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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-vogelnamen* door A B van den Berg (2008, Amsterdam; online update 2010) (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); *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world* (derde editie) door E C Dickinson (redactie) (2003, Londen) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke namen van overige vogels van de wereld); en *Birds of the world: recommended English names* door F Gill & M Wright (2006, Londen) (Engelse namen van overige vogels in de wereld).

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

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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.

The sequence of birds in Dutch Birding basically follows a classic 'Wetmore sequence'. Within this framework, the following lists are used for taxonomy and nomenclature: *Dutch Birding bird names* by A B van den Berg (2008, Amsterdam; online update 2010) (taxonomy and scientific, Dutch and English names of Western Palearctic birds); *Vogels van de wereld – complete checklist* by M Walters (1997, Baarn) (Dutch names of remaining birds of the world); *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world* (third edition) by E C Dickinson (editor) (2003, London) (taxonomy and scientific names of remaining birds of the world); and *Birds of the world: recommended English names* by F Gill & M Wright (2006, London) (English names of remaining birds of the world).

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

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Voorplaat / front cover

Barbarijse Valk / Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides*, met Rotsduif / Common Pigeon *Columba livia*, Fuerteventura, Canarische Eilanden, 30 januari 2010 *(René Pop/The Sound Approach)*

White Wagtail and Pied Wagtail: a new look

Peter Adriaens, Davy Bosman & Joris Elst

Probably every European birder is familiar with at least one of the two western European 'white wagtail' *Motacilla* taxa. White Wagtail *M alba* (hereafter *alba*) is a common breeding bird in nearly all European countries outside of Britain and Ireland, breeding as far north as Greenland, Jan Mayen (Norway) and Novaya Zemlya (Russia). Pied Wagtail *M yarrellii* (hereafter *yarrellii*) breeds commonly in Britain and Ireland, and scarcely from north-western France to southern Norway (Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer 1985, Cramp 1988). Regular field guides aside, identification has been dealt with in depth by Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer (1985), Cramp (1988), Harris et al (1989), Svensson (1992), Vinicombe (2000) and Alström et al (2003). In theory, separating the two taxa is rather straightforward: *yarrellii* typically has blackish upperparts and flanks, while these parts are grey in *alba*. Yet, why is it that birders seem to struggle time and time again with some contentious individuals?

In this paper, we propose a set of criteria that, in combination, will separate most birds. However, we also try to highlight the difficulties involved in this process and discuss a number of intermediate-looking birds – all of which we suggest to leave unidentified. Such intermediate birds have received little or no attention in the literature; yet, they appear to occur regularly throughout Europe.

We studied criteria for identification at the population level first, gathering data from museum skins and statistically analysing them. The relevant criteria could then be applied at the level

315 Pied Wagtail / Rouwkwikstaart *Motacilla yarrellii*, first-summer, Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 19 March 2008 *(Lesley van Loo)*. Aged by worn, brown outer greater coverts, lesser coverts, primary coverts and remiges. This bird had been caught and ringed as *alba* in Scotland in September 2007 (Iain Livingstone in litt).

316 White Wagtail / Witte Kwikstaart *Motacilla alba*, Kalmthout, Antwerpen, Belgium, 29 June 2006 *(Glenn Vermeersch)*. Typical bird. Worn, brown primaries may suggest first-summer but cannot reliably be used for ageing after (early) spring. Possibly female, as nape does not appear deep black and does not run down onto upper mantle. Thin, dark pencil-like streaks on central mantle and scapulars are artefact of light often showing up in photographs of *alba*.

of individual birds in the field, and are summarised in the second part of this paper.

To explain the intermediate appearance of some individual birds, we did extensive literature research on mixed breeding between *alba* and *yarrellii,* as well as on melanism in *alba*.

Mixed breeding

In Britain, *alba* occasionally breeds in Scotland, especially Shetland (Sharrock 1976), where birds have either paired with *yarrellii* or have bred in pure *alba* pairs. Forrester et al (2007) confirm that one or two pure or mixed pairs nest most years, usually in the Northern Isles (Orkney and Shetland). It occasionally breeds in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland, where a mixed pair (male *alba* and female *yarrellii*) was seen feeding young in 2003 (Andrew Stevenson in litt). In 1997, a pair of *alba* nested in Norfolk, England (Taylor et al 1999). *Alba* has colonised the Channel Islands, where *yarrellii* does not breed (Gibbons et al 1993). Many migrant *alba* pass through Britain and these are generally Icelandic birds (Cramp 1988).

Yarrellii, on the other hand, regularly breeds on the European continent, in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, southern Norway and Sweden. The estimated population sizes for these countries are shown in table 1. Most birds nest in mixed pairs with *alba*, and many successfully produce young (cf plate 324), but there is not much published information on the breeding success of hybrids. Breeding is not confined to the coastal zones; there are records far inland from Doubs, France (near the Swiss border), in 1996 (Michelat & CHR 1999), from Bodensee, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, in 1998 (Hemprich & Frenz 2004), from the province of Liège, Belgium, in 1978 and Hainaut, Belgium, in at least 1985 and 2006 (Schmitz 1988; Dirk Verroken in litt), and from Limburg, the Netherlands, at least in 1949, once between 1973 and 1977, in 1991 and in 2003 (Swinkels 1992, Bakhuizen et al 2004). In France, a small, ‘instable’ hybrid population was present near Calais, Pas-de-Calais, in at least the late 1990s (Dubois et al 2008).

As most records of breeding *yarrellii* on the continent concern birds paired with *alba*, hybridization is relatively frequent. In the Netherlands, 74% of breeding *yarrellii* in 1990-2001 were paired with *alba* (SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland

TABLE 1 Annual number of breeding Pied Wagtails *Motacilla yarrellii* outside Britain and Ireland. Most birds pair up with *alba*.

Country	**Number of breeding birds (annually)**	**Source**
France	20-30 (but only 8 in 1985-89)	Yeatman-Berthelot & Jarry 1994, Dubois et al 2008
Belgium	2-6	Vermeersch 2004, Vermeersch et al 2006
Netherlands	4-30 (at least 20-30 during 1998-2000)	SOVON 1987, Bijlsma et al 2001, van Dijk et al 2002, SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland 2002
Germany	(irregular breeder)	Cramp 1988, Hemprich & Frenz 2004
Denmark	1-8	Grell 1998; Kent Olsen in litt
Norway	1-11	http://artsobservasjoner.no/fugler; Alexander Hellquist in litt
Sweden	1-5	SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland 2002; www.artportalen.se/birds; Alexander Hellquist in litt

2002). Because in most of the mixed pairs the *yarrellii* is a male, it is suspected that many breeding female *yarrellii* (and hybrids) are overlooked or misidentified. Therefore, the population estimates in table 1 should be considered minima.

Information on the appearance of hybrids, however, is very scant. The only references we found were Sueur (1982) and Triplet (1983). Sueur (1982), in a short note, presented two black-and-white drawings of presumed hybrids from Picardie, France. The first one (a) shows a bird with black mantle, grey scapulars and rather pale flanks, while the second (b) looks rather identical to a male *yarrellii*. The rump is not shown. The author also mentions a singing male bird from 1981, paired with a female *alba*, which had 'dark grey back and wings'. 'Wings', in this case, should presumably be interpreted as scapulars rather than the actual wing itself. Triplet (1983) presented a short (rather vague and slightly confusing) note without illustrations on the same singing male from 1981 as Sueur (1982), but described it as having 'blackish upperparts but dark grey uppertail-coverts, while the crown and bib were connected by a dark grey plumage'. He mentions another male, with a 'dark grey back contrasting with the crown, and connected to the bib by a dark grey zone, as in the previous bird; the wings were grey as in *M. a. alba*'. The author went on to say that, in the Bay de Somme area (north-western France), wagtails with the colour of the upperparts intermediate between *alba* and *yarrellii* are frequently seen. Even though Sueur (1982) stated that the birds observed were 'adult hybrids beyond doubt', it is not clear how this was established. In Triplet (1983), there was no mention of

317 White Wagtail / Witte Kwikstaart *Motacilla alba*, first-winter, Spain, 21 October 2007 *(Javier Blasco Zumeta)*. Note distinct moult contrast in greater coverts: outer four clearly browner than rest and showing thinner, abraded pale edges. **318** White Wagtail / Witte Kwikstaart *Motacilla alba*, first-summer female, Öland, Sweden, 4 May 2008 *(Anna Lindgren)*. Individual with rather dark grey rump but still within variation of *alba*. Female because of largely grey nape; aged by brown primaries (barely visible below longest tertial of right wing here, but clearly showing in other photographs of same bird) and obvious moult contrast in greater coverts (not visible here).

how the birds were sexed. It therefore appears that the only *known* hybrids documented so far have all been nestlings or recently fledged juveniles (cf plate 324), which cannot readily be identified.

Migration

Yarrellii either winters in its breeding range or migrates to western France, western Spain and Portugal (Cramp 1988). A few reach Morocco (Cramp 1988). *Alba* from western Europe (including Switzerland) migrates through the same areas and winters abundantly in Morocco (Thévenot et al 2003). There appears to be a migratory divide just east of Denmark at c 10-12 °E, with *alba* west of this line heading well south-west to western France, Iberia, and western Africa, and those east of this line heading south-east towards the eastern Mediterranean (Cramp 1988). There are, however, records of vagrant *yarrellii* quite far east, such as in Cyprus (1), the Czech Republic (2), Estonia (2), Finland (31 records, most of which will be reviewed though) and Hungary (1). Most of these are spring or summer records, with just three in September and one (the Hungarian record) in January. There are indications that *yarrellii* may follow a slightly easterly migration route in spring, and '100s' are reported to pass through the Netherlands in March-April (Cottaar 1995, Meininger & Wolf 1995), though some of these seem to be identified on flight views only, which we would not recommend. In autumn, on the other hand, British *yarrellii* seem to head directly south to north-western France, as shown by ringing in Scotland (Dougall 1991), and in the Low Countries they are much rarer in autumn than in spring.

Based on the distribution and migration routes, hybrids may be expected to predominantly migrate south-west.

Melanistic wagtails

Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer (1985) briefly mention that 'melanistic *M. a. alba* are not rare', and they give three German references as examples (Thein 1953, Harry 1954, Kooiker 1977). As no other authors seem to mention anything about melanism in White Wagtails, we were intrigued and looked up these German references. All three are very short notes, not much more than five to 10 lines long. Thein (1953) described a bird with entirely deep black body but white outer tail-feathers. Harry (1954) noted a largely black bird, but 'with the natural pattern of *alba* still visible' and Kooiker (1977) saw an individual with a completely black body, including the underparts and tail. Nothing more is said about the appearance of these birds. In August 2007, a partially melanistic *alba* was photographed at Virelles, Hainaut, Belgium. This bird looked rather more like a normal (though scruffy) *alba*, but with dark grey flanks and largely grey belly and vent (PostFormPiafs 2008).

Ageing and sexing

When trying to identify some challenging birds, ageing and/or sexing them may help to narrow down the possibilities, particularly in autumn. However, this method is only helpful to a limited extent and its importance should not be overstated. Ageing wagtails is complicated, and should preferably be done in the hand. Sexing is far from always possible (see below). Ageing and sexing have been dealt with in detail by Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer (1985), Svensson (1992) and Alström et al (2003). Here, we summarize some elements that are most helpful in the field.

Autumn ageing

Many first-winter birds differ from adults in showing a *moult contrast in the greater coverts*: the outer, juvenile ones are slightly duller, less contrasting in pattern than the rather black-and-white moulted coverts, and may show rather thin, brownish edges (plate 317). If no greater coverts have been moulted, ageing is (very) difficult and depends on correct judging of the age of the feathers: juvenile greater coverts show slightly greyer or browner centres and thinner, abraded pale edges. Generally, these edges show a dirty grey or brownish tinge sharply set off from the white covert tips. In adult greater coverts the colour of the edges and tips is more similar (greyish or white). However, there is some individual variation and overlap: some first-winter birds show rather contrasting juvenile greater coverts with prominent greyish or white edges, while in other birds the adult (or post-juvenile) greater coverts show grey edges and white tips. If all greater coverts have been replaced, ageing is best done in the hand. Note that the inner two or three greater coverts have greyer tips than the rest in all birds (including adults), which may simulate a moult contrast when there is none. A strong yellowish wash on the face is a good indication of first-winter, but some adult females show a pale yellow wash there. Also, a bird with pinkish base to the lower mandible is more likely a first-winter than an adult but the colour may turn up in both age classes.

319 Pied Wagtail / Rouwkwikstaart *Motacilla yarrellii*, female, Kluizen, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium, 11 April 2009 *(Peter Adriaens)*. Individual with adult-like plumage (no brown tinge on remiges and no greater coverts of juvenile type – as confirmed in further photographs of this individual), but with plain grey mantle and scapulars (except for few tiny black dots on upper mantle). Quite similar to *alba* but note extensive black rump (reaching between shortest pair of tertials) and extensively dark flanks. Few grey streaks on belly (not visible here). **320** Pied Wagtail / Rouwkwikstaart *Motacilla yarrellii*, female, Oudenaarde, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium, 30 April 2007 *(Bart Heirweg)*. Plumage adult-like. Upperparts near paler end of variation in *yarrellii* but still much darker grey than in *alba*. Note also blackish lower rump and dark grey foreflank (score 1 – most of flank pattern hidden beneath wing here). **321** Pied Wagtail / Rouwkwikstaart *Motacilla yarrellii*, first-winter, Cornwall, England, November 2008 *(Bart Heirweg)*. Aged by distinct moult contrast in greater coverts, outer ones being browner and shorter. Typical *yarrellii* of this age group; note blackish rump, lower back, crown and nape, white forehead and wide white tips to central greater coverts. **322** Pied Wagtail / Rouwkwikstaart *Motacilla yarrellii*, first-winter, Cornwall, England, November 2008 *(Bart Heirweg)*. Aged by distinct moult contrast in greater coverts. An extreme bird of this age; note jet-black patch on rear ear-coverts (joining blackish nape and black gorget), pale forehead, black crown, blackish nape, extensively dark grey flanks, and few grey streaks on belly.

Autumn sexing

Sexing in autumn is only possible if the taxon is already known, rendering it useless for identification.

ALBA If age has been established, the extremes of *alba* can be sexed. Adult *alba* with extensive white forehead and solid black crown and nape are likely to be males, while those with grey forehead and nape should be females. Sexing of first-winter birds is usually not possible, but a first-winter *alba* showing quite adult-like head pattern with extensive white forehead and black nape should be a male.

323 Pied Wagtail / Rouwkwikstaart *Motacilla yarrellii*, first-winter female, Oxfordshire, England, 31 January 2009 *(Jyrki Normaja)*. Aged by pattern of greater coverts: all still juvenile, being rather dull blackish-brown with thin, brownish-grey edges contrasting with white tips. Individual with unusually grey crown and upper forehead, perhaps not safely identifiable outside its usual range. Note, however, extensively grey flanks, dirty greyish belly, rather dark grey upperparts and partly white forehead. **324** Hybrid Pied x White Wagtail / hybride Rouwkwikstaart x Witte Kwikstaart *Motacilla yarrellii* x *alba*, juvenile, Jylland, Denmark, 18 June 2008 *(Kent Olsen)*. Offspring of male *yarrellii* and female *alba*. Quite impossible to identify in this plumage. **325** 'White wagtail' / 'witte kwikstaart' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*, adult male, Falsterbo, Skåne, Sweden, 31 March 2002 *(Fredrik Hansson)*. Intermediate bird, first caught at Falsterbo in June 2000, when aged as first-summer and proved to be male by cloacal examination. It returned to area each spring up to 2006. In 2004, it bred successfully with female *alba*. Note obviously striped pattern on mantle, not fitting adult male *yarrellii*. **326** 'White wagtail' / 'witte kwikstaart' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*, adult male, Falsterbo, Skåne, Sweden, 21 April 2004 *(Sophie Ehnbom)*. Same intermediate bird as in plate 325. In its sixth calendar-year, bird still shows pattern on upperparts not fitting adult male *yarrellii*. In the field, sexing birds like this would be quite impossible on plumage, and they might be easily passed off as female *yarrellii*. Note, however, in this case, striped pattern on mantle.

YARRELLII Unlike *alba*, the head pattern is similar in both sexes of *yarrellii*. In adults, the pattern of the upperparts may offer better clues: extensive black on upperparts should indicate a male and uniformly grey upperparts a female. Sexing of first-winter birds is usually not possible, but a *yarrellii* lacking black on crown and nape is likely a first-winter female.

A further pitfall is formed by birds that retain their juvenile plumage longer than usual, which is characterized by a thinner, duller blackish gorget and slightly duller head pattern than in first-winter birds. Some wagtails retain all or most of their juvenile feathers well into October and even migrate in this plumage. This may indicate a northern origin but may also be a strategy for avoiding aggressiveness from adult birds, which are more tolerant towards juvenile individuals (López et al 2005). In such largely juvenile birds, both *alba* and *yarrellii*, forehead, crown, nape and upperparts may be all grey.

Spring ageing

Ageing in spring is more complicated than in autumn, and we feel that its importance for identification in spring has been overstated sometimes. As the pre-breeding moult is only partial in both adult and first-year birds, moult contrasts are seen in both age classes. In addition, wear and pattern of the feathers vary individually to some extent. It is therefore not enough to note a moult contrast in the greater coverts; some experience is required to correctly interpret it. In adult birds, the old greater coverts are only moderately worn and still show rather blackish centres and whitish edges, making the difference with the new feathers rather subtle. In first-summer birds, the old outer greater coverts are often very worn and brownish. These may be distinctly shorter than the new feathers (beware of adults still growing a few coverts though), and may lack the pale edges completely. Some first-summer birds show *two moult limits in the greater coverts* (old, juvenile outer feathers, slightly fresher central feathers that were replaced in the post-juvenile moult in autumn, and newly moulted inner coverts), which is never shown by adults. One or two inner *tertials* may be very worn and brown too. Note, however, that adult birds show some contrast here too, as the inner two tertials are greyer than the black-and-white longest one. The wear and colour of the *primaries* can be of use too: clearly worn and brown flight-feathers in early spring indicate a first-summer bird, while birds that show dark grey or blackish primaries with thin pale edges in late spring are more likely adults. Some first-summer *yarrellii* (and probably *alba* too) show rather fresh and dark primaries throughout spring though. First-summer birds that have undergone an extensive pre-breeding moult can be impossible to distinguish from adults.

