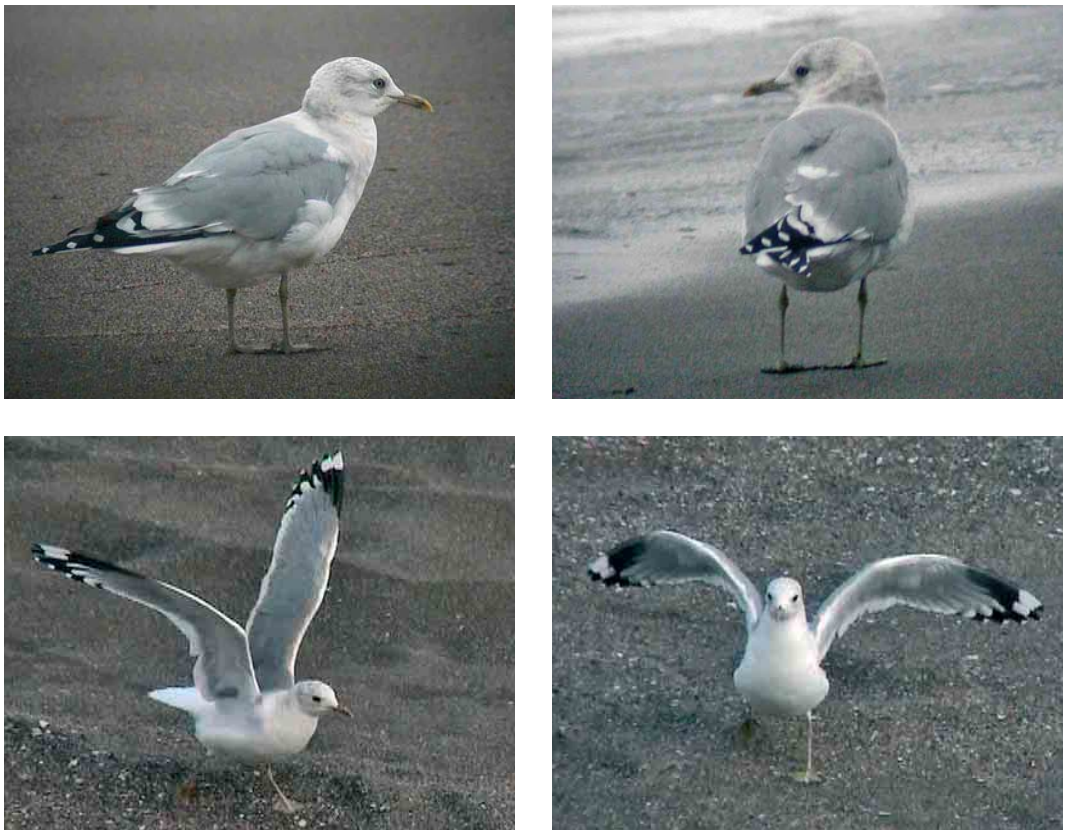
BODY UPPERPARTS Uniform blue-grey, obviously darker than accompanying Ring-billed Gulls and considered slightly darker than second-winter Common Gull. Underparts and tail white. In direct comparison with Atlantic Yellow-legged Gull *L michahellis atlantis* appearing several shades paler.

WING Primary pattern in flight appearing paler and less black than in typical Common Gull. Large white tongue-tips on p5-8 (primaries numbered descendantly) contiguous with mirrors on p9 and p10, thus producing long and bold 'string of pearls' effect running along wing-tip. P9 showing grey base extending to over 40% of length of visible inner web (measured from tips of greater primary coverts). P8 also displaying long grey tongue on inner web, extending to c 70% of visible feather length. White tongue tip to p8 extending beyond basal edge of mirror on both p9-10. Also protruding to at least tip of, and perhaps just beyond adjacent white tongue-tip of p7. Black on visible outer webs of both p10 and p9 extending to greater primary coverts, whilst on p8, black falling noticeably short of greater primary coverts. Inner web of p7 with long grey tongue, outer web quite extensively black. Broad black subterminal bar across both webs of p6, slightly more extensive on outer web. P5 with less extensive but still solid black subterminal bar, symmetrical across both webs. Dark subterminal mark on inner web of p4 also evident. White trailing edge to secondaries and inner primaries, almost uniformly broad contrasting strongly with grey upperparts. White tongue-tip of p6-7 expansive enough for both to be frequently visible on closed wing at rest.

BARE PARTS Eye appearing relatively large in small head. Iris yellow-olive, contrasting strongly with pupil, though duller than in adult Ring-billed Gull. Overall effect very striking compared with typically dark-eyed Common Gull. Orbital ring dull red. Bill with yellow-green base and more yellow-toned terminal third. Indistinct subterminal markings present on both mandibles. Leg yellowish-green, similar to bill base. Bare parts looking brighter and more yellow toned in sunny conditions compared with duller conditions.

The 'Mew Gull complex'

There are four taxa in the 'Mew Gull complex': nominate *canus* (Common Gull, hereafter nominate *canus*), *heinei* (Russian Common Gull, hereafter *heinei*), *kamtschatschensis* (Kamchatka Gull, hereafter *kamtschatschensis*) and *brachyrhynchus* (Short-billed Gull, hereafter *brachyrhynchus*). Traditionally, these taxa have been treated as conspecific, with a cline of increasing size from west to east (*brachyrhynchus* being the smallest and *kamtschatschensis* the largest). In the Palearctic, there is also a cline of increasingly dark dorsal coloration eastwards, with nominate *canus* being palest and *kamtschatschensis* darkest. *Brachyrhynchus* is isolated in this respect, being intermediate in coloration between these two taxa. Significant plumage differences as well as differences in mitochondrial DNA (cf Zink et al 1995) have contributed towards Olsen & Larsson (2004) assigning *brachyrhynchus* to full species rank. They also suggest that *kamtschatschensis* prob-



272 Short-billed Gull / Amerikaanse Stormmeeuw *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*, Terceira, Azores, February 2003 *(Peter Alfrey)*. Small rounded head, slim, poorly-demarcated bill and pale iris create distinctive impression. Additionally, note diffuse 'smudging' to nape and breast-sides with light flecking on crown and ear-coverts. All these features are typical of *brachyrhynchus*.
273 Short-billed Gull / Amerikaanse Stormmeeuw *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*, Terceira, Azores, February 2003 *(Peter Alfrey)*. Note greyish-brown wash on hind neck and extensive 'pearl' on p6 and also 'pearl' on p7 which is just visible.
274 Short-billed Gull / Amerikaanse Stormmeeuw *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*, Terceira, Azores, March 2003 *(Mashuq Ahmad)*. Main features visible here are 'string of pearls' formed by white tongue-tips of p5-8 connecting with white mirrors on p9-10. Importantly, large pale tongue-tip on p8 reaches basal edge of mirror on p9, in combination with solid subterminal bar across p5, and there is dark mark on p4 (difficult to see here). Important also is extensive pale base to inner web of p8-9 (although inner web of p9 not visible here).
275 Short-billed Gull / Amerikaanse Stormmeeuw *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*, Terceira, Azores, March 2003 *(Mashuq Ahmad)*. Note extensive grey tongue on p8-9 with broad white 'pearls' along all mid-primaries. Importantly, broad white 'pearl' on p8 reaches beyond basal edge of mirror on p9, also perhaps slightly extending beyond tongue-tip on p7. Also note dark mark on p4, which is normally lacking in adult Common Gull *L c canus* and Russian Common Gull *L c heinei*. From underside, white trailing edge to inner primaries looks much narrower than trailing edge to secondaries because broadest area of white (on outer web and outer part of inner web) is hidden by basal grey of next ascending primary. This feature is, therefore, best assessed from upperside of wing. As secondaries are of similar length, white of trailing edge here is similar from both above and below.

ably warrants full species status (after Johansen 1961). Howell & Dunn (2007), however, follow the AOU (1998) and continue to treat the group as one polytypic species, comprising of three subspecies groups, possibly warranting specific status under the names 'Common Gull' (nominate *canus* and *heinei*), 'Kamchatka Gull' (*kamtschatschensis*) and 'Mew Gull' (*brachyrhynchus*).

Distribution and vagrancy potential

Nominate *canus* breeds in north-western Europe, from Iceland east to Moscow and the Kola Peninsula, Russia. It winters predominantly in or near the breeding range and regularly south-west to northern France, with small numbers also in Iberia, the Mediterranean and Black Sea. Nominate *canus* grades into *heinei* east of Moscow (the transition zone is said to be located at c 42°E in the north and between 30-37°E in the south of the range) and between the Kanin peninsula and the Lena

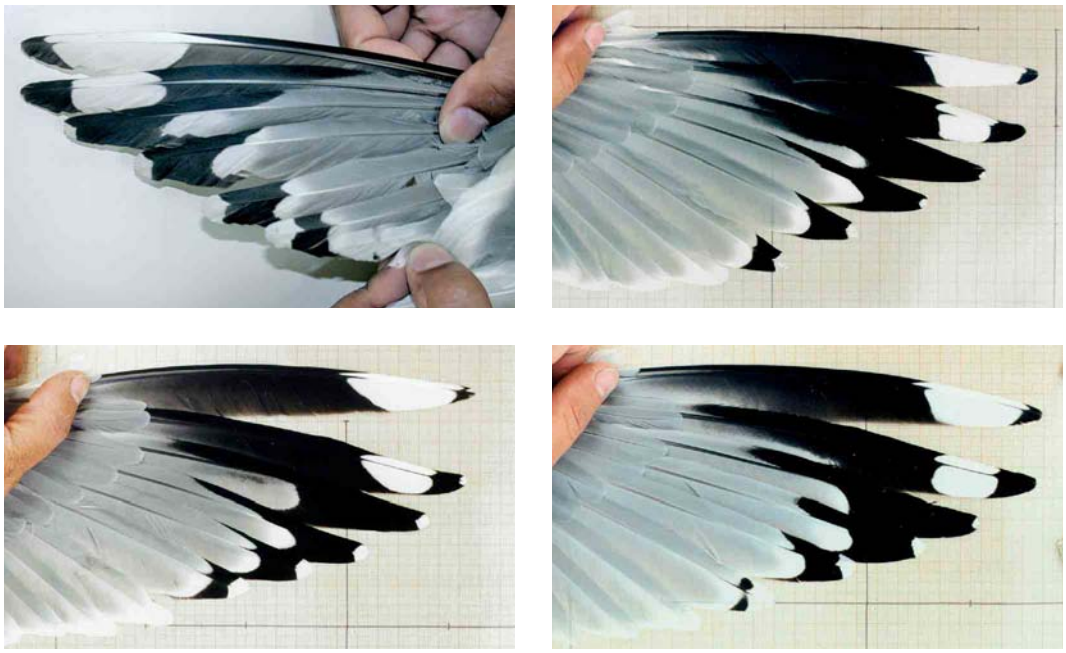
276 Short-billed Gull / Amerikaanse Stormmeeuw *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*, with Ring-billed Gulls / Ringsnavelmeeuwen *L delawarensis*, Terceira, Azores, March 2003 *(Mashuq Ahmad)*. Note striking 'string of pearls' as broad as trailing edge to inner primaries, which in turn are almost of same thickness with that of secondaries.
277 Short-billed Gull / Amerikaanse Stormmeeuw *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*, Terceira, Azores, March 2003 *(Mashuq Ahmad)*. Note extensive grey tongue to inner web of bunched primaries on far wing of p6-9. Typically, in other taxa, there would be more black present, anteriorly. P10 is very variable in *brachyrhynchus*. Generally, a more Caspian Gull *L cachinnans* like pattern, with longer grey tongue would be evident. Reduced tongue on p10 as present here is, however, frequently occurring in *brachyrhynchus*. Note also large 'pearls' evident on p6-7 on near wing. Short extension of black pointing basally along both outer and inner webs of p6 is typical of *brachyrhynchus*. In Palearctic taxa, there tends to be more of an extension.

river basin. It winters primarily between the southern Baltic, eastern Mediterranean and Caspian Seas. Small numbers also occur in western Europe and the Middle East. Birds from the eastern part of the range are most likely to winter along the coast of eastern China, ranging from Hong Kong, north to South Korea and Japan. The exact wintering range is not yet properly known owing to identification problems with *kamtschatschensis*. The breeding range of the latter extends from Kamchatka and the Sea of Okhotsk to north-eastern Siberia, Russia. It is said to intergrade with *heinei* in the Lena river region and Yakutia. It winters between southern Ussuriland, Japan and southern China (Bengtsson & Pedersen 1998, Carey & Kennerley 1996, Cramp & Simmons 1983, Moores 2004, Olsen & Larsson 2004). *Brachyrhynchus* breeds mainly in Alaska, USA, and western Canada, and winters chiefly on the North American west coast, as far south as Baja California where it is a scarce visitor (Cramp & Simmons 1983, Olsen & Larsson 2004, Howell & Dunn 2007). Being a Pacific coast bird, *brachyrhynchus* may at first appear to be an unlikely candidate for vagrancy to the WP but, in fact, it has a quite extensive pattern of vagrancy. There are records from Hong Kong, China, and Japan, and it is also a casual visitor across the interior of North America to the east coast, with records as far south as North Carolina (Kwater 1992, Shitega 1993, Carey & Kennerley 1996, Sibley 2000, Olsen & Larsson 2004). Most records of 'Mew Gulls' south of Maryland tend to be of this taxon. Further north on the east coast of North America, the situation is complicated by the fact that nominate *canus* is a rare visitor (with, outside Newfoundland, less than five records per year), and 'Mew Gulls' from this area have not always been identified to taxon level (Paul Lehman in litt). Newfoundland now gets c five nominate *canus* every winter (Bruce Mactavish in litt). As pointed out by Raty (2001), *brachyrhynchus* is perhaps a more likely vagrant than Glaucous-winged Gull *L glaucescens*, which has occurred on three occasions in the WP (although perhaps the first two records refer to the same bird): a subadult was on El Hierro, Canary Islands, on 7-10 February 1992, an adult was at Essaouira, Morocco, on 31 January 1995, and, more recently, a wandering third-winter was seen in Britain, in Gloucestershire, England, on 14-15 December 2006, then at Ferryside, Carmarthenshire, Wales, on 2-5 March 2007, and at Beddington, London, England, on 18 April 2007 (Bakker et al 2001, Allan 2007, van den Berg 2007, Sanders 2007). The normal ranges of these two taxa are largely similar, with *brachyrhynchus* breeding further north, which indicates that it is a longer-distance migrant, and thus potentially more prone to longer-range vagrancy.

Although there have been reports of gulls showing characters of *brachyrhynchus* in Britain, so far, no report has been accepted (cf Shepherd & Votier 1993).

Identification of adult-winter Short-billed Gull

The identification of Short-billed Gull has been discussed by various authors, eg, Dwight (1925), Grant (1986), Tove (1993) and Carey & Kennerley (1996). More recent detailed commentary of the 'Mew Gull complex' has been provided by Dunn et al (1999), Doherty & Oddie (2001), Raty (2001), Olsen & Larsson (2004) and Howell & Dunn (2007). In addition to a literature search, we have studied skins at the Natural History Museum (NHM), Tring, England, and extensively studied wintering nominate *canus* in southern Britain (including analyzing over 200 video-taped wings), we



278 Short-billed Gull / Amerikaanse Stormmeeuw *Larus canus brachyrhynchus* (collected at St Michael's, Alaska, USA, on 4 July 1877), Natural History Museum, Tring, England, 16 April 2003 *(Peter Alfrey/©Natural History Museum)*. Very characteristic individual with large white tongue-tips on p5-8. White on p8, extending to beyond tip of tongue on p7, also protruding beyond basal edge of mirror on p9. Overall effect is of distinct 'string of pearls'. Note also primaries marked to p4, as well as broad solid symmetrical subterminal bar on p5 and lack of extensions along outer web of p6-7. Black on outer web of p8-9 also falls well short of primary coverts. Such distinctive bird is unlikely to be confused with any of the Palearctic taxa.
279 Common Gull / Stormmeeuw *Larus canus canus*, four year old female, Kakrarahu, Matsalu National Park, Estonia, 25 May 1998 *(Lauri Saks)*. In majority of nominate *canus* that possess white tongue-tip to p8, black subterminal band on p5, unlike on Short-billed Gull *L c brachyrhynchus*, is normally broken. There are a few exceptions, however, like in this individual. This, coupled with short, fairly symmetrical subterminal bar on p6, obvious white 'pearl' at end of tongue on p8 and long tongue on p9 (sliver of which is just visible revealing much of its extent), makes for problematic individual, using wing pattern alone. Even though birds with similar wing-tip pattern are encountered in *brachyrhynchus* population, this bird highlights need for stringency in Western Palearctic context. In this regard, lack of markings on p4 is less than ideal, as is tongue on p8 falling short of both p9 and p10 mirrors and tip of tongue on p7. Actual 'pearl' on p8 not as prominent as on many *brachyrhynchus*. Thin white border to inner primaries is also uncharacteristic of *brachyrhynchus*, in which it is obviously broader. Although nearly one year old, inner primaries have seemingly been saved from excessive wear through protection by tertials on closed wing (unlike worn exposed tip of p5-7) and thus allow valid comparison to be made.
280 Common Gull / Stormmeeuw *Larus canus canus*, nine year old female, Kakrarahu, Matsalu National Park, Estonia, 17 May 1998 *(Lauri Saks)*. Although like in Short-billed Gull *L c brachyrhynchus* there is long grey tongue with white tip on p8, latter is much narrower and diffuse than what is the norm for *brachyrhynchus*. Tip of tongue also falls short of mirror on p9-10 and does not protrude beyond tongue-tip of p7 as is often the case in *brachyrhynchus*. P9 is also extensively black based, both on outer web and seemingly on inner web. Extensive black protrusion along outer web of p7 is typical for nominate *canus* but a minority pattern for *brachyrhynchus*. Same applies to p6.
281 Common Gull / Stormmeeuw *Larus canus canus*, 12 year old female, Kakrarahu, Matsalu National Park, Estonia, 17 May 1998 *(Lauri Saks)*. Superficially resembling Short-billed Gull *L c brachyrhynchus* with reduced black on base of inner web of p7-9 and obvious 'pearl' on p8. Broken bar on p5, however, is not good *brachyrhynchus* credential.

both have field experience of *brachyrhynchus* from North America (most recently by PA in British Columbia, Canada, in August 2003), and we have examined many photographs. It should be stressed that not all Short-billed will show the features outlined below, especially the wing-tip features. The emphasis has been put on birds which we feel would be identifiable in the context of the WP. The text concentrates on birds in adult winter plumage, although some characters (eg, structure and bare part and upperpart coloration) may also be helpful in other plumages.

Structure
There is a west to east gradation of increasing size in 'Mew Gulls' across the Holarctic, in which *brachyrhynchus* averages the smallest and structurally lightest. It often appears relatively long necked and small headed and the body often appears slimmer and more elongated

282 Short-billed Gull / Amerikaanse Stormmeeuw *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*, adult winter, San Diego, California, USA, 12 February 2000 *(Klaus Malling Olsen)*. Note small, slender bill with only faint subterminal marks. Also note diffuse grey-brown markings on head and hind neck, forming smooth wash rather than discrete spotting.
283 Short-billed Gull / Amerikaanse Stormmeeuw *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*, adult winter, Point Reyes, California, USA, 30 January 2000 *(Klaus Malling Olsen)*. Note primary pattern, similar to nominate *canus* in plate 279, reiterating need for caution. Note, however, relatively broad white trailing edge to inner primaries and grey-brown wash on hind neck that are typical of *brachyrhynchus*.
284 Short-billed Gull / Amerikaanse Stormmeeuw *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*, Santa Maria, California, USA, 8 January 1983 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*. Note atypical bare parts coloration with grey-green legs and grey-green bill, the latter with extensive subterminal band. Such retarded features suggest this bird is probably a third-winter. Note extensive area of grey at base of primaries, characteristic of many *brachyrhynchus*, with black on outer webs extending to primary coverts only on p10.
285 Common Gull / Stormmeeuw *Larus canus canus*, adult, Radipole Lake, Dorset, England, 16 March 2006 *(Chris Patrick)*. Note relatively heavy bill with distinct subterminal band. Also, note boldly spotted hind neck and dark eye typical of this taxon. Extensive black on underside of primaries of far wing is typical of nominate *canus* (compare with plate 277).

than in the other taxa. The head is gently rounded but with a steep forehead. The eye generally appears large in the small head. There is a fair degree of variation through both sexual dimorphism and individual variation. In the WP, only the smallest females would perhaps draw attention based on size. Nominate *canus* and *heinei* have a less rounded head and tend to be shorter necked while *kamtschatschensis* is generally larger, broader winged, has a more angular head and is smaller eyed. The latter generally appears more brutish with a Ring-billed Gull-like demeanour (in fact, it was described by Stejneger (1885) as the Asiatic subspecies of Ring-billed).

Upperpart coloration

The geographically isolated *brachyrhynchus* is often distinctly paler than *kamtschatschensis*, being closer to *heinei* in this respect. However, there is a fair degree of overlap in this feature. Olsen & Larsson (2004) list the complex thus on the Kodak grey scale (KGS): nominate *canus* (5-6.5); *heinei* (6-8); *brachyrhynchus* (5.5-7.5); and *kamtschatschensis* (6-9). The darkest *kamtschatschensis* is darker than the pale extremes of British Lesser Black-backed Gull *L fuscus graellsii* (KGS 8-11). In western Europe, a *brachyrhynchus* would possibly draw attention to itself by its darker dorsal coloration amongst

286 Kamchatka Gull / Kamtsjatkastormmeeuw *Larus canus kamtschatschensis*, adult (collected at Hokodadi, Japan, date unknown; above) and Short-billed Gull / Amerikaanse Stormmeeuw *L c brachyrhynchus*, National History Museum, Tring, England, 16 April 2003 *(Peter Alfrey/©Natural History Museum)*. Note *brachyrhynchus*-like dark wash on nape and breast-sides in upper bird which, although unusual, does sometimes occur in *kamtschatschensis*. However, also note heavier bill of *kamtschatschensis* and darker grey dorsal colour.
287 Kamchatka Gull / Kamtsjatkastormmeeuw *Larus canus kamtschatschensis*, adult, Ueno Park, Tokyo, Japan, 13 March 2001 *(Osao & Michiaki Ujihara)*. Note asymmetrical pattern on primaries. Far wing similar to Short-billed Gull *L c brachyrhynchus*, showing long tongue on p8 with obvious 'pearl', extending beyond basal edge of mirror on p9, and beyond tip of 'pearl' on p7, coupled with solid bar across p5. However, near wing possesses mirror on p8 and near-broken band on p5. Also note heavy bill, typical of *kamtschatschensis*, and relatively broad wing-base.
288 Kamchatka Gull / Kamtsjatkastormmeeuw *Larus canus kamtschatschensis*, adult winter, winter, Ochichii, Hokkaido, Japan, 11 February 2001 *(Klaus Malling Olsen)*. Note heavy structure with bull-necked appearance and broad wings. Wing pattern is typical of majority of *kamtschatschensis*, being similar to nominate *canus*. Heavy head spotting is frequent trait of this taxon.
289 Kamchatka Gull / Kamtsjatkastormmeeuw *Larus canus kamtschatschensis*, adult winter, Kiritappu, Hokkaido, Japan, 13 February 2001 *(Klaus Malling Olsen)*

a group of nominate *canus*, in the same way as some '*heinei* types' would, both sharing similar KGS ranges.

Bare parts
The bill in *brachyrhynchus* tends to be weaker than in any of the other taxa and often appears short, giving rise to both its scientific and common name. Additionally, the bill appears narrower with a more tapering culmen. In winter, the bill is normally yellowish-green, averaging more yellow than in nominate *canus* and *heinei*. *Brachyrhynchus* lacks the solid, subterminal bill-band typical of nominate *canus* and *heinei* and shows either an unmarked bill or subterminal markings which are broken and diffuse. In winter, the iris is often paler than in nominate *canus* and *heinei* although there is some variation in the latter two taxa (cf, eg, Groot Koerkamp 1987, Vaughan 1991). The colour ranges from brown to yellowish-olive. Typically, *kamtschat-*




290 Common Gull / Stormmeeuw *Larus canus canus*, adult, Vadsø, Finnmark, Norway, 24 May 2002 *(Klaus Malling Olsen)*. Striking individual, very similar to *brachyrhynchus*, possessing prominent 'string of pearls' including bold white tongue-tip to p8, reaching beyond anterior edge of p9 mirror and beyond tongue-tip of p7. Note however, narrow white trailing edge to inner primaries (which may or may not have been affected by wear) and narrow irregular, subterminal band on p5, as well as seemingly extensive black on inner web of p9. In breeding plumage, other clues to aid identification such as head and neck markings are missing. Bill normally also devoid of any dark markings but occasionally, as here, bill banding can 'still' be present.
291 Common Gull / Stormmeeuw *Larus canus canus*, adult, Mandal, Jæren, Norway, 9 May 2004 *(Klaus Malling Olsen)*. Wing-tip superficially similar to *brachyrhynchus*, showing extensive white, including 'pearl' on p8. Note, however, presence of mirror on p8, which is lacking in *brachyrhynchus*.
292 Common Gull / Stormmeeuw *Larus canus canus*, adult, Radipole Lake, Dorset, England, January 2006 *(Mashuq Ahmad)*. Occasionally, nominate *canus* wintering in Britain and elsewhere in western Europe show bare parts coloration associated more with Short-billed Gull *L c brachyrhynchus,* with unmarked bill and relatively pale iris. Resemblance here is further enhanced by large-eyed look, rounded head and relatively short bill. This individual also showed solid broad bar across both webs of p5 (outer web visible here) as is typical in *brachyrhynchus*. However, it has a typical *canus*-like spotted head pattern, lacking smooth grey-brown wash. Also note narrow white tongue-tip to p6, just visible on closed wing, also typical of nominate *canus*.
293 Russian Common Gull / Russische Stormmeeuw *Larus canus heinei*, adult, Korgalzhyn, Aqmola Oblast, Kazakhstan, adult, 23 May 2003 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*. Note heavy bill and apparently dark grey dorsal coloration. Ringing recoveries from core breeding areas of *heinei* (including one from Kazakhstan), show that this taxon regularly winters in western Europe. Large dark birds are often encountered amongst wintering flocks of nominate *canus* but to categorically assign such individuals to *heinei* in the field is problematic owing to intergradation between both taxa in western Russia (but is possible with large males in the hand).

schensis has a large, often droop-tipped bill, which averages yellower in winter than in the other Palearctic taxa. Also like *brachyrhynchus*, its bill is frequently indistinctly marked or unmarked, sometimes (on photographs, at least) with a warmer more orangey wash in the gonydeal area, almost like a fainter version of the gonydeal spot of large gulls (Killian Mullarney pers comm). *Kamtschatschensis* also averages the palest iris of the complex.