Spring sexing

ALBA Sexing is not always possible either in *alba*. Males usually differ from females in their solid black lower nape, which reaches down to (or onto) the upper mantle. Most females have a rather grey lower nape. However, our sample of museum skins contained a few known females (sexed by cloacal examination) that looked identical to males in this respect. Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer (1985), Cramp (1988) and Alström et al (2003) also pointed out that a few female *alba* are indistinguishable from males. Some female *alba* show whitish spots on chin and/or throat, while this area is normally solid black in males (but beware of birds still moulting). Birds with a lot of black spots on the white forehead are more likely females but many male *alba* show some spots too. A few first-summer female *alba* show a grey forehead, crown and nape and are easily told from males.

YARRELLII The head pattern is not helpful in *yarrellii*, and first-summer birds are often impossible to sex. Females usually have a solid black lower nape just like males. Birds with uniformly grey upperparts should be females though, and birds with entirely black upperparts males. Adult male *yarrellii* normally has largely black upperparts (though a few greyish patches may be admixed). The amount of black can be smaller in first-summer males but our sample of museum skins did not contain known males with less than 40% solid black on the upperparts.

Identification: population level

Material and methods

As a basis for statistical analysis, we examined skins of three different populations: *yarrellii* (n=69; all from Britain); western *alba* (n=71; from Germany, France and the Netherlands, and one from Denmark); and eastern *alba* (n=65; from Armenia, Austria, Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Israel, Italy, Malta, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and Turkey). The distinction between 'western' and 'eastern' *alba*, made in the British Museum of Natural History (Tring, London) and adopted by us, is a rather arbitrary one. We pooled all *alba* collected in western Europe into one group, and all other *alba* in another. The idea was to investigate whether birds breeding close to the range of *yarrellii* differed from other *alba* in any way. We focused solely on spring birds in summer plumage, as the differences between the taxa in this plumage are more pronounced than in winter plumage. We also examined a small number labelled as so-called '*dukhunensis*' (n=17; from India and Siberia, Russia) but these were not included in the results as the status of this taxon is unclear; some authors consider it a distinct subspecies (eg, Cramp 1988, Svensson 1992), while others include it in *alba* (eg, Alström et al 2003).

We checked several key parts of each bird's plumage and compared them with a Kodak greyscale (a standard scale of grey values ranging from

327 'White wagtail' / 'witte kwikstaart' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*, male (dissected), collected in Poland on 16 May 1936 *(© National Museum of Natural History, Tring)*. Intermediate bird, probably first-summer because of worn, brownish inner pair of tertials. Labelled '*alba*' but with greyish-black mantle (some feathers missing) and some dark spots on lower scapulars. Upperparts (including rump = Kodak 12) otherwise rather too pale for male *yarrellii*. Flanks medium grey (Kodak 10), with extent score of 1. Length of white wedge on t5 59mm. **328** Pied Wagtail / Rouwkwikstaart *Motacilla yarrellii*, female, collected in Britain on 19 March 1944 *(© National Museum of Natural History, Tring)*. Example of spring bird without black on mantle/scapulars. Plumage rather adult-like (no juvenile wing-coverts; remiges fresh). Flanks dark grey and score = 1. Pattern of t5 = B. **329** 'White wagtail' / 'witte kwikstaart' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*, first-summer male, collected in Iran on 1 April 1919 *(© National Museum of Natural History, Tring)*. Intermediate bird, aged by worn, very brown primaries. Note unusually large amount of black on mantle. Pattern of t5 (not visible here) = B.

FIGURE 1 Kodak grey values of rump in 'white wagtails' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*; 0 = white and 19 = jet-black; A = white, M = medium grey and B = blackish

0 – white – to 19 – jet-black; see figure 1 and plate 327 for an example). This is an objective way of measuring, which prevented any potentially mislabelled specimens to influence the results. In particular, we noted the following: ***1*** (character A) Kodak grey value of rump (ie, area between the tips of the middle pair of tertials; see figure 2); ***2*** (character B) Kodak grey value of scapulars (in palest area); ***3*** (character C) Kodak grey value of mantle (in palest area); ***4*** (character D) Estimated amount (%) of black on mantle and scapulars. The mantle was seen as 40% of this area, the scapulars 60%, which means that if, for instance, black spotting was restricted to the mantle the estimate could never be larger than 40%; ***5*** (character E) Kodak grey value of flanks; ***6*** (character F) Extent of dark wash on flanks (0 = dark wash limited to upper flank; 1 = dark wash reaches down to belly in some parts of the flank; 2 = entirely dark lower flank, along belly. See figure 3); and ***7*** (character G) Number of dark spots on belly. In addition, we also checked the tail-pattern, as this is known to be a useful character in some taxa of 'white wagtail' (cf Sibley & Howell 1998) and in other wagtail species, such as various subspecies of Grey Wagtail *M cinerea* (Vaurie 1957, Cramp 1988, Alström et al 2003). We measured the length (in mm) of the white wedge on the inner web of t5 (the one but outermost tail-feather); this was called 'character H'. We also looked at the shape of this wedge towards the base of the feather (A = sharply pointed; B = rounded or oblique ≥45°) (see figure 4). We did not include this character in our statistical analysis as it did not produce a quantitative variable, but only an A or B value. The pattern of the other tail-feathers appeared to be of no use.

A further 252 skins of wagtails were examined and photographed (160 *yarrellii*, 80 western *alba* and 12 eastern *alba*) but were not compared with a Kodak greyscale and therefore not included in the analysis. This sample contained many autumn birds and was merely used as additional reference material.

330 'White wagtail' / 'witte kwikstaart' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*, male (dissected), collected in Gelderland, Netherlands, on 8 June 1959 *(© National Museum of Natural History, Tring)*. Intermediate bird, aged as first-summer because of two moult limits in greater coverts, with outer ones very worn and brown. Scattered dark spots on mantle and scapulars unusual for *alba* but upperparts too pale for male *yarrellii*. Kodak grey value of rump (not visible here) = 11. Extent score of flanks = 0. Length of white wedge on t5 = 50mm; shape = A.

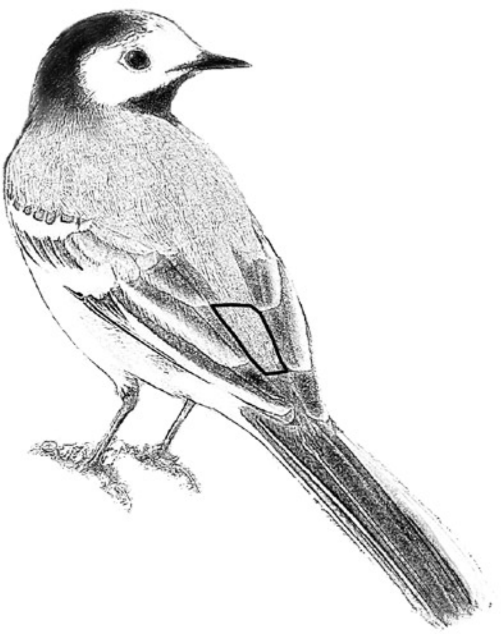
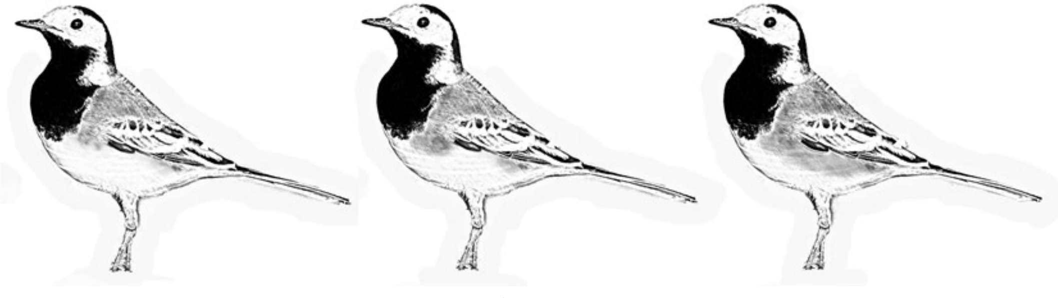


FIGURE 2 Exact indication of relevant rump area for identification of 'white wagtails' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*

alba 74%
yarrellii 45%

alba 26%
yarrellii 55%

FIGURE 4 Shape of white wedge on inner web of t5 in 'white wagtails' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*; pattern A = sharply pointed; B = rounded or oblique ≥45°



score 0
eastern *alba* 83%
western *alba* 36%
yarrellii 3%

score 1
eastern *alba* 17%
western *alba* 44%
yarrellii 37%

score 2
eastern *alba* 0%
western *alba* 20%
yarrellii 60%

FIGURE 3 Extent of dark wash on flanks in 'white wagtails' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*

Results and discussion

The statistical analyses (see appendix 1) divided our total sample in two distinct groups which corresponded very well with the classification into *alba* and *yarrellii* by museum staff. This shows that most summer-plumaged *alba* and *yarrellii* can be separated using a combination of characters. In our sample, the linear combination of characters A-E and G-H distinguished almost completely between these two taxa except for one *yarrellii* that overlapped with (western) *alba*. The latter concerned a (probable) first-summer female collected in Wales on 20 March 1899 (figure 6 in appendix). If character H, the length of the white wedge on t5, is left out – as will usually be the case in field conditions – the number of birds in the overlap zone increases slightly (three birds labelled '*yarrellii*' in our sample; see figure 7 in appendix). The structure matrix of the most useful characters for separating *yarrellii* from *alba* is shown in table 5 (in appendix); the characters are discussed in detail below.

It is interesting to see that the statistical analyses of the museum data show a slight (but incomplete) discrimination between western and eastern *alba* (figure 6 and 7 in appendix). Both groups overlap broadly, but eastern *alba* averages slightly paler than western. The difference is most visible on the flanks: most show rather restricted grey wash on the flanks (score 0), and the colour is also quite pale (Kodak 1-8 in 96% of the eastern *alba* in our sample). No birds in our sample showed extensively dark flanks (score 2; see figure 3), but a few photographs from Israel in winter do show birds with such dark flanks. The preliminary conclusion could be that, at the population level, eastern *alba* is slightly more 'distant' in characters from *yarrellii* than western *alba*, but this should not be exaggerated; the discrimination between eastern and western *alba* is rather arbitrary and subtle, with a lot of overlap. Asian *alba* on average also tend to show more white in the wing-coverts compared to western birds, sometimes creating large white wing patches, but there is complete overlap in this respect, and western *alba* with a large amount of white in the wing-coverts are not rare.

Kodak grey value of rump (character A; measured in palest parts only)

In *yarrellii*, the colour ranges from dark grey to black, while it is medium to blackish-grey in *alba*. The grey values are shown in figure 1. As can be seen, there appears to be some overlap around value 13 (dark grey) and 14 (blackish-grey); 11% of *yarrellii* and 25% of western *alba* fell in this overlap zone. However, most of these pale-rumped *yarrellii* still showed blackish patches admixed. Note that it is important to look at the specific area between the tips of the middle pair of tertials (figure 2). The uppertail-coverts (area between the tips of the longest pair of tertials) are normally blackish in both *alba* and *yarrellii*. Of the *yarrellii* with palest rump in our sample (three birds with grey value of 13), two were females (one possibly an adult) but one was a male (with much black on the upperparts). Only the male had an entirely grey rump, contrasting with the black upperparts. Note also that the rump can be quite dark grey in *alba*, especially in western birds. Some even have a few blackish patches admixed, creating a rump area that is distinctly darker than the rest of the upperparts – although the rump is apparently never entirely jet-black. Some *yarrellii* have a blackish lower back (area between shortest pair of tertials) in addition to the rump, which again is not shown by *alba*.

Kodak grey value of scapulars (character B)

The colour ranges from fairly dark grey to black in *yarrellii* (Kodak 10-18), and medium grey to dark grey in *alba* (Kodak 7-11). Because the colour was measured in the palest parts only, the results may suggest a broad area of overlap around Kodak 10-11 between *yarrellii* (53%) and western *alba* (70%). However, the amount of black spotting on mantle/scapulars (character D) should also be considered and will separate many more birds.

Kodak grey value of mantle (character C)

In *yarrellii*, the colour of the mantle varies from fairly dark grey (Kodak 10) to black (Kodak 18). As the grey value was measured in the palest parts of the mantle only (see material and methods), there were two males among the palest birds but they had extensive black spotting on mantle and scapulars (50-70%). The other birds with a grey value of 10 on the mantle (four more birds) were all females; one was labelled as a first-summer, one as adult but looked more like a first-summer to us, and two were not aged. In *alba*, the colour of the mantle ranged from medium (Kodak 7) to very dark grey (Kodak 12), overlapping with *yarrellii*. One surprise, however, was an eastern *alba* with an exceptional value of 15 (greyish black) and 40% black spotting on mantle/scapulars (plate 327). It was a known male (sexed by dissection) collected in Poland on 16 May 1936. The full suite of characters put it within the range of *alba* but it could perhaps be considered as an intermediate bird.

Estimated amount (%) of black on mantle and scapulars (character D)

In *yarrellii*, the amount of black on the mantle/scapulars is really variable, ranging widely from 1-100%. Birds with less than 40% black were all females according to the museum labels, but many had not been sexed by dissection, so we do not know if these sex labels are correct. One of these birds (with only 3% black) was labelled

331-332 'White wagtail' / 'witte kwikstaart' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*, adult male, Nieuwpoort, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium, 15 March 2008 *(Peter Adriaens)*. Similar to male *alba* but note extensive black rump (reaching between shortest pair of tertials). Upperparts and flanks paler than in female *yarrellii*. **333** 'White wagtail' / 'witte kwikstaart' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*, Wijster, Drenthe, Netherlands, April 2002 *(Rik Winters)*. Intermediate bird, similar to male *alba*, and perhaps that is what this is but note solid blackish rump. **334** 'White wagtail' / 'witte kwikstaart' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*, adult, Nijkerk, Gelderland, Netherlands, 15 April 2006 *(Peter van der Wijst)*. Same bird as in plate 335. Note grey rump. Pattern of t5 = A.

adult but looked more like a first-summer to us, like most of the females with little black. Quite a few of these birds (13%) had rather plain grey mantle/scapulars (amount of black <5%; see plate 328 for an example). The darkest females had 60-80% black on the upperparts. Again, we do not know if their sex labels are correct. The palest males were two dissected, first-summer birds with 40% black. While it is quite normal to see (especially) male *alba* in which the black lower nape reaches onto the upper mantle (covering up to 10%), a few birds with black spots scattered across the mantle and scapulars were still a surprise to us. An example is shown in plate 330. In addition, three birds showed more than 10% of black on the upperparts: one male western *alba* with 15%, another male western *alba* with 30%, and the eastern *alba* shown in plate 327 with 40%.

Surprisingly, a few '*dukhunensis*' skins from Iran (not included in our sample for statistical analysis) also showed a large amount (c 40%) of black on mantle (see plate 329 for an example). We do not really know what such birds are; they were collected far outside the normal range of *yarrellii*. They might be the result of interbreeding between *alba* and another taxon; in Asia, interbreeding has been recorded with *personata, ocularis* and *baicalensis* (Alström et al 2003). However, these three taxa show grey upperparts and rump (without black) in all plumages. In addition, these skins showed white neck sides like *alba*, while the combination *alba* x *personata* (the most likely type to occur in Iran, and sometimes referred to as '*persica*') could perhaps be expected to show traces of the dark neck-sides of the latter taxon. Cramp (1988) also reports occasional black suffusion on mantle, scapulars and sides of breast in male '*alba*-like birds', not only from western but also central Europe far from the breeding range of *yarrellii*.

Kodak grey value of and extent of dark wash on flanks (character E-F)

In both taxa, the colour is similar to or paler than that of the upperparts (mantle and scapulars). In *yarrellii*, it ranges from medium grey to jet-black (9-16), while it is greyish white to fairly dark grey in *alba* (1-10). Note the overlap zone around Kodak grey values 9 and 10; it includes 27% of *yarrellii* and no less than 44% of western *alba*. Character E may be further supported by the precise extent of the dark wash on the flanks (character F). Extensively dark flanks (score 2) are slightly more typical of *yarrellii*, but certainly occur in western *alba* too (20%). Further details are shown in figure 3. Two *yarrellii* (3%) in our sample had rather restricted dark colour on flanks (score 0). Rather surprisingly, they were both males, and in one of them the flank colour was a bit paler grey than usual (Kodak 10). In all other respects, however, they showed the characters of typical *yarrellii*.

Number of dark spots on belly (character G)

The presence of several (>1) distinct, isolated dark spots on the belly seems to be a fairly good indication of *yarrellii*, and it is therefore surprising that this character is apparently not described anywhere in literature. 38% of the *yarrellii* in our sample showed 2-12 spots, which were found both in males and females. The vast majority of *alba* (96%) did not show any spots; a few birds showed one dark spot only, and only one bird (male western *alba* from the Netherlands) had five, all close to the black breast area (but not connected to it).

335 'White wagtail' / 'witte kwikstaart' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*, adult, Nijkerk, Gelderland, Netherlands, 15 April 2006 *(Peter van der Wijst)*. Same bird as in plate 334. Intermediate bird, aged (at this time of year) by blackish primaries with white edges and lack of juvenile wing-coverts. Very like female *yarrellii* but note pale flank (score = 0) and medium grey ground colour to upperparts. Longest uppertail-coverts (just visible below primary tips) seem strangely pale for *yarrellii*. Unfortunately, ring number could not be read.




336 'White wagtail' / 'witte kwikstaart' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*, Nieuwpoort, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium, 15 March 2008 *(Peter Adriaens)*. Intermediate bird, rather like *alba* but with scattered blackish patches on mantle and scapulars. Rump was grey (not visible here). Bird was present in same spot at same time as individual in plate 331-332. **337** 'White wagtail' / 'witte kwikstaart' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*, Chiemsee, Bayern, Germany, 9 April 2008 *(Jörg Langenberg)*. Intermediate bird, rather similar to female *yarrellii* but note grey rump (just visible above middle tertial). **338** 'White wagtail' / 'witte kwikstaart' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*, Maashorst, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands, 8 March 2008 *(Carel van der Sanden)*. Intermediate bird; dark grey with blackish upper mantle. Note grey rump. **339** 'White wagtail' / 'witte kwikstaart' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*, IJburg, Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 19 April 2008 *(Jacob Garvelink)*. Intermediate bird; another example of a dark grey bird with blackish spots on upper mantle (suggesting *yarrellii*) but with grey rump (like *alba*).

Length of white wedge on inner web of t5 (character H)

The length of the white wedge on the inner web of the second outermost rectrix is variable (ranging from 35 to 76 mm in our sample) but tends to be shorter on average in *yarrellii* (maximum 67 mm). In *alba*, it is quite often longer than 60 mm, which was the case in only a few *yarrellii*. There is a lot of overlap though; see table 2 for more details. The shape of the white wedge should also be considered. It is usually either very pointed towards the base of the feather (cf figure 4: pattern A), or rather rounded or oblique (>45°; cf figure 4: pattern B). Pattern A is slightly more typical of *alba*, and pattern B slightly more typical of *yarrellii* but, again, there is much overlap. The tail-pattern is therefore of little use, and is very difficult to establish in the field. It could perhaps be used as a supporting feature by ringers though, in combination with character A-G.