294-295 Common Gull / Stormmeeuw *Larus canus canus*, adult, Nimmo's Pier, Galway, Ireland, 2 February 2007 *(Killian Mullarney)*

296 Short-billed Gulls / Amerikaanse Stormmeeuwen *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada, 12 September 1998 *(René Pop)*

297 Short-billed Gull / Amerikaanse Stormmeeuw *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada, 12 September 1998 *(René Pop)*

Head markings
The winter head pattern of adult *brachyrhynchus* is generally more finely and diffusely marked than in nominate *canus*, with a distinctive grey-brown smudging on the lower nape and hind neck, forming a dirty wash, which often extends onto the breast-sides and at times meeting across the breast-centre and forming a bib. Both nominate *canus* and *heinei* tend to show more clear, discrete spotting on the head and neck in winter, typically lacking a wash. *Kamtschatschensis* often has the densest spotting of the Palearctic taxa. A small proportion of adults in all taxa approach *brachyrhynchus* in this regard. It could be that such birds are third-winters or 'younger adults', as second-winter nominate *canus* not infrequently show a dark wash-like pattern.

Wing-tip pattern
Overall, *brachyrhynchus* shows less wing-tip melanism, showing more white and grey than in any of the three other taxa. There is much variation in the wing-tip pattern of adult *brachyrhynchus*, however, which may well be influenced by age and sex, as is the case in nominate *canus* (see below). Extreme examples showing very extensive white in the wing-tip are highly distinctive and unlikely to be confused with nominate *canus*.

Generally (within the wide variation), *brachyrhynchus* has a relatively long grey tongue on the inner web of the outer three primaries, most variable on p10. In the case of p8 and p9, compared with the Palearctic taxa, the longer grey tongue usually extends to more than 50% and 40% of the visible feather, respectively, with a prominent white tongue-tip on p8 which, importantly in a WP context, often reaches the basal edge of the mirror on p9. (Note that primary tongues appear longer on the underside of the wing compared with the upperside, as the under greater primary-coverts are slightly shorter than the upper greater primary-coverts, exposing more of the primary bases.) The outer web of p10, like in the Palearctic taxa, is normally black to the greater primary coverts. However, in general, there is less black on the outer web of p8-9 on *brachyrhynchus,* falling short of the primary coverts, most obviously so on p8. This reduced amount of black can often be seen at the base of the closed wing. *Brachyrhynchus* also quite frequently possesses, in addition to a large white mirror, an obvious white tongue-tip to p9, which is perhaps unique to (or at least very highly indicative of) this taxon. Occasionally a '*thayeri*' pattern (cf Olsen & Larsson 2004) is present on p9, which can also be found on p10. Compared with the Palearctic taxa, there is also a broader more prominent tongue-tip on p5-7, which connects with the tongue-tip of p8 and the mirror on p9-10 to create a long, often striking 'string of pearls' effect. The p8 'pearl' will often extend to the anterior edge of the p7 'pearl' and sometimes beyond. In nominate *canus* and *heinei*, p8 sometimes possesses a 'third mirror' towards the tip of the feather amongst the black pigmentation, isolated from the grey tongue. This condition does not appear to occur in *brachyrhynchus.* Although Dwight (1925) suggested a mirror on p8 is also lacking in *L c major (= kamtschatschensis*), it does occasionally occur in this taxon too. The presence of a 'third mirror' in nominate *canus* is age related and found primarily in young adults whereas old birds tend to lack it. There is no correlation with sex. There is a sex correlation in nominate *canus*, however, regarding mirror size on p9-10, with males tending to have larger mirrors than females. A curvilinear age relationship in mirror size and in size of white primary tips is also apparent; young adults and old adults (birds with more than 11 years of breeding experience) tend to have more white than 'middle-aged' birds (Kalev Rattiste in litt).

In *brachyrhynchus*, the black subterminal markings on the primaries, as demonstrated by Raty (2001), extend to a complete, solid band, across both webs of p5, often forming a symmetrical 'W' pattern. In other taxa, the band on p5 is more frequently broken and/or is narrower than in *brachyrhynchus.* On p6, the subterminal band is generally less extensive than in other taxa, again producing a 'W' pattern, in which the extensions that reach back towards the feather base along the edge of both webs and along the shaft are generally shorter than in nominate *canus* and *heinei*. P4 is also frequently variably marked in *brachyrhynchus*. Marks on p4 are relatively rare in nominate *canus* and *heinei*, although more frequent in the latter (Olsen & Larsson 2004), but are often present in *kamtschatschensis*. P7 shows a variable amount of black extending along the outer web, generally less extensive than in nominate *canus*. Additionally, *brachyrhynchus* possesses a prominent broad white trailing edge to the secondaries. The inner primaries also tend to have a relatively broader white tip than in the other taxa, often approaching the secondaries in this regard. In nominate *canus*, the white tips to the inner primaries are narrower and they are apparently even more so in *heinei* and some *kamtschatschensis* (Olsen & Larsson 2004, Steve Howell pers comm).

Identification pitfalls

Brachyrhynchus versus nominate canus and heinei
A white tongue-tip or 'pearl' on p8 is the best known feature of *brachyrhynchus*. Although it is occasionally lacking, its presence would be a vital component for the successful identification of any putative *brachyrhynchus* in a WP context. The feature, however, is not unique to the taxon but can also be shown by nominate c*anus* and *heinei*, as acknowledged by, eg, Doherty and Oddie (2001), Raty (2001) and Olsen & Larsson (2004). What may come as a surprise to many is the frequency in which it occurs. In studying over 200 video-taped presumed nominate *canus* in southern Britain, c 8% showed at least a semblance of a white tip to the tongue on p8. In addition, from 41 photographs of wings of nominate *canus* taken at Estonian breeding colonies provided by Kalev Rattiste, nearly 20% possessed a variable presence of a p8 'pearl'. The larger incidence in the latter may suggest a geographical bias to this phenomenon in nominate *canus* to some degree. (Wintering birds in Britain particularly originate from Fennoscandia, the Baltic states and western Russia (Wernham et al 2002;

Kalev Rattiste in litt).) In general, this white is reduced to a narrow sliver. Some birds, however, show an obvious white 'pearl', inviting confusion with *brachyrhynchus*, especially when this is combined with a *brachyrhynchus*-like paler iris and/or plainer bill. In the majority of cases where an obvious white 'pearl' is present, unlike in most *brachyrhynchus*, nominate *canus* and *heinei* lack a solid subterminal bar across p5 (although a solid bar is often present in more typically plumaged individuals). They also lack any markings on p4 – but there are exceptions. Additionally, in most instances, the p8 'pearl', on the fully open wing, will fall short of the basal edge of the mirror on p10 and most significantly on p9, owing to the shorter overall length of the grey tongue on p8, also falling short of the tip of the adjacent p7 'pearl' (although there are exceptions). In addition, there tends to be more extensive black on p9. Occasionally, nominate *canus* can possess broader than average white tips to the inner primaries, approaching *brachyrhynchus.* However, such birds lack any black in p4 and have a broken subterminal bar on p5.

Brachyrhynchus versus kamtschatschensis

Despite the recent increased interest in the 'Mew Gull complex', *kamtschatschensis* is still relatively poorly known and the full extent of its variability and its relationship with the equally poorly known eastern *heinei* is still evolving. This taxon is seemingly more variable than the other members of the quartet. There is, for example, a wider range in dorsal pigmentation and biometrics in *kamtschatschensis (*eg, bill and wing lengths) than in any of the other taxa. This wide range in variation may well in part be the result of eastern *heinei* or *heinei* intergrades being misidentified as *kamtschatschensis* through potentially misconceived notions of the limits of inter-taxon variation, as well as an incomplete knowledge of the breeding and wintering ranges of each taxon. For a fuller introduction into the problem of the variation in Far East Asian Mew Gulls, see Carey & Kennerley (1996), Moores (2004) and Ujihara & Ujihara (2006).

In general terms, most *kamtschatschensis* are obviously different from *brachyrhynchus*, tending to be larger with a thicker and longer bill, overlapping in many measurements with Ring-billed Gull and typically with a more nominate *canus*-like wing-tip pattern. Exceptions are not uncommon, however, and *brachyrhynchus*-like plumage features can be found across all ages. In adults, a white p8 'pearl', for instance, is perhaps more frequently present than in nominate *canus* and *heinei.* This can occasionally extend to beyond the basal edge of the p9 mirror and reach beyond the tongue-tip of p7, which can also be combined with a solid subterminal bar across p5 and a dark mark on p4, potentially creating a major pitfall. This would especially be the case if present on a relatively pale, small female, akin to *brachyrhynchus,* and thus further masking its *kamtschatschensis* identity. In fresh plumage at least, most of these *brachyrhynchus* look-alikes would be identifiable by the narrow white tips to the inner primaries but as nominate *canus* can show broader tips occasionally it is likely that *kamtschatschensis* could similarly do so. Given the fact that *kamtschatschensis* has a preponderance to show more black subterminally on p4-5 than nominate *canus*, it is tempting to speculate that a bird with a broader than normal inner primary white trailing edge could still retain these markings.

The problem of 'pseudo *brachyrhynchus*' in the *kamtschatschensis* population is obviously much more of a concern in East Asia, where putative *brachyrhynchus* have increasingly been discovered in recent years, than ever it would be in the WP, where only one *brachyrhynchus* has so far occurred and where the presence of *kamtschatschensis* has yet to be ratified. If an adult *kamtschatschensis* were to be discovered, it would probably, in all statistical likelihood, be a more typical individual, rather than a rare, extreme *brachyrhynchus*-like variant. There is one recent, well-documented claim of a first-winter *kamtschatschensis* in the Netherlands (see Plomp et al 2006 for video images), which is currently under review by the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA).

Conclusion

From the above analysis of identification of adults of the 'Mew Gull complex', it can be demonstrably shown that the Terceira bird can be identified as *brachyrhynchus.* Although there is no single fully diagnostic feature to distinguish the Terceira bird from the other taxa in the 'Mew Gull complex', there are several characters which in combination are diagnostic of *brachyrhynchus*. Compared with the Palearctic taxa, the pro-*brachyrhynchus* features are: ***1*** the extensive grey tongue on the inner web of p8, extending to c 70% of the visible feather, with a broad white tip producing an obvious 'pearl' extending beyond the basal edge of the mirror on p9, and also extending to at least the tip of (and perhaps beyond) the tongue on p7; ***2*** the combination of character 1 with the presence of a solid 'W'-shaped subterminal bar across both webs of p5 and dark mark on the inner web of p4; ***3*** broad, white tongue-tips on p5-7, which align with the white of the tongue-tip on p8 and mirror on p9-10 to form a very obvious 'string of pearls'; ***4*** the extensive tongue on p9, being c 40% of visible feather; ***5*** the noticeably broad white trailing edge to the inner primaries, almost as broad as the equivalent area on the secondaries; ***6*** a dirty grey-brown wash over nape and breast-sides, lacking obvious discrete spotting; ***7*** the relatively pale blue-grey upperparts (in comparison with *kamtschatschensis*); ***8*** the distinctive bare-part coloration: yellow-olive iris and indistinct subterminal bill band, which stayed the same throughout its stay, indicating the pattern was not in a transitional stage to breeding condition; and ***9*** the distinctive structure: slim bodied with long neck, high breast, small rounded head with large eye, and narrow bill with tapering tip to the upper mandible.

Two features present on the bird are associated more with the Palearctic taxa than with *brachyrhynchus.* The extent of black on the outer web of p9 basally reaches at least as far as the tips of the greater primary coverts, typically being less extensive in *brachyrhynchus*.

Also, the black on the outer web of p7 is more extensive than is the norm for *brachyrhynchus*. However, the variation within *brachyrhynchus* allows for both 'anomalies' to routinely occur and their presence does not prevent a positive identification.

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Samenvatting
AMERIKAANSE STORMMEEUW OP TERCEIRA, AZOREN, IN FEBRUARI-MAART 2003, EN HERKENNING VAN HET 'STORMMEEUWEN-COMPLEX' Op 18 februari 2003 vond Peter Alfrey op het strand van Praia da Vitoria, Terceira, Azoren, een adulte Stormmeeuw *Larus canus*, waarvan hij sterk vermoedde dat het een Amerikaanse Stormmeeuw *L c brachyrhynchus* was. De vogel kon worden gefotografeerd en de foto's hielpen om de determinatie achteraf zeker te stellen. Hij werd bijna een maand later, op 16 maart, teruggevonden door Mashuq Ahmad en was nog aanwezig op 24 maart 2003 en werd toen ook op video vastgelegd. De vogel verschilde van adulte Europese Stormmeeuw *L c canus*, Russische Stormmeeuw *L c heinei* en Kamtsjatkastormmeeuw *L c kamtschatschensis* door een iets andere lichaamsbouw (iets langere hals, kleinere kop en fijnere, korte snavel), iets gelere, nauwelijks getekende snavel, 'vuilere' en vagere koptekening, en vooral een ander handpenpatroon, dat hier in detail wordt beschreven en wordt vergeleken met (de variatie bij) andere Stormmeeuwen-taxa. Adult Amerikaanse Stormmeeuw heeft doorgaans ook iets bredere witte toppen aan de binnenste handpennen (bijna even breed als de witte armpentoppen) en een nogal bleke iris, in tegenstelling tot de meeste Europese en Russische Stormmeeuwen. Dit geval is aanvaard door de Portugese zeldzaamhedencommissie en is het eerste voor de WP. Amerikaanse Stormmeeuw komt hoofdzakelijk aan de Noord-Amerikaanse westkust voor maar is ook vastgesteld in Hong Kong, China, Japan en tot aan de oostkust in Noord-Amerika.

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Adult American Herring Gull on Flores, Azores, in December 2005

Pierre-André Crochet & Peter Adriaens

During the autumn of 2005, Pierre-André Crochet's parents decided to spend the next Christmas in French Polynesia. To replace the usual familial events, he thought of a better place to spend Christmas' eve than alone at home. Ignoring offers from friends to join their own family events, he decided to opt for Corvo, Azores, where visiting birders kept reporting long-staying American vagrants after Peter Alfrey's ground-breaking visit in October 2005 (Alfrey 2005, Hering & Alfrey 2006). After this decision, he hastened to find himself a companion. He turned to Eric Didner and, after a round of difficult negotiations with his parents, ED agreed to come along. Plans were to spend c 12 days in the Azores, with a few days on Corvo and visiting as many of the other islands as possible. Among the target species, gulls were high on the list. Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (a potential new species for PAC and ED) is remarkably rare in the Azores (see http://azores.seawatching.net) but at least two had been reported repeatedly during the autumn alongside much larger numbers of Laughing Gulls *L atricilla*. This unusually high number of rare gulls made PAC expect that the trip would be a good opportunity to find and study American Herring Gulls *L smithsonianus* (hereafter *smithsonianus*); several first-winters had been reported earlier that year on Flores and São Miguel. Besides, PAC was keen to study Atlantic Yellow-legged Gull *L michahellis atlantis* (hereafter *atlantis*) and amass photographic documentation. Of course, he was also expecting some additions to his Western Palearctic list...

The day after their arrival on Faial, PAC and ED found an American Coot *Fulica americana* on Pico. Then they visited Graciosa, a seldom visited island where Joël Bried, a French ornithologist residing in the Azores, had found a Belted Kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon* in early December. PAC and ED relocated the bird, providing a second lifer for both. The diversity of American gulls, however, was still limited to Laughing Gulls, with two on Faial, two on Graciosa and one found on Terceira when they arrived there. PAC managed to lure ED into long sessions of gull watching in Terceira harbour and persuaded him to take many photographs of immature *atlantis* and Lesser Black-backed Gulls *L fuscus graellsii* but the only rewards were Great Black-backed Gulls *L marinus*. Even at the Terceira landfill, a renowned gull hot spot, the only scarce gulls were two first-winter European Herring Gulls *L argentatus* (of *argenteus* type).

After Terceira, JB joined PAC and ED and they headed west toward Corvo and Flores. Corvo has little to offer for gull watching, apart from the pet Laughing Gull kept by the owner of the local guesthouse. Even rarities were more difficult to see than expected: ED never managed to see the Ovenbird(s) *Seiurus aurocapilla* that made an unexpected Christmas present to JB and PAC. Except for this (or these) Ovenbird(s) they could not find any leftover from the autumn American passerines, and had to satisfy themselves with the long-staying Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus* on the airport runway.

Flores is a larger island and has several harbours and a small landfill next to Lagoa Rasa. The first day (26 December) was typically dull: fog, rain, and a near-empty Lagoa Branca instead of the expected Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*. A male American Wigeon *Anas americana* bonding with a pair of European Wigeons *A penelope* was the only reminder that Flores is nearly half way between Europe and North America. The first visit to Lagoa Rasa (where the gulls gather to bathe and roost after feeding on the landfill) did not produce anything better than Great Black-backed Gull and, far down the bottom of the nearby Lagoa Funda, an adult 'herring gull-type' of which the pale mantle gave it away immediately as either American or European Herring Gull. The next day (27 December) started much better: the sun was shining from time to time, the Great Blue Heron was back, the male American Wigeon had found a conspecific female and there was a small flock of several hybrids American Black Duck x Mallard *A rubripes x platyrhynchos* (of various introgression levels) plus one or two Black Duck look-alikes that were unfortunately too far to identify with certainty. At Lagoa Rasa, PAC soon located an interesting second-winter bird: clearly a 'herring gull-type', with a large size, powerful structure and faded, uniform-looking plumage somehow suggestive of a hybrid Glaucous Gull *L hyperboreus*. It looked a bit pale at first sight for *smithsonianus* but careful examination of its plumage features soon confirmed that it was one: wholly dark brown tail, densely barred uppertail-coverts, dark brown outer tertials with reduced subterminal pale markings, rufous-brown underparts with reduced pale mottling and wholly uniform coloration from the legs towards the undertail-coverts which were largely dark and with the longest undertail-coverts wholly dark rufous brown except for a reduced pale tip. It was a classic example of a second-winter *smithsonianus*, the only point deviating slightly from the sets of characters established by Lonergan & Mullarney (2004) being the lower hind neck that was very densely streaked like the upper mantle but not uniformly dark.

Soon after, PAC relocated a pale adult, probably the individual from the previous day, roosting on the far bank of Lagoa Rasa, at medium range. It was now easy

298-299 American Herring Gull / Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw *Larus smithsonianus*, adult, with Atlantic Yellow-legged Gull / Atlantische Geelpootmeeuw *L michahellis atlantis*, adult, Flores, Azores, 27 December 2005 *(Eric Didner).* Note broad necklace of brown, dense and transverse texture contrasting with pale grey upperparts. In plate 299, also note pale bill colour, thin dark smudge in front of eye and flat forehead.

to note its large size and powerful structure which, together with very pale *argenteus*-like upperparts, pale, pinkish bill with contrastingly yellow tip and densely streaked head and neck, quickly suggested a bird of North American origin. The observers knew they would need to carefully check a number of fine details of its primary pattern and PAC dug out his copy of Adriaens & Mactavish (2004) to assist in the process. Fortunately, the bird moved closer and began to preen in the middle of the lake. It was soon confirmed that it had a long, square-ended, pale grey tongue on the underside of p10 (primaries numbered descendantly): a good start. With two of the three characters 'that may be helpful when used in combination' now established (pale grey upperparts and suitable pattern on the underside of p10), attention turned to p5, to establish if the black band was complete or not. At that moment, the bird chose for a very timely meal and flew straight towards the dump. This was the chance! PAC stayed at the lake in case the bird would return and sent ED and JB to get photographs – of the spread wing! ED and JB came back 15 min later, mission accomplished: ED had a clear shot of the open left wing. Unfortunately, what could be seen of the wing-tip pattern on the small camera screen looked interesting but not fully convincing: nice bayonets on p8 and p7 and white tongue-tip on inner web of p8 were good *smithsonianus* characters but the black band on the tip of p5 did not seem fully complete and the white mirror on p9 seemed to reach the outer web.

Back in France, PAC had to wait a few weeks before ED sent him two CDs with his photographs. When PAC viewed them on his computer, he realized the pattern on p5 was better than he had thought before: both webs were dark with at most a very small gap near the shaft. He could also check the pattern of p6: there was a broad black band sharply pointed along the outer edge of the feather and the shaft. PAC was now almost convinced that it was an adult *smithsonianus* but still uncertain whether it was 'clean' enough for full acceptance due to the possible gap along the black band of p5 and the apparent extension of the white mirror on the outer web of p9. The same day, PAC emailed the photographs to Peter Adriaens who quickly responded that it was a classic *smithsonianus*! The matter was settled and the occurrence of adult American Herring Gull in the Western Palearctic was finally confirmed.

Description

The following description is mostly based on a series of 12 photographs taken on the dump alongside adult and immature *atlantis* and first calendar-year Lesser Black-backed Gulls, completed by field notes for characters that are not apparent on the photographs.

GENERAL IMPRESSION Fully adult grey-mantled large white-headed gull, immediately told from *atlantis* by much paler grey upperparts, pinkish legs and very different head and neck pattern.

SIZE & STRUCTURE Similar to *atlantis* but slightly more bulky with shorter-looking and thicker neck, shorter legs and flatter and longer head shape accentuated by slightly longer-billed impression. Primary projection rather short, with four visible primary tips and primary extension beyond tail-tip shorter than between tail-tip and tip of tertials.

PLUMAGE Whole neck and breast down to lower breast/upper belly densely marked with grey-brown blotches, most of these areas being predominantly dark. Head distinctly paler, with rather sharp demarcation between head and upper neck. Head white, extensively streaked grey-brown, with denser streaking on back of head, nearly unstreaked area below gape (chin) and above bill base, and distinct dark grey smudge around eye bordered by half moon grey crescent around anterior edge of eye. Mantle coloration difficult to evaluate in absence of other similarly coloured gulls but mantle coloration giving impression of being even slightly paler than western European *argenteus*. White tertial crescent wide, well marked.

PRIMARY PATTERN (primaries numbered descendantly): P10: underside judged in field (while bird was preening) to have

300 American Herring Gull / Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw *Larus smithsonianus*, adult, Flores, Azores, 27 December 2005 *(Eric Didner)*. Note distinctive wing pattern with long grey tongue on all primaries (although not visible on p10 here), broad white tongue-tip on p8, small mirror on p9, obvious black 'bayonet' on p7-8, complete black subterminal band on p10, and W-shaped black marking on p5-6.

long pale grey tongue, reaching close to mirror and square-ended (near 90° angle). Upperside with long white mirror (c 1/5 of primary length), separated from white primary tip by thin, complete, black band. P9: black limited to outer half of feather along outer web, slightly less on inner web (limited grey tongue). Small white mirror, wider than long, situated at c 1/5 of feather length from tip, and reaching onto outer web of p9. P8: extensively dark outer web (3/5 of feather length) and long bayonet reaching up to 4/5 of feather length along outer edge of outer web. Inner web extensively grey with reduced black tip (less than 1/5 of feather length) and broad white crescent separating grey and black elements of feather. P7: similar to p8 but with much less black on outer web (about 1/3 of feather length) and shorter bayonet. Also less black on inner web and with narrower, more curved white crescent separating black and grey elements. P6: broad black subterminal band, with curved inner edge and narrow white divide between black and grey on inner web. On outer web, inner edge of black band with pointed wedges along shaft and outer edge of feather. P5: complete or near complete dark band formed by ***1*** elongated black spot with U-shaped inner edge, separating white tip and grey part of outer web, and ***2*** narrow U-shaped long dark grey band across white area of inner web, reaching near middle of black spot of outer web and creating 'double U' pattern with U-shaped band on inner web joining near U-shaped inner edge of black spot of outer web. Other primaries grey with white tip, narrower on inner primaries.
SECONDARIES Grey with broad white tip forming broad white trailing edge to wing.
BARE PARTS Iris pale cream, orbital ring apparently rather pale (orange). Bill bicoloured, pale greenish-grey from base to gonys, with brighter pale yellow distal part and very pale (whitish) tip. Red gonydeal spot reduced, restricted to lower mandible, diffuse, rather pale, with indistinct dark smudge on upper part. Leg pink with grey tinge (not bright pink).
MOULT Nearing end of complete moult, as indicated by outermost primary and outermost secondary being almost but not yet fully grown.

Identification

The combination of pale grey upperparts and very obvious, brown blotches on neck and breast immediately drew attention. The pale grey upperparts pointed to a 'herring gull', either *argenteus*-like or a *smithsonianus*, while the pattern on the neck and breast was so obvious and extensive that, in itself, it strongly pointed to *smithsonianus*. While head and neck streaking is tremendously variable in European Herring Gulls, it was so strong in this bird that it turned into horizontal bars on the lower hind neck and upper-breast, almost creating the impression of a woolen shawl between the paler head and pale upperparts. Such a strongly horizontal pattern is, at best, (very) rare in European Herring Gulls, which normally show a more vertical, streaked pattern.

The identification was confirmed by the primary pattern. Although not visible in the photographs, the pale tongue on the underside of p10 was long and rectangular, as in adult Caspian Gull *L cachinnans*. There was a complete, black subterminal band between the white mirror and tip. The combination of a long, *cachinnans*-like tongue and uninterrupted, black subterminal band on p10 is very rare in European Herring Gulls. The second thing to look for in the primaries is the pattern of p5. A complete, symmetrical, black 'W' across both webs is typical for *smithsonianus*. However, in this bird, the pattern, though rather U-shaped on both the inner and outer webs, was not symmetrical, since the amount of black was largest on the outer web. It was therefore absolutely necessary to check the other primaries carefully as well. Fortunately, these were all rather typical. The grey tongue on p9 was long (covering well over half of the length of the inner web) and the black pattern on the outer web did not reach the primary coverts. Even though the white mirror reached onto the outer web, it was still clearly small (smaller than the black subterminal band, for instance). On p8, the grey tongue was very long, being of the same length as on p7, which only rarely occurs in *argenteus*. In addition, there was a very broad, white tongue-tip, which is not normally this extensive in pure *argenteus*. There were obvious black 'bayonets' on both p8 and p7. Such 'bayonets' are rather uncommon in European Herring Gulls, and only very rarely occur on both p7 and p8. On p6, the black pattern was clearly pointed along the outer edge, the shaft and the inner edge, creating a sort of drawn-out 'W'.

Other characters were also typical of *smithsonianus*, such as the bulky body on short legs, the angular head shape with rather flat forehead, the fairly parallel-sided and dull-coloured bill and the dark smudge in front of the eye, contrasting with the pale iris, as well as the late moult.

All of the above characters, when combined, allow for safe identification of the bird as an adult *smithsonianus*.

Status

Up to 2006, there have been three records – and many reports not submitted – of *smithsonianus* in the Azores.

TABLE 1 Records of American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus* in the WP / gevallen van Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw *Larus smithsonianus* in het West-Palearctische gebied

Azores (3)
19-21 February 2003, Praia da Vitoria, Terceira, two first-winters (Gonçalo Elias pers comm)
21 February 2003, Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, first-winter (Gonçalo Elias pers comm)
26-27 December 2005, Flores, adult (this paper)

There are over 30 reports that have not yet been submitted (see http://azores.seawatching.net/lists/pomarine%20jaeger.xls). Some concern adults but none of the adults so far met the criteria required for acceptance (see above).