TABLE 2 Length of white wedge on inner web of t5

Length (mm)	% *yarrellii*	% western *alba*	% eastern *alba*
< 50	37	8	17
50-60	57	66	53
> 60	6	26	30

Identification: individual level

Introduction

Our museum research provided us with a good reference base for the identification of *alba* and *yarrellii*. In addition, we also had access to numerous photographs of *alba* in the hand, and lots of photographs of *alba* and *yarrellii* in the field. From these data, and from our own field experiences, it is clear that separating *alba* and *yarrellii* should be done using a full combination of characters. This is important, as identification appears to be hampered by the regular occurrence of puzzling 'intermediate birds'. As Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer (1985) state, when discussing the identification of the two taxa: 'Not every wagtail with a black(ish) back is a *yarrellii*'. This statement seems to have been overlooked by many authors. We will explain and illustrate it in the following sections. It should be noted that identification is more difficult in autumn than in spring, as many *yarrellii* show medium grey upperparts then, like *alba*. Some birds can be very tricky, and mistakes are sometimes made even with the bird in the hand (cf plate 315). A summary of the necessary field identification criteria can be found in table 3.

Identification characters

Spring

In spring and summer, the differences between *alba* and *yarrellii* are most pronounced but identification is hampered by the occurrence of intermediate birds (see next sections). It is therefore important to check as many characters as possible (see discussion of character A-G above). Museum skins could be conveniently compared with a Kodak greyscale. In the field, however, assessing the grey tones of the upperparts may not be straightforward, especially on a lone bird. Light conditions play an important role, so patience and careful comparison with other wagtails nearby may be necessary for less than typical birds. Often the rump is hidden beneath the tertials, so patience may again be required. Individual variation should also be taken into account; a bird with slightly darker grey upperparts in a flock of typical *alba* is not necessarily a *yarrellii*, and vice versa.

Three additional points should be mentioned here: ***1*** In spring *yarrellii*, the mantle and scapulars are either solidly blackish, spotted with blackish or uniformly dark grey. They do not normally appear striped. ***2*** In a few spring female *yarrellii*, the uniformly grey upperparts contrast with a rather well-demarcated black nape, inviting confusion with *alba*. Check rump, flanks and belly, and note that the upperparts are slightly darker grey than in the latter taxon. However, it is possible that some birds are better left unidentified. ***3*** A grey lower nape is more typical of (female) *alba*, while in spring female *yarrellii* this area is typically blackish. There is overlap though, and some female *yarrellii* do have a grey lower nape.

Autumn

Character A-G are still important (and should be used in combination) but identification is complicated because many autumn *yarrellii* show uniformly medium grey mantle and scapulars without any black, like *alba*. A few birds also appear to lack black on the rump. The following additional features can be helpful though: ***1*** If it is possible to correctly age the bird, head pattern can be of some use. A first-winter wagtail with whitish forehead, black crown and blackish nape is more likely a *yarrellii*, as only a few first-winter male *alba* show this much black and white here. Some first-winter female *alba* show entirely grey forehead, crown and nape without black, which is uncommon in *yarrellii* (only a few first-winter females – but beware of late-moulting juveniles). Adult birds with no or little black on crown and nape should also be *alba*, as adult *yarrellii* show at least a blackish crown. Another feature may occasionally be seen on the ear-coverts: a few autumn *yarrellii* show a solid, extensively blackish patch here, joining the blackish nape with the black gorget (plate 322). Such a dark and extensive pattern, which may even recall Moroccan Wagtail *M subpersonata*, is only rarely matched by *alba*. Very occasionally, *yarrellii* may show blackish lores in autumn, which is not normally shown by *alba*. ***2*** Wing-coverts of the same age may differ slightly between both taxa: *yarrellii* on average shows slightly blacker centres and wider white tips to the greater coverts. ***3*** In some autumn *yarrellii*, the belly may show a

TABLE 3 Summary of field criteria of White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* and Pied Wagtail *M yarrellii*. For grey scale values, see section 'Identification: population level'.

	spring		**autumn (post-juvenile)**	
	alba	*yarrellii*	*alba*	*yarrellii*
rump (character A; cf figure 2)	medium grey to blackish grey	blackish to black	medium grey to blackish grey	blackish to black (very few exceptions)
colour of mantle/ scapulars (character B-C)	medium grey to dark grey	dark grey to black; no distinct stripes on mantle	medium grey to dark grey	medium grey to black; no distinct stripes on mantle
% of blackish colour on mantle/scapulars (character D)	0-10%	1-100%	0(-10?)%	0-100%
colour of flanks (character E)	greyish-white to dark grey	medium grey to black	greyish-white to dark grey	medium grey to black
extent score of flank pattern (character F; cf figure 3)	mostly 0-1 but sometimes 2	mostly 1-2	mostly 0-1 but sometimes 2	mostly 1-2
pattern of belly (character G)	rather clean white	sometimes with distinct dark spots	rather clean white	sometimes with distinct dark spots or dark greyish streaks
head pattern			some have entirely grey forehead, crown and nape (without black), unlike most *yarrellii* (only few first-winter)	many first-winter show white forehead, black crown and blackish nape, unlike most first-winter *alba*; few birds show extensively blackish ear-coverts

few prominent dark spots (as in spring; character G) or may have dirty, greyish streaks. In *alba*, the belly is usually rather clean white.

Juveniles of both taxa cannot usually be told from one another, but a few juvenile *yarrellii* already develop a blackish rump and/or blackish crown and nape early on. Also, their greater and median coverts may give a more black-and-white impression due to deeper black centres and wider white tips, and their flanks may be more extensively grey.

The apparent lack of intermediate birds in autumn is striking but is perhaps not so surprising when considering the great similarity between *alba* and *yarrellii* at this time of the year.

Intermediate birds

Particularly in spring, birds that appear to show mixed characters of both *alba* and *yarrellii* occur rather frequently, on the continent and in Britain. Examples are shown in plate 325-326 and 331-342; see also plate 327, 329 and 330. We prefer to leave such birds unidentified and call them 'intermediates' rather than hybrids, for various reasons: ***1*** We do not actually know what hybrids really look like; ***2*** Intermediate birds are sometimes found far from the usual range of *yarrellii*, eg, in Israel and on Crete, Greece (where even three such birds were seen within the same week; Newell 2008); they are also far from the usual range of other 'white wagtail' taxa that have been recorded to interbreed (ie, *personata*, *ocularis* and *baicalensis*) and do not show the characters of those taxa. See also the discussion under 'Population level'; and ***3*** Other factors could play a role, such as partial melanism (see above) or just unusual variation in *alba* and/or *yarrellii*. While the appearance of intermediate birds is variable, two types in spring (ie, in summer plumage) seem slightly more frequent than others: ***1*** birds that look rather like a male *alba*, but with black rump. Such birds frequently have broad white edges to the wing-coverts and medium bluish-grey upperparts (contrasting with the rump), sometimes with a few black spots on the mantle (see plate 331-333); and ***2*** birds with medium grey upperparts (paler than most *yarrellii*) and little or no black on rump but with variable amount of black on mantle and/or scapulars. Flanks can be rather pale too. Some birds show a distinct pattern of strong, black stripes on the mantle (cf plate 325-326). This is not normally seen in *yarrellii* (Killian Mullarney, Aidan Kelly & Harry Hussey in litt). We have also seen photographs of birds (from the Netherlands) that look very similar to female *yarrellii* but were paired with female *alba* and showed male-like behaviour, such as singing, which leaves little doubt of them actually being male *alba*, or hybrids.

Vocalizations

There seem to be very few vocal differences between the two taxa. However, while the song and calls of *alba* may all be matched by *yarrellii*, there appears to be one type of flight call in the latter that does not have an equivalent in *alba*. This subject is dealt with thoroughly in a separate paper (Robb et al 2010).

Conclusions

Identification of *alba* and *yarrellii* is hampered by the regular occurrence of birds with intermediate characters throughout Europe. While many of these birds are likely hybrids, as hybridization is regularly reported from western Europe and southern Scandinavia, it is suspected that some may concern birds with partial melanism or just unusual plumage variation. It is therefore strongly recommended to base the identification on as many characters as possible. We would advise against identifying wagtails solely in flight, as is often done on some migration watch points. The important field criteria are summarized in table 3.

340 'White wagtail' / 'witte kwikstaart' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*, Toscana, Italy, 8 March 2008 *(Daniele Occhiato)*. Intermediate bird. Brownish tinge on secondaries (contrasting with black centre of longest tertial) this early in the season, as well as slight brownish tinge and worn state of inner two tertials suggest this is a first-summer bird. Scattered black patches on mantle and scapulars may suggest *yarrellii* but rump and back too pale. Also, foreflank looks only medium grey.

341 'White wagtail' / 'witte kwikstaart' *Motacilla alba/ yarrellii*, singing male, Veghel, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands, 26 March 2008 *(Carel van der Sanden)*. Intermediate bird; plumage adult-like. Medium grey bird with blackish pattern on mantle. Rump was grey (not visible here). Plumage much too pale for male *yarrellii*.

342 'White wagtail' / 'witte kwikstaart' *Motacilla alba/ yarrellii*, Nieuwpoort, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium, 13 April 2008 *(Diederik D'Hert)*. Intermediate bird; extensive white forehead, reaching slightly beyond eye, suggests male. Scattered black patches on mantle and scapulars may suggest female *yarrellii* but upperparts medium grey like *alba*. If this is a male indeed, it is much too pale for *yarrellii*.

Note that identification often comes down to correct assessment of the colour of upperparts and flanks. In the hand, a Kodak grey scale is a useful aid for this, but in the field extensive experience with both taxa may be required. The pattern of the belly can be a helpful feature in some birds, and has received little or no attention up to now.

Ageing and sexing may be of some further help at times (particularly in autumn), but can be extremely difficult in the field. It should be emphasized that, in spring, some (first-summer?) female *yarrellii* (with uniformly grey upperparts) may show very adult-like greater coverts, tertials and primaries, as well as a sharply demarcated black lower nape, making them sometimes difficult to age, sex and identify. Birds that do not match the criteria in table 3 should probably be seen as intermediate and left unidentified. Again, we want to point out that individuals with a prominently striped pattern on the mantle (as sometimes seen on the continent) do not match the usual appearance of British and Irish *yarrellii*.

This paper is far from the last word on the subject, and we realize that it leaves certain questions unanswered. In particular, colour-ringing of hybrid offspring would be interesting, so we could learn more about their appearance and movements. Also, genetic studies on western *alba* (including intermediate birds) might be helpful.

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Samenvatting

WITTE KWIKSTAART EN ROUWKWIKSTAART OPNIEUW BEKEKEN

Dit artikel behandelt de herkenning van Witte Kwikstaart *Motacilla alba* en Rouwkwikstaart *M yarrellii*. Onderzoek toont aan dat de determinatie lang niet altijd eenvoudig is en dat 'intermediaire vogels' regelmatig voorkomen. Aan de hand van statistische analyse van onderzoek aan balgen is een set criteria bepaald die het mogelijk maakt om de meeste Rouwkwikstaarten van Witte Kwikstaarten te onderscheiden (in ieder geval in zomerkleed). De grenzen van de variatie in beide taxa worden aangegeven. De set criteria is samengevat in tabel 3 en de relevante Kodak-grijswaarden worden aangegeven in de tekst.

In het artikel worden tevens de meest bruikbare leeftijds- en geslachtskenmerken besproken. Die kunnen in sommige gevallen helpen om een vogel correct op soort te brengen. Vooral in het voorjaar kan het erg moeilijk tot zelfs onmogelijk zijn een exemplaar correct op leeftijd en geslacht te brengen. Zo hebben sommige eerstezomer Rouwkwikstaarten het hele voorjaar een erg adult-achtige vleugel en zien sommige vrouwtjes Witte Kwikstaart er net als mannetjes uit. Vogels die kenmerken van zowel Witte Kwikstaart als Rouwkwikstaart combineren, zijn tenminste in het voorjaar niet zeldzaam en kregen tot nu toe nauwelijks aandacht in de literatuur. Het verenkleed van dergelijke vogels is variabel maar twee typen lijken iets frequenter voor te komen dan andere: ***1*** exemplaren die er uitzien als mannetje Witte Kwikstaart maar met een zwarte stuit en soms ook enkele zwarte vlekjes op de mantel, die vaak nogal blauwachtig grijs is; ***2*** exemplaren met neutraal grijze bovendelen en stuit (als Witte Kwikstaart of iets donkerder) maar met variabele hoeveelheid zwart op mantel en/of schouderveren (als Rouwkwikstaart). Sommige vogels tonen een opvallend patroon van zwarte lengtestrepen op de mantel, wat Rouwkwikstaart normaal niet heeft. De meest voor de hand liggende verklaring is dat ten minste een deel van deze vogels hybriden betreft maar daarover bestaat geen zekerheid. Gemengde broedparen van Witte Kwikstaart en Rouwkwikstaart zijn niet zeldzaam en worden (vrijwel) jaarlijks vastgesteld in België, Denemarken, Frankrijk, Nederland, Noorwegen en Zweden (zie tabel 1). Andere mogelijkheden zijn dat het in sommige gevallen gaat om partieel melanisme (bij Witte Kwikstaart) of om kleedvariatie (bijvoorbeeld Witte Kwikstaart met ongewoon donkere mantel, Rouwkwikstaart met ongewoon bleke stuit etc). Het is zeker op plaatsen waar Rouwkwikstaart een dwaalgast is aan te raden een exemplaar alleen te determineren als de combinatie van kenmerken zoals vermeld in tabel 3 sluitend is.

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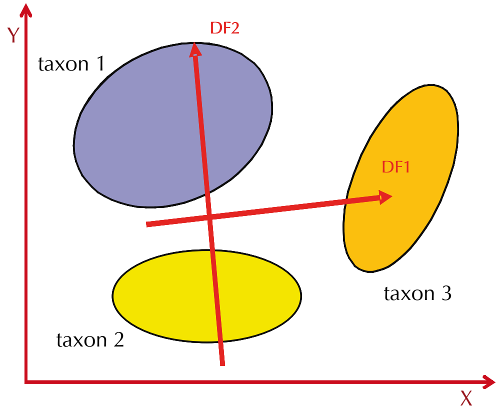
APPENDIX 1

Results of discriminant function analyses (DFA)

All of the values of the eight characters (or variables) were entered into an Access database, and several discriminant function analyses (DFA) were performed on this dataset using SPSS 16 and SAS 9_2 statistical packages. For three groups (in this case: *yarrellii*, western *alba* and eastern *alba*), a DFA will produce two discriminant axes/functions (figure 5). This can only be achieved through two linear transformations of the original variables, $Z_1= a_1X_1+b_1X_2+c_1X_3+d_1X_4+e_1X_5+f_1X_6+g_1X_7+h_1X_8$ and $Z_2= a_2X_1+b_2X_2+c_2X_3+d_2X_4+e_2X_5+f_2X_6+g_2X_7+h_2X_8$ with $a_{1,2}$-$h_{1,2}$ the relative importance of the eight original variables X_{1-8} to the new variables $Z_{1,2}$ along the two discriminant axes respectively. So, the two discriminant functions independently hold information about all the original variables and their relative importance, and in addition can be represented in a two-dimensional X-Y scatter plot. This makes visualization and interpretation of the data much more feasible. A first note of caution is that DFA is used for continuous variables. For the wagtail database, the only truly continuous variable is 't5' (character H). Character A-C and E are categorical data measured on a Kodak greyscale from 0 to 19. We argue that they are continuous enough to be treated as such. Character F, with its three classes only (0, 1 and 2), is troublesome in this respect and is therefore excluded from the analysis. This variable is dealt with in figure 3. Character D and G represent proportional and count data respectively. Violation of the normality assumption is, however, not fatal. Second, there is a high degree of multicollinearity. Not surprisingly, character B, C and D show high within-group correlations (table 4). In plain English this means that a wagtail with a darker mantle will also tend to have darker scapulars and more extensive dark spotting or covering on mantle and scapulars.

FIGURE 5 Theoretical structure of discriminant function analysis



Multicollinearity does not reduce the reliability of our DFA as a whole, because an analysis with correlated variables can still indicate how well the entire bundle of predictor variables (X_{1-8}) predicts the outcome variable (= taxonomic group), but it may not give valid results

TABLE 4 Within-group correlation of some identification characters in 'white wagtails' *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*

	C (mantle)	**B (scapulars)**	**D (% black on upperparts)**
C (mantle)	1		
B (scapulars)	0.78	1	
D (% black on upperparts)	0.76	0.71	1

TABLE 5 Structure matrix of character A-E and G-H

Character	**DF1**	**DF2**
A	0.893*	0.170
E	0.555*	0.445
C	0.531*	0.010
B	0.483*	0.154
D	0.478*	-0.443
G	0.209*	0.153
H	-0.189*	0.147

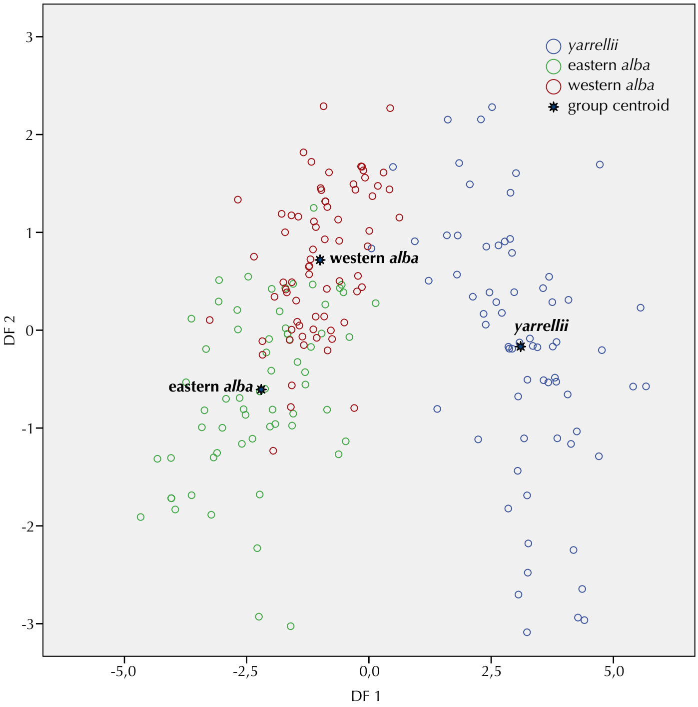
*. largest absolute correlation between each variable and any discriminant function

TABLE 6 Discriminant functions at Group Centroids of character A-E and G-H

taxon	**DF1**	**DF2**
yarrellii	3.104	-0.168
eastern *alba*	-2.203	-0.606
western *alba*	-0.999	0.718

about the relative importance of any individual variable, or about which variables are redundant to other ones. Last but not least, there is troublesome heterogeneity of variances. If the only goal is to find linear transformations to distinguish groups and not classification, this assumption can be slightly relaxed, but DFA remains very sensitive to any violation of this assumption. Transformation of the data did not reduce heterogeneity. We therefore want to stress that DFA is only used here in addition to a thorough graphical and manual exploration of the dataset. Nevertheless, we got interpretable results in accordance to our graphical analysis. A total of four DFAs were performed: ***1*** DFA-1 of all characters, except F; ***2*** DFA-2 of six out of eight characters (ie, excluding F and H, as the latter was considered not very useful in field conditions); ***3*** DFA-3 of all characters, except F, in males only (n=124); and ***4*** DFA-4 of all characters, except F, in females only (n=64).