Britain (12)
12 records have been accepted so far, all first-winter birds (Fraser et al 2007).

France (9)
24 January 1993, Villeneuve-la-Garenne, Hauts-de-Seine, first-winter
9 June 1994, 30 km south-south-west of Penmarch, Finistère, second-summer
3 August 1997, Le Portel, Pas-de-Calais, juvenile
11 January to 9 February 1999, Arcachon, Gironde, second-winter, then 27 December 1999 to 9 February 2000, third-winter
7 February 2001, Paris, second-winter
9 March 2001, Douarnenez, Finistère, first-winter
9 March 2001, Douarnenez, Finistère, second-winter
29 January-7 April 2002, Ouessant, Finistère, then 22 April 2002, Molène, Finistère, first-winter
15 March 2002, Le Relecq-Kerhuon, Finistère, first-winter (www.oiseaux-nature.com/oiseaux_chn/goeland_amerique/goeland-argente-smith.html; Aurélien Audevard pers comm)

Several French records fall outside the typical pattern of occurrence in Europe, or concern difficult age classes at a time when identification of *smithsonianus* was not fully understood. In addition, for at least one record (at Arcachon in 1999) published photographs are unconvincing. A review of the French records is therefore highly warranted. See also the discussion by Hoogendoorn et al (2003).

Germany (1)
11 December 2002, Oldenburg rubbish dump, Niedersachsen, second-winter (Gottschling 2006)

The published photographs, however, show atypical features for *smithsonianus*. A review of this record therefore seems warranted.

Iceland
There are no records yet but several reports (probably 10-15, no adults) are pending, some of which are anticipated to be accepted. The Icelandic Rare Bird Committee is expected to reach a decision on these soon (Yann Kolbeinsson pers comm).

Ireland (62)
There have been 62 records up to 2004, on average about five per year since the first in 1986 (Paul Milne pers com). Most were first-winters apart from a few returning or semi-resident individuals, such as a bird in Galway, which was in its fourth winter in early 2007 (www.birdwatchireland.ie/bwi/irbc/A1A2Jan07.xls). At least one possible adult has been observed and photographed, at Killybegs, Donegal, in February-March 1998 (cf Millington & Garner 1998).

Norway (4)
11 November 1999, Kiberg, Finnmark, first-winter
3 March 2001, Vadsø, Finnmark, first-winter

There is also one pending record (Vegard Bunes pers comm).

Portugal (4)
30-31 December 1992, Faro, Algarve, first-year (Moore 1994, de Juana et al 1995)
30 March 2001, Matosinhos, Porto, second-winter (Gonçalo Elias pers comm; Hoogendoorn et al 2003)
31 March 2001, Canidela, Porto, juvenile (Gonçalo Elias pers comm; Hoogendoorn et al 2003)
1 April 2001, Santa Marinha, Porto, first-winter (Gonçalo Elias pers comm; Hoogendoorn et al 2003)

Spain (3)
November 1937, north-west of Cape Finisterre, Galicia, second-winter. This bird came aboard a ship; it had been ringed as a chick in New Brunswick, Canada, on 13 August 1936 (Cramp & Simmons 1983)
3 January 1991, Gijón, Oviedo, first-winter (de Juana et al 1995)
28 January to 19 March 2006, Getxo, Bizkaia, first-winter (www.rarebirdspain.net/arbsr603.htm)

Of these, this is the first accepted adult. However, there have been at least nine other good candidates for adult *smithsonianus* in recent years (see, eg, http://azores.seawatching.net/lists/pomarine%20jaeger.xls), namely one in February 2003 (see plate 26-27 in Adriaens & Mactavish 2004), four in February 2004 (Peter Alfrey pers comm), one on 6 April 2004, one from 28 February to 4 March 2005, one on 8 February 2006 (see http://azores.seawatching.net/bigpic.php?filename=lar_smi8.jpg), and one on 28 December 2006 (Álex Ollé, Pere Serrano, Toni Mampel & Jordi Martí-Aledo in litt). While all were probably *smithsonianus*, their primary pattern was not photographed or did not seem entirely conclusive. The Flores bird on 26-27 December 2005 is the first adult to be photographed well and to be characteristic in most respects. It constitutes the first record of this age in the Western Palearctic.

The current status of *smithsonianus* in Western

Palearctic countries is presented in table 1. There are no records (yet) in Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Morocco and Sweden or countries away from the Atlantic or North Sea coast.

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PAC wishes to thank Eric Didner for his patience during this and other trips on which they certainly did more gull watching and lizard photographing than most people would find acceptable, and Joël Bried for allowing him to discover the Azores in more detail than is usually possible. We both want to thank the numerous persons (not all of them are mentioned in the text) who replied to our inquiries about records of American Herring Gull in Europe. Pat Lonergan commented also on this bird and concurred with our identification.

Samenvatting
ADULTE AMERIKAANSE ZILVERMEEUW OP CORVO, AZOREN, IN DECEMBER 2005 Eind december 2005 verbleven Pierre-André Crochet en Eric Didner c twee weken op de Azoren en bezochten verschillende eilanden. Dit leverde waarnemingen op van onder andere twee Amerikaanse Smienten *Anas americana*, enkele hybriden Amerikaanse Zwarte x Wilde Eend *A rubripes x platyrhynchos*, Amerikaanse Blauwe Reiger *Ardea herodias*, Amerikaanse Meerkoet *Fulica americana*, Amerikaanse Regenwulp *Numenius hudsonicus*, ten minste zes Lachmeeuwen *Larus atricilla*, een tweede-winter Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw *L smithsonianus*, Bandijsvogel *Ceryle alcyon* en Ovenvogel *Seiurus aurocapilla*. Op 26 en 27 december zagen ze op Flores een adulte 'zilvermeeuw' die opviel door de bleekgrijze bovendelen, het grote formaat en robuuste postuur, de zeer zwaar gevlekte hals en borst en een vuilroze snavel met gele top. Op de onderkant van de buitenste handpen was een lange, rechthoekige, bleke tong zichtbaar (als bij Pontische Meeuw *L cachinnans*). Dit alles deed hen vermoeden dat het om een Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw ging. Er werden foto's gemaakt, waaronder van de gestrekte vleugel. Het handpenpatroon was daardoor goed gedocumenteerd en bevestigde de eerdere vermoedens. Dit is de eerste voldoende gedocumenteerde waarneming van een Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw in adult kleed in het West-Palearctische gebied. In het afgelopen decennium werden weliswaar 10 exemplaren in dit kleed gemeld (negen in de Azoren en één in Ierland) maar hun determinatie kon niet bewezen worden omdat het handpenpatroon niet gefotografeerd werd of er niet typisch genoeg uitzag. In dit artikel wordt een uitgebreide beschrijving gegeven, wordt dieper ingegaan op de herkenning van adulte Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw en wordt een actueel overzicht gegeven van alle gevallen van deze soort in het West-Paleractische gebied.

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Dunbekmeeuwen in Nederland in mei 2006

Gert Ottens, Jan-Pieter de Krijger, Peter Lindenburg, Eelke Schoppers & Bob Woets

Van 5 tot en met 9 mei 2006 werden in drie gebieden in totaal zeven Dunbekmeeuwen *Larus genei* als eerste gevallen voor Nederland waargenomen. In dit artikel worden ze besproken, beschreven en vergeleken met het voorkomen van de soort in de rest van Europa (zowel in als buiten de broedgebieden).

De Kreupel en Enkhuizen, 5-6 mei

Op vrijdagavond 5 mei rond 19:00 werden drie Dunbekmeeuwen waargenomen en gefotografeerd door Eelke Schoppers en Bob Woets op vogeleiland De Kreupel ten oosten van Medemblik, Noord-Holland. Dit is een niet vrij toegankelijk, nieuw en (nog) niet op topografische kaarten te vinden eilandje, enkele kilometers van de Noord-Hollandse IJsselmeerkust. De drie vlogen later die avond het IJsselmeer op in de richting van Medemblik. In de ochtend van 6 mei verbleef van 09:00 tot 12:35 nog één adult exemplaar op De Kreupel. Omdat hier kwetsbare broedpopulaties van met name plevieren Charadriidae en sterns Sternidae aanwezig zijn werd besloten het nieuws niet meteen te verspreiden.

Later diezelfde dag werden tijdens een 'big day' in oostelijk West-Friesland van de KNNV-afdeling Hoorn/West-Friesland twee Dunbekmeeuwen ontdekt bij Enkhuizen, Noord-Holland. Eén van de teams was om 14:00 aanwezig bij de vuurtoren bij De Ven ten noorden van Enkhuizen, waar Jan-Pieter de Krijger de andere teamleden op twee zwemmende meeuwen wees en de determinatie snel duidelijk werd. Rond 15:00 vlogen beide meeuwen van het IJsselmeer naar een strandje van een binnendijkse plas. Na een korte afwezigheid lieten ze zich vanaf de IJsselmeerdijk bekijken, afwisselend bij de plas binnendijks en buitendijks, zwemmend op het IJsselmeer. Het grootteverschil tussen beide vogels en het gedrag gaven aan dat het om een paar ging. Om c 18:30 vlogen de twee het IJsselmeer op in (noord)westelijke richting en verdwenen als stipjes aan de horizon. Daarna bleef een aantal waarnemers de 100en aanwezige en langstrekkende Dwergmeeuwen *L minutus* en Kokmeeuwen *L ridibundus* met daartussen ten minste drie Zwartkopmeeuwen *L melanocephalus* afkijken. Om 19:10 en even voor 21:00 zagen zij toch weer een Dunbekmeeuw langsvliegen en omdat deze vogel ongepaard leek en de andere twee ver weg waren gevlogen, werd aan een derde exemplaar gedacht. Waarschijnlijk betrof het de vogel die dezelfde ochtend nog aanwezig was op De Kreupel.

Groede, 6 mei

Op zaterdag 6 mei 2006 was Peter Lindenburg aan het vogelen in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, Zeeland. In De Blikken bij Groede kwam hij 's ochtends twee Zeeuwse vogelaars tegen. Eén van hen, Jos Tramper, vertelde dat hij even daarvoor twee aparte meeuwen had gezien met een geheel witte kop en een zwarte snavel. Ze konden de vogels op dat moment niet terugvinden. Enkele uren later (rond 14:30), op de terugweg, richtte PL zijn telescoop op enkele Steltkluten *Himantopus himantopus* – en stokte zijn adem in de keel: hij zag twee Dunbekmeeuwen! Hij vroeg een andere vogelaar door zijn telescoop te kijken en besloot na diens bevestiging zo snel mogelijk dichterbij te gaan staan om ze nog beter te bekijken. Intussen kwamen ook enkele Belgische vogelaars aangerend met dezelfde mededeling: twee Dunbekmeeuwen! PL belde daarop hem bekende vogelaars op de telpost te Breskens, Zeeland, en daarna de Dutch Birding-vogellijn. Binnen korte tijd werd het nieuws verder verspreid en stond de dijk vol met opgetogen vogelaars. In de loop van de middag en avond zagen c 100 vogelaars beide meeuwen, die tot donker bleven.

Dollard, 6-9 mei

Eveneens op 6 mei om 19:30 ontdekte Kees Koffijberg twee adulte Dunbekmeeuwen in de Dollard, buitendijks op de kwelder ter hoogte van de Carel Coenraadpolder, Groningen. Hij waarschuwde enkele andere vogelaars die even later de waarneming konden bevestigen. Tot donker konden nog 12 vogelaars beide vogels bekijken. Ze vlogen in de schemering in oostelijke richting het wad op om daar te overnachten. Op zondag 7 mei waren beide nog aanwezig, zij het op vrij grote afstand. Zij verplaatsten zich gedurende de dag en tot laat in de avond heen en weer over enkele kilometers van de kwelder, tussen paal 3 en paal 1, tot aan de Duitse grens. Er werd al lopend, zwemmend en vliegend gefoerageerd op insecten die zich op en boven verschillende plasjes op de kwelder bevonden (André Boven in litt). Dit patroon herhaalde zich tot en met 9 mei, de laatste dag van hun verblijf. Het is aannemelijk dat ze net als de andere aanwezige meeuwen elke avond op het wad hebben overnacht. Op 6 mei werden ze van redelijk korte afstand gezien en toen leek het (gezien het grootteverschil) om een paar te gaan. Ook leek de grootste van de twee (het mannetje) een duidelijkere roze zweem op de hals en borst te hebben dan de andere (Fontijn 2007). De kleinste vertoonde ook wat donkere tekening op de staart.

Overige meldingen in mei 2006

Op 7 mei werden rond 10:50 kortstondig (ruim 2 min) twee Dunbekmeeuwen gezien achter de veerboot van Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, naar Lauwersoog, Gronin-

[*Dutch Birding 29: 218-222, 2007*]

301 Dunbekmeeuwen / Slender-billed Gulls *Larus genei*, adult en tweede-zomer, Enkhuizen, Noord-Holland, 6 mei 2006 *(Michel Veldt)*

gen (Ebels et al 2006). De waarneming werd onlangs (mei 2007) ingediend bij de CDNA en is nog in behandeling. In de vroege avond van 17 mei werd gedurende c 30 min een eerste-zomer Dunbekmeeuw gezien bij Den Oever, Noord-Holland. Deze waarneming is kort na de waarneming ingediend en eveneens nog in behandeling bij de CDNA.

Beschrijvingen

Onderstaande beschrijving is gebaseerd op de waarnemingen van De Kreupel (adult zomerkleed; Eelke Schoppers in litt, foto's van ES, Dutch Birding 28: 196, plaat 278, 2006) en Enkhuizen (adult zomerkleed en tweede-zomer; foto's van onder anderen Martijn Bot, Hans ter Haar, Cor Hopman, J-PdK en Michel Veldt, cf Dutch Birding 28: 196, plaat 279, 2006), de Dollard (Fontijn 2007, André Boven in litt; foto's van Bas van den Boogaard, Dusan Brinkhuizen en Jaap Westra, cf Dutch Birding 28: 197, plaat 280, 2006) en Groede (foto's van onder anderen Max Berlijn, Leon Boon, Enno Ebels, PL en Co van der Wardt en video-opnamen van Marc Plomp, cf Dutch Birding 28: 260, plaat 371, 2006). Voor alle exemplaren is één beschrijving opgesteld; individuele verschillen worden apart vermeld.

GROOTTE & BOUW Als Kokmeeuw maar iets groter, met langere hals, 'spitsere' kop en langere snavel. Ook vleugels verhoudingsgewijs langer lijkend dan bij Kokmeeuw.
KOP & HALS Wit.
BOVENDELEN Mantel- en schouderveren lichtgrijs, zelfde tint als Kokmeeuw.
ONDERDELEN Wit met lichte roze tint, vooral op borst (en buik). Roze tint in ieder geval bij één vogel van Groede, één van Enkhuizen en één van Dollard gezien.
VLEUGEL Bovenvleugel lichtgrijs als mantel; patroon van vleugelpunt als Kokmeeuw: handvleugel met witte voorrand van handvleugel (als wig), en met zwarte achterrand (bij één vogel van Groede zwart met bruin waas; zie onder). Onderzijde armvleugel zeer licht grijs. Onderzijde handvleugel vleugel met witte voorrand, donkergrijze binnenste handpennen en donkere achterrand.
STAART Wit. Bij één exemplaar van Enkhuizen en één exemplaar van Dollard op foto's kleine donkere vlekjes op uiteinde van bovenstaart zichtbaar. Bij vogel van Dollard donkere tekening meest uitgebreid op buitenvlag van buitenste staartpen, op andere staartpentoppen sterk gereduceerd.
NAAKTE DELEN Iris donker lijkend, ook op goede foto's. Oogring rood. Snavel dieprood; bij één vogel van Dollard (minst roze gekleurd exemplaar met donkere tekening op uiteinde van bovenstaart) snavel meer bruinachtig. Poot zeer donkerrood; bij één vogel van Groede poot oranjeroze (zie onder).
GELUID Voor zover bekend niet gehoord.
GEDRAG In meeste gevallen (waarschijnlijk) paren betreffend. Vrijwel alle vogels steeds (zeer) dicht bij elkaar in buurt verblijvend en meestal wat afgezonderd van andere meeuwen; soms samen met Kokmeeuwen zwemmend of vliegend. Bij Enkhuizen interacties waargenomen met Kokmeeuw en met Meerkoet *Fulica atra* die beide vogels verjoeg. Ook bij vogels van Dollard en Groede agressieve gedragingen waargenomen tegenover Kokmeeuwen.

Determinatie en leeftijdsbepaling

De belangrijkste kenmerken die op Dunbekmeeuw wij-






302 Dunbekmeeuw / Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*, adult, Dollard, Groningen, 7 mei 2006 *(Bas van den Boogaard)* **303** Dunbekmeeuw / Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*, tweede-zomer, Dollard, Groningen, 7 mei 2006 *(Bas van den Boogaard)* **304** Dunbekmeeuw / Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*, adult, De Kreupel, Medemblik, Noord-Holland, 5 mei 2006 *(Eelke Schoppers)* **305** Dunbekmeeuw / Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*, adult, De Blikken, Groede, Zeeland, 6 mei 2006 *(Enno B Ebels)* **306** Dunbekmeeuwen / Slender-billed Gulls *Larus genei*, adult (rechts) en tweede-zomer, Enkhuizen, Noord-Holland, 6 mei 2006 *(Jan-Pieter de Krijger)* **307** Dunbekmeeuw / Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*, adult, De Blikken, Groede, Zeeland, 6 mei 2006 *(Leon Boon)*

zen zijn het formaat (iets groter dan Kokmeeuw), de lange vleugels, de lange (zeer donkerrode) snavel en poten, de witte kop en het met Kokmeeuw vergelijkbare vleugelpatroon (Svensson et al 2002, Olsen & Larsson 2004). Daarbij moet worden opgemerkt dat de iris niet licht was (of de lichte kleur vanwege de afstand niet zichtbaar was), terwijl dit bekend staat als een kenmerk. Adulte vogels vertonen echter vooral aan het begin van het broedseizoen een donkerdere iris dan later (Olsen & Larsson 2004). Dunbekmeeuw verschilt verder ook van Kokmeeuw doordat de snavel even lang is als de vleugelprojectie en doordat er bij adulte geen witte toppen aan de tertials zijn. Deze combinatie van kenmerken in verenkleed en naakte delen sluit alle andere soorten uit. Van andere meeuwensoorten waarmee verwarring eventueel mogelijk is kunnen enkele wellicht als 'escape' in Europa voorkomen, zoals Hartlaubs Meeuw *L hartlaubii* uit zuidwestelijk Afrika en Zwartsnavelmeeuw *L bulleri* uit Nieuw-Zeeland (del Hoyo et al 1996).

Eén van de Enkhuizense vogels had een smalle donkere eindband op de staart en wat donkere tekening op één van de tertials en werd daarom als tweede-zomer gedetermineerd. Ook bij één van de Dollard-vogels (het exemplaar met geen of minder roze op de onderdelen) is op enkele foto's iets van donkere tekening op de bovenstaart te zien, zodat dit ook een tweede-zomer betrof. De twee van Groede betroffen waarschijnlijk een adult mannetje en een (vermoedelijk) tweede-zomer vrouwtje, getuige de bruine tint op de donkere delen van de (onder)handvleugel en de oranjeroze poten van laatstgenoemde vogel. Dit werd overigens pas opgemerkt toen beide over de grens in Het Zwin, West-Vlaanderen, verbleven (zie Voorkomen in Europa).

Herkomst

Eén van de vogels van Groede droeg een groene kleurring (code: PDS) aan de rechterpoot en een aluminiumring aan de linkerpoot. Hij bleek op 14 juli 2003 als nestjong te zijn geringd in de kolonie van Ilot de Morot, Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, Frankrijk. Hier is de vogel tot 2 augustus van dat jaar waargenomen waarna de volgende aflezing volgde op 4 juli 2005, ook in de Camargue (Nicolas Sadoul in litt). Daarna werd hij gezien in Nederland en België (zie onder). Deze terugmelding bevestigt dat Zuid-Frankrijk één van de herkomstgebieden is van recentelijk in Midden- en Noordwest-Europa waargenomen Dunbekmeeuwen. Ook twee exemplaren in Zwitserland waren in de Camargue gekleurringd (Ottens 2006). Op basis van deze feiten kan worden verondersteld dat de Midden-Europese gevallen van mei 2006 betrekking hebben op 'doorgeschoten' exemplaren die mogelijk rivieren zijn gevolgd en zo (uiteindelijk via Maas, Rijn en/of Schelde) in Nederland zijn terechtgekomen. Een zelfde treklijn wordt ook wel vermoed voor Geelpootmeeuwen *L michahellis* die vanaf de (na)zomer Nederland bereiken (Rik Winters in litt). Of hiervan bij Dunbekmeeuwen ook sprake is blijft bij gebrek aan meer waarnemingen echter speculatief.

Voorkomen in Europa

Bovengenoemde waarnemingen werden door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) aanvaard als de eerste voor Nederland. Daarnaast waren er in deze periode meldingen in België (maximaal twee, waarvan één met groene kleurring, in Het Zwin, West-Vlaanderen, van 9 tot 11 mei; dezelfde vogels als bij Groede en een nieuwe soort voor België, Orbie 2006; cf Dutch Birding 28: 197, plaat 281, 267, plaat 388, 2006), Duitsland (Baden-Württemberg; maximaal vier op 9 en 10 mei en één op 13 mei), Noorwegen (langsvliegend bij Skogsøy, Hordaland, op 8 mei; indien aanvaard de eerste voor Noorwegen), Oostenrijk (drie) en Zwitserland (zes op 2 mei en één op 10 mei). In het noorden van Frankrijk waren op 8 mei 10 Dunbekmeeuwen aanwezig bij Lac d'Amance, Aube.

Als broedvogel is de soort in Europa beperkt tot een aantal kolonies in het Middellandse-Zeegebied. Vooral in het westelijke deel van de Middellandse Zee zijn de aantallen sinds de jaren 1980 sterk gegroeid (Ottens 2006), al neemt de Franse populatie de laatste jaren weer enigszins af (Riegel 2006).

Ottens (2006) gaf een uitgebreid overzicht van alle Dunbekmeeuwen die als dwaalgast in Europa (buiten de broedgebieden) zijn vastgesteld. Hieruit komt een duidelijk beeld naar voren van groepjes (of paren) adulte vogels die begin mei tot ver van de broedkolonies worden waargenomen. Vooral in Frankrijk (buiten de Camargue), Oostenrijk en Zwitserland is de soort in het afgelopen decennium in toenemende mate aangetroffen. De oorzaken van deze plotselinge toename zijn niet helemaal duidelijk maar dispersie is gebruikelijk en waarschijnlijk zelfs noodzakelijk om in slechte jaren elders nieuwe kolonies te kunnen stichten (Ottens 2006). De soort broedt op eilandjes in ondiep water en is dus gevoelig voor droogte in het (begin van het) broedseizoen, wat aanleiding kan zijn voor deze dispersie. Ook het feit dat de beschreven dispersie met name (bijna) volwassen vogels betreft suggereert een relatie met de toestand in de broedgebieden. Mogelijk speelde de uitzonderlijke droogte in Zuid-Frankrijk in de maanden voorafgaand aan mei 2006 (vooral april; cf www.meteofrance.fr) een rol. Het voorkomen van meerdere kleine groepjes of paren in Nederland en België in de eerste decade van mei 2006 past naadloos in bovengenoemd patroon.

De gevallen in mei 2006 werden minder dan een jaar later gevolgd door een nieuwe waarneming. Het betrof een adulte vogel die op 12 en 13 april 2007 (wederom) aan weerszijden van de grens in Het Zwin, Zeeland/West-Vlaanderen, werd gezien (Dirks 2007; Dutch Birding 29: 184, plaat 243, 2007).

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Summary

SLENDER-BILLED GULLS IN THE NETHERLANDS IN MAY 2006 On 5-9 May 2006, seven Slender-billed Gulls *Larus genei* were observed in three different areas in the Netherlands. In the evening of 5 May, three were photographed on a small IJsselmeer islet, De Kreupel, near Medemblik, Noord-Holland; due to restricted access and the presence of vulnerable breeding colonies, this news was released not earlier than two days later. One adult was present on the same islet during the morning of 6 May. Later that day, a pair (one subadult presumed female and an adult presumed male) was discovered along the IJsselmeer coast near Enkhuizen, Noord-Holland, a few km south-east of De Kreupel. They were twitched by many birders until they flew off across the IJsselmeer in the early evening. One of these two or, more likely, the third individual was then seen flying past twice before dark. Remarkably, at almost the same moment of the discovery near Enkhuizen, two were discovered at De Blikken near Groede, Zeeland, in the extreme south-west close to the Belgian border. Presumably, it concerned a pair of an adult wearing a green colour-ring on the right leg and a small metal ring on the left leg, and a possible second-summer, both staying until dark. In the evening of that very same day, two (subadult and adult) were found in the Dollard area, Groningen, in the extreme north-east close to the German border. The Dollard birds remained for several days and were last seen on 9 May. The two subadult birds were aged by the presence of small dark markings on the upperside of (some of) the tail-feathers, small dark markings on one of the tertials, paler orange-flesh (in stead of dark red) legs and a duller, more brownish coloured bill.

Elsewhere in Europe, the species was reported during early May 2006 in Austria (three), France (10 birds well away from breeding area), Germany (at least five), Norway (the first, if accepted) and Switzerland (at least seven). The first two for Belgium occurred at Het Zwin, West-Vlaanderen, on 9-11 May. One of the two wore a colour-ring showing that it was the same individual as one at Groede and, therefore, the second bird was assumed to be from Groede as well. The bird was ringed as pullus in a colony in Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, France, in July 2003 and was observed there also in August 2005 but, until May 2006, not anywhere else.

These seven birds were accepted by the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA) as the first for the Netherlands. There were two additional reports for May 2006: one of two birds briefly seen on 7 May and one of a first-summer watched for c 30 min on 17 May; both reports are still under consideration. Less than a year later, an adult was present at the Dutch/Belgian border of Het Zwin, Zeeland/West-Vlaanderen, on 12-13 April 2007. The ringed bird (together with two similar ringing records in Switzerland) indicates that at least some of these extralimital records originate from south-eastern France. The seasonal timing and the occurrence in pairs or small groups fit the pattern of vagrancy in north-western Europe.

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Hybrid Marsh x Blyth's Reed Warbler with mixed song in Finland in June 2003

Antero Lindholm, Staffan Bensch, Françoise Dowsett-Lemaire, Annika Forsten & Hannu Kärkkäinen

Hybridisation between Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* and Marsh Warbler *A palustris* has been described by several authors, mainly in Finland (Koskimies 1980, 1984, Kosonen 1983), but also in the Netherlands (Poot et al 1999, van Loon & Keijl 2001). In south-eastern Finland, where both species are relatively recent colonisers, hybridisation has been described as occurring regularly. However, there are few published detailed descriptions of hybrid individuals. It is not known where these hybrids spend the winter (ie, south-eastern Africa, like Marsh, or tropical Asia, mainly India, like Blyth's Reed).