FIGURE 6 Discriminant function analysis 1 of character A-E and G-H



DFA-1

The first discriminant function (DF1) was statistically significant, $\Lambda = 0.123$, χ^2 (14, n=205) = 416.8, p<0.001. It primarily separates *yarrellii* from western and eastern *alba* (figure 6] and table 6) and explains 94.4% of the between-group variability. The loadings in the structure matrix (table 5) show that wagtails (*yarrellii*) that scored high on DF1 have darker rumps in the first place (character A), but also tend to have darker mantle (C), scapulars (B) and flanks (E) and more black(ish) spotting or covering on mantle and scapulars (D). To a much lesser degree, they show a tendency for a higher number of dark spots on the belly (G) and a slightly shorter white wedge on T5 (H). Both

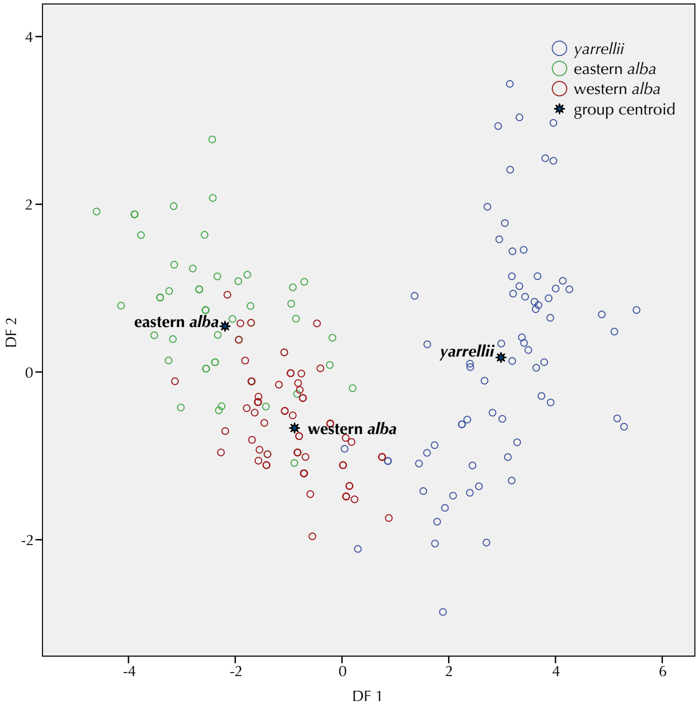


FIGURE 7 Discriminant function analysis 2 of character A-E and G

eastern and western *alba* fall below centre line for DF1 but with less negative and thus slightly higher scores for western *alba*, albeit with large overlap between the two (figure 6 and table 6). Hence, most eastern *alba* will be among the palest on upperparts and flanks. The second discriminant function (DF2) was again statistically significant, $\Lambda=0.764$, χ^2 (6, n=205) = 53.6, $p<0.001$. This one seems to discriminate (incompletely) between eastern and western *alba* and explains the remaining 5.6% of the between-group variability (figure 6 and table 6). Again we take a look at the structure matrix (table 5) and find that there is not a single variable that can be reliably interpreted, although the high loading for character E indicates that the darker flanks of western *alba* are important for the separation of western *alba* along DF2, in accordance with our graphical analysis.

DFA-2

The resulting output is quite the same as with character H included, though with more overlap between *yarrellii* and darker *alba* sensu lato and with our data points mirrored around the centre line of DF2, because by coincidence and omission of H the signs of the scores of eastern and western *alba* were switched (figure 7).

DFA-3 and DFA-4

These two DFAs, performed to investigate the influence of sex, gave similar results as the first analysis for both sexes concerning the discrimination between *yarrellii* and *alba* sensu lato (graphs not shown). Between eastern (n=17) and western (n=15) *alba,* however, females showed a larger discrimination along DF1 than males but due to the low sample sizes (n<20) – partly the result of incomplete labelling in the museum – we do not place much importance on this. Furthermore, this paper is primarily concerned with the separation of *alba* and *yarrellii*. We therefore conclude that the field marks are valid for both males and females.

Flight call identification of White, Pied and Moroccan Wagtail

Magnus Robb, Arnoud B van den Berg & The Sound Approach

Since 2000, The Sound Approach (TSA) has been collecting sound recordings of Western Palearctic birds. A significant part of this effort has involved the systematic recording of calls given in flight by passerines migrating in autumn. These include many examples of calls of White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* and Pied Wagtail *M yarrellii*. The former were recorded on the Dutch coast, in Bulgaria and in Finland, and the latter mainly at Durlston Country Park, Dorset, England. We have also recorded flight calls of Moroccan Wagtail *M subpersonata*, a non-migratory uncommon resident in north-western Africa with some post-breeding dispersal in autumn, and altitudinal movements in winter (Thévenot et al 2003). This paper compares *chichik* flight calls of all three taxa and shows that Moroccan can be distinguished from White and Pied. In addition, it describes a different type of flight call that we recorded many times from Pied, but not from White or Moroccan.

We recorded the wagtail calls with a Telinga parabolic microphone or a SASS (Stereo Ambient Sampling System) fitted with Sennheiser MKH-20 microphones (Constantine & The Sound Approach 2006), and a digital recorder working at a resolution of 48 kHz and 16 bits, or higher. The 15 recordings of White Wagtails used for this study were all made during autumn migration. Five were from Bulgaria, five from Finland and five from the Netherlands. It was rarely possible to exclude Pied Wagtails during the brief flight views obtained when these recordings were made, but this taxon should not be expected in Bulgaria and Finland, and in the Netherlands, it is rare in autumn (cf Cottaar 1995, cf Meininger & Wolf 1995). At Durlston, where the 15 recordings of Pied were made, no White were seen but a few may have been present among the migrating Pied. The Moroccan Wagtails were recorded at Taliouine, Central Anti-Atlas, in March and at the Oued Souss mouth near Agadir in November.

The exact number of individuals involved in this study is unknown. Although 15 recordings were analysed for both White Wagtail and Pied Wagtail, it is likely that the number of individuals involved is greater than 15 per taxon, because some recordings concerned small flocks. Only six recordings of Moroccan Wagtail *chichik* calls were available for analysis. In one recording of Moroccan, three different individuals could be clearly distinguished, and in another, two. This enabled us to analyse three calls from each of these individuals, increasing the sample to 27

343 Moroccan Wagtail / Marokkaanse Kwikstaart *Motacilla subpersonata*, juvenile, Rissani, Morocco, 15 June 2010 *(Arnoud B van den Berg/The Sound Approach)*

344 Moroccan Wagtail / Marokkaanse Kwikstaart *Motacilla subpersonata*, adult, Marrakech, Morocco, 27 March 2004 *(Arnoud B van den Berg/The Sound Approach)*

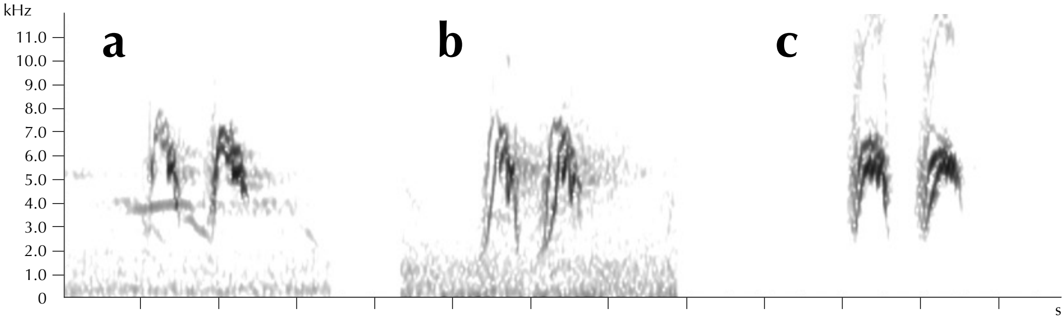


FIGURE 1 Representative *chichik* calls of **a** White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*; **b** Pied Wagtail *M yarrellii*; and **c** Moroccan Wagtail *M subpersonata*. Note longer duration and rounded 'top end' in Moroccan. Examples recorded as follows: **a** Hanko, Uusimaa, Finland, 21 September 2006 *(Dick Forsman/The Sound Approach)*; **b** Durlston Country Park, Dorset, England, 8 October 2008 *(Magnus Robb/The Sound Approach)*; and **c** Taliouine, Central Anti-Atlas, Morocco, 31 March 2002 *(Arnoud B van den Berg/The Sound Approach)*

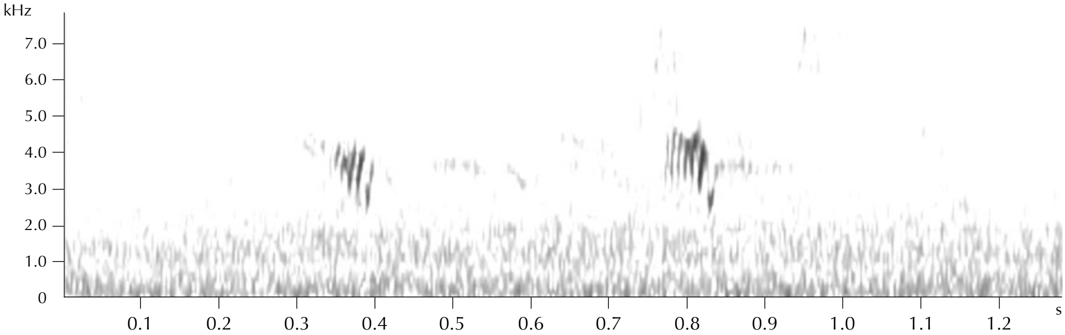


FIGURE 2 Rasping calls of migrating Pied Wagtail *Motacilla yarrellii*, Durlston Country Park, Dorset, England, 8 October 2008 *(Magnus Robb/The Sound Approach)*

calls. However, the total number of individuals of Moroccan may have been just four.

Results

The most characteristic call given by all three taxa in flight is a two-note *chichik*, usually given at irregular intervals of about a second or more. Single-note versions of this call are frequently interspersed among them, and three- or even four-note calls are not uncommon. The basic note is more or less the same regardless of how many times it is repeated. We only compared two-part calls for this study as they are the most frequently heard version. *Chichik* calls are not known to differ between males and females, or between adults and first calendar-year birds by the time the latter are ready for autumn migration.

To quantify differences between calls of taxa, we chose measurements to represent characters that can be heard in the field. These were: overall length of the call, time interval between start of first and start of second note (ie, how quickly the second note follows the first), and the modular frequency of each note in turn. Modular frequency is a measurement of the strongest frequency present in a sound, the one most likely to reflect our perception of the overall pitch as 'high' or 'low'. Sonagram analysis and measurement of these calls was performed with Raven 1.2.1 (Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2003-04).

From each recording, we chose the three clearest calls for analysis. Table 1 shows the average, and in brackets the minimum and maximum measurements for the calls sampled. *Chichik* calls of the three taxa hardly differ in modular frequency. However, sonagrams show that the contour of the notes is more rounded in Moroccan Wagtail, whereas White Wagtail and Pied Wagtail have notes that are more 'pointed' in shape. More importantly, Moroccan has *chichik* calls that average 28% longer than those of White (24% longer than Pied), and notes of Moroccan follow one another

TABLE 1 Average, minimum and maximum measurements of *chichik* calls of White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*, Pied Wagtail *M yarrellii* and Moroccan Wagtail *M subpersonata*.

	Number of calls	**Number of individuals**	**Call length (s)**	**Start 1st to start 2nd note (s)**	**Modular frequency 1st note (Hz)**	**Modular frequency 2nd note (Hz)**
White Wagtail	45	≥15	0.134 (0.104-0.167)	0.087 (0.063-0.132)	5201 (4312-6093)	5113 (3466-6652)
Pied Wagtail	45	≥15	0.139 (0.112-0.164)	0.086 (0.068-0.106)	5198 (4312-6093)	5224 (3446-6652)
Moroccan Wagtail	27	≥4	0.172 (0.148-0.209)	0.106 (0.087-0.132)	5205 (4500-5535)	5349 (4501-5916)

more slowly: the interval from the start of the first to the start of the second note averages 22% longer than in White (23% longer than in Pied). In other words, *chichik* calls of Moroccan should sound slow or a bit 'lethargic' to European observers. Although there is some slight overlap, mainly with Pied, we believe this character may prove useful in finding the localized and uncommon Moroccan during the winter months, when it is vastly outnumbered by White in North Africa, and where Pied is said to be a scarce winterer.

While recording Pied Wagtails at Durlston during the autumn of 2008, MR often heard a call he had never recorded in the Netherlands, where he had been accustomed to hearing White Wagtails on migration. The call in question has a rasping sound (ie, strongly modulated), and sounds somewhat like a lower-pitched version of a contact call of Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*. Compared with the *chichik* call of any of the three taxa, it is lower pitched and a little quieter. It also has a longer duration than individual notes of the *chichik* call. The rasping call proved to be present in 14 of the 35 autumn migration recordings of Pied Wagtail made at Durlston (40%) but absent in all recordings of Moroccan Wagtail (n=16) and White Wagtail (n=71, of which 25 migrating) in the Sound Approach collection. Although some White may have been present at Durlston, the absence of the rasping call in recordings made outside Britain supports the conclusion that it is not used by White. The function of the rasping call is not yet clear but it is used on migration both by single birds and in small flocks. The age and sex of individuals giving the rasping call is unknown for most recordings. However, we know that adult males use this call, because we had previously recorded one at Sandwood Bay, Highland, Scotland, on 3 July 2003. Probably, it is given by males and females, and by adults as well as first calendar-year birds, although this remains to be verified.

Conclusion

In summary, *chichik* calls of White Wagtail and Pied Wagtail on autumn migration are not safely distinguishable by ear. *Chichik* calls of Moroccan Wagtail are slower and this should help in separating them from European migrant and wintering birds. The less often heard rasping call appears only to be used by Pied, and should aid separation from either White or Moroccan.

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African Openbill at Luxor, Egypt, in May 2009

Benjamin Steffen

In the early morning of 26 May 2009, I was birding on Crocodile Island in the Nile Valley a few kilometres south of Luxor, Egypt. After seeing c 80 Squacco Herons *Ardeola ralloides*, a few Senegal Thick-knees *Burhinus senegalensis* and Nile Valley Sunbirds *Anthodiaeta metallica*, I reached the southern tip of the island. At c 07:09, while looking at three Black-winged Kites *Elanus caeruleus*, I suddenly noticed a large stork-like bird flying in at low altitude from a northern direction. It first reminded me of a Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* because of its dark overall impression but the second view revealed that the bird lacked white underparts and axillaries. It even lacked any white in its plumage! The possibility of Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* was quickly excluded, because of the bird's slower wingbeats and the fingered primaries causing a quite broad-handed appearance. It was identified as African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus*.

The bird flew around over the southernmost area of the island for some time obviously in search of a place to land. I managed to get some photographs, before it finally landed at a distance of c 250 m at the shore of the Nile. After landing, it quickly started to forage, while being attacked by a Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* that bred nearby. I was unable to approach the bird closer than c 100-150 m because of the swampy areas at the island's shores. After more than 30 min, the bird started to disappear behind some higher vegetation and did not come into view again.

Description

The following description is based on the field observations, photographs and some field notes.

SIZE & STRUCTURE Large bird, exact size difficult to judge without direct comparison but appearing slightly smaller than Black Stork. General structure of typical stork with long neck and long legs. In flight, wings looking rather broad with deeply fingered primaries, neck stretched. Striking massive bill, even obvious in flight, looking very large and especially 'deep', and with obvious gap between mandibles caused by curved lower mandible and almost straight upper mandible.
PLUMAGE All black. In sunshine sometimes appearing to show some brownish to purple gloss, giving 'wet' impression.
BARE PARTS Eye dark. Colour of bare skin at lore not seen in field but looking dark on photographs. Basal third of bill grey to dark grey, remaining distal part blackish. Leg dark grey to blackish.
VOICE Remaining silent throughout observation.
FLIGHT & BEHAVIOUR In flight showing sequence of wingbeats before gliding a few metres. Wingbeats seem-

345-346 African Openbill / Afrikaanse Gaper *Anastomus lamelligerus*, Crocodile Island, Luxor, Egypt, 26 May 2009 *(Benjamin Steffen)*

ingly slightly quicker than in Black Stork or White Stork *C ciconia* but not as quick as in Glossy Ibis. Foraging on some unidentified molluscs.

MOULT Some photographs showing active wing moult. On both wings, p1-2 (primaries numbered from inside) new and blackish, p3 missing or growing, p4-10 old (more brownish). In left wing, also moulting inner secondaries. Moult pattern of secondaries in right wing not detected adequately.

Identification

The identification as African Openbill was straightforward, based on the unique combination of size, all-dark plumage and the characteristic bill shape, excluding all other storks. Despite the bird's rather small size compared with other African storks, the lack of any white in the plumage excluded species like, eg, Black Stork or Abdim's Stork *C abdimii*. All species of ibis, eg, Glossy Ibis, were ruled out based on the broad-winged and especially broad-handed appearance of the bird in flight, showing deeply fingered primaries, and the shape of the bill. The only stork-like bird sharing the latter feature with African Openbill is Asian Openbill *A oscitans*. However, that species is obviously different in plumage colour, showing pure white head, neck, underside, mantle and upperwing-coverts as well as red legs.

Subspecific identification is mainly based on the bird's overall size and bill structure, birds of the subspecies *A l madagascariensis* being smaller with a thinner bill. The Luxor bird showed a strikingly large bill, indicating that the bird belonged to the nominate subspecies *A l lamelligerus*.