On 18 June 2003, Annika Forsten and Antero Lindholm heard a strange *Acrocephalus* song that they identified as a mixed Marsh x Blyth's Reed Warbler song at Iso-Huopalahti, Espoo, near Helsinki (60:13 N, 24:50 E), in an area with several breeding pairs of both species. In recent years, the number of occupied territories has varied annually from two to 15 in Blyth's Reed and nine to 18 in Marsh. The bird occupied a group of willow *Salix* bushes, c 3 m high and located between 15 m high birch *Betula* trees and a more open grassy area. This is typical habitat for both species and indeed, both species had held territory in these very bushes during the previous five years.

In the morning of 19 June 2003, AF and AL tape-recorded the bird for a few minutes. It responded very weakly to a tape playback of Marsh Warbler song. There was no time to attempt a playback of other songs (Blyth's Reed Warbler and hybrid song) because of imminent rain, so the bird was quickly flushed into a mistnet. Photographs and measurements were taken and a tail-feather was collected for DNA analysis. It was ringed (Mus Zool Hki Finland 165673J) and released in the same area.

This paper presents a detailed description of the hybrid bird. The six minutes of song recorded were analysed mainly by Françoise Dowsett-Lemaire, who investigated which species were imitated. A DNA sample was analysed by Staffan Bensch. We also summarise the most diagnostic plumage features of Blyth's Reed, Marsh and European Reed Warbler *A scirpaceus* and compare these characters with the Espoo bird. Most main plumage and structural characters have been published previously (eg, Harvey & Porter 1984, Hottola 1988, 1993, Harrap & Quinn 1989, Svensson 1992, Schulze-Hagen & Barthel 1993) but our evaluation is, in addition, based on personal experience mainly from the breeding grounds in northern Europe. FD-L has wide experience of African and European bird vocalisations (cf Dowsett-Lemaire 1979), but not of Asian. All vocal imitations were identified by ear.

308-309 Hybrid Marsh x Blyth's Reed Warbler / hybride Bosrietzanger x Struikrietzanger *Acrocephalus palustris x dumetorum*, Iso-Huopalahti, Espoo, Finland, 19 June 2003 *(Annika Forsten & Antero Lindholm)*

310 Blyth's Reed Warbler / Struikrietzanger *Acrocephalus dumetorum*, adult male, Espoo, Finland, 30 June 2004 *(Annika Forsten & Antero Lindholm)*

Measurements

Measurements of the Espoo hybrid, another hybrid described by Kosonen (1983) and Marsh Warbler and Blyth's Reed Warbler are presented in table 1. The measurements indicate that the Espoo bird was not a pure Marsh, with some measurements falling outside the range of this species, but nor was it a pure Blyth's Reed, for the same reason. Several measurements are from the range of overlap between the two species, supporting the identification as a hybrid.

Plumage

Plate 308 and 309 show the Espoo bird. The plumage is comparatively fresh, as in Marsh Warbler. The overall colour is more similar to Marsh than to Blyth's Reed Warbler. The white tips to primaries are as in Marsh, as is the quite distinct greenish-olive tinge to the upperparts. The tail-feather edges are greenish-olive, unlike typical Blyth's Reed. There is a distinct yellowish-buff tinge to the breast, as in Marsh. However, the clear-cut supercilium restricted in front of the eye and longish bill result in a very Blyth's Reed-like facial expression. The darkish primaries and, especially, the dark alula, are as in Marsh. The primary projection seems intermediate and the tertials reach beyond the secondaries, as in Marsh. There is a small area of dark on the tip of the lower mandible, as in many Blyth's Reed. In plate 309, two quite distinct emarginations can be seen on the primaries, a feature indicating Blyth's Reed, and p7 can be seen to be longer than p6 (primaries numbered in descending order). Based on these mixed and intermediate characters, the plumage of the Espoo bird can best be explained by a hybrid origin.

Plate 310-312 and 316-317 show Blyth's Reed Warblers, in plate 312 together with an adult Marsh Warbler; plate 310-311 are of the same individual, with an interval of two years. Plate 312 shows a worn 'summer plumage' Blyth's Reed, typically looking cold grey-

TABLE 1 Measurements (mm) of wing, tarsus and bill and wing formula details (primaries numbered in descending order) in two Finnish hybrids Marsh x Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris x dumetorum* and in parent species Marsh Warbler and Blyth's Reed Warbler. Only adult males have been considered. Data collected by Antero Lindholm and Hannu Kärkkäinen (AL & HK) detail average, standard deviation, sample size and range, respectively. Tarsus and tail measurements do not separate these species. Other measurements of the Espoo bird fall within intermediate range.

	hybrids		**Marsh Warbler**		**Blyth's Reed Warbler**	
	Espoo bird	Kosonen (1983)	Cramp (1992)	AL & HK unpublished [1]	Cramp (1992)	AL & HK unpublished [1]
wing (max)	66.5	67	66-74	70.1 (1.143; 25) 68-73	61-66	64.0 (1.484; 76) 58-67.5
p9 [4]	2	5	0.5-2.5	1.4 (0.727; 28) 0-3.0	3-6	4.8 (0.763; 75) 3.5-7.5
p8 [4]	0 (wing-tip)	0 (wing-tip)	0 (wing-tip)	0-0 (wing-tip), n=28	0-0.5	0.1 (0.276; 75) 0-1
p7 [4]	1	0	(1) 1.5-3.5	2.0 (0.625; 28) 1.0-4.0	0-0.5	0.1 (0.250; 75) 0-1
p6 [4]	3.5	1	3.5-6	5.0 (0.776; 28) 3.5-7.0	1-2.5	1.3 (0.655; 74) 0.2-4.0
p5 [4]	6	3	6.5-9	8.0 (0.919; 27) 6.0-10.0	2-4	3.7 (0.878; 72) 2.5-6.5
p4 [4]	8	7	8.5-12	10.8 (1.356; 21) 9.0-13.0	4-7	5.9 (1.038; 71) 4.0-8.5
p3 [4]	10	7		11.6 (0.791; 8) 11.0-13.0		7.6 (0.925; 65) 6 -10
primary projection	13			17.3 (1.194; 19) 15.5-20.0		12.2 (0.835; 12) 10.8-13.2
tail	54	53	48-55	54.5 (–; 3) 52-56,	49-54	54.8 (–; 18) 47-57
tarsus [2]	23.5					
tarsus [3]	22.5		21.9-24.1	24.9 (–; 3) 23.2-25.9	21.8-23.8	25.1 (–; 4) 23.8-26.2
bill (to skull)	17.5		14.7-16.9	16.0 (0.780; 23) 14.5-17.3	16.3-18	17.6 (0.501; 70) 15.3-18.6
notch p9	10		7.5-11.5	10.1 (0.789; 21) 8.5-11.5	12-14	13.1 (0.723; 53) 11.5-15
emargination on p8	14.5	14	yes	12.1 (1.008; 19) 10.5-14.0	yes	18.0 (1.023; 54) 15.5-20
emargination on p7	7	14	no		yes	11. 6 (1.003; 54) 9.5-14

[1] Trapped adult males from breeding grounds in Finland, measured by HK and AL. Wing formula measurements also include a small number of skins from Finland; [2] 'Alternative method' for tarsus in Svensson (1992, page 27); [3] 'Standard technique' for tarsus in Svensson (1992, page 27); [4] Distance (mm) of tip of this primary to wing-tip.

Hybrid Marsh x Blyth's Reed Warbler with mixed song in Finland in June 2003

311 Blyth's Reed Warbler / Struikrietzanger *Acrocephalus dumetorum*, adult male, Espoo, Finland, 21 May 2006 *(Annika Forsten & Antero Lindholm)*

312 Blyth's Reed Warbler / Struikrietzanger *Acrocephalus dumetorum* (left) and Marsh Warbler / Bosrietzanger *A palustris*, adult males, Espoo, Finland, 18 June 2005 *(Annika Forsten & Antero Lindholm)*

ish-brown above. Adult Blyth's Reed is on average more worn than Marsh in summer. This is one reason for its olive-tinged grey general coloration. The prominence of olive tinge varies and the most worn individuals look almost grey but still darker and more brownish than, eg, Sykes's Warbler *A rama*. The border between the supercilium and forehead is distinct and sharp in Blyth's Reed and the supercilium continues distinctly to above the eye and less distinctly beyond (but varies both individually and depending on the angle). Both Marsh and European Reed Warbler have a less distinct supercilium but especially some Marsh can be quite similar to Blyth's Reed. The longest tertial of the Marsh in plate 312 extends beyond the secondaries, a quite consistent character in adults. Blyth's Reed has a variable dark area near the tip of the lower mandible, concentrated on the sides, unlike Marsh and European Reed, which have an all-pale lower mandible. However, often only a touch of darkish colour is present and some individuals show none at all. Marsh has darker primaries but the difference in tail-feathers is not so distinct between the species, and in Marsh, there is a colour difference between these two feather tracts, which is lacking in Blyth's Reed. However, this is difficult to see in field situations.

The Blyth's Reed Warbler in plate 310 is known to be older than in its third calendar-year. Blyth's Reed has a very uniformly coloured wing. The greater coverts, tertials, secondaries and primaries show no distinct pale edge or tip (separating it especially from Eastern Olivaceus Warbler *A pallidus* and Sykes's Warbler, as well as from Marsh Warbler and European Reed Warbler). The tertials are quite worn and, in profile, have a diffuse pale edge (in some individuals this can be somewhat more distinct) but, from above, as here, no distinct edges can be seen at all (Marsh and European Reed have more distinct edges). The coverts of Blyth's Reed show an olive tinge on some, as in this individual. The rump is tinged a little warmer, as in most *Acrocephalus* warblers in worn plumage. The primary emarginations are extremely difficult to see in the field but there are normally three (on p6-8), with the emargination on p6 being weaker. The narrowest part of the outer web of p8 starts at about the same place where the outer web of p7 starts to become narrower, and the narrowest part of the outer web of p7 starts about where the outer web of p6 starts to become narrower, because of which the emarginations are 'in line' on the folded wing. The primaries and tertials of Blyth's Reed are paler than in Marsh, with hardly any contrast between the primary tips and tail-feathers (in Marsh, the tail is clearly paler than the primaries). In most Blyth's Reed, there are no white tips to the outer tail-feathers as in Marsh and often in European Reed but indistinct ones may occur in Blyth's Reed.

313 European Reed Warbler / Kleine Karekiet *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, adult, Espoo, Finland, 13 August 2006 *(Annika Forsten & Antero Lindholm)*. Same bird as in plate 315.

In plate 311, the same bird is shown almost two years later, so it is now older than fifth calendar-year. Blyth's Reed Warbler shows a short loral stripe and, in some individuals and from some angles, it seems to continue all the way to the bill. In some birds, the lores seem quite pale. In many cases, some brownish colour is visible on the ear-coverts, while in others it is lacking. The underparts of more worn individuals are almost uniform greyish-white but most show a variably greyish (dirty) buff tinge. Marsh Warbler is more yellowish-buff below, especially on the undertail-coverts. In general, the difference in colour between these *Acrocephalus* species is more distinct on the underparts than on the upperparts. The colour of the alula sometimes offers a practical identification character; in Blyth's Reed, it shows a uniform, diffuse pale brownish outer web and a darker greyish-brown inner web. However, in many individuals the alula shows a dark outer web with something like a pale outer edge (as in Marsh and European Reed Warbler) and, in these cases, the alula coloration is not useful as a field character, although it is still not as contrasting as in the other two species. On the folded wing, the primary projection is short, about two-thirds of the visible tertials, and typically six or seven primary tips are visible: p1 does not always show (hidden by the tertials), p2-7 are normally visible, and p8 and p9 are mostly invisible beneath them. The legs are quite brown – reddish in some light conditions – and the toes sometimes seem darker. Marsh has paler legs, almost yellow in good light. Blyth's Reed has a chestnut-brown iris; in our very limited material of known-age birds it seems that second calendar-year birds have a darker iris, and

314 Marsh Warbler / Bosrietzanger *Acrocephalus palustris*, adult, Espoo, Finland, 7 June 2006 *(Annika Forsten & Antero Lindholm)*

315 European Reed Warbler / Kleine Karekiet *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, adult, Espoo, Finland, 13 August 2006 *(Annika Forsten & Antero Lindholm)*. Same bird as in plate 313.

Hybrid Marsh x Blyth's Reed Warbler with mixed song in Finland in June 2003

316 Blyth's Reed Warbler / Struikrietzanger *Acrocephalus dumetorum*, first-year, Espoo, Finland, 7 August 2004 *(Annika Forsten & Antero Lindholm)*

317 Blyth's Reed Warbler / Struikrietzanger *Acrocephalus dumetorum*, first-year, Espoo, Finland, 5 August 2006 *(Annika Forsten & Antero Lindholm)*

older than second calendar-year birds a more distinct chestnut iris.

Plate 316 and 317 show young Blyth's Reed Warblers. Young birds in late summer and early autumn are uniformly fresh. They show a clear buffish tinge to the supercilium. The upperparts are quite uniform olive-brown from head to back, while the uppertail-coverts are slightly more reddish brown. There is an extensive and distinct buffish tone to the underparts. The edges of the remiges and greater coverts show a distinct and often quite contrasting reddish tone. The alula colour is a more consistent character in fresh birds. On average, the emargination on p6 is less distinct than in adults. The tail-feathers are uniformly coloured and paler than in European Reed Warbler. The legs are slightly duller and more bluish-grey than in adults, and the iris is darker and not chestnut-coloured. In August, the bill is often still clearly not full-grown, having a large impact on the jizz of a bird. In plate 317, the freshness of the plumage, the shorter second outermost primary (p9) than in Marsh Warbler and European Reed and the relatively short primary projection can be seen well.

Plate 314 shows an adult Marsh Warbler. Most Marsh are in fresh plumage in June. Especially in this plumage, it is quite a colourful bird, with yellowish-buff underparts. Typical for Marsh are the dark primaries, with contrasting white tips, and the long longest tertial. The wings are longer and the bill is shorter than in Blyth's Reed Warbler, with wing length being the easiest field identification character.

Plate 313 and 315 show a worn adult European Reed Warbler. Worn European Reed may be quite greyish, especially from above, but whenever a warmer tinge can be seen, they are still more rufous and darker than Blyth's Reed Warbler and Marsh Warbler. Structurally, European Reed can be difficult to tell from Blyth's Reed but the primary projection is longer. Further differences useful in the field are the more indistinct supercilium and the darker alula and remiges.

Song

Marsh Warblers produce one of the most complex and varied bird songs in the world, made up of 1000s of different motifs delivered in very quick succession. The tempo is indeed so fast that one gets the impression the bird has too much to say in too short a time. The song is probably entirely imitative: imitations of 212 species have been identified (99 European, 113 African) in nearly 30 repertoires, and motifs belonging to over 80 species can be identified in individual repertoires (Dowsett-Lemaire 1979). It takes an individual bird 30-45 min of continuous singing to deliver the full repertoire; most imitations are very short, usually less than 1 sec, and in some cases different imitations can be alternated and repeated in more complex motifs. First-year birds learn foreign motifs until they reach their winter quarters in southern Africa, in about January, but learning stops soon after this. The repertoire of breeding males returning in successive years remains completely unchanged (Dowsett-Lemaire 1979). As adult male Marsh stop singing early in the breeding cycle, at the latest when their chicks hatch, it is likely that young birds learn their repertoire directly from their sound environment rather than from their parent.

The song of Blyth's Reed Warbler has been less well studied. Its tone and richness resemble Marsh Warbler and the main distinctive feature is tempo, as the melodious phrases are delivered more slowly. As a result, to human ears the song sounds more musical and relaxed than that of Marsh. Typical motifs consist of a few clear whistles alternating with short, grating notes, and these motifs can be repeated several times before the bird switches to another set. It can deliver this type of motif for a long time but occasionally inserts a fast warbling for some dozens of seconds. This fast warbling is not always easy to separate from that of Marsh. Imitations of European species can be readily identified but whether Blyth's Reed also imitates species encountered in its winter quarters in tropical Asia has to our knowledge never been investigated.

The song of the Espoo hybrid contains a mixture of motifs from Blyth's Reed Warbler and Marsh Warbler. Some parts consist of the typical, slow, melodious and rather stylised motifs of Blyth's Reed while other sections are the faster-delivered ramblings of Marsh. Four bouts of singing were recorded, for c 6 min (with brief interruptions between some motifs), of which 3-4 min consist of Marsh-type song. This falls very short of the 30-45 min of continuous singing required to complete a full Marsh repertoire (and probably of Blyth's Reed as well). The six minutes of the Espoo song can be heard, with a full analysis of the mimicry, on the web pages of this journal (www.dutchbirding.nl/sounds). Imitations of the following 12 European species were identified: European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*, Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava*, European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*, Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*, Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*, Great Tit *Parus major*, Eurasian Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*, Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*, House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*, Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*, European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* and Common Linnet *C cannabina*. European Bee-eater could have been learned either on migration or in the winter quarters. Many of these imitations are very stylised (especially of Thrush Nightingale) and could have been learned from a singing Blyth's Reed, or in any case are uttered in the style typical of Blyth's Reed. There are also possible imitations of other thrushes Turdidae, especially song motifs of Song Thrush *T philomelos*, but these cannot be confirmed. The African repertoire consists of at least nine species: Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *M persicus*, Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*, Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana*, Red-pate Cisticola *C ruficeps*, Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*, Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*, Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*, a tchagra *Tchagra* (Brown-crowned Tchagra *T australis* or Three-streaked Tchagra *T jamesi*) and Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*. It is difficult to draw conclusions from such a short list, except to say

that this hybrid probably reached at least East Africa (south-eastern Sudan, Ethiopia or Kenya), where these species can be heard. Possibly it did not go as far as the normal wintering range of Marsh, as at least one very common but more southerly African species, Southern Puffback *D cubla*, is not heard in these few minutes of song. In a normal Marsh song, it is hard to hear 3-4 min of song without some Southern Puffback calls; some other common 'African' imitations are also missing (eg, of Bleating Warbler *Camaroptera brachyura*), which suggests that this bird learned directly from its environment and not from another Marsh. However, without a tape-recording longer than 6 min, these conclusions are at best tentative.

The song of the Espoo bird is consistent with the song that would be expected from a hybrid Marsh Warbler x Blyth's Reed Warbler. Note, however, that 'mixed singing' should not be used as proof of a hybrid origin. For various reasons, pure birds may also be imprinted with mixed song or develop a mixed song when growing up (see below; cf Constantine & The Sound Approach 2006).

DNA analysis

The base of one tail-feather was used to extract DNA following the protocol in Laird et al (1991). A partial cytochrome *b* sequence was amplified and sequenced with the primers L14841 and H15149 (Kocher et al 1989) as described in Bensch & Pearson (2002). The obtained mtDNA sequence (302 base pairs) was compared with cytochrome *b* sequences from all the *Acrocephalus* species studied and it showed a near perfect match to a published sequence of Blyth's Reed Warbler (GenBank AJ004773). The only difference was a G-A transition on position 219 relative to the published sequence. This result demonstrates that the Espoo bird was a Blyth's Reed on its maternal side and excludes the possibility that it was a pure Marsh Warbler.

Discussion

In five of seven study years, Pertti Koskimies (in Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer 1991) found from one to three mixed pairs. The observed mixed pairs almost always involved a male Blyth's Reed Warbler with a female Marsh Warbler. One male Blyth's Reed bred polygynically and successfully with both female Blyth's Reed and Marsh (Koskimies 1984). Several hybrids returned in following years. Hybrids were able to breed; a female hybrid that returned after two years paired with a male Blyth's Reed and four young fledged successfully. Hybrids had mixed characters and one returned hybrid male sang a mixed song. In the Netherlands, the reported case of hybridisation similarly involved a male Blyth's Reed with a female Marsh (Poot et al 1999, van Loon & Keijl 2001). Kosonen (1983) described one probable hybrid from central Finland. His bird seems to be quite similar to the Espoo bird, in having more Marsh Warbler-like coloration but intermediate wing features and biometrics, as well as song. However, in general there are surprisingly few hybrid Marsh x Blyth's Reed Warblers recorded in Finland. They are not usually reported or published at all in regular bird reports. In addition to the cases already mentioned, there are only two birds in the Finnish ringing database labeled as hybrid or probable hybrid between Marsh and Blyth's Reed. It is possible that they are not as common in Finland as a whole as they once may have been. It is also likely that many have been handled by ringers but were not correctly identified, since *Acrocephalus* warblers in general and especially hybrids can cause serious identification problems.

The 'African' imitations included in the song of the Espoo hybrid suggest that this bird went to Africa instead of Asia, but this is based on the assumption that it learned the imitations directly from its sound background and not through its Marsh Warbler male parent. The latter would normally have stopped singing before feeding its young (but neighbouring males may of course still sing). On the other hand, mixed songs are not necessarily the prerequisite of hybrids. AL listened for mixed songs of these warblers for over 10 years and heard some which were not easy to identify; two such birds were trapped and proved to be typical Blyth's Reed Warbler. African imitations in the song should always indicate a Marsh Warbler (or a hybrid). For a review of mixed songs in European birds, see Helb et al (1985). In the case of mixed songs between Marsh and European Reed Warbler, only the latter produces them, and this does not involve hybridisation (see also Lemaire 1977); these abnormal songs likely arise from individuals born in mixed breeding areas, with the young European Reed becoming imprinted upon the song of a species other than its own.

Marsh Warbler has been proven to commonly learn to imitate species heard in its Afrotropical wintering range, while another, Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*, probably occasionally does too (Dowsett-Lemaire 1979). Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* can imitate at least Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* from its Asian wintering range (Magnus Robb in litt). Since Blyth's Reed Warbler is so closely related to Marsh, it may also learn to imitate species that it hears in its wintering range and, therefore, we would like to draw attention to the need for further study of its song.

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Samenvatting

HYBRIDE BOSRIETZANGER X STRUIKRIETZANGER MET MENGZANG IN FINLAND IN JUNI 2003 Op 18 juni 2003 werd een vreemde rietzanger *Acrocephalus*-achtige zang gehoord bij Espoo, Helsinki,

Finland, in een gebied waar voorgaande jaren zowel Struikrietzanger *A dumetorum* als Bosrietzanger *A palustris* tot broeden kwamen. Op 19 juni werd enkele minuten van de zang van de vogel opgenomen en werd de vogel gevangen en geringd. Op grond van intermediaire maten, verenkleedkenmerken en zang werd de vogel gedetermineerd als een hybride Bosriet- x Struikrietzanger *A palustris x dumetorum*. DNA-analyse van een verzamelde staartpen bevestigde de determinatie als hybride, waarbij werd vastgesteld dat de vogel een Struikrietzanger als moeder had.

Het is bekend dat in de zang van Bosrietzangers vele imitaties worden opgenomen van Europese maar vooral ook Afrikaanse vogelsoorten; veel van deze imitaties worden geleerd tijdens de trek en in de overwinteringsgebieden. In de zang van de hybride (te beluisteren op www.dutchbirding.nl/sounds) konden geluiden van 12 Europese en ten minste negen Afrikaanse soorten worden herkend. Het is daarom waarschijnlijk dat de hybride in Oost-Afrika heeft overwinterd.

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Geelkoptroepiaal op Texel in mei-juni 1982

Op 18 en 20 mei 1982 nam ik (Piet van Vliet) een Geelkoptroepiaal *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* waar in polder Waal en Burg op Texel, Noord-Holland. Omdat ik in voorafgaande jaren diverse malen 'Yellow-headed Blackbirds' in Noord-Amerika had gezien had ik geen twijfel over de determinatie. Toch maakte ik enkele aantekeningen. Jaren later heb ik de waarneming ingediend bij de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) maar deze werd toen niet aanvaard omdat onvoldoende zekerheid over de determinatie bestond. Deze afwijzing (dossiernummer 5852) werd per briefkaart ontvangen op 26 september 1994. Toen enkele jaren geleden de waarnemingen van Geelkoptroepialen in Nederland door de CDNA werden herzien bleek deze indiening niet meer in het archief aanwezig.

Na het lezen van het artikel over de Geelkoptroepiaal op Terschelling in juli 1982 (Ebels & van den Bergh 2007) en de mogelijke waarnemingen op Texel in mei en juni van dat jaar heb ik in juni 2007 mijn oorspronkelijke notities naar de beide auteurs en opnieuw naar de CDNA gestuurd (de auteurs waren niet van deze afgewezen waarneming op de hoogte door het verloren gaan van het dossier). De volgende passage is een letterlijke weergave van mijn aantekeningen: '18-05-1982 Waal en Burg: Geelkoptroepiaal. Geel op kop, nek en borst. Rest lichaam zwart, met zwart maskertje en wit plekje op vleugel. Voedselzoekend op grasland aan waterkant. 20-05-1982 weer gezien, zelfde plaats, rechts aan eind doodlopende weg.' De CDNA heeft via een snelle beoordelingsronde deze waarneming (her)beoordeeld en aanvaard. Op 20 mei werd de vogel eveneens in Waal en Burg waargenomen door Wim Wolff en zijn gezin; op 14 juni 1982 werd hij in Waal en Burg gezien door Herman Leijs (Ebels & van den Bergh 2007). Hoewel van deze laatste melding geen aantekeningen bestaan wordt hij als vervolgwaarneming nu wel aanvaardbaar geacht. Naar wordt aangenomen dezelfde vogel werd op 2 en 3 juli 1982 waargenomen op Terschelling, Friesland (Ebels & van den Bergh 2007).

Hoewel de beschrijving erg kort is, zijn de belangrijkste kenmerken genoteerd die samen alle andere geelkoppige troepialen uitsluiten (cf Ebels & van den Bergh 2007). De combinatie van geel op kop, nek en borst met een zwart masker en verder zwart lichaam en het 'witte plekje op de vleugel' (witte vlek op de voorvleugel, meer gedetailleerd beschreven door WW, zie Ebels & van den Bergh 2007) past alleen op een adulte Geelkoptroepiaal. Dat ontsnapte soorten voor verwarring kunnen (blijven) zorgen werd kort na de publicatie van de waarneming van Terschelling (opnieuw) gedemonstreerd toen op 9 juni 2007 een ontsnapte Geelkaptroepiaal *Chrysomus icterocephalus* aanvankelijk als mogelijke Geelkoptroepiaal werd gemeld in de Beneden Spiering Polder bij Werkendam, Noord-Brabant. De aan- of afwezigheid van wit in de vleugel is het beste kenmerk om deze twee soorten te onderscheiden.

Voor een bespreking van de determinatie en een overzicht van andere waarnemingen in Europa en de normale verspreiding van Geelkoptroepiaal wordt verwezen naar Ebels & van den Bergh (2007) en de daarin genoemde verwijzingen. De meest uitgebreide studie naar het trek- en zwerfgedrag van deze soort is te vinden in Veit (1997).

Summary

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD ON TEXEL IN MAY-JUNE 1982 On 18 and 20 May 1982, an adult Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* was seen at Waal en Burg, Texel, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands. The brief description mentions the key characters to exclude other Icterids, including the main pitfall, Yellow-hooded Blackbird *Chrysomus icterocephalus*. The observation was submitted in the early 1990s but rejected and then the documents were lost. It was resubmitted by the single observer after publication of the first record for the Netherlands, on 2-3 July 1982 on Terschelling, Friesland. On 20 May and 14 June 1982, a Yellow-headed Blackbird had already been reported by other observers at the same site but some inconsistencies in the description prevented acceptance by the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA). After reconsideration, the CDNA now accepts these observations, which predate the sighting on Terschelling a few weeks later and which is considered to refer to the same individual. For more information on the species' identification and distribution, and the reasons to consider it as a possible genuine vagrant, see Ebels & van den Bergh (2007).

Verwijzingen

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Corrigenda

In het bijschrift bij plaat 236 (Dutch Birding 29: 180, 2007) werd helaas niet de juiste fotograaf vermeld. De foto werd gemaakt door Johan Colman. REDACTIE

In the caption of plate 236 (Dutch Birding 29: 180, 2007) unfortunately the wrong photographer was mentioned. The photograph was taken by Johan Colman. EDITORS

Recensies

BOB PLANQUÉ & WILLEM-PIER VELLINGA. *Xeno-canto: bird songs from tropical America*. Website: www.xeno-canto.org.

Two years ago, two Dutch recordists, Bob Planqué and Willem-Pier Vellinga, started what is now the largest free-of-costs website for birdsounds on the internet: www.xeno-canto.org. This website is specialized in birds of the Neotropics. What they have achieved in such a short time is tremendous. At two years of age, the website has reached adulthood. Around 13 000 recordings have been uploaded, by some 125 contributors, and they are all downloadable in mp3-format. They reflect almost 2850 species – according to the guide lines that Xeno-canto follows. With over 4100 species recognized, the taxonomy used in this sound database is up-to-date but also very progressive. The guidelines of the South American Classification Committee (SACC) are used and, when necessary, complemented by the ones of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU).

The progressive taxonomy keeps recordists eager to be the first to add a recently split, a newly described or even yet-to-be described (sub)species to the database. For instance, sounds of recently (re)discovered species such as Recurve-billed Bushbird *Clytoctantes alixii* (10+ downloadable recordings) and Manu Antbird *Cercomacra manu* (four recordings) can be found. Apart from Cuba and Patagonia, where relatively many species are still missing, at least 80% – and in some cases up to 90%! – of the birds occurring in *any given area* in the region, are covered. As can be expected, the recordings are of varying quality. It is easy to find a good recording of a Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* but some harder-to-record or rare birds, such as the recently discovered Iquitos Gnatcatcher *Polioptila clementsi*, can be somewhat weak. 'Big names' from the region have uploaded their bird sounds, like Frank Lambert and Sjoerd Mayer. Tropical Birding co-founder Nick Athanas, one of the most active contributors, proves that not all major tour companies keep sounds of rare birds exclusively to themselves. I can imagine many recording specialists were not pleased with this initiative, as they were used to publish CDs and CD-roms, or sell sounds on the internet. But the share-ware generation has taken over. The two young men in charge earn *nothing* with this website. Only since recently the hosting costs are covered by the National Museum of Natural History Naturalis at Leiden, the Netherlands.

But just sharing sounds is not enough for the founders. They add new tools to the site very frequently. As a matter of fact, they are probably working on a new tool at this very moment. Want an overview of available sounds per country? Easy one. Interested in threatened birds? Taken care of. Heard an unfamiliar sound, but identified the other species singing around your mystery bird? Check out which species associate with other species, so you might get new clues that lead to the identification. And if that does not help, upload it as 'mystery sound' and some fanatic sound nitwit will probably provide the answer. Sonagrams are made automatically upon uploading, range maps in Google Earth can be shown, including geographical variation. A very nice feature is that sounds can be uploaded to your iPod, including all the corresponding data. In iTunes, all data are automatically shown in separate columns. Contributors can debate with each other on a forum about the identity of mystery or misidentified uploaded sounds (usually corrected very soon), improving the accuracy of the website. And there are many more toys for birding boys (and girls…). The founders even started to work on their ultimate dream: fill in a mystery sound and identify it through your computer! Planqué and Vellinga made a start with this already, though this tool is far from perfect yet. However, I wouldn't be surprised if they will one time succeed in building a true sound identifier.

First of all, this website is a must for all birders interested in Central and South America. Obtaining bird sounds for a trip has never been so easy. More than that, this website is a major breakthrough in presenting bird sounds in general and should, therefore alone, be in every birder's internet favourites list. Just start up your computer and check it out yourself. And if you do not have any commercial interests in publishing CDs, DVDs or whatsoever, upload your Neotropical bird sounds and help out your fellow birders. There is a list of missing bird sounds. For example, common birds like Sanderling *Calidris alba* and Red Knot *C canutus* have still not been uploaded. And a commonly encountered genus in the higher parts of South America, *Cinclodes*, are very underrepresented: of the 13 recognized species, only three are in the database. So go out and spend some time recording that Royal Cinclodes *C aricomae* or White-bellied Cinclodes *C palliatus*, two rare species that you will be after anyway! But any recording – also the ones of common birds already in the database – is welcome. The fact that no sounds are refused gives you the opportunity to store (part of) your personal collection on the internet as well. When the world wide web became accessible to the public, formerly expensive trip reports became freely available. This is yet another major step in sharing information on birds online. VINCENT VAN DER SPEK

Masters of Mystery

Solutions of third round 2007

The solutions of mystery photographs V and VI (Dutch Birding 29: 168, 2007) of the third round of the 2007 Masters of Mystery competition appear below.

V The fifth mystery photograph of the 2007 competition obviously shows a shrike *Lanius* in juvenile plumage. A closer look reveals that this bird just started with the post-juvenile moult to first-winter plumage as can be seen on at least the back and mantle. Shrikes in adult plumage are reasonably distinctive, but the identification of juvenile or first-winter birds can be problematic. This is also the case in species of the brown, red-backed and isabelline groups, in which the mystery bird obviously belongs. Of these groups, Brown *L cristatus*, Red-backed *L collurio*, Turkestan *L phoenicuroides* and Daurian Shrike *L isabellinus* have been found in the WP and most of them were received as possible answers. Note, however, that the status of Chinese Shrike *L arenarius* as a vagrant to the Middle East is still under investigation, based on reports in, eg, Syria. Identifying the mystery bird, useful features on which to concentrate are the tail pattern and colour, the extent of barring on the upperparts, the head pattern, the colour and shape of the bill and the wing formula.

Juvenile or first-winter Daurian Shrike is normally pale sandy-grey above and only rarely earth-brown like the mystery bird. Furthermore, barring on the upperparts of Daurian is faint or even absent, and it is warm buff or orange-buff below. In the mystery bird, however, strong barring is present on both upperparts and underparts. And, although large parts of the underparts are covered by the open wing, no buff or orange-brown colours are visible. Daurian is, therefore, safely excluded as possible solution.

318 Turkestan Shrike / Turkestaanse Klauwier *Lanius phoenicuroides*, juvenile moulting to first-winter plumage, Chokpak pass, Kazakhstan, September 2003 *(Arend Wassink)*

One of the characters to identify Brown Shrike in all plumages is the species' rather robust appearance with larger head and a longer, deeper and more hooked bill in comparison with the other taxa and also the mystery bird. In addition, in juvenile or first-winter birds, Brown tends to show a darker mask behind the eye and, more importantly, a dark brown tail, not as reddish as shown by the mystery bird. On these characters alone, Brown can be excluded. Note, however, that other important characters can be found in the wing. In Brown, the second primary (p2, primaries numbered from outside) is rather short and typically equalling p6 in length. In the mystery bird, p2 is longer and roughly equals p5 or is only slightly shorter, which, again, excludes Brown.

Therefore, two candidates are left, Red-backed Shrike and Turkestan Shrike. These two can be difficult to distinguish in this plumage. However, in September a juvenile Red-backed normally has upperparts which are deeper reddish brown than the tail, a boldly barred mantle, quite often a grey tinge on the neck and no white at the base of the primaries. These features are lacking in the mystery bird, which indicates that it concerns a Turkestan. In addition, in the mystery photograph, the wing formula is easily seen and that may be another reliable identification character. As mentioned, in the mystery bird, p2 is rather long and about as long as p5. In Red-backed, p2 is slightly longer, nearly always longer than p5. Also, in Red-backed, only p3 and p4 are emarginated, whereas in all other taxa p3-5 are emarginated. A close look at the mystery bird shows that p5 is emarginated and this excludes Red-backed. Note also that the wing-tip in the mystery bird is formed by both p3 and p4, which are equal in length. In Red-backed, the wing tip is formed by p3 only. In the mystery bird, the greater wing-coverts are rather reddish-brown as shown by first-winter Red-backed. This may have been one of the reasons why some entrants opted for Red-backed. However, the median wing-coverts with a pale centre are typical for Turkestan, whereas in first-winter Red-backed the median coverts would also have been rather reddish brown.

This juvenile Turkestan Shrike moulting to first-winter plumage was photographed by Arend Wassink at Chokpak pass, Kazakhstan, in September 2003. Another photograph of the same bird is shown in plate 318. Note that there is no white at the outer web of the outer tail-feather as is the case in Red-backed Shrike. Furthermore, the reddish-brown tail, uppertail-coverts and rump show a rather strong contrast with the dark brown back and mantle, which is the opposite in Red-backed. A juvenile Red-backed is shown in plate 319 and a juvenile Brown Shrike in plate 320 for comparison. This mystery photograph was correctly identified by 53% of the entrants. Some entrants opted for

319 Red-backed Shrike / Grauwe Klauwier *Lanius collurio,* juvenile, Texel, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 4 October 2005 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*

320 Brown Shrike / Bruine Klauwier *Lanius cristatus*, juvenile, Chilbaldo, South Korea, 20 June 2007 *(René Pop/The Sound Approach)*

321 Ascension Frigatebird / Ascensionfregatvogel *Fregata aquila*, immature, Ascension Island, 7 April 2006 *(Marc Guyt/Agami)*. Note entirely white axillaries.

322 Magnificent Frigatebird / Amerikaanse Fregatvogel *Fregata magnificens*, immature, Pochotal, Costa Rica, 19 December 2006 *(Mark Zekhuis)*. Note characteristic pale and dark striped pattern of axillaries.

Mystery photograph VII (December)

Mystery photograph VIII (January)

Red-backed (8%), others for Brown (11%) and, surprisingly, about 22% for Woodchat Shrike *L senator*. Entrants with the latter solution were probably confused by the pale-centred median wing-coverts of the mystery bird. However, juvenile Woodchat should appear rather grey (and not reddish-brown) and would show grey vermiculated upperparts, much more pale scapulars and a rather stout bill.

VI The sixth mystery photograph shows a largely blackish-brown bird with extremely long, slender and pointed wings. Although the shape of the tail can not be seen well, several equally spaced tips of tail-feathers are visible, indicating the bird must either have a forked or a wedge-shaped tail. For those who have ever been so lucky to observe them, this bird can easily be recognized as a frigatebird *Fregata*. From the five species of frigatebirds occurring worldwide, three have been recorded in the Western Palearctic: Ascension *F aquila*, Magnificent *F magnificens* and Lesser Frigatebird *F ariel*.

Frigatebirds can be aged and sexed by the colour of head, neck, and breast, the presence (or absence) of pale diagonal bars on the upperwings and the presence (or absence) of a red gular pouch. A pale bar on the inner upperwing can be seen on the left wing, showing that the bird is an immature or adult female. The fact that the breast is mottled white shows that the bird is at least older than a year and that it is in the process of gradually becoming black. Therefore, it must be a male, although the red gular pouch can not be seen from this angle.

In Magnificent Frigatebird, immature and adult females and immature males are easily distinguished from Ascension Frigatebird and Lesser Frigatebird by the pattern on the axillaries. The latter two species show entirely white axillaries, sometimes referred to as 'spurs' (cf plate 321). These may appear as extensions of the white breast patches of young and female birds. Magnificent, however, only shows pale fringes to these feathers creating a characteristic pale and dark striped pattern of the axillaries. This is also visible in the mystery bird and by using this character, it can be safely identified as a Magnificent.

This Magnificent Frigatebird was photographed by Mark Zekhuis at Pochotal, Costa Rica, on 19 December 2006. Another photograph, presumably of the same individual, is shown as plate 322. From this angle, the characteristic red gular pouch can be seen. It was correctly identified by 58% of the entrants. Incorrect answers included Ascension Frigatebird (8%) and Lesser Frigatebird (6%).

In the third round of the 2007 Masters of Mystery competition, there were 36 entrants of which 14 (39%) managed to identify both mystery birds correctly. From these, Paul French (United Kingdom) was drawn as the winner of a copy of the DVD *Onze meeuwen en sterns* (gulls and terns) donated by Plomp Digital Video. After three rounds seven entrants managed to identify all mystery photographs correctly. These are Fabian Bindrich (Germany), Martin Gottschling (Germany), Andrew Holden (United Kingdom), Harri Kontkanen (Finland), Martin Kühn (Germany), Stuart Piner (England) and Clemens Portofée (Germany). Hot on their heels are six entrants with five and four with four correct identifications. The names of all entrants with at least one correct identification can be viewed at www.dutchbirding.nl.

Fourth round 2007

Photographs VII and VIII represent the fourth round of the 2007 competition. Please, study the rules (Dutch Birding 29: 39-40, 2007) 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
- from the website of the Dutch Birding Association at www.dutchbirding.nl

Entries for the fourth round have to arrive by **1 September 2007**. Please, indicate if you are subscribed to Dutch Birding. From those entrants having identified both mystery birds correctly, two persons will be drawn who will receive a copy of *Fugler og fuglafolk på Utsira* by Bjørn Olav Tveit, Geir Mobakken and Ove Bryne donated by Utsira Bird Observatory. Swarovski Benelux has generously agreed to sponsor this competition again in 2007. This year, the overall winner after six rounds will receive a pair of marvellous 8.5x42 EL binoculars.

Rob S A van Bemmelen, Stavangerweg 535, 1013 AX Amsterdam, Netherlands (masters@dutchbirding.nl)
Dick Groenendijk, Elzenstraat 14, 4043 PB Opheusden, Netherlands (masters@dutchbirding.nl)
Jan Eerbeek, De Peel 2, 4041 EL Kesteren, Netherlands (masters@dutchbirding.nl)

DBA-nieuws

Wijzigingen DBA-bestuur Met ingang van juli 2007 is Marc Plomp uit het DBA-bestuur getreden. Bijna 10 jaar lang is Marc bestuurslid geweest en vanaf begin 1999 nam hij de secretariële taken waar. Marc heeft zich onderscheiden door zijn nimmer aflatend enthousiasme, onder andere als stimulator en organisator van de Dutch Birding-vogelweken op Texel en als initiator en producent van het Dutch Birding-jaaroverzicht (eerst op video en inmiddels uiteraard op dvd). Het bestuur is Marc zeer erkentelijk voor zijn werkzaamheden als bestuurslid in al deze jaren en zal uiteraard met een passend cadeau afscheid nemen van deze DBA-veteraan. Bestuurslid Arjan van Egmond heeft inmiddels de functie van secretaris op zich genomen. Naast Arjan bestaat het bestuur momenteel uit Theo Admiraal (penningmeester), Gijsbert van der Bent (voorzitter), Wietze Janse en Laurens Steijn. Tevens is de Dutch Birding-redactie met een zetel in het bestuur vertegenwoordigd. GIJSBERT VAN DER BENT

Dutch Birding-vogelweek met pelagic trip Ook dit jaar worden vogelaars uitgenodigd naar Texel, Noord-Holland, te komen en deel te nemen aan het programma van de Dutch Birding-vogelweek, die loopt van zaterdag 13 oktober tot en met donderdag 18 oktober 2007. Het programma voorziet elke avond in een lezing in het dorpshuis het Eierlandse Huis in De Cocksdorp. De avonden starten om 20:15 uur. Voorafgaand aan elke lezing zal de nodige tijd worden uitgetrokken om de waarnemingen van de dag systematisch door te nemen (waarnemingen-log), tips uit te wisselen en te zorgen dat alle interessante waarnemingen geboekstaafd worden. Over de inhoud van de lezingen wordt men de komende tijd geïnformeerd via de website www.dutchbirding.nl, de Dutch Birding-vogellijn (0900-BIRDING, EUR 0.35/min) en het volgende nummer van Dutch Birding. Op dinsdagavond 16 oktober is er in ieder geval weer de traditionele mystery bird-competitie, waarbij interessante prijzen zijn te winnen.

Overdag is het DBA-hoofdkwartier gevestigd in de eet- en drinkgelegenheid van de bekende camping De Robbenjager, op de noordpunt van het eiland, vlakbij de vuurtoren. Hier staat een informatiestand van de DBA en op donderdag een stand van Swarovski, de bekende fabrikant van optische topproducten. Bovendien kan men hier gebruik maken van een pc met internetverbinding. Uiteraard staan de uitbaters klaar om de vermoeide, verkleumde dan wel natgeregende vogelaar te voorzien van aansterkende dranken en spijzen. In De Robbenjager dient men zich (liefst direct op zaterdag) ook op te geven voor deelname aan de Soort van de Week en, per team van 2-4 personen, aan de 'big day' op donderdag 18 oktober. Swarovski stelt een mooie prijs beschikbaar voor de ontdekker van de 'beste soort van de week' (13-18 oktober). Deelname hieraan staat alleen open voor begunstigers van de DBA. Hetzelfde geldt voor deelname aan de 'big day'. Ook deze wedstrijd wordt gesponsord door Swarovksi. Overigens kan men zich de hele week opgeven als DBA-begunstiger bij de aanwezige DBA-bestuursleden. Indien de jury tot een eensluidend oordeel kan komen wordt de prijs voor de beste soort van de week direct al op donderdagavond uitgereikt, met de prijzen voor de winnende teams van de 'big day'. Dat betekent tevens het einde van het officiële programma van de vogelweek.

Tijdens de vogelweek organiseert Pterodroma Adventures een exclusieve 'Texelweek Pelagic'. Op woensdag 17 oktober wordt om 07:00 uur 's ochtends uitgevaren vanuit de haven van Oudeschild, de Noordzee op. Naar verwachting is men om 15:00 uur weer terug op Texel, zodat eventuele knallers die ontdekt zijn die dag nog ingekopt kunnen worden. De thuisblijvers zullen die avond in het Eierlandse Huis getrakteerd worden op heroïsche verhalen over helse chum-acties en de daarmee gescoorde zeevogels. Men kan zich opgeven voor deze tocht door EUR 30.00 per persoon over te maken op bankrekeningnummer 781483859 tnv S Lagerveld, Bergen, onder vermelding van e-mailadres en mobiele-telefoonnummer (voor meer informatie: www.pterodroma.com). GIJSBERT VAN DER BENT, WIETZE JANSE & MARC PLOMP

WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic mainly in **late May-early July 2007**. The reports are largely unchecked and their publication here does not imply future acceptance by a rarities committee. Observers are requested to submit their records to each country's rarities committee. Corrections are welcome and will be published.

GEESE TO PARTRIDGES A male **Harlequin Duck** *Histrionicus histrionicus* was photographed at Hirta, St Kilda, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, on 18 June. In Lancashire, England, the male **Black Scoter** *Melanitta americana* picked up at Leighton Moss and released at Jenny Brown's Point, Silverdale, on 16 May was not seen subsequently; another was reported at Colliford Lake, Cornwall, on 23 May. The c sixth **American White-winged Scoter** *M deglandi deglandi* for Iceland at Þvottárskriður from 30 April was still present on 7 July. In Scotland, a female or immature **Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola* was swimming at Ardnamurchan peninsula, Highland, on 7 June, and it or another was seen on Lewis, Outer Hebrides, on 8-9 June. In Norway, a male **American Black Duck** *Anas rubripes* stayed for its second spring at Snåsavatnet, Steinkjer, Nord-Trøndelag, from late March to late June. In Spain, a male was again seen at Ria de Foz, Galicia, on 17 May. Apart from other long-staying individuals in western Europe, a male turned up at Colliford Lake, Cornwall, England, on 23 May and another at Loch Sunart, Highland, on 16-21 June. In Germany, 2.1 million birds appear to be hunted annually and average annual numbers in the past 10 years include species protected in other European countries like, for instance, 17 000 **Mute Swans** *Cygnus olor*, 34 000 geese *Anser*, 540 000 ducks *Anas*, 12 000 **Grey Partridges** *Perdix perdix*, 15 000 **Eurasian Coots** *Fulica atra*, 9 000 **Eurasian Woodcocks** *Scolopax rusticola*, 25 000 gulls *Larus*, 814 000 pigeons *Columba* and 325 000 crows *Corvus* (Falke 54: 234-235, 2007); geese, ducks, gulls, pigeons and crows include a variety of species and, not being checked, may implicate rare or endangered ones.

ALBATROSSES TO GANNETS The **Black-browed Albatross** *Thalassarche melanophris* among the local Northern Gannets *Morus bassanus* on Sula Sgeir, Outer Hebrides, from 8 May was still present on 3 June. On 1 June, one was reported from the Harwich-Hoek van Holland ferry two hours out from the Netherlands. In the Azores, a subadult was photographed 5 km off Pico on 9 July. A remarkable influx of **Atlantic Yellow-nosed**

323 Black-capped Petrel / Zwartkapstormvogel *Pterodroma hasitata*, c 16 km south-east off Graciosa, Azores, 26 May 2007 *(Killian Mullarney/The Sound Approach)*

324 Black-capped Petrel / Zwartkapstormvogel *Pterodroma hasitata*, c 16 km south-east off Graciosa, Azores, 26 May 2007 *(Killian Mullarney/The Sound Approach)*

325 Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross / Atlantische Geelneusalbatros *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*, off Malmö, Skåne, Sweden, 8 July 2007 *(Kristian Ståhl)*

326-327 Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross / Atlantische Geelneusalbatros *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*, off Malmö, Skåne, Sweden, 8 July 2007 *(Kristian Ståhl)*

Albatrosses *T chlororhynchos* occurred in the northern Atlantic. In New England, USA, an adult found emaciated in a cow pasture at Cape Neddick in Maine on 28 April was taken into care, released at Farmouth on 20 May carrying a satellite transmitter, and found dead a month later on the beach of Barnstable Harbor, Massachusetts; there are more than 10 records for the Atlantic coast of North America. On 28 June, a subadult photographed off Grip, Kristiansund, Møre og Romsdal, constituted the second for Norway and the WP, the previous one being photographed off Halten, Sør-Trøndelag, on 13 April 1994. On 29 June, in England, one was picked-up exhausted, taken into care, videoed and released the following day at Brean, Somerset, without being seen by a single birder. After a report from Derbyshire on 2 July, probably the same individual was photographed c 500 km due north-east by fishermen at an inland site south of Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire, England, on 3-4 July. In Norway, presumably the same individual as the one on 28 June was observed and photographed off Heidrun, Sør-Trøndelag, on 4-5 and 7-8 July. Also on 8 July, an immature moved south for a few hours over Öresund between Skåne, Sweden, and Sjælland, Denmark, before disappearing eastwards over land at 14:42. The first **Black-capped Petrel** *Pterodroma hasitata* for the Azores and the fifth for the WP was photographed 16 km south-east of Graciosa on 26 May; during the same pelagic, two **Wilson's Storm-petrels** *Oceanites oceanicus* were photographed. In central Italy, a **Bulwer's Petrel** *Bulweria bulwerii* was reported from the Serchio mouth on 26 May. In Israel, 12 **Sooty Shearwaters** *Puffinus griseus* flew off Eilat on 15 May. This year, the breeding success of **Balearic Shearwater** *P mauretanicus* was very low in some colonies and there was a mass mortality of mainly **Yelkouan Shearwaters** *P yelkouan* in Catalunya, Spain, related with a red tide episode (the exact origin of the toxin is not yet known). Good numbers of up to 90 **Balearic Shearwaters** remained off Portland, Dorset, England, in early July. The first **Mediterranean Storm-petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus melitensis* for Portugal was trapped near Burgau, Algarve, on 27 June; the bird had been ringed as a chick on Marettimo near Sicily on 16 July 2004. In June, a singing though not sound-recorded **Swinhoe's Storm-petrel** *Oceanodroma monorhis* was reported from Selvagem Grande, Selvagens, Madeira (previous records on this islet were in June-July 1983, 1988, 1991 and 1993-95). An immature **Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra* was reported from a sailing vessel off Portland, in the English Channel, on 17 May, and it or another flew east off St Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight, on 19 May and circled off Porthgwarra, Cornwall, on 25 May; if accepted, these would be the northernmost records for the WP.

CORMORANTS TO STORKS An adult **Pygmy Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* stayed at Trebeltal, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany, on 2-6 June. A **Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* and a **Dalmatian Pelican** *P crispus* at a fishpond in Baranda on 27 May constituted the first records for Serbia for more than a century. An immature **Great White Pelican** was present from at least 27 May to 12 July in Hungary. If accepted, an adult on Møn from 18 July will be the first for Denmark. A group of four pelicans at Incheon on 26 June almost certainly concerned the third record of **Dalmatian Pelican** for Korea, the previous two dating from 1914 and 1978. In northern lake Nasser, Egypt, three **Pink-backed Pelicans** *P rufescens* and 12 **Yellow-billed Storks** *Mycteria ibis* were found c 20 km north-east of Garf Husein on 23 May, and 20 and 101, respectively, were seen at Abu Simbel on 17 July. On Bashrif island 5 km north of Aswan in lake Nasser, 5-10 pairs of **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* with fledglings were found in a mixed heronry on 16 May; this species was not known to breed in Egypt. The 'Amsterdam' **Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* at Berre l'Étang east of Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, France, from 5 November 2006 was last seen on 1 May (cf Dutch Birding 28: 243, 2006; 29: 45, 2007). Amazingly, on 31 May, the bird was again photographed in Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, in the same area where it was last seen on 30 September 2006 (it is difficult to survey and the only sightings after 31 May were on 1, 4 and 27 June). On 18 July, it was photographed at Zaandam, Noord-Holland, c 5 km to the west.