Ageing

The bird did not show strikingly prolonged thin feathers on back and breast, which are indicative of adult males (Brown et al 1982). Therefore, it is assumed to have been a female or immature. Brown et al (1982) further states that immature birds should, however, show a speckled white hindneck. This could not be seen neither in the field nor on the photographs. It appears to be unknown until what age African Openbill is considered to be 'immature' and whether the white speckling on the hindneck disappears with increasing age in immature birds. Furthermore, younger immature birds tend to show an almost straight bill, lacking the large gap (Brown et al 1982, del Hoyo et al 1992).

The bird was in active wing moult by the end of May with already two fully grown inner primaries. This, together with the facts described above, may lead to the conclusion that it was an older immature bird.

Distribution and occurrence

African Openbill is widespread in swamps and other freshwater habitats across Africa south of the Sahel zone and is considered to be the most abundant stork in Africa (del Hoyo et al 1992). Two subspecies occur: *A l lamelligerus* in mainland Africa and *A l madagascariensis* in Madagascar (Clements 2007). Populations are suspected to be stable, with possibly tendencies of increase in eastern Africa (del Hoyo et al 1992). The northernmost breeding birds occur in Sudan, where they only stay during the breeding season (World Institute for Conservation & Environment 2010). However, Brown et al (1982) suspected the birds north of the equator to be mainly dry season visitors from November until May.

According to del Hoyo et al (1992), African Openbill mainly feeds on aquatic snails (*Pila*, *Lanistes ovum*) and water shells (*Ampullaria*) and only occasionally takes other prey like frogs or insects. The species' odd bill is specialized to extract snails or mussels from their shells. As mentioned, the Luxor bird could also be seen feeding on some kind of molluscs.

The breeding season of this species starts during the rains, but usually only when the season is already progressed. This is probably connected to the availability of food, especially snails (del Hoyo et al 1992). Breeding behaviour of African Openbill is highly opportunistic and breeding birds do not necessarily occur every year in the same place. The whole breeding process probably depends on the availability of food, and in some years, breeding may be suspended at all (cf Brown et al 1982).

The movements and migration of this species are yet to be fully understood but African Openbills are known to undertake 'some regular transequatorial movements' (del Hoyo et al 1992). Although the species' breeding range extends to both sides of the equator, 'most birds breed in southern hemisphere' (del Hoyo et al 1992). After fledging, juveniles are known to undertake expansive wanderings in search for food. In conclusion, the species can be regarded as an intra-tropical and probably also trans-equatorial migrant (cf Brown et al 1982).

The Luxor bird, which occurred c 1000 km away from the nearest breeding grounds in central Sudan, constitutes the first African Openbill to be recorded in Egypt and the Western Palearctic. The bird was unringed and showed no other possible signs of captivity. Some plumage and moult details (see above) indicated that it probably was an immature and, generally, immatures are often regarded as the best candidates to occur outside their usual range.

There are two older reports of African Openbill in Egypt: one was claimed flying over Giza Zoological Garden on 19 July 1919 (Nicoll 1919) and a single bird was noted near Qena in August 1938 (El Negumi et al 1950). However, both observations were rejected (Moldován István pers comm; cf Goodman & Meininger 1989). The Luxor bird was accepted by the recently established Egyptian Ornithological Rarities Committee (EORC) as the first for Egypt (Frédéric Jiguet pers comm; Dutch Birding 32: 265, 2010).

This is a rather unexpected addition to the list of the Western Palaearctic but on the other hand it does not seem unlikely that single birds turn up along the Nile Valley in southern Egypt from time to time. The facts that the species regularly undertakes some intra-continental migration, that juvenile birds spread widely during foraging and that the species has a rather opportunistic breeding behaviour, may seem good prerequisites for an irregular occurrence in the southernmost Western Palearctic. So, how many may have gone unnoticed because of the low densities of birdwatchers in these areas?

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Samenvatting

AFRIKAANSE GAPER BIJ LUXOR, EGYPTE, IN MEI 2009 Op 26 mei 2009 werd een Afrikaanse Gaper *Anastomus lamelligerus* waargenomen op Crocodile Island in de Nijlvallei nabij Luxor, Egypte. De determinatie was eenvoudig op grond van de combinatie van typisch formaat en structuur van een ooievaar, geheel donker kleed en de kenmerkende massieve snavel met duidelijke opening tussen de snavelhelften. Sommige details van kleed en rui wezen mogelijk op een onvolwassen vogel. Deze waarnemig betreft de eerste Afrikaanse Gaper voor Egypte en de WP en is aanvaard door de recent opgerichte Egyptian Ornithological Rarities Committee (EORC). De dichtstbijzijnde broedgebieden bevinden zich op c 1000 km afstand in Centraal-Soedan.

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Western Palearctic list updates: Denham's Bustard deleted

Denham's Bustard *Neotis denhami* is currently on the Western Palearctic (WP) list (WP as defined by Cramp & Simmons 1980) based on two observations in Tibesti in northern Chad (eg, Snow & Perrins 1998). In this paper we review them and suggest that none is sufficiently documented to justify maintaining the species on the WP list.

Distribution and movements

Del Hoyo et al (1996) recognize three subspecies, all breeding in Africa south of the Sahara. Nominate *N d denhami* breeds from south-western Mauritania, The Gambia and Senegal east to northern Uganda and Ethiopia. Most of the range is apparently situated in the southern Sahel and in the Sudanian savannahs belt (Urban et al 1986, Lamarche 1988). Further south, *N d jacksoni* breeds from Kenya and western Tanzania south to Zambia, northern Botswana and northern Zimbabwe, and also in southern Republic of Congo, western Democratic Republic of Congo (former Zaire) and south-western Angola. In South Africa and Swaziland, *N d stanleyi* occurs (del Hoyo et al 1996). Denham's Bustard is mainly a resident species but the nominate subspecies moves north in May to August and returns in September to December. Out of range movements have also been reported for both *jacksoni* and *stanleyi* (Cramp & Simmons 1980, del Hoyo et al 1996).

WP reports

Simon (1965) published two records of Denham's Bustard in his overview of species recorded in the Tibesti region, one by Guichard in 1953 and one by Tuck in 1957. None have been reported elsewhere in the WP before or since.

Zouarké west of Zouar, Tibesti, Chad, April 1953
Guichard (1955) visited northern Chad, including the Tibesti area, between 4 March and 26 April 1953. He spent his time near Zouar between 12 and 24 April, visiting the Zouarké daily. During that period, 'a large bustard with a dark crown was seen several times in the Zouarké west of Zouar, probably *Neotis cafra*' (Guichard 1955). In those days Denham's Bustard was named *N cafra* but due to confusion of nomenclature the name was suppressed (cf del Hoyo et al 1996). Guichard (1955) does not mention having seen Nubian Bustard *N nuba* in his account of the birds of Tibesti.

Zouarké between Aouar and Bardai, Tibesti, Chad, 10 July 1957
Tuck (1959ab) just mentions having seen a Denham's Bustard at the wide end of the Zouarké between Aouar and Bardai. He does not give any description except that 'these huge birds are considered rare in the Tibesti' and that the bird he saw 'ran for a considerable distance before flying off'. Tuck does not mention Nubian Bustard at all either, despite having apparently spent two month there (July-August 1957).

Discussion

None of these birds was collected or photographed, nor has a conclusive description been published. Therefore, there are no means to verify the reports, which leaves the identity of these birds open for speculation. In fact, there seem to be some inconsistencies among authors on which species of bustard occurred in the Zouarké. While Guichard (1955) and Tuck (1959ab) mention only Denham's Bustard, Simon (1965) reports having seen only Nubian Bustard there. Since he collected a specimen of Nubian, the identification of the bustards observed by him can be considered safe. Of course, there is a real possibility that both species genuinely occurred in the Zouarké. However, extensive surveys of large birds in the northern Sahelian and southern Saharan regions in the 1970s revealed the widespread occurrence of Arabian Bustard *Ardeotis arabs* (not cited either by Guichard (1955) and Tuck (1959ab)) and Nubian but not of Denham's (Thiollay et al 2006). Based on available published information, these first two species are typical components of the northern Sahelian communities while Denham's normally occurs further south. In Mauritania, Denham's occurs in the middle and southern Sahel normally south of 18°N while Nubian is typically found north of 18°N (Lamarche 1988). In Chad, recent surveys reported Denham's in more southerly areas than Nubian (Monfort et al 2004).

We conclude that the observations reported by Guichard (1955) and Tuck (1959ab) are unconvincing: they both report Denham's Bustard from the Tibesti and make no mention of Nubian Bustard or Arabian Bustard, whereas all subsequent surveys reported Nubian and Arabian in the southern Saharan margins, including Nubian in the Zouarké, but never any Denham's. Indeed, a 'large bustard with a dark crown' (Guichard 1955) could refer to either Arabian Bustard or Nubian. Because of a lack of a detailed description or any other supporting information to substantiate the identification and the distinct possibility of confusion with Arabian or Nubian, we suggest to delete Denham's from the WP list.

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Trends in systematics

Speciation in shades of grey: the great grey shrike complex

Sometimes clear-cut species limits are hard to come by. A number of widespread Palearctic species and species complexes display an intricate pattern of geographical (plumage) variation. Information on patterns of genetic variation can be a tremendous help in clarifying relationships between populations but the results are not always unambiguous. The great grey shrike complex is one such difficult case. Many may have been surprised to note the treatment of great grey shrikes in the second English edition of the Collins bird guide (Svensson et al 2009) in which two species are recognized: Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* and Iberian Grey Shrike *L meridionalis*. The latter now only includes the birds from Iberia and south-eastern France. This treatment contrasts with more familiar former treatments in which these populations were considered conspecific with North African and southern Asian taxa, together forming 'Southern Grey Shrike'.

It should be noted that the Dutch Committee for Avian Systematics (CSNA) separated Steppe Grey Shrike *L pallidirostris* as a third species (Sangster et al 1997, 1999) based on qualitative differences between *pallidirostris* and *L excubitor* and *L meridionalis*. More recently, Redactie Dutch Birding (2009) followed Gonzalez et al (2008) in regarding Iberian Grey Shrike as monotypic and the North African taxa were provisionally separated as Desert Grey Shrike *L elegans*, while other great grey shrike taxa were left undetermined for the time being.

The purpose of this short paper is to present an update on geographic variation in the great grey shrike complex based on recent genetic studies (Gonzalez et al 2008, Klassert et al 2008, Olsson et al 2010) and to show current implications for species limits within this complex. Olsson et al (2010) sampled by far the most extensively and agree with Gonzalez et al (2008) and Klassert et al (2008) on the basic structure of the phylogeny. Therefore, Olsson et al (2010) is referred to below, unless noted otherwise.

Results

The recovered mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) tree (figure 1) shows a deep split between two large clades, representing up to several million years of differentiation. In this tree, the 18 taxa of the great grey shrike complex are non-monophyletic, with some subspecies being more closely related to three universally recognized species: Somali Fiscal *L somalicus*, Loggerhead Shrike *L ludovicianus* and Chinese Grey Shrike *L sphenocercus* (Lesser Grey Shrike *L minor* was not included, but is thought to be only distantly related to the great grey shrike complex (Harris & Franklin 2000)). The latter clade furthermore includes not only one Nearctic (*borealis*) and four north-eastern Palearctic subspecies (*mollis, sibiricus, funereus* and *bianchii*) but, remarkably, also *meridionalis*. The second large clade contains, among others, nomi-

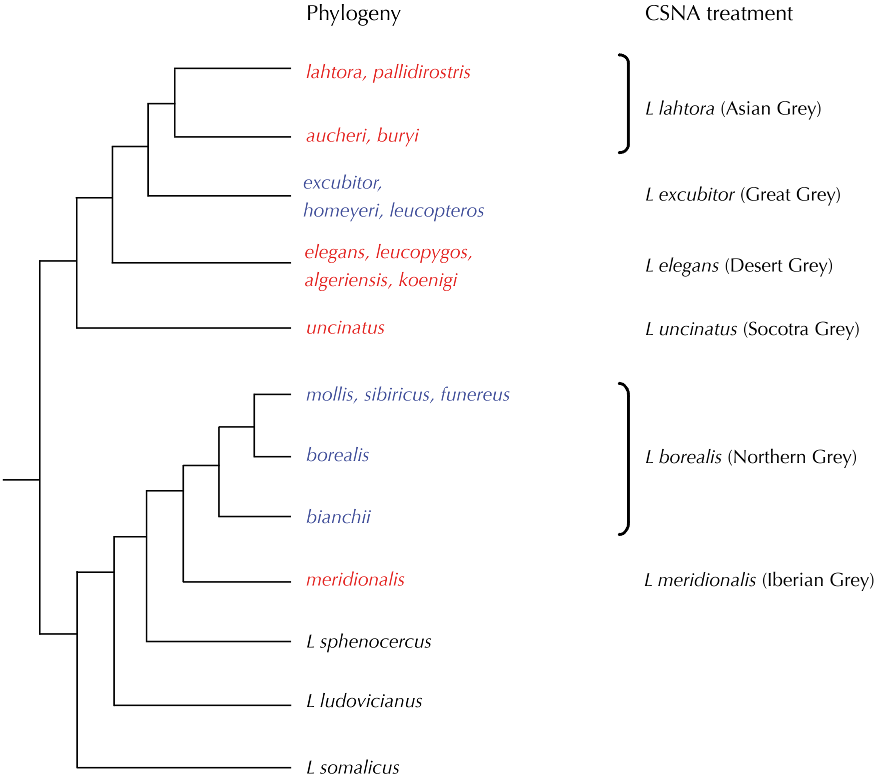
347 Iberian Grey Shrike / Iberische Klapekster *Lanius meridionalis*, Castillo Branco, Portugal, 29 June 2010 *(René Pop/The Sound Approach)*

348 Desert Grey Shrike / Woestijnklapekster *Lanius elegans elegans*, Zaafrane, Tunisia, 6 May 2005 *(René Pop)*

nate Great Grey Shrike *excubitor*, North African taxa (eg, *algeriensis*, *elegans* and *koenigi*), and south-western Asian taxa (eg, *pallidirostris*).

Perhaps the most striking outcome is the placement of *excubitor* and *meridionalis* (see figure 1), which is in conflict with usual taxonomy and surprising when considering both geography and plumage variation: *excubitor* is morphologically similar to its neighbour *sibiricus* while *meridionalis* is similar to nearby North African taxa, yet these pairs of populations are apparently not closely related. It also implies that a south-western European endemic has its closest relative in north-eastern Asia. However, such a situation is reminiscent of that in Iberian Magpie *Cyanopica cooki* and Azure-winged Magpie *C cyanus*, which were considered conspecific until recently as well (Fok et al 2002), and that in Corsican Nuthatch *Sitta whiteheadi* and Chinese Nuthatch *S villosa* (Pasquet 1998). A final similar case is that of Spanish Imperial Eagle *Aquila adalberti* and Eastern Imperial Eagle *A heliaca* (Martinez-Cruz & Godoy 2007, González 2008), although these two species are separated by a much smaller geographical area. In all these cases, the inference is that the now geographically restricted western European populations were once connected to their eastern counterparts, and that connecting populations have disappeared. One can speculate that a similar scenario may partly account for the distribution pattern in the great grey shrike complex, with additional colonizations by populations from, eg, south-western Asia ‘filling up the gaps’. This does, however, not readily explain the morphological variation in the complex, which is also at odds with the inferred relationships. But then again, plumage characteristics are not always useful phylogenetic markers as they may be influenced by

FIGURE 1 Summary of phylogenetic relationships in great grey shrikes *Lanius* found by Olsson et al (2010). All reciprocally monophyletic groups are collapsed into single branches. Colours highlight conflict between tree and previous taxonomic treatments in, eg, Svensson et al (1999), by showing fairly long-standing division between great (blue) and southern (red) grey shrikes. Most progressive treatment would involve recognizing each branch as species, whereas current CSNA treatment (not yet published in Dutch Birding) is indicated on right hand side.



349 Steppe Grey Shrike / Steppeklapekster *Lanius lahtora pallidirostris*, Kyzylkol, Kazakhstan, 11 September 2007
(René Pop)

350 Levant Grey Shrike / Levantklapekster *Lanius lahtora aucheri*, Golan, Israel, 21 March 1990
(René Pop)

natural and sexual selection and can therefore change 'too' rapidly. For instance, in neighbouring clades, similar habitats may have selected for similar plumage. Conversely, a long independent evolutionary history does not necessarily imply that two taxa develop pronounced phenotypic differences: evolutionary more recently split taxa may thus be morphologically more different to each other, than to an older relative.

It is also worth mentioning that a phylogeny based on a single independent genetic unit such as mtDNA (ie, a single locus) does not necessarily represent the true evolutionary history. For example, gene flow between Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos* and Yellowhammer *E citrinella* has led to the disappearance of the mtDNA of one of the species, and they have now identical mtDNA, while most of their nuclear DNA remains species-specific (Alström et al 2008, Irwin et al 2009). Past gene flow between some of the great grey shrike clades could similarly have affected the inferred relationships between them, although this would require more complex scenarios. The sparse nuclear genetic data on great grey shrikes obtained by Gonzalez et al (2008) and Olsson et al (2010) unfortunately do not allow for a robust verification of the mtDNA results.

Taxonomic implications

What are the potential taxonomic implications of these results? If we assume that the mtDNA tree correctly represents evolutionary history, none of the previous taxonomic treatments recognizes a monophyletic great grey shrike. Recognizing the two groups/clades as species resolves the main conflict between the mtDNA tree and taxonomic treatments. This was essentially also proposed by Klassert et al (2008), even though they did not include north-eastern Palearctic samples. The Socotran *uncinatus*, although in plumage very similar to Levant *aucheri*, pops up in a position sister to, eg, *excubitor*, North African taxa and *pallidirostris*, and is thus perhaps best granted species status as well. Although genetically less distinctive, similar arguments could be made for another island taxon, *bianchii*, from Sakhalin, Russia, and the southern Kuril Islands north of Japan. The Middle Eastern *aucheri-buryi* clade could also be separated (*aucheri* has previously been included in Desert Grey Shrike but appears more related to *pallidirostris*).

Olsson et al (2010) considered several taxonomical options as valid, including treating the great grey shrike complex as six species (Northern *L borealis*, Desert *L elegans*, Great *L excubitor*, Asian *L lahtora*, Iberian *L meridionalis* and Socotran

351 Great Grey Shrike / Klapekster *Lanius excubitor*, Oud-Alblas, Zuid-Holland, 25 January 2005 *(Arie Ouwerkerk)*

352 Dark Desert Grey Shrike / Donkere Woestijnklapekster *Lanius elegans algeriensis*, Agadir, Morocco, 4 November 2005 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*

353 Canary Islands Desert Grey Shrike / Canarische Woestijnklapekster *Lanius elegans koenigi*, Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, 23 January 2010 *(René Pop/The Sound Approach)*

Grey Shrike *L uncinatus*), and, alternatively, simply retaining only Great and Southern (ie, Iberian) Grey Shrike as full species for the time being. The uncertainty is mainly caused by the disagreement between genetic data on the one hand and morphological and geographical data on the other. CSNA (Sangster et al in prep) and Dutch Birding have chosen the former option (see 'WP bird names' under 'Vagrancy & taxonomy' at www.dutchbirding.nl; not yet published in Dutch Birding) which means, for instance, that *L lahtora* will contain Levant Grey Shrike *L l aucheri* and Steppe Grey Shrike *L l pallidirostris* as subspecies (since *lahtora* was described earlier than either *aucheri, buryi* or *pallidirostris*).