RAPTORS TO RAILS This spring, four additional **White-tailed Eagles** *Haliaeetus albicilla* have been killed at the wind turbine park on Sømla in Norway, raising the total for this site to 13 victims. For the second consecutive year, the first-ever breeding pair of the Netherlands produced a young at Oostvaardersplassen, Flevoland; it was a female that fledged on 8 July wearing rings (776X right and grey colour AF19 left). During 17-18 June, unprecedented high numbers of **Eurasian Griffon Vultures** *Gyps fulvus* turned up in Belgium and the Netherlands: flocks of up to 94 individuals were seen at various places. A total of c 200 was seen in Belgium and at least 110 in the Netherlands, where the last individuals were reported on 26 June. Previously, the largest groups recorded for the Netherlands were six on 4 October 1944, six on 25 June 1998, 18 on 3 July 2001 and 17 in June 2002. In the second half of June, many were also reported in Germany with, for instance, up to 30 in Niedersachsen on 16-17 June, 13 in Sachsen-Anhalt on 17 June, up to 22 in Nordrhein-Westfalen on 18-19 June, 20 in Rheinland-Pfalz on 20 June, three in Niedersachsen on 23 June, and up to four in Rheinland-Pfalz on 27-30 June. The third and fourth for Poland in 2007 were immatures frequenting a dump at Brzeg, Silesia, in early July. In Iceland, a dark-morph **American Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus sanctijohannis* was photographed at Kúðafljót on 15 June. If accepted, **Long-legged Buzzards** *B rufinus* photographed over Breskens, Zeeland, on 14 May and Vlieland, Friesland, on 18 and 20 May will be the fourth and fifth for the Netherlands. On 16 May, a second-year **Bonelli's Eagle** *Aquila fasciata* flew over Harchies, Hainaut, Belgium (the species was also found at this site in October 2004). The second this year for




328 Black Scoter / Amerikaanse Zee-eend *Melanitta americana*, male, Jenny Brown's Point, Silverdale, Lancashire, England, 16 May 2007 *(Jim Beattie)* **329** Black-capped Petrel / Zwartkapstormvogel *Pterodroma hasitata*, c 16 km south-east off Graciosa, Azores, 26 May 2007 *(Killian Mullarney/The Sound Approach)* **330** White-tailed Lapwing / Witstaartkievit *Vanellus leucurus*, Caerlaverock, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, 6 June 2007 *(Adrian Kettle)* **331** Spur-winged Lapwing / Sporenkievit *Vanellus spinosus*, Mandra lake, Bulgaria, 23 May 2007 *(James Lidster)*

Germany was a second-year over Lebrade, Schleswig-Holstein, on 27 May (the previous one was at Kreis Viersen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, on 12 April). In 2006, 136 pairs of **Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni* with 225 fledglings were counted in Crau, Bouches-du-Rhône, France, where only 30-60 pairs were present in the 1990s. The 12th for Sweden was a female in Västerbotten on 10 May. If accepted, a **Saker Falcon** *F cherrug* at Korppoo on 4 June will be the second for Finland. A calling but not sound-recorded **Sora** *Porzana carolina* at Salo, Halikonlahti, on 2 June will be the first for Finland, if accepted. The third **Little Crake** *P parva* for Shetland was at Burrafirth, Unst, from at least 29 May through June.

WADERS The **Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus* near Pool of Virkie, Mainland, Shetland, Scotland, from 6 April remained until at least mid-July. The first **Greater Sand Plover** *C leschenaultii* for Latvia was an adult at Ragaciems at Riga bay, from 10 July onwards. A **Spur-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus spinosus* was photographed at Mandra lake, Bulgaria, on 23 May. **White-tailed Lapwings** *V leucurus* were seen at Phassouri, Cyprus, on 11 May, at Busemarke Mose, Denmark, on 19 May, and at Kalmar, Småland, Sweden, on 24-25 May. The fifth for Britain (and the first since 1984) was at Caerlaverock, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, on 6-8 June and at Leighton Moss, Lancashire, England, on 10-17 June. The **Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla* at Belfast Lough, Down, Northern Ireland, from 9 May stayed until 15 May. In England, one was seen at Over Fen, Cambridgeshire, on 19 May. The fifth for Iceland stayed at Rif on the Snæfellsnes peninsula from 11 July onwards. If accepted, a **Western Sandpiper** *C mauri* briefly at Margrethe Kog, Tønder, Sønderjylland, on 16 May, will be the first for Denmark. The

332 Spotted Sandpiper / Amerikaanse Oeverloper *Actitis macularius*, Århus, Jylland, Denmark, 18 May 2007 *(Martin Søgaard Nielsen)* **333** Caspian Plover / Kaspische Plevier *Charadrius asiaticus*, Eilat, Israel, 1 May 2007 *(Otto Plantema)* **334** Hudsonian Whimbrel / Amerikaanse Regenwulp *Numenius hudsonicus*, Walney Island, Cumbria, England, July 2007 *(Steve Young/Birdwatch)* **335** Buff-breasted Sandpiper / Blonde Ruiter *Tryngites subruficollis*, Rheindelta, Austria, 28 May 2007 *(Ernst Albegger)*

first **Red-necked Stint** *C ruficollis* for Spain was reported at Guadalhorce ponds, Málaga, on 15 May and the third for Norway was an adult at Orreosen, Klepp, Rogaland, on 27-28 June. If accepted, a **Temminck's Stint** *C temminckii* at Grímsey on 7 June will be the first for Iceland. The first **Long-toed Stint** *C subminuta* for Finland and c 10th for the WP was an adult at Salminlahti, Kotka, on 26-28 June. In May-June 2004, up to four breeding attempts of **Pectoral Sandpiper** *C melanotos* occurred in Scotland of which three were on different islands in the Outer Hebrides and one (ie, a pair in display in early June and an adult accompanying a very fresh juvenile in early July) was on the north-eastern mainland (Br Birds 100: 321-367, 2007). On 22 May, the eighth **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *C acuminata* for Norway turned up at Ekkerøy, Vadsø, Finnmark. The seventh for the Netherlands was an adult at Rockanje, Zuid-Holland, on 14 July. In England, a **Hudsonian Whimbrel** *Numenius hudsonicus* remained on Walney Island, Cumbria, from 14 June to at least mid-July. The second **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* for Denmark was an adult photographed at Århus, Jylland, on 18 May. The sixth **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* for Iceland was at Garður on 4-7 June. In Lincolnshire, a **Greater Yellowlegs** *T melanoleuca* at Gibraltar Point on 30-31 May was considered to be the same individual as the one at Freiston Shore earlier this spring. In Hungary, the adult female **Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* present from 26 April to 2 May was seen at Szabadszallas, Kiskunsagi national park, on 24 May (cf Dutch Birding 29: 175, 2007). In the Netherlands, one stayed at Oude Robbengat, Lauwersmeer, Groningen, on 4 June.

GULLS TO SKIMMERS **Bonaparte's Gulls** *Larus philadelphia* were seen, eg, at Hickling, Norfolk, England,




336 Greenish Warbler / Grauwe Fitis *Phylloscopus trochiloides*, Dobratsch, Kärnten, Austria, 8 June 2007 *(Ernst Albegger)* **337** Blue-cheeked Bee-eater / Groene Bijeneter *Merops persicus*, Muselievo, Bulgaria, 6 June 2007 *(Christian Neumann)* **338** Horned Lark / Strandleeuwerik *Eremophila alpestris*, Malta, 2 June 2007 *(Raymond Galea)* **339** Mongolian Finch / Mongoolse Woestijnvink *Bucanetes mongolicus*, Serpmetas, Turkey, 21 May 2007 *(Klaus Malling Olsen)*

on 12-26 May, at Sandgerði, Iceland, on 17 June, on South Uist, Outer Hebrides, from 19 June to at least mid-July (a first-summer), and at Fäholmen, Sölvesborg, Blekinge, Sweden, on 1-4 July. In England, a first-summer **Laughing Gull** *L atricilla* at Topsham, Devon, until at least 10 June was one of c five this spring. The sixth for Sweden was in Västergötland on 15 May. On 27 May, an adult flew over Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. If accepted, an adult at the Vistula mouth near Gdánsk on 10 July will be the first for Poland. In Devon, an adult **Franklin's Gull** *L pipixcan* was also reported at Topsham on 10 June. A second-summer **Audouin's Gull** *L audouinii* briefly at Dungeness, Kent, on 16 May was the third for Britain (the first was at the same site on 5-7 May 2003). The first for Finland was an immature photographed at a dump in Espoo on 24 June. In Cagliari, Sardinia, 60-65 pairs started to breed for the first time in the unlikely environment of an urban area; there are up to 700 breeding pairs elsewhere in Sardinia on islets and areas away from towns. An adult **Pallas's Gull** *L ichthyaetus* was reported past Cap Gris Nez, Pas-de-Calais, France, on 26 May. In the Azores, two **Sooty Terns** *Onychoprion fuscatus* were present on Ilhéu da Praia, Graciosa, from at least 16 June to 10 July and a **Bridled Tern** *O anaethetus* was on St Antonio on 21 June. In Israel, an adult **Saunders's Tern** *Sternula saundersi* was reported off Eilat's north beach on 17 and 29 May, as were up to 40 (on 19 May) **White-cheeked Terns** *Sterna repressa*. The third **Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida* for Iceland was an adult at Höfn, Einarlusnður, on 18 June. Apart from the largest-ever influx of **White-winged Terns** *C leucopterus* in the Netherlands on 14-22 May, which peaked on 17 May with 2526 individuals (cf Dutch Birding 29: 198-199, 2007), high numbers were reported also for Belgium with up to 300 on 16-22 May and

340 Wilson's Phalarope / Grote Franjepoot *Phalaropus tricolor*, adult female, with Ruffs / Kemphanen *Philomachus pugnax*, Szabadszallas, Kiskunsagi national park, Hungary, 24 May 2007 *(János Oláh)*

341 Little Crake / Klein Waterhoen *Porzana parva*, Burrafirth, Unst, Shetland, Scotland, 10 June 2007 *(Tim Loseby)*

342 Greater Crested Terns / Grote Kuifsterns *Sterna bergii*, adult, El Gouna, Egypt, 14 May 2007 *(Edwin Winkel)*

343 Greater Crested Terns / Grote Kuifsterns *Sterna bergii*, adult, with Lesser Crested Tern / Bengaalse Stern *S bengalensis*, White-cheeked Terns / Arabische Sterns *S repressa*, Little Terns / Dwergsterns *Sternula albifrons* and White-eyed Gull / Witoogmeeuw *Larus leucophthalmus*, El Gouna, Egypt, 14 May 2007 *(Edwin Winkel)*

344 Yellow-billed Stork / Afrikaanse Nimmerzat *Mycteria ibis*, Lake Nasser, Egypt, 23 May 2007 *(Dick Hoek)*
345 Eurasian Griffon Vulture / Vale Gier *Gyps fulvus*, Brzeg, Silesia, Poland, 5 July 2007 *(Pawel Gebski)*
346 Hybrid shrike / hybride klauwier *Lanius*, Comino, Malta, 27 April 2007 *(Raymond Galea)*

347 Stone-curlew / Griel *Burhinus oedicnemus*, Düne, Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, 13 May 2007 *(Roef Mulder)* **348** Collared Pratincole / Vorkstaartplevier *Glareola pratincola*, Annagh Head, Mayo, Ireland, 8 June 2007 *(Paul & Andrea Kelly/irishbirdimages.com)* **349** Basra Reed Warblers / Basrakarekieten *Acrocephalus griseldis*, adult, Lehavot Habashan, Israel, 19 June 2007 *(Itai Shanni)*

350 Iraq Babbler / Iraakse Babbelaar *Turdoides altirostris*, juvenile, Birecik, Sanliurfa, Turkey, 22 May 2007 *(Mike Crewe)* **351** White-winged Tern / Witvleugelstern *Chlidonias leucopterus*, Nordkehdingen, Niedersachsen, Germany, 17 May 2007 *(Stefan Pfützke)* **352** Hybrid Black x Common Redstart / hybride Zwarte x Gekraagde Roodstaart *Phoenicurus ochruros x phoenicurus*, Godovic, Slovenia, 8 May 2007 *(Dare Šere)* **353** Blyth's Reed Warbler / Struikrietzanger *Acrocephalus dumetorum*, Vallø, Køge, Sjælland, Denmark, 30 June 2007 *(Henrik Knudsen)*

for Germany on 13-21 May, with maximum counts of 460 on 14 May and 384 on 16 May. The only previous influx in the Netherlands was on 13-16 May 1997 when 350-400 were reported. An adult **Royal Tern** *S maxima* flew past Río Guadalhorce, Málaga, Spain, on 7 July. At Banc d'Arguin, Gironde, France, an **Elegant Tern** *S elegans* paired with a Sandwich Tern *S sandvicensis* produced an egg; a **Lesser Crested Tern** *S bengalensis* was also present here until 30 June. At Abu Simbel, Egypt, three **African Skimmers** *Rynchops flavirostris* were seen on 17 July.

OWLS TO WAGTAILS In England, the **European Scops Owl** *Otus scops* at Thrupp, Oxfordshire, for its second successive year stayed from 12 May to at least 7 June (cf Dutch Birding 28: 253, 2006). **Eurasian Eagle Owls** *Bubo bubo* increase in numbers all over western Europe and according to some sources up to 44 pairs are now present in eastern England and Scotland, albeit that most if not all are supposed to relate to released cagebirds. The species' ability to adapt to urban environments was vividly illustrated by an individual receiving multimedia attention when upholding for seven minutes an important soccer game between Finland and Belgium in a stadium where one of the five Helsinki pairs was nesting; the bird circled low above the field and landed several times on goal posts, being cheered upon by the public when gliding dangerously close over the heads of red-dressed soccer players, before leaving again. At least two **Snowy Owls** *B scandiacus* remained in Scotland through June on North Uist and St Kilda. In south-eastern France, a **Red-necked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus ruficollis* was singing at En Vau, Calanques de Marseille, on at least 12-15 June. In Scilly, a **Little Swift** *Apus affinis* was seen on St Agnes on 23 May and on St Mary's on 24 May. The second for Galicia, Spain, flew over Santiago de Compostela on 29 May. Possibly the third and fourth **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *Merops persicus* for Bulgaria were perching on a wire near Muselievo, 40 km north-north-east of Pleven, on 6 June. The ninth **Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra* for Sweden was at Ottenby, Öland, on 21 May. The first twitchable **Horned Lark** *Eremophila alpestris* for Malta was photographed at Xaghra I-Hamra on 2-3 June; there were five previous records with the latest in 1974. If accepted, a **Eurasian Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* reported at Persfjorden, Finnmark, on 27 June will be the first for Norway. In Germany, five **Ashy-headed Wagtails** *Motacilla cinereocapilla* were reported in Hessen (two), Rheinland-Pfalz and Schleswig-Holstein (two) during 7-17 May.

THRUSHES TO BABBLERS A **Rufous Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas galactotes* was found at Dwerja, Malta, on 14 May. A **Black Scrub Robin** *C podobe* was trapped at Eilat on 20 May. This spring, at least 68 **Red-flanked Bluetails** *Tarsiger cyanurus* were singing in Finland and six pairs with fledglings were found. On 8 May, a male hybrid **Black x Common Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros x phoenicurus* singing as a Black Redstart was photographed at Godovic, Slovenia; the bird nested with a Common Redstart producing five eggs. Another male hybrid singing as a Black in Slovenia was photographed at Krvavec mountain on 10 June. The first breeding of **European Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola* for Latvia occurred near Pape in May. The second **Blue Rock Trush** *Monticola solitarius* for Sweden was a male on 6 June on Gotska Sandön, where four days earlier a **Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola* and a **Booted Warbler** *A caligatus* were found. The third **Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti* for Sweden and the first away from Öland was singing just south of Stockholm at Älviken, Nynäshamn, from 9 June. In Finland, five **Lanceolated Warblers** *Locustella lanceolata* were singing this spring. The eighth for Norway and the first outside autumn was trapped and singing at Rodal, Møre og Romsdal, on 14 July. After the one on 2 June, two other **Paddyfield Warblers** were found in Sweden: on Horsten near Stockholm on 3-4 June and at Landsort, Södermanland, on 10 June. The sixth for Denmark was trapped at Grenen, Skagen, Nordjylland, on 31 May. Others occurred on Fair Isle, Shetland, on 9 June and at Kleiputten, Heist, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, on 12 June. A **Blyth's Reed Warbler** *A dumetorum* was singing near Køge south of København, Denmark, from 24 June to at least 3 July. It was the species' best year ever for Norway, where 15 were singing from 4 June. In Iceland, a **Marsh Warbler** *A palustris* was singing at Höfn on 4-16 June. On 2 June, a **Booted Warbler** was found at Blakeney Point, Norfolk. A total of 15 occurred in Finland this spring. In the Hula, Israel, four adult **Basra Reed Warblers** *A griseldis* were trapped on 9 and 21 May and four on 19 June at Lehavot Habashan fish ponds, where at least one juvenile was also seen (the species bred for the first time in Israel at this site in early 2006; cf Dutch Birding 28: 254, 2006). The sixth **Sardinian Warbler** *Sylvia melanocephala* for Denmark was an adult female trapped at Blåvands Huk, Vestjylland, on 20 or 22 June (the previous one was in 1997). An adult **Eastern Orphean Warbler** *S crassirostris* carrying nesting material at the Pcinja river valley near the Macedonian border on 4 May was regarded as the species' first breeding record for Serbia. In Crete, **Blackcaps** *S atricapilla* showed a remarkable increase since the mid-1990s, when the species only occurred as a migrant or winterer, as each year more and more singing birds were encountered with the first proof of breeding in 2005; it is now abundant in some areas. The first **Iberian Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus ibericus* for Finland was trapped at Hanko on 27 May. A female **Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva* trapped on Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, on 8 June showed a brood patch which is considered the first evidence of breeding for the Netherlands; a male was singing nearby in the same period, while in August 2006 a recently fledged juvenile was trapped here. In the second half of May, **Iraq Babblers** *Turdoides altirostris* raised four young near Birecik, Sanliurfa, Turkey.

SHRIKES TO AMERICAN BLACKBIRDS A hybrid shrike *Lanius* photographed on Comino, Malta, on 27 April

probably concerned a **Red-backed x Woodchat Shrike** *L collurio x senator*. A long-staying first-summer **Lesser Grey Shrike** *L minor* on Fair Isle remained from 27 May into July. The seventh **Great Grey Shrike** *L excubitor* for Iceland was reported at Skútustaðir, Mývatn, on 20 June. The ninth **Steppe Grey Shrike** *L pallidirostris* for Sweden was in Halland on 20 May. A first-summer male **Balearic Woodchat Shrike** *L s badius* was trapped near Polgigga, Cornwall, on 5-10 May. In south-eastern France, at least two pairs of **Spotless Starling** *Sturnus unicolor* were reported at two sites north of Marseille, and the species was also noted in Camargue this spring; by 1999, c 100 pairs were present further south in Languedoc-Roussillon. In Britain, **Dark-eyed Juncos** *Junco hyemalis* were seen on St Kilda on 30 May, at Kylesku, north of Ullapool, Highland, on 23 June and at Langham, Norfolk, on 14 July. On 11 June, a **White-throated Sparrow** *Zonotrichia albicollis* was found on Farne Islands, Northumberland, England. In Belgium, a **Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirlus* was singing at Mazée, Namur, from 24 May onwards. In the Netherlands, a male **Rustic Bunting** *E rustica* stayed on Rottumerplaat, Groningen, on 9-12 May. In Scotland, one was seen in Orkney on 18 May and two were in Shetland on 31 May. The first-ever twitchable **Black-headed Bunting** *E melanocephala* for Denmark was a first-summer male (trapped) at Skagen from 28 May to 3 June. A female was reported from St Agnes, Scilly, on 5 June. In southern France, two pairs bred successfully between Brunet and Bras at Valensole in Alpes-de-Haute-Provence; two males, two females and one juvenile were seen on 2 July. A female 'dark-headed bunting' on Fair Isle on 1-9 June was also believed to be a Black-headed Bunting. A male **Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula*, the first adult for the WP, frequented gardens at John O'Groats, Highland, in the last week of May.

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Recente meldingen

Dit overzicht van recente meldingen van zeldzame en interessante vogels in Nederland en België beslaat voornamelijk de periode **mei-juni 2007**. 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 Een verlate(n) **Dwerggans** *Anser erythropus* werd nog gezien in de Lauwersmeer, Groningen, vanaf 16 juni. Er werden ook nog 15 **Roodhalsganzen** *Branta ruficollis* gezien, voornamelijk vóór half mei en nog enkele late in juni, zoals op 23 en 24 juni op Texel, Noord-Holland, en een exemplaar van dubieuze herkomst vanaf 14 juni bij de Mookerplas, Limburg. Tot 13 mei werden nog slechts zes **Witbuikrotganzen** *B hrota* doorgegeven. **Zwarte Rotganzen** *B nigricans* bleven iets langer met tot 21 mei ongeveer 10 meldingen; de laatste was op die datum bij Westerlandkoog, Noord-Holland. Het aantal **Kroeneenden** *Netta rufina* begon vanaf half juni weer toe te nemen met op 16 juni al 90 op het Drontermeer bij Elburg, Gelderland. **Witoogeenden** *Aythya nyroca* bleven tot 8 mei (twee mannetjes) in De Wieden, Overijssel; tot 5 juni in de Engbertsdijksvenen, Overijssel, met op 28 mei daar een paar; van 20 tot 23 mei bij Saasveld, Overijssel; en op 19 mei en van 18 tot 25 juni bij Raalte, Overijssel. Het mannetje **Buffelkopeend** *Bucephala albeola* werd tot 21 mei gezien bij Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland. Op het Nijkerkernauw bij Nijkerk, Gelderland, werd op 6 mei op dezelfde plek

354 Vale Gier / Eurasian Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*, Oss, Noord-Brabant, 19 juni 2007 *(Jankees Schwiebbe)*

355 Vale Gieren / Eurasian Griffon Vultures *Gyps fulvus*, Driewegen, Zeeland, 26 juni 2007 *(René M van Loo)*

356 Slangenarend / Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*, Fochteloërveen, Friesland, 13 juni 2007
(Roland Jansen)

357 Zwarte Zeekoet / Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*, adult, De Val, Zierikzee, Zeeland, 19 mei 2007
(Niels de Schipper)

358 Groene Reiger / Green Heron *Butorides virescens*, Zijkanaal H-weg, Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, 1 juni 2007 *(Chris van Rijswijk)* **359** Ralreiger / Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*, adult, Wieringen, Noord-Holland, 17 juni 2007 *(Hans Brinks)* **360** Ralreiger / Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*, adult, Watergraafsmeer, Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, 22 juni 2007 *(Laurens B Steijn)*

als twee jaar geleden een **Bronskopeend** *Anas falcata* gezien, maar dit exemplaar vertoonde enkele hybride kenmerken. Een beter getekend exemplaar zwom op 21 en 22 mei in de Jan Durkspolder, Friesland, maar deze vogel behoorde waarschijnlijk tot het groepje van maximaal zeven 'escapes' dat hier in de winter van 2006/07 werd gemeld. **Amerikaanse Wintertalingen** *A carolinensis* zwommen op 2 mei op de Bleeke Heide bij Chaam, Noord-Brabant; van 7 tot 15 mei in de Ezumakeeg, Friesland, en op 2 en 3 juni in het Jaap Deensgat, Groningen (mogelijk hetzelfde exemplaar); van 8 tot 13 mei bij de Philipsdam, Zeeland; en van 12 tot 16 juni in De Brekken bij Lemmer, Friesland. **Noordse Pijlstormvogels** *Puffinus puffinus* zijn normaliter schaars in mei. Nu waren er echter waarnemingen op 8 mei (één) en 12 mei (twee) langs Camperduin, Noord-Holland, op 28 mei (vier) langs Egmond aan Zee, Noord-Holland, op 29 mei (maar liefst 63!) langs Camperduin en op 30 mei daar nog eens twee. Het stormachtige weer op 26 juni bracht in totaal 75 exemplaren op diverse plaatsen langs de kust. Wel erg vroeg was de melding van een **Vale Pijlstormvogel** *P mauretanicus* op 29 mei bij Egmond aan Zee. Met de Noordse Pijlen kwamen ook nog enkele **Vale Stormvogeltjes** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* mee: op 26 juni bij Den Helder, Noord-Holland, en op 27 juni langs Camperduin en Bloemendaal aan Zee, Noord-Holland. Tot 25 mei pleisterden nog maximaal twee **Kuifaalscholvers** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* bij IJmuiden, Noord-Holland, en minimaal drie bij Den Helder. Voorts waren er waarnemingen op 2 juni bij Zierikzee, Zeeland, en op 26 juni langs Westkapelle, Zeeland. Er werden ruim 30 **Kwakken** *Nycticorax nycticorax* gemeld, waaronder een vrijvliegende dierentuinpopulatie van zeven paren in Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland. Opmerkelijk was de terugkeer van de **Groene Reiger** *Butorides virescens* naar Amsterdam, Noord-Holland; hij werd vanaf 31 mei op (slechts) vier dagen gezien langs de Zijkanaal H-weg. Het was een uitzonderlijk goed seizoen voor **Ralreigers** *Ardeola ralloides* met waarnemingen van 29 mei tot 2 juni bij Zouteveen, Zuid-Holland; op 16 en 17 juni op Wieringen, Noord-Holland; op 22 en 23 juni respectievelijk in de Watergraafsmeer, Amsterdam, en bij Diemen, Noord-Holland; van 24 juni (en waarschijnlijk al vanaf 21 juni) tot 26 juni tussen Ureterp en Bakkeveen, Friesland; en vanaf 26 juni bij Bodegraven, Zuid-Holland. **Koereigers** *Bubulcus ibis* verschenen op 2 mei langs Breskens, Zeeland; op 6 mei langs de Zuidhaven bij de Dordtsche Biesbosch, Zuid-Holland; van 19 tot 30 mei tussen het Naardermeer en Weesp, Noord-Holland, op 24 mei langs Diemen; van 28 mei tot 16 juni bij Hoek, Zeeland; op 6 juni bij Aardenburg, Zeeland; op 8 juni in de Lauwersmeer; op 28 juni langs de Praamweg, Flevoland; en op 29 juni over de Nieuwkoopse Plassen, Zuid-Holland. Verspreid over de hele periode vloog een 30-tal **Zwarte Ooievaars** *Ciconia nigra* over ons land. De influx van **Zwarte Ibissen** *Plegadis falcinellus* leverde in totaal 19 exemplaren op waaronder twee bij Tienhoven, Utrecht, op 11 mei, drie bij Westbroek, Utrecht, op 13 mei en twee bij Rilland, Zeeland, op 13 juni. De vogel van de Westerbroekstermadepolder, Groningen, werd op 1 mei voor het laatste gezien. Overige enkelingen werden gemeld bij Mariahoop, Limburg, op 2 mei; bij de Brunstinger plassen, Drenthe, op 3 mei; over Druten, Gelderland, op 14 mei; over het Rammegors, Zeeland, op 24 mei; in de Engbertdijksvenen, Overijssel op 27 mei; in IJmuiden op 5 juni; over Streefkerk, Zuid-Holland, op 9 juni; in de Ezumakeeg op 10 juni; over Egmond, Noord-Holland, op 13 juni; in De Brekken van 20 tot 25 juni (waar in april ook een vogel werd gezien); en bij Dirkshorn, Noord-Holland, op 21 juni. Het broedpaar **Zeearenden** *Haliaeetus albicilla* van de Oostvaardersplassen, Flevoland, bracht ook dit jaar weer een jong groot. Daarnaast werden niet minder dan 10 andere in het land gezien, waarvan negen in mei en één vanaf 16 juni in de Lauwersmeer. In de eerste helft van juni werden vijf **Vale Gieren** *Gyps fulvus* in ons land opgemerkt maar niemand kon vermoeden dat dit de voorbode was van een ongekende invasie. Op 16 en 17 juni kwamen er berichten dat België werd overspoeld door Vale Gieren en werden ook de eerste vier in Nederland gezien bij Montfort, Limburg. Op 18 juni vlogen er 61 binnen in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, Zeeland, die in de loop van de dag weer zuidwaarts de grens overtrokken. In Noord-Brabant trokken zowel langs Breda als Tilburg 50 tot 60 exemplaren het land binnen en ten westen van Oss kwamen er 's avonds 33 aan de grond. De volgende ochtend bleken er hier 42 te hebben overnacht die uiteindelijk in zuidelijke richting wegtrokken, hetgeen onder andere resulteerde in waarnemingen van 33 bij Sint-Oedenrode, Noord-Brabant, en kleinere aantallen langs Eindhoven, Noord-Brabant. Daarnaast waren er op 19 juni in Limburg nog meldingen van 22 over Beek en 23 over Maastricht. Op 20 juni werden er 15 gemeld bij Oosterhout, Noord-Brabant, op 21 juni 30 ver buiten de influxzone bij Emmer-Compascuum, Drenthe, en op 22 juni 15 over Cottessen, Limburg. Naast dit geweld werden er tussen 18 en 22 juni nog eens c 40 op andere plekken gezien voornamelijk ten zuiden van de lijn van Apeldoorn, Gelderland, naar Zoetermeer, Zuid-Holland. In de laatste dagen van juni volgden nog in totaal 13 exemplaren op drie locaties. Het is bekend dat na berichten in de media de algehele Vale-Gierengekte in enkele van de bovengenoemde gevallen tot foute determinaties heeft geleid. Na de eerste melding van een **Slangenarend** *Circaetus gallicus* op 3 mei op het Deelensche Veld, Gelderland, verscheen er vanaf 10 juni weer één in het Fochteloërveen, Drenthe/Friesland. Daarna volgden nog meldingen op 14 juni op de Slikken van Flakkee, Zuid-Holland, en op 23 juni op de Meinweg, Limburg. Na de waarneming van een adult mannetje **Steppekiekendief** *Circus macrourus* op 5 mei langs de Praamweg volgden twee late meldingen, op 13 juni bij Noordwijk, Zuid-Holland, en op 16 juni bij Egmond aan Zee. De doortrek van **Grauwe Kiekendief** *C pygargus* speelde zich vóór half mei af met 44 exemplaren, waarna in de rest van mei en juni nog eens een 10-tal werd gezien buiten de bekende broedgebieden. Een **Arendbuizerd** *Buteo rufinus* werd op 14 mei gefoto-






361 Witvleugelstern / White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*, Veenoordkolk, Deventer, Overijssel, 16 mei 2007 *(Arno ten Hoeve)* **362** Witvleugelstern / White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*, Waverhoek, Utrecht, 16 mei 2007 *(Michel Veldt)* **363** Amerikaanse Wintertaling / Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*, Philipsdam, Zeeland, 8 mei 2007 *(Pim A Wolf)* **364** Ralreiger / Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*, adult, Nieuwerbrug, Zuid-Holland, 27 juni 2007 *(Han Zevenhuizen)* **365** Ralreiger / Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*, adult, Schipluiden, Zuid-Holland, 29 mei 2007 *(Martin van der Schalk)* **366** Ralreiger / Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*, adult, Diemen, Noord-Holland, 23 juni 2007 *(Luuk Punt)*




367 Arendbuizerd / Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*, Vlieland, Friesland, 20 mei 2007 *(Conny Keijzer)* **368** Amerikaanse Goudplevier / American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*, Slufter, Texel, Noord-Holland, 26 mei 2007 *(Han Zevenhuizen)* **369** Blonde Ruiter / Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*, Slikken van Flakkee, Zuid-Holland, 27 juni 2007 *(Pim A Wolf)* **370** Rosse Franjepoot / Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 15 mei 2007 *(Luuk Punt)*

grafeerd langs Breskens. Later die dag werd de soort gemeld bij de Sliedrechtse Biesbosch, Zuid-Holland. Op 18 en 20 mei werd er één gefotografeerd op Vlieland, Friesland. Op 6 mei werden fraaie foto's gemaakt van een overtrekkende **arend** *Aquila* bij Budel-Dorplein, Noord-Brabant, die aanvankelijk als Schreeuwarend *A pomarina* werd gedetermineerd maar bij nader inzien misschien toch meer kenmerken vertoonde van een '*fulvescens*' Bastaardarend *A clanga*. Zoals gewoonlijk waren er weer eens meer of minder overtuigende meldingen van **Dwergarenden** *A pennata*, en wel op 5 mei over Valkenburg, Limburg, en de Ooijpolder, Gelderland; op 21 mei bij Loenen, Utrecht; op 30 mei bij Mijdrecht, Utrecht; op 17 juni over Leiderdorp, Zuid-Holland; en op 19 juni over Ermelo, Gelderland, en Hilversum, Noord-Holland. Van 1 tot 12 mei werden maximaal vier **Roodpootvalken** *Falco vespertinus* gezien in het Fochteloërveen. Daarnaast werden er in mei (voornamelijk vóór 18 mei) 38 gemeld.

RALLEN TOT ALKEN Een **Klein Waterhoen** *Porzana parva* werd op 17 mei gehoord en gezien(!) in het Harderbroek, Flevoland; auditieve meldingen na die datum (tot en met 20 mei) waren minder overtuigend. Vroege **Kleinste Waterhoenders** *P pusilla* werden gemeld op 1 mei bij Wageningen, Gelderland, en op 4 mei in Diependal, Drenthe. Op 22 mei werd er één gehoord in het Harderbroek en op 31 mei bij Amerongen, Utrecht. Vanaf 24 juni waren er net als voorgaande jaren weer twee te horen bij Tienhoven, Utrecht. Van de c 45 **Steltkluten** *Himantopus himantopus* werd het grootste deel in mei gezien. Her en der waren er weer broedgevallen of -pogingen. **Grielen** *Burhinus oedicnemus* verschenen op 16 mei bij Groesbeek, Gelderland; op 18 mei langs de Langevelderslag, Zuid-Holland; op 19 mei




371 Bijeneters / European Bee-eaters *Merops apiaster*, Kollumerwaard, Friesland, 16 mei 2007 *(Martijn Bot)* **372** Roodstuitzwaluw / Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*, Koarnwertersân, Friesland, 13 mei 2007 *(Johnny van der Zwaag)* **373** Roodkopklauwier / Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*, Colijnsplaat, Zeeland, 31 mei 2007 *(Pim A Wolf)* **374** Roodkopklauwier / Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*, Colijnsplaat, Zeeland, 31 mei 2007 *(Niels de Schipper)*

over de Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland; en op 19 juni mogelijk in Meijendel, Zuid-Holland. Een **Steppevorkstaartplevier** *Glareola nordmanni* verbleef vanaf 21 juni tot 5 juli bij Exloo, Drenthe. Op Texel verbleven tot 5 mei maximaal 14 **Morinelplevieren** *Charadrius morinellus*. Daarna volgden er tot 20 mei nog 22 op andere plekken in het land en was er een laat exemplaar van 6 tot 9 juni in de Kennemerduinen, Noord-Holland. **Amerikaanse Goudplevieren** *Pluvialis dominica* werden opgemerkt op 26 mei bij De Slufter op Texel, op 26 en 27 mei in de Workumerwaard, Friesland, en op 15 juni in De Brekken. Verspreid over de periode werden 11 **Gestreepte Strandlopers** *Calidris melanotos* aangetroffen. Er werd eenzelfde aantal **Breedbekstrandlopers** *Limicola falcinellus* opgemerkt, vrijwel allemaal in mei en voornamelijk langs de Waddenkust. De laatste twee werden waargenomen op 1 juni in de Ezumakeeg. Op 27 juni liep een **Blonde Ruiter** *Tryngites subruficollis* op de Slikken van Flakkee. **Grote Grijze Snippen** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* verschenen op 1 mei langs Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland, van 7 tot 16 mei in de Ezumakeeg en op 6 juni (mogelijk dezelfde) bij Achter de Zwarten in de Lauwersmeer, Groningen. Op 24 mei vloog een ongedetermineerde **grijze snip** *L griseus/scolopaceus* over Texel. Een **Terekruiter** *Xenus cinereus* pleisterde op 25 mei tijdens hoogwater bij Den Oever, Noord-Holland. De vermoedelijke **Kleine Geelpootruiter** *Tringa flavipes* die op 4 mei op Texel werd gemeld zat te ver weg om tot een sluitende determinatie te komen. Met c 20 **Poelruiters** *T stagnatilis* is deze soort tegenwoordig niet zeldzaam meer. Een **Grote Franjepoot** *Phalaropus tricolor* liet zich op 4 juni bekijken bij het Oude Robbengat in de Lauwersmeer. **Rosse Franjepoten** *P fulicarius* verbleven van 5 tot 23 mei in Mariëndal bij Den Helder en vanaf 25 juni in de Prunjepolder, Zeeland. Het vermelden waard zijn de

375 Roodhalsgans / Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*, Texel, Noord-Holland, 24 juni 2007 *(Hans Verdaat)*

376 Breedbekstrandloper / Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*, Slikken van Flakkee, Zuid-Holland, 17 mei 2007 *(Pim A Wolf)*

waarnemingen op 9 juni van **Middelste Jagers** *Stercorarius pomarinus* bij Polder Breebaart, Groningen, en Huisduinen, Noord-Holland. **Kleinste Jagers** *S longicaudus* werden gezien op 8, 29 en 30 mei bij Camperduin en op 27 mei bij Noordwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland. Op 3 mei werd een **Kleine Burgemeester** *Larus glaucoides* wederom gezien op Terschelling, Friesland. In de eerste dagen van mei trokken 14 **Lachsterns** *Gelochelidon nilotica* door, daarna volgden tot 9 juni nog eens acht. Tot 22 juni werden 28 **Reuzensterns** *Hydroprogne caspia* opgemerkt. Van beide schaarse moerassterns *Chlidonias* werden recordaantallen gezien. In totaal ging het om zeker 88 **Witwangsterns** *C hybrida* van half mei tot half juni, met als grootste groep die van 24 op 2 juni in de Sliedrechtse Biesbosch. Het aantal **Witvleugelsterns** *C leucopterus* was nog veel spectaculairder, met voornamelijk vanaf 16 mei vele 100en. Naar schatting ging het mogelijk zelfs om meer dan 2500 exemplaren. De hoogste aantallen waren op 16 mei 158 bij Midwolda, Groningen, 90 op het Zuidlaardermeer, Groningen, 58 op het Hondshalstermeer, Groningen, 52 bij de Steile Bank, Friesland, en 49 in het Bargerveen, Drenthe, en op 17 mei 172 langs telpost Ketelbrug, Flevoland, 27 ter plaatse en 60 overvliegend bij Huizen, Noord-Holland, en later die dag 87 op het Wolderwijd, Flevoland. Na 22 mei namen de aantallen sterk af en tot ver in juni werden nog her en der kleine groepjes gezien. **Dougalls Sterns** *Sterna dougallii* werden gemeld op 30 mei op Texel en op 2 juni langs Huisduinen. Bijzonder was de overzomerende adulte **Zwarte Zeekoet** *Cepphus grylle* vanaf 19 mei bij Zierikzee; door de extreem gesleten vleugelpennen kon de vogel niet vliegen (maar was desondanks vaak lastig te vinden!).

UILEN TOT GORZEN Intrigerend is de claim van een **Ruigpootuil** *Aegolius funereus* op 4 mei bij Epen, Limburg. **Alpengierzwaluwen** *Apus melba* werden gemeld op 9 juni bij Moerkapelle, Zuid-Holland, en op 16 juni over Tiel, Gelderland. In de loop van mei werden in totaal 67 **Bijeneters** *Merops apiaster* geteld, waaronder 17 op 13 en 14 mei bij Liempde, Noord-Brabant, en negen op 16 en 17 mei in de Kollumerwaard, Friesland. In juni volgden er nog slechts zes. In mei werden nog eens 10 **Hoppen** *Upupa epops* aan het toch al niet onaanzienlijke voorjaarstotaal toegevoegd. Een late verscheen op 20 juni bij Borgsweer, Groningen. Een **Kuifleeuwerik** *Galerida cristata* was een onverwachte gast op de Maasvlakte op 26 mei en 7 juni. De enige plekken waar deze periode meerdere vogels verbleven waren Venlo, Limburg (maximaal drie), en Haverleij bij 's-Hertogenbosch, Noord-Brabant (twee). **Roodstuitzwaluwen** *Cecropis daurica* werden slechts gezien op 1 mei (twee) langs Breskens, op 2 mei langs telpost Ketelbrug en op 13 mei ter plaatse op Koarnwertersân (Kornwerderzand), Friesland. Op 1 mei vloog een **Grote Pieper** *Anthus richardi* langs Breskens. Slechts zes **Duinpiepers** *A campestris* werden begin mei op trek gesignaleerd en tot 19 mei werden 11 langstrekkende **Roodkeelpiepers** *A cervinus* doorgegeven. Een vrouwtje **Citroenkwikstaart** *Motacilla citreola* was op 1 mei aanwezig in de Vreugderijkerwaard bij Zwolle, Overijssel, en op 5 juni was er een melding van de Kuikseindsche Heide, Noord-Brabant. Het geluid van een **Noordse Nachtegaal** *Luscinia luscinia* werd op 22 mei opgenomen tussen Assen en Balloo, Drenthe. Een vrouwtje **Blauwborst** *L svecica* op de Maasvlakte op 26 mei had de plek, de datum en het uiterlijk mee voor een **Roodsterblauwborst** *L s svecica* maar de bewijsvoering in dit kleed is zeer lastig. Een late **Beflijster** *Turdus torquatus* werd op 10 juni gezien in de Kennemerduinen. Het aantal gemelde **Cetti's Zangers** *Cettia cetti* kwam op ruim 20, alle in de provincies Noord-Brabant, Zeeland en Zuid-Holland, en bovendien bevonden zich net als in voorgaande jaren (Tussen duin & dijk 6 (2): 4-5, 2007) weer zingende exemplaren in het Zwanenwater, Noord-Holland. Er werden deze periode c 15 **Graszangers** *Cisticola juncidis* gemeld, met als hoogste aantal vijf in het Sloegebied, Zeeland, en als meest noordelijke een nestelend exemplaar bij het Kennemermeer, Noord-Holland, dat op 21 mei voor het laatst werd gezien. **Krekelzangers** *Locustella fluviatilis* werden gehoord van 14 tot 17 mei in de Kollumerwaard en van 18 tot 25 mei bij Brunssum, Limburg. **Orpheusspotvogels** *Hippolais polyglotta* zongen op 3 en 4 juni bij Oost-Maarland, Limburg, van 16 tot 22 juni in het Gerendal, Limburg, en op 22 juni bij Epen. Op 24 mei was er een melding van een zingende **Waterrietzanger** *Acrocephalus paludicola* in De Wieden; voorjaarswaarnemingen van deze soort blijven erg schaars en verdienen een goede documentatie. Op de Maasvlakte werd een vrouwtje **Baardgrasmus** *Sylvia cantillans* gezien op 20 mei en een mannetje op 2 juni. Een luid zingende **Grauwe Fitis** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* verbleef op 3 juni op de beroemde begraafplaats in Westkapelle. Een **Pallas' Boszanger** *P proregulus* zou op 9 mei gehoord zijn in Ouderkerk aan de Amstel, Noord-Holland. De **Iberische Tjiftjaf** *P ibericus* liet zich nog de gehele periode horen en zien bij Diemen. Andere zongen van 9 tot 22 mei bij Arnhem, Gelderland, en van 13 mei tot 3 juni in het Buitenpark in Zoetermeer. Een mannetje **Kleine Vliegenvanger** *Ficedula parva* zong op 24 mei op de Maasvlakte. Op Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, zong op 25 en 26 mei én op 10, 11 en 14 juni een fraai uitgekleurd mannetje in het Tweede Dennenbos; op 8 juni werd een paar kilometer verderop een vrouwtje met broedvlek werd gevangen, hetgeen doet vermoeden dat er een broedgeval heeft plaatsgevonden. Op 30 juni was er een melding bij Eindhoven. In Noord-Ginkel bij Ede, Gelderland, zou ook dit jaar weer een **Withalsvliegenvanger** *F albicollis* zijn waargenomen en wel op 13 mei maar nadien ontbrak ieder spoor. Op 2 juni was een adulte **Roze Spreeuw** *Sturnus roseus* aanwezig op Rottumerplaat, Groningen. Net als vorig jaar vond er opnieuw minstens één broedgeval plaats van **Grauwe Klauwier** *Lanius collurio* in de Hollandse duinen: dit keer werden drie jongen grootgebracht in de Kennemerduinen bij Bloemendaal. **Roodkopklauwieren** *L senator* gaven kleur aan hun omgeving op 31 mei bij Colijnsplaat, Zeeland, op 2 juni op Texel en op 13 juni op Vlieland.

377 Roodkeelpieper / Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*, Itteren, Limburg, 6 mei 2007
(Karel Lemmens)

378 Blauwborst / Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*, Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, 26 mei 2007
(Chris van Rijswijk)

379 Krekelzanger / River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis*, Brunssum, Limburg, 19 mei 2007
(Ran Schols)

380 Krekelzanger / River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis*, Kollumerwaard, Lauwersmeer, Friesland, 15 mei 2007
(Jan Bosch)

381 Kleine Vliegenvanger / Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*, mannetje, Tweede Dennenbos, Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, 26 mei 2007 *(Marc Guyt/Agami)*

382 Bosgors / Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*, mannetje, Rottumerplaat, Groningen, mei 2007 *(Hans Roersma)*

Een mannetje **Sneeuwgors** *Plectrophenax nivalis* zong op 6 en 7 juni op de Zuidpier van IJmuiden. Een mannetje **Bosgors** *Emberiza rustica* verbleef op Rottumerplaat van 9 tot 12 mei. Tot 19 mei werd het bedroevend lage aantal van negen **Ortolanen** *E hortulana* waargenomen. Ook met **Grauwe Gors** *E calandra* gaat het niet goed. In Limburg werd vóór 15 mei slechts één zingende bij Itteren, Limburg, en één bij Sibbe, Limburg, aangetroffen. Bij Vught, Noord-Brabant, bleef het standvastige exemplaar de gehele periode aanwezig en een ander zat van 21 mei tot 3 juni in de Jezuïetenwaai bij Groessen, Gelderland.

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EENDEN TOT IBISSEN Twee ongeringde onvolwassen **Dwergganzen** *Anser erythropus* verbleven op 14 mei bij Doornzele, Oost-Vlaanderen, en op 24 mei in Drongen, Oost-Vlaanderen. Er waren **Casarca's** *Tadorna ferruginea* in Elen/Rotem, Limburg; Gent, Oost-Vlaanderen; en Lier, Antwerpen (twee). Op 6 mei pleisterde een mannetje **Blauwvleugeltaling** *Anas discors* in de Rhillebroeken te Woumen, West-Vlaanderen. De enige **Krooneenden** *Netta rufina* werden waargenomen in de moerassen van Harchies, Hainaut, op 21-25 mei; Het Hageven in Neerpelt, Limburg, op 25 mei; op de Hoge Dijken in Roksem, West-Vlaanderen, op 27 mei; op De Kuifeend in Antwerpen, Antwerpen, vanaf 2 juni; en in Basse-Wavre, Brabant-Wallon, op 20 juni. Op 23 mei landde een mannetje **Witoogeend** *Aythya nyroca* in de Drie Vijvers te Adinkerke, West-Vlaanderen, en op 25 mei en 6 en 21 juni werd er één gezien in Harchies/Hensies. Leuk was de verschijning van een mannetje **IJseend** *Clangula hyemalis* in Stevensvennen, Limburg, van 3 tot 6 mei. Een adulte **Parelduiker** *Gavia arctica* in volledig zomerkleed sierde op 1 en 2 mei het Schulensmeer, Limburg. Ook de aanwezigheid van een **Kuifduiker** *Podiceps auritus* in zomerkleed op de Hooge Maaij in Antwerpen van 20 mei tot ten minste 23 juni werd sterk geapprecieerd. Een adulte **Roodhalsfuut** *Podiceps grisegena* in zomerkleed verbleef de hele periode bij het Veer van Kruibeke, Oost-Vlaanderen. Op 9 mei vlogen twee **Noordse Stormvogels** *Fulmarus glacialis* over Het Hageven in Neerpelt. Naast verschillende broedgevallen van **Woudapen** *Ixobrychus minutus* werden ook doortrekkers opgemerkt: in Veurne, West-Vlaanderen, op 6 mei; in Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, op 14 mei; en in Brecht, Antwerpen, op 28 mei. Een **Kwak** *Nycticorax nycticorax* werd op 2 mei waargenomen in Heers, Limburg; op 17 mei in Zonhoven, Limburg; op 23 mei op de Kalmthoutse Heide, Antwerpen; en op 21 mei in Ekeren, Antwerpen. Een **Ralreiger** *Ardeola ralloides* in zomerkleed werd op 21 mei gefotografeerd in de Bospolder in Ekeren maar werd later niet meer waargenomen. Gemakkelijker was de vogel die vanaf 22 juni langs het Meer van Virelles, Hainaut, foerageerde. Tot 20 mei overnachtte de geringde **Koereiger** *Bubulcus ibis* nog regelmatig in het Molsbroek in Lokeren, Oost-Vlaanderen; overdag foerageerde deze vogel in de Durmemeersen in Zele, Oost-Vlaanderen. Ook het exemplaar dat van 16 mei tot 11 juni in het Schulensbroek verbleef bleek een ring te dragen. Er waren ook waarnemingen in Gullegem, West-Vlaanderen, op 21 mei en bij Merkem, West-Vlaanderen, op 22 mei. Op 6 juni volgde nog een waarneming bij Woumen, West-Vlaanderen, en van 6 tot 17 juni verbleef de geringde vogel weer bij Lapscheure, West-Vlaanderen. Wellicht dezelfde werd op 22 juni gezien in Heist, West-Vlaanderen. Er was de inmiddels klassieke stapel **Kleine Zilverreigers** *Egretta garzetta* en **Grote Zilverreigers** *Casmerodius albus*; beide soorten komen thans in zulke hoge aantallen voor dat ze hier niet meer worden vermeld. Mei leverde in totaal 31 **Purperreigers** *Ardea purpurea* op; maximaal trokken er op 13 mei zes over De Fonteintjes in Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen. Er werden in Vlaanderen overtrekkende **Zwarte Ooievaars** *Ciconia nigra* gezien over Lichtaart, Antwerpen, op 6 mei (twee); Mechelen, Antwerpen, op 13 mei; Oostmalle, Antwerpen, op 15 mei; Herzele, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 27 mei (twee); Zwijnaarde, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 31 mei; Opglabbeek, Limburg, op 17 juni; Peer, Limburg, op 18 juni; en Outgaarden, Vlaams-Brabant op 19 juni. Een **Zwarte Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* die op 15 mei over Lommel vloog verbleef daarna tot 17 mei in Het Hageven te Neerpelt. Op 20 mei was er een waarneming in La Hulpe, Brabant-Wallon, en het was wellicht deze vogel die later op de dag op de bezinkingsputten van Tienen, Vlaams-Brabant, verscheen. Ten slotte volgde op 11 juni een waarneming op het Klein Schietveld in Kalmthout.

WOUWEN TOT VALKEN Tussen 1 en 20 mei trokken over Vlaanderen 47 **Zwarte Wouwen** *Milvus migrans* en gespreid over juni werden er nog zes gezien. Op 26 mei vloog er één over Lier en op 28 mei nog één over Sint-Lenaarts, Antwerpen. In Wallonië ging het om ten minste 28 mei- en negen juniwaarnemingen. **Rode Wouwen** *M milvus* passeerden in kleine golven: zes op 1 en 2 mei, drie tussen 12 en 14 mei en nog één op 29 mei. In Wallonië ging het uiteraard weer om hogere aantallen maar hoe veel er precies doortrokken is moeilijk te schatten vanwege de broedpopulatie. Op 6 mei vloog een vermoedelijke **Zeearend** *Haliaeetus albicilla* over Melsen/Bottelare, Oost-Vlaanderen, en op 18 mei vloog er één over Hoegaarden, Vlaams-Brabant. Nog verrassender was de waarneming van een adulte bij Bornem, Antwerpen, op 5 juni. Veruit het grootste spektakel van de maand juni was de nooit eerder geziene influx van **Vale Gieren** *Gyps fulvus*, die zelfs buiten Europa de pers haalde. De show begon op

383 Vale Gieren / Eurasian Griffon Vultures *Gyps fulvus*, Nederename, Oudenaarde, Oost-Vlaanderen, 17 juni 2007 *(Gunther Groenez)*

16 juni, toen tenminste 18 exemplaren hoog over Ruisbroek, Antwerpen, vlogen. Op 17 juni werd meteen de omvang van de invasie duidelijk toen eerst 55 over Virelles trokken, waarna een massieve 'bel' van 94 werd ontdekt en gefotografeerd boven Nederename, Oost-Vlaanderen. De meeste belangstelling ging naar overnachtende groepen van 64 in Ursel, Oost-Vlaanderen, van 17 op 18 juni en van 34 in Meerbeke, Oost-Vlaanderen, van 18 op 19 juni. Een overzicht van de waarnemingen is materie voor een uitgebreider artikel maar wel is al duidelijk dat tussen 18 en 26 juni naar schatting c 200 vogels zijn waargenomen. Ze verschenen in alle provincies maar Oost-Vlaanderen werd het beste bedeeld. De gegevens die na de mediabelangstelling kwamen zijn moeilijk op betrouwbaarheid in te schatten; verschillende ingezonden waarnemingen betroffen Buizerds *Buteo buteo*… Bij Antoing, Hainaut, werd op 17 mei een **Slangenarend** *Circaetus gallicus* gezien. Op 15 juni was er een waarneming in Het Hageven in Neerpelt, gevolgd door een tweede op 23 juni. Op 19 juni vloog er één laag over Engsbergen, Limburg. Een zeer waarschijnlijk vrouwtje **Steppekiekendief** *Circus macrouros* vloog op 19 juni over Mortsel, Antwerpen. Mei was goed voor 27 **Grauwe Kiekendieven** *C pygargus*. Een **Bastaard-** of **Schreeuwarend** *Aquila clanga/pomarina* vloog op 3 mei over Roeselare, West-Vlaanderen. Een lichte vorm **Dwergarend** *A pennata* die op 5 mei over Wezel, Antwerpen, vloog kon kort daarop worden onderschept boven de Maatheide in Lommel. Een exemplaar van de donkere vorm bood zich op 17 juni aan in Boechout, Antwerpen, waar iemand op de uitkijk stond voor Vale Gieren. Een tweede-kalenderjaar **Havikarend** *A fasciata* vloog op 16 mei gedurende 10 min zeer laag boven de moerassen van Harchies. In Zolder, Limburg, werd op 5 juni een overvliegende, onvolwassen **Steppearend** *A nipalensis* gedetermineerd. Op 10 mei vloog een grote, ongedetermineerde **arend** *Aquila* over Aalter/Tielt, Oost-Vlaanderen. Intrigerend was dat deze kort volgde op de melding van een onvolwassen **Keizerarend** *A heliaca* over Brugge, West-Vlaanderen, op 5 mei. In totaal bereikten ons 50 meiwaarnemingen van **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus,* waarvan de meeste tussen 2 en 6 mei. De enige juniwaarnemingen waren op 4 juni in de Daknamse Meersen, Oost-Vlaanderen. Op 1 mei vlogen **Roodpootvalken** *Falco vespertinus* over Knokke, West-Vlaanderen; Heusden, Oost-Vlaanderen; en Nokere, Oost-Vlaanderen. Op 4 mei trok er één over Genk, Limburg, en op 5 mei volgde een waarneming in Helchteren, Limburg. Op 20 mei vloog er één over het Mechels Broek in Mechelen.