The recognition of Northern Grey Shrike as a species is also relevant to European birders, since at least *L b sibiricus* is a vagrant to Europe. In fact, one of the Norwegian samples from this study, a museum specimen collected in November 1881, was a *sibiricus*. Its identity was already suspected on basis of its plumage and could be confirmed genetically. *Sibiricus* looks similar to nominate Great Grey Shrike but useful field marks include fairly strongly barred underparts, limited white on the primaries and rectrices, and a pale mask throughout its first-winter plumage. Currently, there is at least one other European record, in Finland in March 2000.

Further research

So what can we expect for the future? First, an examination of independent genetic loci can hopefully determine whether the mtDNA pattern is telling the evolutionary truth. It is also still unclear how several taxa interact where they come into contact (eg, nominate Great Grey Shrike and *sibiricus* Northern Grey Shrike). Interestingly, two morphologically *borealis* individuals actually fell within the Loggerhead Shrike clade in the mtDNA tree, indicating ongoing occasional hybridization. Some gene flow between many of the forms may be likely but a more solid and stable taxonomy will among others depend on quantifying its extent. This interesting species complex will probably continue to stimulate research and taxonomic debate, and meanwhile birders are probably best advised to take careful notes (and photographs...) of all variants encountered.

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Aankondigingen & verzoeken

Rarities committee for Egypt The Egyptian Ornithological Rarities Committee (EORC) was launched in January 2010, to become the only adjudicator of rare bird records in Egypt. The EORC will maintain the list of birds recorded in Egypt, with the checklist published in *Birds of Egypt* (BOE; Goodman & Meininger 1989) as a starting point. Any addition to or deletion from this list will be adjudicated by the EORC, as well as any record of species with less than 10 Egyptian records (a formal list of such species will be released soon). The EORC is composed of nine voting members plus a secretary. Voting members are: Mindy Baha El Din, Sherif Baha El Din, Richard Bonser, Pierre-André Crochet, Andrew Grieve, Tomas Haraldsson, Richard Hoath, Frédéric Jiguet and Ahmed Riad. Reports on rare birds should be directed to the secretary Mary Megalli (eorc.secretary@gmail.com). The committee started its work by reporting on a first set of 38 rarity records, including 28 potential additions to the official checklist of Egyptian birds. Within the already examined records reaching a consensus was the African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus* observed by Benjamin Steffen on Crocodile Island on 26 May 2009 (Dutch Birding 32: 254-256, 2010). The description and provided pictures left no doubt about the specific identification, while the committee considered that there were no elements to discredit a wild origin for this bird, the species being added in category A of the Egyptian checklist, and as a direct consequence on the Western Palaearctic list, too. Goodman & Meininger (1989) report that Negumi Pasha found an 'Open-billed Stork' in Qena in August 1938, chased it but could not shoot it. Negumi Pasha spent a long time in Sudan and thus had good experience with birds of that region. Although BOE rejected the record, it might have more merit, particularly in light of this more recent observation in the same region.

A dedicated website will be developed in the future, to give access to the EORC's reports, and for the time being, a suggested rarity record form can be downloaded from www2.mnhn.fr/crbpo/IMG/doc/EORC_AERC_form.doc.

We hope to receive your reports on the rare birds in Egypt! FRÉDÉRIC JIGUET & EORC

DBA-nieuws

Nieuwe voorzitter en medewerkers Oplettende lezers hebben in het laatste nummer van Dutch Birding al kunnen lezen dat de functie van voorzitter van de Stichting Dutch Birding Association voor de komende jaren is ingevuld. Op de bestuursvergadering van 20 mei 2010 kwam een einde aan het tijdelijke 'duo-voorzitterschap' van Arjan van Egmond en Han Zevenhuizen en werd Arjan officieel aangesteld als voorzitter en opvolger van Gijsbert van der Bent.

Ook de kernredactie van Dutch Birding heeft voorafgaand aan deze bestuursvergadering zich positief uitgesproken over de voordracht van Arjan. Met inachtneming van de in 2009 voor DBA-bestuursleden ingestelde driejaarstermijnen (met herbenoeming voor maximaal eenzelfde periode) neemt Arjan de voorzittershamer dus over tot medio 2012. Het bestuur is verheugd met deze uitkomst en ziet de komende jaren met Arjan aan het roer met vertrouwen tegemoet!

Door zijn aanstelling als voorzitter zal Arjan een aantal van zijn huidige taken neerleggen. Momenteel wordt binnen het bestuur gewerkt aan een gepaste verdeling van de 'portefeuilles' waarbij niet is uitgesloten dat het aantal leden wordt uitgebreid.

Inmiddels is in Alwin Borhem iemand gevonden die het bestuur wil ondersteunen in taken als de organisatie van evenementen als de Dutch Birding-Vogeldag en het Texelweekend. Steven Wytema heeft aangegeven dat hij zich de komende tijd wil bezighouden met nieuwe ontwikkelingen voor de website. BESTUUR DUTCH BIRDING ASSOCIATION

Corrigenda

De vogel in plaat 287 (Dutch Birding 32: 213, 2010) betreft niet een vrouwtje Balkanvliegenvanger *Ficedula semitorquata* maar een adult mannetje Bonte Vliegenvanger *F hypoleuca*. Wij danken onder anderen Raffael Ayé, Nils van Duivendijk, Jyrki Normaja en Arend Wassink voor het onder de aandacht brengen van deze verkeerde determinatie. REDACTIE

The bird in plate 287 (Dutch Birding 32: 213, 2010) is not a female Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata* but an adult male Pied Flycatcher *F hypoleuca*. We thank, among others, Raffael Ayé, Nils van Duivendijk, Jyrki Normaja and Arend Wassink for pointing out this wrong identification. EDITORS

WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic mainly from **June to late July 2010**. The reports are largely unchecked and their publication here does not imply future acceptance by a rarities committee. Observers are requested to submit their records to each country's rarities committee. Corrections are welcome and will be published.

SWANS TO GROUSE In Drenthe, another breeding record of **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus* concerned a female ringed as a young in 2007 and paired with an unringed male; the first breeding record for the Netherlands was in this province in 2005 (Dutch Birding 28: 15-18, 2006) and, similarly, the first breeding for Denmark was as recent as 2002. Also in the Netherlands, the adult male **Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola* in its sixth winter at Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland, was last seen on 1 June, its longest stay ever. The fifth **King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis* for Spain was a female at Rambla de Albujón, Murcia, from 14 May to at least 6 June. Quintela et al (Mol Ecol 19: 2380-2393, 2010) published genetical evidence showing **Willow Ptarmigan** *Lagopus lagopus lagopus* and **Red Grouse** *L (l) scotica* to belong to different evolutionary significant units with specific markers prompting a reassessment of the taxonomic status of the latter.

SEABIRDS In England, an adult **Black-browed Albatross** *Thalassarche melanophris* flew past Flamborough Head, East Yorkshire, on 26 May. The identification at sea of **Desertas** *Pterodroma deserta*, **Fea's** *P feae* and **Zino's Petrel** *P madeira* has been dealt with by a paper with numerous photographs in Birding World 23: 239-275, 2010. The first **Cape Verde Shearwater** *Calonectris edwardsii* for the Canary Islands was trapped in a Cory's Shearwater *C borealis* colony at Montaña Clara, Chinijo, Lanzarote, on 6 June. A male **Barolo Shearwater** *Puffinus baroli* was singing in the Manx Shearwater *P puffinus* colony on Lundy, Devon, from 7 June (the only previous one in a British shearwater colony was a male on Skomer, Pembrokeshire, Wales, in 1982 and 1983). On 6 July, one was reported past Lista lighthouse, Vest-Agder, Norway. A **Flesh-footed Shearwater** *P carneipes* off Kalba on 11-12 June was the second for United Arab Emirates (160 were counted from Ras al Hadd, Oman, on 29-31 May). A **Swinhoe's Storm Petrel** *Oceanodroma monorhis* was videoed off Madeira on 3 June. An adult **tropicbird** *Phaethon* flew past the ferry between Lanzarote and Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, on 14 July. A **Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster* was seen in Huelva, Spain, on 22 July.

CORMORANTS TO GREBES The **Pygmy Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* at Ooijpolder and surroundings, Gelderland, the Netherlands, from 9 May was last seen on 12 June. Dark-morph **Western Reef Herons** *Egretta gularis* were present at Fiélouse, Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, until at least 30 May, at Ebre delta, Tarragona, Spain, on 13 June and in Loire, France, on 17-18 June. The long-stayer at Oued Ksob near Essaouira, Morocco, was still present on 10 July. The **Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* at Paul da Praia, Terceira, Azores, from 15 February stayed until at least 4 June; another turned up at Lagoa Funda, Flores, on 2 June. The first successful breeding of **Purple Heron** *A purpurea* for Britain took place at Dungeness, Kent, through May-June. In eastern Belgium, the number of breeding **Black Storks** *Ciconia nigra* in Ardennen increased from a first nest found in 1989 to c 60 pairs this year. In north-western France, one of five **Greater Flamingos** *Phoenicopterus roseus* at Baie de Somme, Somme, from 28 June was ringed in the Camargue colony in 2005 and had subsequently been seen in Portugal in 2006-08 and in the Camargue briefly in spring 2010 (previous northern records of Camargue-ringed flamingos include one in a flock of six at Fanel, Lac de Neuchâtel, Switzerland, in September-November 1998). In the Azores, one **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* at Lagoa Azul, São Miguel, from April was still present in June. On 26 May, BirdLife International declared **Alaotra Grebe** *Tachybaptus rufolavatus* as extinct; this species was restricted to Alaotra lake in eastern Madagascar where the last one was documented in 1985. The cause of its extinction were the introduction of alien fish species and new fishery methods such as the use of nylon gill-nets.

RAPTORS TO CRANES In Belgium, yet another **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* was seen on 29 June in Liège (two or three were found in April). If accepted, a **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* reported on Santa Maria on 25 June will be the first for Azores. Like last year, a pair bred successfully at Pietersplas, Limburg, the Netherlands, with one young ringed (there is only a handful of previous breeding records). Also in the Netherlands, two of three breeding attempts of **White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* were unsuccessful as the eggs did not hatch (cf Dutch Birding 32: 205, 2010). In Normandy, France, three **Bearded Vultures** *Gypaetus barbatus* flew past NNW over Coutances on 8 July; as in other vagrant sightings of this species in northern Europe, these birds probably relate to recent introductions such as in the Alps (where 11 pairs of the re-introduced population raised a chick this year). On 19 May, the first **Cinereous Vulture** *Aegypius monachus* for Finland migrated past Mietoistenlahti to Perniö; the next day, it was flying eastward in southern Finland and on 21 May it went to Russia. The famous satellite-tracked **Greater Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga* ('Tõnn') born in western Estonia in 2008 and wintering at El Hondo reservoir, Alicante, Spain, in 2008-09 and 2009-10, was tracked (but not seen) at various localities in Norway during 1-14 June (cf Dutch Birding 31: 191, 2009, 32: 205, 2010, Falke 56 (1): 34-35, 2009). In 16 years of genetic monitoring of a mixed population in Estonia, it was shown that wide-

354 Marmora's Warbler / Sardijnse Grasmus *Sylvia sarda*, first-summer male, Blaenavon, Gwent, Wales, 12 June 2010 *(Dave Stewart)*

355 White-crowned Wheatear / Witkruintapuit *Oenanthe leucopyga*, Saltbækvig, Sjælland, Denmark, 1 July 2010 *(Klaus Malling Olsen)*

356 Magnificent Frigatebird / Amerikaanse Fregatvogel *Fregata magnificens*, male, Boavista, Cape Verde Islands, 12 April 2010 *(Hans-Joachim Fünfstück)*

357 White-tailed Lapwing / Witstaartkievit Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*, Seaforth, Merseyside, England, 28 May 2010 *(Steve Round)*

358 Rüppell's Vulture / Rüppells Gier *Gyps rueppellii*, Portas de Ródão, Portugal, 1 July 2010 *(René Pop/The Sound Approach)*

359 Barolo Shearwater / Kleine Pijlstormvogel *Puffinus baroli*, off Graciosa, Azores, 31 May 2010 *(Peter Alfrey)*

spread hybridization with **Lesser Spotted Eagle** *A pomarina* is a significant threat for the survival of the populations of **Greater Spotted Eagle**, as hybridization appears to be an intermediate step before its disappearance (Biol J Linn Soc 100: 725-736, 2010). A **Bonelli's Eagle** *A fasciata* photographed at Petit Chézard, Neuenburg, on 24 May was (only) the first for Switzerland. In Brandenburg, Germany, a second-year **Eastern Imperial Eagle** *A heliaca* was present on 4 July. A male **Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni* on Gotland on 14-17 June was the 15th for Sweden. A female **Amur Falcon** *F amurensis* photographed at Sabah Al-Ahmed natural reserve on 29 May was the first for Kuwait. In Mongolia, one of the largest exporters of **Saker Falcons** *F cherrug* to Arabia, export quota of 240 a year were set on 1 July (www.ubpost.mongolnews.mn/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4942&Itemid=36). The first summering of a **Gyr Falcon** *F rusticolus* for Denmark concerned a first-summer at Bygholm Vejle, Nordjylland, through May and June. In Iceland, a **Common Crane** *Grus grus* stayed at Hvalnes from 14 June onwards.

WADERS An **Oriental Pratincole** *Glareola maldivarum* photographed at Stadil Fjord, Vestjylland, on 26 May was the first for Denmark perhaps constituting the same individual as the one at Frampton, Lincolnshire, England, from 9 to 19 May (cf Dutch Birding 32: 205, 2010). The first breeding of **Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus* for the WP occurred on Santa Maria, Azores, where a pair with two young was photographed on 29 May. A **Sociable Lapwing** *Vanellus gregarius* at Rabakyla on 20 June was the first for Estonia. Possibly the same **White-tailed Lapwing** *V leucurus* was seen at Seaforth, Merseyside, England, on 27-28 May, at Kennemerduinen, Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, on 29 May, on Texel, Noord-Holland, briefly on 18 June, at Rainham Marshes, Essex/London, England, on 7 July, in Gloucestershire on 8-10 July and at Dungeness, Kent, on 11-21 July. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla* was found at Westkapelle, Zeeland, the Netherlands, on 23 July. On 20 May, an adult **Red-necked Stint** *C ruficollis* turned up at Lagune Quancard-Réserve Ornithologique, Le Teich, Gironde, France. The first **Baird's Sandpiper** *C bairdii* for the Faeroes was photographed at Fámjin, Suðuroy, on 22-23 May. Evidence from the breeding areas of **Spoon-billed Sandpiper** *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* in north-western Russia indicates a decline of 88% between 2002 and 2009, when 120-220 pairs remained (this decline coincides with the demise of Saemangeum and other mudflats in Korea; cf Dutch Birding 25: 269, 2003, 29: 175-179, 2007). In the Azores, a **Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago delicata* was displaying on Terceira on 6 June (Common Snipe *G gallinago* occurs here as well). The first **Wilson's Snipe** for Iceland was a displaying male at Engidalur on 13-17 June (the species was also found in Finland in late April; cf Dutch Birding 32: 208, 2010). A presumed pair of **Swinhoe's Snipe** *G megala* was displaying at Kwarkush in the northern Ural mountains, European Russia, on 19 June. The origin of an unlabeled specimen of **Slender-billed Curlew** *Numenius tenuirostris* at Steijl, Limburg, has been unravelled; it appears to have been shot at Zierikzee, Zeeland, on 5 December 1888, constituting one of nine records for the Netherlands and chronologically the second. An adult-summer **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* was seen in Puy-de-Dôme, France, on 28 May. Newly developed ultra-light geolocators made it possible to follow the migration of four tagged **Ruddy Turnstones** *Arenaria interpres* from and to south-eastern Australia. It appeared that it took them six days in April 2009 to fly non-stop 7600 km to Taiwan, three flying together, before they continued to northern Siberia using separate routes and stop-over sites. From late July, one of them spent 12 weeks on the Aleutian Islands before flying 6200 km in four days across the Pacific to Kiribati and then another 5000 km in four days to eastern Australia before arriving in south-eastern Australia five days later, covering a total of 27 000 km (Br Birds 103: 309, 2010). In Israel, a **Red Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius* stayed at Eilat on 21-23 May. **Wilson's Phalaropes** *P tricolor* were found at Seaforth on 22-25 May, in Niedersachsen, Germany, from 13 June and at Saint-Denis-du-Payré, Vendée, France, from 23 June.

GULLS TO AUKS A record 4900 pairs of **Slender-billed Gull** *Chroicocephalus genei* for Sardinia were nesting at Molentargius near Cagliari in mid-June (up to 900 pairs of **Audouin's Gulls** *Larus audouinii* breeding in the south of Sardinia also constituted a record number). A first-summer **Bonaparte's Gull** *C philadelphia* was seen at Barton-upon-Humber, Lincolnshire, on 28 June and 1 July. In Norway, an adult **Franklin's Gull** *L pipixcan* was photographed at Revtangen, Rogaland, on 20 June and another stayed in Staffordshire, England, from 15 July onwards. **Mediterranean Gulls** *L melanocephalus* bred for the second time both in Sardinia (first was in 1997) and Sweden. A **Bridled Tern** *Onychoprion anaethetus* at Getterön, Halland, on 5 June was the second for Sweden. On 21 June, one was photographed at East Chevington, Northumberland, England. In the Azores, three **Sooty Terns** *O fuscatus* were seen on Ilhéu da Vila, Santa Maria, from 25 June. An adult **Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* at Puhkiavanperä, Liminganlahti, Lumijoki, from (4 or) 17 June to at least 29 June was (only) the third for Finland and the first twitchable. The **Elegant Tern** *Sterna elegans* was again seen on Île de Noirmoutier, Vendée, France, in June-July. The adult **Forster's Tern** *S forsteri* at Tacumshin, Wexford, Ireland, from 11 November 2009 stayed until at least 24 June. An adult-summer **Thick-billed Murre** *Uria lomvia* was reportedly seen from a ferry leaving Hoy, Orkney, Scotland, on 28 June.