RALLEN TOT STERNS Het mannetje **Klein Waterhoen** *porzana parva* dat vanaf 24 april zong in De Blankaart te Woumen werd daar op 1 mei voor het laatst gehoord. In mei waren er nog 10 waarnemingen van **Kraanvogels** *Grus grus*: op 1 mei in Mageret, Luxembourg; Schulen; Tienen (drie) en Zeebrugge; op 2 mei vijf over Zee-

brugge en later over Knokke; op 4 mei in Sint-Gillis-Waas, Oost-Vlaanderen; en op 27 mei waarschijnlijk vier over Meers. Op de volgende plaatsen werden **Steltkluten** *Himantopus himantopus* waargenomen: in Verrebroek, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 1 mei; in de Uitkerkse Polders, West-Vlaanderen, op 3 mei; twee in Oudenburg, West-Vlaanderen, op 9 mei; twee in Het Vinne in Zoutleeuw, Vlaams-Brabant, en drie op de Bezinkingsputten van Tienen op 13 mei; twee in Kalmthout op 20 mei; in Oostkamp, West-Vlaanderen, op 22 mei; in Lochristi, Oost-Vlaanderen, op 2 juni en twee in de Uitkerkse Polders 5 tot 18 juni. Er vond een broedgeval plaats bij Veurne, West-Vlaanderen. Op 13 mei verbleef een **Griel** *Burhinus oedicnemus* bij Kruishoutem, Oost-Vlaanderen, en op 20 juni was er een waarneming in Viroinval, Namur. Op 1 mei pleisterden twee **Morinelplevieren** *Charadrius morinellus* bij Clermont, Liège. In de Maatheide in Lommel foerageerden er op 1 mei drie en op 2 mei arriveerden er acht. Van 3 tot 5 mei verbleef er één bij Boneffe, Namur, en op 5 mei vloog er één over Het Hageven in Neerpelt en waren er drie in Gerny, Luxembourg. Op 27 mei foerageerde een **Gestreepte Strandloper** *Calidris melanotos* op Drydijk bij Verrebroek. **Breedbekstrandlopers** *Limicola falcinellus* zijn in België geen jaarlijkse verschijning: de waarnemingen in de Bourgoyen in Gent op 22 mei en in de Viconiakleiputten in Stuivekenskerke op 24 mei mochten dan ook op veel belangstelling rekenen. De aanwezigheid van een pleisterend exemplaar op het stort van Mont-Saint-Guibert, Brabant-Wallon, op 20 en 21 mei werd pas later bekendgemaakt. De adulte en regelmatig baltsende **Poelsnip** *Gallinago media* op de slikplaat van de Bichterweerd in Elen/Rotem kroonde zichzelf tot vogel van de maand. Een **grijze snip** *Limnodromus* trok op 1 mei over De Fonteintjes in Zeebrugge. In de avond van 13 mei werd een **Grote Grijze Snip** *L scolopaceus* in zomerkleed gefotografeerd op het stort van Mont-Saint-Guibert; hierna werd deze vogel niet meer gezien. In de Achterhaven van Zeebrugge liep op 1 mei een **Poelruiter** *Tringa stagnatilis* en op 2 mei waren er hier twee en op 2 mei trok er één over De Fonteintjes in Zeebrugge. In de Uitkerkse Polders foerageerde van 3 tot 5 mei één exemplaar, tussen 2 en 16 juni waren er twee samen en vanaf 30 juni verbleef er één. Op 17 en 25 mei werd er één gezien in Sint-Martens-Latem, Oost-Vlaanderen. Een **Grauwe Franjepoot** *Phalaropus lobatus* trok op 19 mei langs Mol/Rauw, Antwerpen, en op 8 juni pleisterde er één op de Bezinkingsputten van Longchamps, Namur. Over de Maatheide in Lommel trok op 2 mei een **Drieteenmeeuw** *Rissa tridactyla* en op 11 mei vloog hier een **Middelste Jager** *Stercorarius pomarinus* langs, op dezelfde dag als een ongedetermineerde jager in Nadrin/Filly, Luxembourg. Op 11 mei verbleef een **Baltische Mantelmeeuw** *Larus fuscus fuscus* met rode kleurring in Doornzele, Oost-Vlaanderen. De determinatie van een vogel in eerste-zomerkleed, die op 2 juni aan de Barrage de l'Eau d'Heure, Hainaut, verbleef, kon eveneens worden bevestigd aan de hand

384 Poelsnip / Great Snipe *Gallinago media*, adult, Elen, Limburg, 6 mei 2007
(Vincent Legrand)




385 Buidelmees / Eurasian Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*, Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, 13 juni 2007 *(Johan Buckens)* **386** Veldrietzanger / Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*, Heist, West-Vlaanderen, 12 juni 2007 *(Johan Buckens)* **387** Cirlgors / Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*, mannetje, Treignes, Mazée, Namur, 3 juni 2007 *(Vincent Legrand)* **388** Cirlgors / Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*, mannetje, Treignes, Mazée, Namur, 3 juni 2007 *(Marc Ameels)*

van een kleurring. In De Fonteintjes in Zeebrugge werd op 3 mei een langstrekkende **Lachstern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* opgemerkt. Op 1 juni was een **Reuzenstern** *Hydroprogne caspia* aanwezig in de Voorhaven van Zeebrugge en op 23 juni vloog er één over de Watersportbaan in Gent. In de Voorhaven van Zeebrugge werden vanaf 23 mei regelmatig **Dougalls Sterns** *Sterna dougallii* gezien, waarvan de meeste gekleurringd bleken, en in totaal waren het er minstens negen! Op 12 mei verschenen de eerste twee **Witwangsterns** *Chlidonias hybrida* in de Bourgoyen in Gent, gevolgd door drie in Mol/Rauw op 13 mei en één in De Gavers in Harelbeke, West-Vlaanderen. Hierna volgde een kleine influx (in het kielzog van de Witvleugelstern *C leucopterus*-invasie; Dutch Birding 29: 198-199, 2007) en van 19 tot 23 mei werden in totaal ten minste 52 waargenomen: in Anderlecht, Brussels Gewest (drie); op Blokkersdijk, Antwerpen; in Duffel-Rumst, Antwerpen (twee); Gent (zeven); Maasmechelen, Limburg (vijf); Meers; Schulen; Sint-Agatha-Rode, Vlaams-Brabant

(vier); Tienen (vier); en in Het Vinne in Zoutleeuw (op 20 mei een groep van 26!). In juni werden nog Witwangsterns gezien in Tienen, op 10 juni, in Wintam, Antwerpen, op 12 juni, en in de Uitkerkse Polders vanaf 30 juni. De eerste drie **Witvleugelsterns** *C leucopterus* verschenen op zee voor De Haan, West-Vlaanderen, op 14 mei. Op 16 mei foerageerden er 13 boven de Verrebroekse Plassen. Vanaf 17 mei was het hek helemaal van de dam: tot 22 mei werden er c 250 tot 300 gezien. Er kwamen meldingen van Antwerpen-Hooge Maaij (vier); Blokkersdijk (15); Brecht (twee); Bredene, West-Vlaanderen; Duffel-Rumst (19); Gent (12); Harchies (vier); Hensies (13); Harelbeke (10); Heist (vijf); Hollogne-sur-Geer, Liège (twee); Kallo-Melsele, Oost-Vlaanderen; Kalmthout (drie); Kieldrecht, Oost-Vlaanderen (vijf); Kruibeke (drie); Lier (twee); Lochristi (vier); Lokeren; Lommel (twee); Longchamps (acht); Melle, Oost-Vlaanderen (twee); Mol/Rauw (17); Oud-Heverlee, Vlaams-Brabant (twee); Pommeroeul, Hainaut; Schulen (20); Stokkem, Limburg (13); Stuivekenskerke (zes); Tienen; Verrebroek (c 50); Walem, Antwerpen (drie); Willebroek, Antwerpen (vier), Wintam (15); Woumen (c 40); Zeebrugge (vijf); Zemst, Vlaams-Brabant (twee); Zolder; en Zoutleeuw (11).

GIERZWALUWEN TOT GORZEN Een **Vale Gierzwaluw** *Apus pallidus* vloog op 20 mei laag in westelijke richting over Duffel. Op 11 mei vlogen twee **Bijeneters** *Merops apiaster* over Werchter, Vlaams-Brabant. In Oost-Vlaanderen waren vanaf 17 mei de broedvogels van Wachtebeke/Oostakker/Lochristi weer aanwezig: er werden maximaal 17 exemplaren gezien. In De Panne, West-Vlaanderen, werd de soort waargenomen op 17, 22 en 25 mei; in Lier op 18 mei; over Olloy sur Viroin, Namur, op 19 mei (drie); over Alken, Limburg, op 28 mei (groep van acht); en over Heist op 21 juni (één). **Hoppen** *Upupa epops* werden gehoord of gezien in Avin, Liège, tot 4 mei; in Racour, Liège, van 6 tot 15 mei; in Soumagne, Liège, op 15 mei; bij Blanden, Vlaams-Brabant, op 17 mei; bij Helchteren, Limburg, van 2 tot 23 juni; en in de Gaume, Luxembourg, op 21 juni. Tussen 3 en 9 mei werden 12 **Draaihalzen** *Jynx torquilla* waargenomen. Een **Roodstuitzwaluw** *Cecropis daurica* vloog op 12 mei langs De Panne. **Duinpiepers** *Anthus campestris* werden waargenomen in Lommel op 3 en 4 mei; in Knokke op 11 mei; en in Doornzele op 14 mei. Er werden nog **Roodkeelpiepers** *A cervinus* opgemerkt in De Panne op 1 mei; in Mechelen op 5 mei; in Doornzele op 14 mei; en in Koksijde op 15 mei. Op 3 mei pleisterde een mannetje **Citroenkwikstaart** *Motacilla citreola* in de Bourgoyen in Gent, helaas in het afgesloten deel. 'Grappig' was de aanwezigheid van een zingende, maar uiteraard ontsnapte **Fluweellijster** *Turdus serranus* in Achel, Limburg, van midden tot eind mei. Zingende **Cetti's Zangers** *Cettia cetti* en **Graszangers** *Cisticola juncidis* bleven hun vestigingen verstevigen en uitbreiden. Leuk was de zingende **Krekelzanger** *Locustella fluviatilis* langs de Grote Nete in Berlaar, Antwerpen, van 17 tot 28 mei. Van 1 tot 5 juni zong een exemplaar in de Moerassen van Harchies. **Grote Karekieten** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* lieten hun zang horen in Genk; Hollogne-sur-Geer; Kallo-Melsele; Kessenich, Limburg; Lier; Lille, Antwerpen; Zeebrugge; en Zoutleeuw (twee). Een **Veldrietzanger** *A agricola* liet zich enkele malen kortstondig bekijken in de Kleiputten van Heist maar dat bleek voldoende voor een bewijsfoto – hoe de tijden veranderen… In Vlaanderen zongen **Orpheusspotvogels** *Hippolais polyglotta* van 15 mei tot 6 juni in Koksijde; op 18 mei in Bellem, Oost-Vlaanderen; van 26 tot 28 mei in Goetsenoven, Vlaams-Brabant; op 26 mei in Gent; op 28 mei in Oostmalle, Antwerpen; op 1 juni in Ronse, Oost-Vlaanderen; op 10 juni in Zeebrugge; op 14 juni bij Geraardsbergen, Oost-Vlaanderen; op 17 juni in Waarbeek/Asse, Vlaams-Brabant; en op 22 juni in Oostduinkerke, West-Vlaanderen. Een erg gewaardeerde ontdekking was die van een zingend eerstezomer mannetje **Kleine Vliegenvanger** *Ficedula parva* in de Ideeëntuin in Nieuwpoort, West-Vlaanderen, op 17 mei. Op 1 mei werd een **Buidelmees** *Remiz pendulinus* gezien in Harchies, op 13 mei één bij Kessenich en op 13 juni één in Zeebrugge. In Vlaanderen werden **Grauwe Klauwieren** *Lanius collurio* opgemerkt in Antwerpen; Bevel/Gestel, Antwerpen; Brecht; Eppegem, Vlaams-Brabant; Genk; Gentbrugge, Oost-Vlaanderen; Heist; en Schulen (twee). Bij Névraumont, Luxembourg, verbleef op 15 mei een mannetje **Roodkopklauwier** *L senator* en op 21 mei werd er één gezien in Hechtel-Eksel, Limburg. Wellicht ontsnapt was de **Alpenkauw** *Pyrrhocorax graculus* die op 5 juni werd gezien in Doische, Namur. Telkens twee **Raven** *Corvus corax* vlogen over de Maatheide in Lommel op 4 mei en over de Bezinkingsputten van Tienen op 3 juni. **Roodmussen** *Carpodacus erythrinus* werden gehoord bij Hoeke, West-Vlaanderen, op 2 mei; aan twee zijden van de grens in Neerharen, Limburg, op 28 mei; in Sashul in Heist op 31 mei; en bij de Kleiputten van Heist op 12 juni. Wellicht de meest langverwachte soort die aan de twitcherlijstjes kon worden toegevoegd was het mannetje **Cirlgors** *Emberiza cirlus* dat van 25 mei tot 17 juni zong in de Viroinvallei in Treignes bij Mazée, Namur. Op 17 mei werd een late **Ortolaan** *E hortulana* opgemerkt in Het Hageven in Neerpelt.

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-Inspreeklijn is te bereiken op 0800-11194 (gratis). De Waalse gegevens werden in hoofdzaak geput uit de AVES-website.

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DB Actueel

Influx van Vale Gieren in België en Nederland Na een waarneming van 18 Vale Gieren *Gyps fulvus* boven Ruisbroek, Antwerpen, België, op 16 juni werd op zondag 17 juni 2007 duidelijk dat in België een ongekende influx van deze soort aan de gang was, met groepen van 10, 55 en zelfs 94 exemplaren; de laatste groep werd gefotografeerd boven Nederename, Oost-Vlaanderen. Goed nieuws was ook dat de vogels in noordelijke richting en dus naar Nederland vlogen. In de ochtend van 18 juni stond ik (Sander Lilipaly) als enige 'Hollander' tussen 10-tallen Belgische vogelaars bij een bosperceel net ten oosten van Ursel, Oost-Vlaanderen. De nacht ervoor hadden hier 64 Vale Gieren overnacht en op het moment dat ik op de plek arriveerde waren er nog 18; de rest was al weggevlogen. Rond 09:45 vertrok ook deze laatste groep. Duidelijk was dat ze met hun noordoostelijke vliegrichting vrij snel in Nederland konden zijn en ik begon alvast wat mensen te waarschuwen. Van Ursel naar Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, Zeeland, is c 25 km maar 18 cirkelende reuzen tot aan de Nederlandse grens achtervolgen bleek geen eenvoudige opgave. Ik kreeg te maken met opgebroken straten, doodlopende weggetjes, boze boeren en een groep gieren die af en toe compleet verdween in de laaghangende bewolking. Driemaal verloor ik de groep langer dan 10 min uit het oog maar gelukkig vond ik ze toch steeds terug. Er was nog even paniek toen ik ze 1 km voor de grens kwijt raakte ter hoogte van Watervliet, Oost-Vlaanderen. Het duurde toen een half uur voordat ik ze 10 km naar het noordwesten terugvond in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen tussen IJzendijke en Schoondijke. Peter Meininger en Pim Wolf waren al in de buurt en konden de groep snel oppikken. Rond 12:30 kreeg de groep van 18 gieren in de omgeving van het plaatsje Boerenhol gezelschap van ruim 40 andere. In de uren hierna bleef de groep cirkelen in de driehoek Breskens-Nieuwvliet-Oostburg in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen en telde maximaal 61 exemplaren (enkele malen dook er ook een Zwarte Ooievaar *Ciconia nigra* in de groep op). Terwijl ik van de gieren kon blijven genieten, stond PW bijna non-stop de pers te woord en had PM een cameraploeg van Omroep Zeeland op sleeptouw… Steeds meer vogelaars verschenen ten tonele en vooral heel veel 'gewone' mensen die het nieuws op de radio hadden gehoord. Uiteindelijk verdween een groep van c 40 in oostelijke richting en vloog om 16:00 in de omgeving van Watervliet weer de grens over. Later op de avond lokaliseerden Belgische vogelaars overnachtende groepen van 34 vogels in Meerbeke en zeven in Sinaai, Oost-Vlaanderen.

Wietze Janse hield die dag via Dutch Bird Alert en de Dutch Birding-vogellijn de rest van Nederland zo goed mogelijk op de hoogte hoe de situatie zich ontwikkelde. In Noord-Brabant trokken bijvoorbeeld zowel langs Breda als Tilburg 50 tot 60 exemplaren Nederland binnen. Helaas deed zich in de loop van de dag voor vogelaars van buiten Zeeland geen situatie voor dat je 'kon gaan rijden' op een groep pleisterende gieren en naarmate het later werd had ik (Co van der Wardt) wat dat betreft de hoop al vrijwel opgegeven. Tegen 20:30 belde WJ echter dat er een melding was van c 20 mogelijke Vale Gieren die zich op dat moment zouden bevinden langs de Brandstraat in Geffen, Noord-Brabant. De Brandstraat is nog geen 15 min rijden van mijn huis in Vinkel. Bij aankomst op de plek stonden er al groepjes buurtbewoners te kijken en vrijwel direct vielen de 'witte bontkragen' op die her en der in de bomen te zien waren. Ik kon WJ dus goed nieuws doorbellen dat hij vervolgens verder wereldkundig maakte. Ik had nog net tijd om met een ondergaande zon wat foto's te maken. Ter plekke – er was inmiddels een behoorlijke groep mensen gearriveerd – hoorde ik hoe het allemaal gegaan was. Een aantal 'grote vogels' was geland in een paar bomen in de weilanden aan de Brandstraat en omgeving. Een familie die daar woont zag dat en consulteerde de Vogelwerkgroep Oss. Die ondernamen actie en zo bereikte het bericht uiteindelijk ook WJ. Hoeveel het er nu precies waren was moeilijk te zeggen. Ze zaten behoorlijk verspreid over het gebied en wisten zich in sommige bomen goed te verstoppen. We dachten dat

389 Vale Gier / Eurasian Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*, Oss, Noord-Brabant, 19 juni 2007 *(Michel Veldt)*

[*Dutch Birding 29: 270-272, 2007*]

390 Vale Gieren / Eurasian Griffon Vultures *Gyps fulvus*, Zuidzande, Zeeland, 18 juni 2007 *(Pim A Wolf)*

het er zeker 20 waren maar anderen kwamen – naar later bleek – die avond al tot 33. De volgende ochtend, woensdag 19 juni, bezocht ik het gebied opnieuw en koos weer positie in de Brandstraat vanwaar een aantal vogels in de gaten kon worden gehouden. Tegen 10:00 begonnen ze in zuidelijke richting weg te vliegen en de teller kwam op 41 of 42 exemplaren; later die dag waren er in Noord-Brabant waarnemingen van 33 bij Sint-Oedenrode en kleinere aantallen langs Eindhoven. Eén exemplaar bij Oss bleef tot in de avond achter maar bleek een dag later eveneens verdwenen. Ook de vogels van Oss kregen massale belangstelling van bijna alle denkbare actualiteitenprogramma's op televisie.

Op 18 juni en de dagen erna werden op diverse andere plekken in Nederland groepjes of solitaire Vale Gieren gemeld. Omdat ook niet-vogelaars gingen opletten kwamen er verschillende meldingen binnen waarvan de juistheid niet goed te achterhalen was en in sommige gevallen ging het om andere 'grote zwevers'. Een flink aantal meldingen had echter met zekerheid op Vale Gieren betrekking, zoals negen (gefotografeerd) over Leerdam, Zuid-Holland, op 18 juni en 15 (op video vastgelegd) over Epen, Limburg, op 22 juni (deze vogels kwamen ook uit België). Andere meldingen van grote groepen waren 22 over Beek, Limburg, en 23 over Maastricht, Limburg, op 19 juni. Op 20 juni werden er 15 gemeld bij Oosterhout, Noord-Brabant, op 21 juni 30 ver buiten de influxzone bij Emmer-Compascuum, Drenthe. De laatste meldingen in juni betreffen vier exemplaren die van 25 op 26 juni overnachtten bij Biervliet, Zeeland, en een melding van drie over Eemnes, Noord-Holland, op 29 juni. Een totale schatting van het aantal exemplaren dat Nederland in de tweede helft van juni heeft bezocht is nog niet goed te geven zolang niet alle documentatie is verzameld maar duidelijk is dat alleen al op 18 juni ruim 110 vogels werden gezien en dat er in de dagen daarna mogelijk nog enkele 10-tallen zijn geweest met misschien een totaal van 180 (waarbij dubbeltellingen zeker aan de orde kunnen zijn). Voor België wordt het aantal Vale Gieren voorlopig geschat op c 200.

Hoewel het verschijnen van groepen Vale Gieren in Nederland na de 18 in juli 2001 en 17 in juni 2002 niet meer verrassend is, zijn de zeer hoge aantallen van juni 2007 dat wel. Ook in Duitsland werden in de tweede helft van juni c 100 exemplaren gezien, met een grootste groep van 30. Over de oorzaak van deze massale uittocht van de Zuid-Europese broedgebieden naar het noorden is volop gespeculeerd. Veel bronnen wijzen op het voedselgebrek in de broedgebieden door het massaal sluiten van de 'muladares' (plekken waar dood vee wordt neergelegd). Anderen wijzen echter op het feit dat deze noordelijke verplaatsingen van oudsher bekend zijn en door de toegenomen populatieomvang in Spanje nu deze spectaculaire vormen aannemen. Sander Lilipaly & Co van der Wardt

Eurasian Griffon Vultures On 16-17 June 2007, a large influx of Eurasian Griffon Vultures *Gyps fulvus* occurred in Belgium, with groups of 10, 18, 55 and 94

birds. All were seen heading north and a group of 64 spent the night c 25 km south of the Belgian-Dutch border near Ursel, Oost-Vlaanderen. On 18 June, 18 birds were followed after leaving Ursel and crossed the Dutch border to Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, Zeeland. During mid-day, these were joined by c 40 other individuals and a maximum of 61 was counted. These birds crossed the border again back to Oost-Vlaanderen later in the afternoon and roosting groups of 34 and seven were found later in the evening. During the day, 50 to 60 were flying near Breda and Tilburg, Noord-Brabant, the Netherlands. In the evening, 33 were seen near Oss, Noord-Brabant. Next day, a maximum of 41 or 42 was counted here. On 18 June, also nine were photographed over Leerdam, Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands. In the following days, there were many reports of single birds or (small) groups in the Netherlands but not all could be confirmed. Well-documented were 15 videoed over Epen, Limburg, on 22 June and four spending the night at Biervliet, Zeeland, on 25-26 June. In total, at least 110 individuals were seen in the Netherlands and perhaps as many as 180. In Belgium, the total number of birds involved is provisionally estimated at c 200. Also in the second half of June, c 100 were seen in Germany.

Broedende Kleine Vliegenvanger op Schiermonnikoog? Op de ringbaan van Vogelringstation Schiermonnikoog in het Groene Glop op Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, worden in het najaar dagelijks vogels gevangen en geringd. Sinds enkele jaren worden ook in het voorjaar periodieke, enkele dagen durende vangsessies uitgevoerd die gericht zijn op broedvogels. Tijdens een van deze vangdagen in het voorjaar, op 8 juni 2007, vingen Henk Luten en Jan Westera een tweede-kalenderjaar vrouwtje Kleine Vliegenvanger *Ficedula parva* met een broedvlek. Dit is een zeer sterke aanwijzing dat de soort op dat moment op Schiermonnikoog broedde of ten minste een broedpoging had gedaan. Deze vangst viel samen met de waarnemingen van een zingend adult mannetje in het Tweede Dennenbos op 25-26 mei en op 10, 11 en 14 juni 2007, op een afstand van 2.5 km van de vangstlocatie van het vrouwtje. Deze afstand lijkt echter te groot om te veronderstellen dat het vermoedelijk broedende vrouwtje met dit mannetje gepaard was.

Een jaar eerder werd eveneens vermoed dat er een broedgeval op Schiermonnikoog had plaatsgevonden. Toen bestond de (minder sterke) aanwijzing uit vangsten in het Groene Glop van twee eerstejaars vogels met nog duidelijk zichtbare restanten van het gevlekte jeugdkleed op 26 augustus 2006 (Dutch Birding 28: 336, plaat 470, 2006) en 10 september 2006. Een herkomst van buiten Schiermonnikoog kan bij deze twee vogels echter niet worden uitgesloten.

Regelmatig worden in Nederland in het voorjaar zingende mannetjes Kleine Vliegenvanger vastgesteld en in het verleden is verschillende malen een mogelijk of waarschijnlijk broedgeval gemeld, het meest recent in 1983 en 1989. Niettemin is tot op heden het broeden in Nederland nog nooit onweerlegbaar gedocumenteerd. André J van Loon, Henk Luten & Jan Westera

Red-breasted Flycatcher On 8 June 2007, a second calendar-year female Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* with a brood patch was trapped on Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, the Netherlands. This is a very strong indication that the bird was breeding or had attempted to breed on the island. In the same period, a singing adult male was found at a distance of 2.5 km. In 2006, another albeit weaker indication of the species' breeding on Schiermonnikoog was the presence of two first-year birds with remnants of the spotted juvenile body plumage trapped at the same site on 26 August and 10 September. However, an origin outside Schiermonnikoog of these two immature birds can not be excluded. Although possible or probable breeding of Red-breasted Flycatcher in the Netherlands has been reported several times in the past, there is still no confirmed and properly documented breeding record.

391 Kleine Vliegenvanger / Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*, tweede-kalenderjaar vrouwtje, Groene Glop, Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, 8 juni 2007
(Henk Luten & Jan Westera)