PARAKEETS TO SWIFTS In the Netherlands, 9802 **Ring-necked Parakeets** *Psittacula krameri* were counted at six roosts in five towns (3776 at Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, 5007 at Den Haag, Zuid-Holland, 410 at Haarlem, Noord-Holland, 540 at Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland, and 69 at Utrecht, Utrecht) on 9-10 January, an increase from 5409 on 12 November 2004 with actual numbers probably being even higher. Similar numbers occur in neighbouring countries (8250 in Brussels,

360 Terek Sandpipers / Terekruiters *Xenus cinereus*, Turov, Belarus, 11 June 2010
(Ronald Messemaker)

361 Eurasian Stone-curlew / Griel *Burhinus oedicnemus*, Rutten-Tongeren, Limburg, Belgium, 9 May 2010
(Dirk Ottenburghs)

362 Fork-tailed Swift / Siberische Gierzwaluw *Apus pacificus*, Vestamager, Copenhagen, Denmark, 15 June 2010 *(Henrik Mikkelsen)* **363** Wilson's Snipe / Amerikaanse Watersnip *Gallinago delicata*, Engidalur, Iceland, 13 June 2010 *(Yann Kolbeinsson)* **364** Short-toed Snake Eagle / Slangenarend *Circaetus gallicus*, Brecht, Antwerpen, Belgium, 21 July 2010 *(Kris De Rouck)* **365** Monteiro's Storm Petrel / Monteiro's Stormvogeltje *Oceanodroma monteiroi*, off Graciosa, Azores, 31 May 2010 *(Peter Alfrey)* **366** Great Spotted Cuckoo / Kuifkoekoek *Clamator glandarius*, juvenile, Zwanenwater, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 12 July 2010 *(Fred Koning)* **367** Common Crane / Kraanvogel *Grus grus*, Hvalnes í Lóni, Iceland, 27 June 2010 *(Cor van der Zwet)*

368 Isabelline Wheatear / Izabeltapuit *Oenante isabellina*, Bichterweerd, Limburg, Belgium, 27 May 2010 *(Ran Schols)* **369** Caspian Stonechat / Kaspische Roodborsttapuit *Saxicola maurus variegatus*, adult male, Gotska Sandön, Gotland, Sweden, 6 June 2010 *(Clas Cronlund)* **370** White-crowned Wheatear / Witkruintapuit *Oenanthe leucopyga*, Saltbækvig, Sjælland, Denmark, 1 July 2010 *(Klaus Malling Olsen)* **371** Presumed hybrid White-crowned x Western Mourning Wheatear / vermoedelijke hybride Witkruintapuit x Westelijke Rouwtapuit *Oenanthe leucopyga x halophila*, male, Tagdilt track, Boumalne-du-Dades, Morocco, June 2010 *(Rob Felix)* **372** White-throated Sparrow / Witkeelgors *Zonotrichia albicollis*, male, Skørping, Nordjylland, Dennmark, 6 July 2010 *(Martin Gottschling)* **373** Red-headed Bunting / Bruinkopgors *Emberzia bruniceps*, male, between Nizana and Azuz, Israel, 15 May 2010 *(Amir Ben Dov)*

374 Song Sparrow / Zanggors *Melospiza melodia*, Nidingen, Halland, Sweden, 29 May 2010 *(Uno Unger)*

375 Trumpeter Finch / Woestijnvink *Bucanetes githagineus*, male, Cley-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, England, 2 June 2010 *(Kevin Du Rose)*

Belgium, 10 000 in Britain, 7500 in Germany). A juvenile **Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius* at Zwanenwater, Noord-Holland, from 12 July was the 21st or 22nd for the Netherlands and the second for June-July (after a juvenile on 28-29 July 1995). At the blue fountain tea garden of Birecik, Turkey, two adult and four young **Pallid Scops Owls** *Otus brucei* were seen on 21 June. In southern Turkey, last year's pair of **Brown Fish Owl** *Bubo zeylonensis* produced another young in June while in March the species was found at two other sites a long way apart. After a review of British records of **Northern Hawk-Owl** *Surnia ulula* (Br Birds 103: 276-283, 2010), four were deemed acceptable; three in Scotland in December 1860, on 21 November 1898 and from 12 to 21 September 1983 concerned the nominate *S u ulula* while one taken on board a ship a few miles off Cornwall, England, in March 1830 was an **American Hawk-Owl** *S u caparoch*. Previous British records of American Hawk-Owl in Somerset in 1847 and in Strathclyde in 1863 and 1868 are no longer considered acceptable; this taxon's only other WP report was off the Canary Islands involving an immature male that 'flew onto a ship off Las Palmas and was kept alive until reaching Rotterdam harbour', Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands, before it was delivered to Rotterdam Zoo on 7 November 1924 (the specimen is in the Naturalis collection, Leiden, Zuid-Holland, and it has not been accepted by a relevant rarities committee, yet). Two pairs of **Great Grey Owls** *Strix nebulosa* at Lasy Sobiborskie, Lubelskie, near the borders of Belarus and Ukraine, constituted the first successful breeding for Poland (lto.most.org.pl/index.php?go=ciekawe_obserwacje). The first **Fork-tailed Swift** *Apus pacificus* for Spain was reported at A Frouxeira, A Coruña, on 13 June. The first for Denmark was present for more than 3.5 h at Hejresøen, Vestamager, on 15 June and seen by c 200 birders. The fourth for Sweden was watched by a single observer at Halmstad, Halland, on 19 June.

BEE-EATERS TO LARKS The fifth **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *Merops persicus* for Sweden was seen on Gotland on 7-8 June. In north-western France, one was photographed north of Dunkerque, Pas-de-Calais, on 22 July. In the Netherlands, numbers of **Middle Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos medius* are still increasing; for instance, in the Twente region, Overijssel, 80 territories (from 54 in 2009) were counted and a record total of at least 75 territories in the Limburg province. An adult **Bay-backed Shrike** *Lanius vittatus* feeding two juveniles at Masafi on 7 June constituted the first breeding record for United Arab Emirates (and second for Arabia). On 6 July, two adult and a recently fledged juvenile **Pied Crows** *Corvus albus* were seen at the now well-known site 169 km north of Dakhla, Western Sahara, Morocco. In Norway, a **Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra* stayed at Røkmyra, Smøla, Møre og Romsdal, on 5-20 June.

WARBLERS Despite a severe winter, this spring a record 250 **Cetti's Warblers** *Cettia cetti* were singing at Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant (only seven were counted here in 2005 and 53 in 2007); in the rest of the Netherlands, the species is still scarce and it disappeared from a few northern sites in Noord-Holland. A **Pallas's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus* was trapped on Gotland on 21 May. A singing **Iberian Chiffchaff** *P ibericus* at Brownstown Head, Waterford, on 16 June was the first for Ireland. The species was also reported for the first time in Norway this spring, with a second at Munkeby, Nord-Trøndelag, on 5-27 June. Up to seven were singing in the Netherlands in May-June. A first-summer male **Marmora's Warbler** *Sylvia sarda* singing at Blorenge, Gwent, on 3-15 June was the first for Wales and the fifth or sixth for Britain (previous ones were in May-July 1982 in South Yorkshire, in June 1992 in East Yorkshire, in May 1993 in Borders, and in May 2001 in Norfolk and Suffolk; there are also records in May 1997 in Belgium and in June 2005 in Denmark; cf Birding World 23: 235-237, 2010). In a paper on taxonomical diagnosability in the *S cantillans* complex, Brambilla et al (J Ornithol 151: 309-315, 2010) present data showing that in **Moltoni's Warbler** *S subalpina* morphological and genetic features correspond and that this is not the case in **Eastern Subalpine Warbler** *S c albistriata* (ie, 30-50% of the individuals showing plumage characters of Eastern were in fact **Western Subalpine Warbler** *S c cantillans* while, on the other hand, those classified as obvious Western by phenotype were indeed Western by genotype). The fifth **Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta* for Denmark occurred at Blåvands Huk, Ribe, on 6-8 June. The newly described **Mangrove Olivaceous Warbler** *Iduna pallida alulensis* in Somalia (Ibis 147: 841-843, 2005) now appears to occur along the Red Sea coast of Egypt (Birding World 23: 215-217, 2010). In Finland, 19 **Booted Warblers** *I caligata* were singing between 15 May and 29 June, and one was found in Estonia. In J Ornithol 151: 513-517, 2010, photographs and genetic evidence is presented of a wild male hybrid **Marsh x Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris x schoenobaenus* (Marsh as mother and Sedge as father) that occurred in three breeding seasons in 2007-09 near Trondheim, Norway, where Marsh had not been recorded before. The bird with wing length of 70 mm looked like a Marsh with a long and broad yellowish supercilium and some dark streaking on forehead and crown, while its song was described as typical of a Marsh but with some harsh chattering and frequent song flights. See for other *Acrocephalus* hybrids, eg, Dutch Birding 21: 34-37, 1999 (Marsh x Blyth's Reed Warbler *A dumetorum*), 23: 83-85, 2001 (Marsh x Blyth's Reed in the Netherlands) and 29: 223-231, 2007 (Sedge x European Reed Warbler *A scirpaceus*). A **Paddyfield Warbler** *A agricola* trapped at Laajalahti, Espoo, on 21 July was (already) the 44th for Finland.

THRUSHES In Finland, at least 266 territories of **Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus* were counted between 12 May and 23 June, including six in the south. The second **Caspian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus variegatus* for Sweden was an adult male photographed on Gotland on 6 June; the first was an adult male in Halland on 27 May 2008. The second **Isabelline Wheatear**

Oenanthe isabellina for Belgium was present at Rotem, Bichterweerd, Limburg, on 26-28 May. A male **Seebohm's Wheatear** *O seebohmi* photographed at Castillo del Romeral, Gran Canaria, on 19 June was the first for the Canary Islands (there are no records for mainland Spain; a male occurred in Gibraltar in April 2005). A **White-crowned Wheatear** *O leucopyga* was present at Capo Murro di Porco, Sicily, Italy, on 11-16 May. The first for Denmark was a male at Saltbækvig, Sjælland, from 30 June to at least 3 July; previous records in north-western Europe were in Suffolk, England, on 2-5 June 1982 and in Germany on 9-13 May 1986 (the latter was placed in 'category D'). In April, a presumed male hybrid **Western Mourning x White-crowned Wheatear** *O halophila x leucopyga* paired with a female Western Mourning Wheatear was photographed along the Tagdilt track near Boumalne, Morocco. The alleged male **Semicollared Flycatcher** *Ficedula semitorquata* trapped on Cabrera, Balearic Islands, Spain, on 27 April (Dutch Birding 32: 213-214, 2010) concerned a Pied Flycatcher *F hypoleuca*.

SPARROWS TO AMERICAN WARBLERS It appears that the female **Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniolensis* photographed and sound-recorded at IJmuiden, Noord-Holland, on 6 May was no longer present on 7 May (contra Dutch Birding 32: 214, 2010). In France, a singing male was discovered at Condamine, Valensole, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, on 20 July. The first **Yellow-throated Petronia** *Gymnoris xanthocollis* for Egypt was photographed at Marsa Alam on 6 June. In France, an adult female **Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola* was paired with a male Blue-headed Wagtail *M flava* and feeding young at Courtranges, Aube, from 22 May. A male **Trumpeter Finch** *Bucanetes githagineus* at Blakeney Point and Cley, Norfolk, from 31 May to 2 June was the 15th for Britain. The eighth for Sweden was seen at Ottenby, Öland, on 6-8 July. The third **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus* for Flores, Azores, this spring was a male found at Lajes das Flores on 20 May (others were a male on 22 April and a female on 19 May). The first **Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia* for Sweden was trapped on Nidingen on 28 May and remained until 1 June. No less than six **White-throated Sparrows** *Zonotrichia albicollis* were found in Britain: on Fair Isle, Shetland, on 19-20 May; at Spiggie, Mainland, Shetland, on 21 May (killed by a cat); on St Agnes, Scilly, on 26 May (the first American sparrow for Scilly!); at Woodbridge, Suffolk, on 6 June; on Bardsey, Gwynedd, on 11 June and at Fulbeck, Lincolnshire, on 18-19 June. The second for Denmark was singing at Skørping, Nordjylland, from perhaps 20 June to at least 16 July (the first was on 23 May 1976). In south-eastern France, two male **Black-headed Buntings** *Emberiza melanocephala* were singing this spring at St Géniez, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, from 12 June to mid-July; elsewhere in the south-east two were seen. A **Pallas's Reed Bunting** *E pallasi* was photographed on a research vessel at Dogger Bank, North Sea, on 9 June and picked up dead the next day; if accepted, it will be the fourth for Britain. In England, a male **Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater* was photographed in a garden in Seaburn, Durham, on 10 May; there had been a male in France on 4 May (cf Dutch Birding 32: 214, 2010). The second for Norway was a male photographed in a garden at Tynset, Hedmark, on 15 May; the first was seen on 1 June 1987. Studies in a narrow hybridization zone of **Myrtle Warbler** *Dendroica coronata* and **Audubon's Warbler** *D auduboni* resulted in the AOU decision in 1973 to lump them into Yellow-rumped Warbler (Auk 90: 411-419, 1973). However, in Evolution 63: 3050-3060, 2009, Brelsford & Irwin concluded that the two taxa are stable and genetically distinct forms, with parts of their genomes remaining distinct despite extensive hybridization, and the hybrid zone being 'narrow and stable', while selection maintains differences between the taxa. They therefore suggest that these two taxa may meet the current criterion for full species status between hybridizing North American birds. For the reasons why the Dutch committee for avian systematics (CSNA) decided to regard these two taxa as specifically distinct, see Dutch Birding 19: 25, 1997. The two non-migratory 'yellow-rumped warbler taxa' Black-fronted Warbler *D nigrifrons* (Arizona/Mexico) and Goldman's Warbler *D goldmani* (Mexico/Guatemala) are regarded as morphologically and genetically distinct allopatric species (Mol Ecol 16: 159-173, 2007).

For a number of reports, Birding, Birding World, Birdwatch, Limicola, Ornithos, Sovon-nieuws, www.birdguides.com, www.netfugl.dk and www.rarebirdalert.co.uk were consulted. We wish to thank Peter Adriaens, Peter Alfrey, Raffael Ayé, Mindy Baha El Din, Chris Batty, Soner Bekir, Max Berlijn, Richard Bonser, Axel Bräunlich, Han Buckx, Martijn Bunskoek, Paco Chiclana, Rolf Christensen, José Luis Copete, Andrea Corso, Pierre-André Crochet, Loes Demmendaal, Kris De Rouck, Hugues Dufourny, Nils van Duivendijk, Enno Ebels, Ilona Eisen, Tobias Epple, Lee Evans, Rob Felix, Amine Flitti, Jacques Franchimont, Tommy Frandsen, Raymond Galea (Malta), Steve Gantlett, Barak Granit, Geert Groot Koerkamp, Marcello Grussu, Ricard Gutiérrez (Spain), Erik Hirschfeld, Justin Jansen, Thierry Jansen, João Jara (Birds & Nature Tours), Yann Kolbeinsson, Hans Lenten, André van Loon, Daniel López Velasco, Klaus Malling Olsen, Gerbrand Michielsen (Azores), Richard Millington, Dominic Mitchell, Geir Mobakken (Norway), José García Monzón, Killian Mullarney, Jyrki Normaja, Gert Ottens, Yoav Perlman (IRDC), Gunnlaugur Pétursson, Magnus Robb, Staffan Rodebrand, Hugo Romano, Peter de Rouw, Luciano Ruggieri, Michael Sammut, Roy Slaterus, Darryl Spittle, Chris Townend, Ruud Vlek, Rik Winters, Pim Wolf, Steven Wytema, Emin Yogurtcuoğlu, Mark Zekhuis, Maxime Zucca and Cor van der Zwet for sharing their observations via internet and their help in compiling this review.

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Recente meldingen

Dit overzicht van recente meldingen van zeldzame en interessante vogels in Nederland beslaat voornamelijk de periode **mei-juni 2010**. 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, p/a Duinlustparkweg 98A, 2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid, Nederland, e-mail cdna@dutchbirding.nl. Hiertoe gelieve men gebruik te maken van CDNA-waarnemingsformulieren die verkrijgbaar zijn via de website van de DBA op www.dutchbirding.nl of bovenstaand adres.

EENDEN TOT FAZANTEN **Rosse Fluiteenden** *Dendrocygna bicolor* hielden de gemoederen bezig tot 14 mei bij Amerongen, Utrecht (vijf), en van 25 juni tot in juli in De Hamert, Limburg (drie). Ook **Sneeuwganzen** *Anser caerulescens* verlevendigden deze periode, met onder meer een witte en een blauwe vorm die op 2 mei langs Westerslag vlogen op Texel, Noord-Holland. Een **Ross' Gans** *A rossii* bleef tot 17 mei in de Ezumakeeg, Friesland, van 19 tot 22 mei hield een exemplaar zich op bij Marrum, Friesland, en op 29 mei verscheen er opnieuw één in de Ezumakeeg. Ongetwijfeld van dubieuze herkomst maar interessant genoeg om te volgen was een ongeringd paar **Dwergganzen** *A erythropus* vanaf 23 juni bij Zwolle, Overijssel. **Roodhalsganzen** *Branta ruficollis* werden in mei alleen nog gezien in het uiterste noorden (Terschelling, Friesland, Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, Lauwersmeergebied, Friesland/Groningen, en Dollard, Groningen). Na hoge aantallen in de winter bleven **Witbuikrotganzen** *B hrota* tot eind mei goed vertegenwoordigd, met name in het Waddengebied. Grote groepen werden niet meer aangetroffen maar op meerdere plekken bevonden zich kleine aantallen tussen Rotganzen *B bernicla*. Doortrekkers werden opgemerkt op 14 mei bij Bloemendaal aan Zee, Noord-Holland (twee), en op 24 mei bij Camperduin, Noord-Holland. De laatste **Zwarte Rotganzen** *B nigricans* van het seizoen werden op 26 mei gemeld op Terschelling (drie), en bij Ternaard, Groningen. Mannetjes **Ringsnaveleend** *Aythya collaris* verbleven van 25 april tot 3 mei langs de Philipsdam, Zeeland, en van 3 tot 11 mei in Waterpark Oude Zeug, Noord-Holland. Het mannetje **Kleine Topper** *A affinis* van Waterpark Oude Zeug bleef tot 15 mei, het mannetje **Buffelkopeend** *Bucephala albeola* van de Gaatkensplas bij Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland, tot 1 juni (zijn

376 Witstaartkievit / White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*, Vogelmeer, Kennemerduinen, Noord-Holland, 29 mei 2010 *(Pieter van Veelen)*

langste voorjaarsverblijf tot nu toe), en het mannetje **Brilzee-eend** *Melanitta perspicillata* van de zuidpunt van Texel eveneens tot 1 juni. In mei werden zes doortrekkende **IJseenden** *Clangula hyemalis* langs de westkust gezien en op 17 juni passeerde er nog één Camperduin en Petten, Noord-Holland. Een mannetje **Blauwvleugeltaling** *Anas discors* bevond zich op 22 en 23 juni bij Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland. Mannetjes **Amerikaanse Wintertalingen** *A carolinensis* zwommen van 29 april tot 4 mei in de Brabantse Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant, op 7 mei in de Sliedrechtse Biesbosch, Zuid-Holland, en van 2 tot 14 mei in de Ezumakeeg. In de Kennemerduinen bij Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland, werden 27 **Kwartels** *Coturnix coturnix* geringd, vrijwel allemaal in de eerste decade van juni. Ook bij Castricum, Noord-Holland, hingen er nog drie in de netten.

DUIKERS TOT SPERWERS De influx van **Parelduikers** *Gavia arctica* ging vrolijk door: op trektelposten werden in totaal 148 exemplaren genoteerd, waarvan vijf in juni. Ruim 90% was afkomstig van de Noord-Hollandse kust. Het voorjaarstotaal (maart-juni) kwam daarmee uit op c 440. Een winterkleed **IJsduiker** *G immer* zwom op 1 mei nog op de Roompot in de Oosterschelde, Zeeland. Langs trektelposten in Noord- en Zuid-Holland vlogen in deze periode 38 **Noordse Stormvogels** *Fulmarus glacialis*. **Noordse Pijlstormvogels** *Puffinus puffinus* passeerden op 31 mei De Koog op Texel en op 12 en 20 juni Camperduin. Een **Dwergaalscholver** *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* hield zich op 9 en van 14 tot 20 mei op in de omgeving van Erlecom, Gelderland. Op 5, 6 en 12 juni verbleef hij bij Lobith, Gelderland. Het betreft het vijfde geval en het eerste sinds 2003. **Kuifaalscholvers** *P aristotelis* werden nog gezien op 14 mei bij Den Haag, Zuid-Holland, tot 18 mei langs de Oosterscheldekering in Zeeland (twee) en van 26 tot 30 mei in Terneuzen, Zeeland. Een **Koereiger** *Bubulcus ibis* verbleef van 27 april tot 6 mei bij Rockanje, Zuid-Holland. Andere werden gemeld op 5 mei op Tiengemeten, Zuid-Holland, op 31 mei bij Kampen, Overijssel, en op 25 juni in de Flaauwers Inlaag bij Serooskerke, Zeeland. **Ralreigers** *Ardeola ralloides* verbleven kortstondig op 17 juni bij Lelystad, Flevoland, en op 23 juni bij Berkenwoude, Zuid-Holland. Op c 40 plekken verspreid over het land werden **Zwarte Ooievaars** *Ciconia nigra* gemeld. **Zwarte Ibissen** *Plegadis falcinellus* werden waargenomen van 21 mei tot 4 juni in de Oostvaardersplassen bij Lelystad, op 27 mei over de zuidpunt van Texel, en op 4 juni in 't Vroon bij Westkapelle, Zeeland. Over de diverse trektelposten in het land trokken in deze periode in totaal 16 **Zwarte Wouwen** *Milvus migrans*, 11 **Rode Wouwen** *M milvus*, 11 **Grauwe Kiekendieven** *Circus pygargus*, 29 **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus*, drie **Roodpootvalken** *Falco vespertinus* en 50 **Smellekens** *F columbarius*. Bij Maastricht, Limburg, kwam net als vorig jaar een paar **Zwarte Wouwen** tot broeden: één jong werd op het nest geringd. De broedpogingen van **Zeearenden** *Haliaeetus albicilla* in het Lauwersmeergebied en bij het Zwarte Meer, Flevoland/Overijssel, mislukten. Half juli beschadigde een storm bovendien het nest van het paar in de Oostvaardersplassen maar het aanwezige nestjong bleef ongedeerd. **Vale Gieren** *Gyps fulvus* werden gezien op 22 mei bij Dordrecht, Zuid-Holland; op 23 mei boven Roermond, Limburg, Boskoop, Zuid-Holland, en Gouda, Zuid-Holland; en op 24 mei boven telpost De Horde bij Lopik, Utrecht. Op 8 juni verplaatste een exemplaar zich via de Zaanstreek en de Schoorlse Duinen in noordelijke richting door Noord-Holland. Op 12 juni legde hij ongeveer dezelfde route in omgekeerde richting af, met waarnemingen boven Texel, Den Helder en Waterland. De enige gefotografeerde **Slangenarend** *Circaetus gallicus* van deze periode hing op 26 mei boven Aerdenhout, Noord-Holland. Andere meldingen werden gedaan op 15 mei bij Zoutelande, Zeeland en bij Norg, Drenthe; van 27 tot 30 mei in Nationaal Park Zuid-Kennemerland bij Bloemendaal; op 1 juni op het Dwingelderveld, Drenthe; op 7 juni bij Haren, Groningen; en op 11 juni bij Heemskerk, Noord-Holland.

RALLEN TOT STRANDLOPERS Van **Kleinste Waterhoenders** *Porzana pusilla* van ten minste 24 tot 29 mei in de Groene Jonker, Zevenhoven, Noord-Holland, en van 24 tot 27 juni bij Dussen, Noord-Brabant, werden geluidsopnamen gemaakt. Naar schatting 50 territoria van **Kwartelkoning** *Crex crex* werden vastgesteld, het laagste aantal sinds midden jaren 1990. Tot half juni verbleven op c 15 plekken kleine aantallen **Steltkluten** *Himantopus himantopus*. **Grielen** *Burhinus oedicnemus* verbleven op 4 mei bij Beugen, Noord-Brabant; op 13 en 27 mei in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen bij de Zilk, Zuid-Holland; op 28 mei bij Camperduin; en op 1 en 4 juni op het Aekingerzand bij Doldersum, Drenthe. Op meer dan 10 plekken werden in mei **Morinelplevieren** *Charadrius morinellus* waargenomen. Traditiegetrouw bood Texel de beste mogelijkheden om de soort te bewonderen, met tot 19 pleisteraars op meerdere dagen in het midden van de maand mei. In het binnenland verscheen een groepje van zes op 13 mei op de Hoge Veluwe, Gelderland. Bijzonder was het binnenlandse verblijf van een winterkleed **Amerikaanse Goudplevier** *Pluvialis dominica* van 14 tot 20 mei bij Montfort, Limburg. Waarschijnlijk een ander exemplaar bijna volledig in winterkleed hield zich van 22 tot 24 mei op in de omgeving van Breda, Noord-Brabant. Een zomerkleed **Aziatische Goudplevier** *P fulva* bevond zich op 2 en 3 mei in de Bandpolder bij Paesens, Friesland. Een **'kleine goudplevier'** *P dominica/fulva* op 17 mei bij Achter de Zwarten in het Lauwersmeergebied, Groningen, bleef op te grote afstand om op soort te worden gedetermineerd. Voor het eerst sinds 2002 werd een **Witstaartkievit** *Vanellus leucurus* vastgesteld, namelijk op 29 mei bij het Vogelmeer in de Kennemerduinen. Hij liet zich bijna de hele dag door vele 10-tallen vogelaars bewonderen, alvorens rond 19:15 in de regen weg te vliegen. Daarna volgde een kortstondige waarneming op 18 juni op de zuidpunt van Texel. Mogelijk betrof het dezelfde vogel die op 27 en 28 mei en vanaf 7 juli op verschillende plekken in Engeland verbleef. **Gestreepte Strandlopers** *Calidris melanotos* bevonden zich op 1 mei bij Heerenveen. Friesland; van 1 tot 4 mei in het Lauwersmeergebied; van 9 tot 13 mei bij Chaam, Noord-Brabant; op 10 mei op Tiengemeten; van 10 tot

377 Aziatische Goudplevier / Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*, Bandpolder, Friesland, 2 mei 2010 *(Roef Mulder)* **378** Vale Gier / Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*, Lopik, Zuid-Holland, 24 mei 2010 *(Arjan Boele)* **379** Terekruiter / Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*, Ezumakeeg, Friesland, 1 juli 2010 *(Martijn Bot)* **380** Amerikaanse Goudplevier / American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*, Montfort, Limburg, 14 mei 2010 *(Ran Schols)* **381** Blauwvleugeltaling / Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*, mannetje, Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland, 22 juni 2010 *(Garry Bakker)* **382** Griel / Eurasian Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*, Beugen, Limburg, 4 mei 2010 *(Harvey van Diek)*

383 Amerikaanse Goudplevier / American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*, Rooskensdonk, Breda, Noord-Brabant, 24 mei 2010 *(Luuk van Oerle)* **384** Gestreepte Strandloper / Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*, Waal en Burg, Texel, Noord-Holland, 13 mei 2010 *(Martin van der Schalk)* **385** Citroenkwikstaart / Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, vrouwtje, Breezanddijk, Friesland, 14 mei 2010 *(Fred Visscher)*

386 Roodstuitzwaluw / Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*, met Boerenzwaluwen / Barn Swallows *Hirundo rustica*, Huiszwaluwen / Common House Martins *Delichon urbicum* en Oeverzwaluw / Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*, Kraaijenbergse Plassen, Noord-Brabant, 1 mei 2010 *(Jan den Hertog)* **387** Dwergooruil / Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops*, Kootwijkerbroek, Gelderland, 26 mei 2010 *(Cock Reijnders)* **388** Citroenkwikstaart / Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, vrouwtje, Westkapelle, Zeeland, 13 mei 2010 *(Corstiaan Beeke)*

389 Dwergooruil / Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops*, Kootwijkerbroek, Gelderland, 2 juni 2010 *(Jan den Hertog)* **390** Dougalls Stern / Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, Flaauwers Inlaag, Zeeland, 9 juni 2010 *(Ben van den Broek)* **391** Ralreiger / Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*, Lelystad, Flevoland, 17 juni 2010 *(Roy de Haas/Agami)* **392** Woudaap / Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*, vrouwtje, Zevenhuizen, Zuid-Holland, 1 juni 2010 *(Chris van Rijswijk/birdshooting.nl)* **393** Witstaartkievit / White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*, Kennemerduinen, Noord-Holland, 29 mei 2010 *(Jan den Hertog)* **394** Breedbekstrandloper / Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*, Landje van Geijsel, Ouderkerk aan de Amstel, Noord-Holland, 17 mei 2010 *(Enno B Ebels)*

395 Roodstuitzwaluw / Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*, Kraaijenbergse Plassen, Noord-Brabant, 1 mei 2010 *(Harvey van Diek)* **396** Roodkeelpieper / Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*, Dijkgatsweide, Wieringermeer, Noord-Holland, 9 mei 2010 *(Fred Visscher)* **397** Orpheusspotvogel / Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*, Eperheide, Limburg, 4 juni 2010 *(Hans ter Haar)* **398** Noordse Nachtegaal / Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*, Meinerswijk, Arnhem, Gelderland, 18 mei 2010 *(Harm Niesen)* **399** Iberische Tjiftjaf / Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*, Robbenjager, Texel, Noord-Holland, 25 mei 2010 *(Jos van den Berg)* **400** Krekelzanger / River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis*, Groningen, Groningen, 12 juni 2010 *(Toy Janssen)*

401 Spaanse Mus / Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*, vrouwtje, IJmuiden, Noord-Holland, 6 mei 2010 *(Roy Slaterus)*

402 Roze Spreeuw / Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*, Polder Eijerland, Texel, Noord-Holland, 1 juni 2010 *(Eckard Boot)*

13 mei in Waal en Burg op Texel; en van 27 mei tot 30 juni in de Ezumakeeg. **Breedbekstrandlopers** *Limicola falcinellus* werden gemeld op 7 mei bij Holwerd, Friesland; op 11 en 13 mei bij Serooskerke, Zeeland; van 12 tot 14 mei in De Hamert; op 17 mei bij Ouderkerk aan de Amstel, Noord-Holland; op 22 mei bij Westhoek, Friesland; op 22 en 24 mei in de Breebaartpolder bij Termunten, Groningen; op 24 mei in Polder Hardenhoek in de Brabantse Biesbosch; op 25 mei bij Huizen, Noord-Holland, en bij Zwolle; op 30 mei bij Paesens (twee); en op 10 en 13 juni bij Achter de Zwarten in het Lauwersmeergebied. **Blonde Ruiters** *Tryngites subruficollis* bevonden zich op 8 en 9 mei bij Overschild, Groningen, en op 14 en 15 mei op Tiengemeten. In mei werden nog op negen plekken **Bokjes** *Lymnocryptes minimus* gemeld, waaronder een exemplaar dat tot 19 mei bleef bij Warmond, Zuid-Holland, en een zingend exemplaar op 22 mei in het Bargerveen bij Emmen, Drenthe. **Grote Grijze Snippen** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* bevonden zich op 13 en 14 mei in de Braakmanpolder bij Terneuzen; van 14 tot 25 mei in de waterberging bij Twisk, Noord-Holland; van 28 mei tot 6 juni in de Ezumakeeg; en op 13 juni in de Sophiapolder bij Oostburg, Zeeland. Samen met het exemplaar van 26 tot 28 april bij Bemmel, Gelderland, resulteerde dit in een ongekende reeks waarnemingen. Van 24 juni tot 6 juli hield een **Terekruiter** *Xenus cinereus* zich op in de Ezumakeeg. **Poelruiters** *Tringa stagnatilis* werden gemeld op c zeven plekken, met goed bezochte exemplaren van 5 tot 8 mei bij Middelburg, Zeeland, en vanaf 15 juni in de Ezumakeeg. De gehele periode verbleven één of meer **Grauwe Franjepoten** *Phalaropus lobatus* in het Lauwersmeergebied. Daarbuiten waren er meldingen op 5 mei bij Uithuizen, Groningen; op 9 mei bij Ameide, Zuid-Holland; op 11 en 12 mei bij Rilland, Zeeland; en op 6 en 7 juni bij Zevenaar, Gelderland.

JAGERS TOT GIERZWALUWEN Er werden voor de tijd van het jaar tamelijk veel **Middelste Jagers** *Stercorarius pomarinus* gezien, namelijk op 5 mei bij Petten, op 20 mei en 17 juni bij Egmond aan Zee, Noord-Holland, en op 16 en 24 mei bij Camperduin. Op 4 mei werden twee onvolwassen **Kleinste Jagers** *S longicaudus* gemeld bij Camperduin. De enige **Grote Jager** *S skua* vloog op 5 mei langs Petten. Op 1 mei werd een **Dunbekmeeuw** *Chroicocephalus genei* gemeld op het Marsdiep ten zuiden van 't Horntje op Texel, waar de avond ervoor twee exemplaren verbleven in de Mokbaai. **Dwergmeeuwen** *Hydrocoloeus minutus* waren ook in deze periode talrijker dan in andere jaren, met tot half mei nog ruim 10 000 doortrekkers. Daarmee kwam het voorjaarstotaal (maart-juni) voor de trektelposten uit op ruim 93 000. Een eerstejaars **Kleine Burgemeester** *Larus glaucoides* werd op 2 mei gefotografeerd bij IJmuiden, Noord-Holland. Andere bevonden zich op 4 mei in de Brabantse Biesbosch en (mogelijk dezelfde) van 15 mei tot 2 juli bij Chaam. Een eerstejaars **Grote Burgemeester** *L hyperboreus* die zich van 29 april tot 6 mei bij Nieuwvliet, Zeeland, liet bekijken, werd er op 7 mei dood gevonden. Na een vijftal meldingen van doortrekkende **Lachsterns** *Gelochelidon nilotica* in mei verscheen een exemplaar op 7 en 8 juni bij Medemblik, Noord-Holland, en op 11 juni bij Schellinkhout, Noord-Holland. De gehele periode waren er meldingen van kleine aantallen **Reuzensterns** *Hydroprogne caspia*. Behalve op bekende plekken in het noorden en westen verschenen er twee op 8 juni bij Hoogeveen, Drenthe. Op c 20 plekken verspreid over het land werden tot begin juni **Witwangsterns** *Chlidonias hybrida* gemeld. De grootste groepen bestonden uit 10 vogels op 1 mei bij de Kraaijenbergse Plassen bij Gassel, Noord-Brabant, en op 28 mei in de Ezumakeeg. Veruit de populairste **Witvleugelstern** *C leucopterus* bevond zich vanaf 14 mei tot in juli in de omgeving van Kinderdijk, Zuid-Holland. Overige waarnemingen waren op de vingers van één hand te tellen. Op 8 juni hield een baltsend paar **Dougalls Sterns** *Sterna dougallii* zich op in de Flaauwers Inlaag. Van 9 tot 11 juni werd hier regelmatig nog één exemplaar gezien en ook in de drie dagen daarna volgden enkele meldingen. Late **Alken** *Alca torda* vlogen op 1 juni langs Camperduin en op 2 juni op het Marsdiep bij Den Helder. Een **Kuifkoekoek** *Clamator glandarius* toonde zich op 26 mei enkele keren aan een gelukkige vogelaar bij Groenlo, Gelderland. Een **Dwergooruil** *Otus scops* liet zich van 21 mei tot 19 juni horen en soms goed zien bij Kootwijkerbroek, Gelderland. Volgens buurtbewoners was hij daar al vanaf 6 mei aanwezig. Gedurende het broedseizoen werden in Drenthe drie territoriale mannetjes **Ruigpootuil** *Aegolius funereus* gevonden maar niet één bleek te zijn gepaard. Na broedgevallen in 2008 (twee) en 2009 (twee, waarvan één mislukt) werd er dit jaar dus niet gebroed. Een overvliegende **Alpengierzwaluw** *Apus melba* werd op 8 mei opgemerkt bij Katwijk, Zuid-Holland.

BIJENETERS TOT GRASZANGERS In Limburg vonden twee broedgevallen plaats van **Bijeneter** *Merops apiaster*. Daarnaast werden op meer dan 15 plekken verspreid over het land overvliegende of kort verblijvende exemplaren gemeld, waaronder groepen van 16 op 24 mei boven Bentwoud, Zuid-Holland, en van negen op 31 mei boven Renkum, Gelderland. Op 22 mei werd een dood exemplaar gevonden in Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland. Op meer dan 15 plekken verspreid over het land werden **Hoppen** *Upupa epops* gemeld. Laatkomers verschenen op 14 juni bij Sint Odiliënberg, Limburg, op 24 juni op de Beningerslikken, Zuid-Holland, en op 27 juni op de Hellegatsplaten, Zuid-Holland. Op meer dan 30 plekken verspreid over het land werden in mei doortrekkende **Draaihalzen** *Jynx torquilla* gemeld. Eén daarvan belandde op 1 mei in de bek van een kat in Middelbert, Groningen. **Roodkopklauwieren** *Lanius senator* bevonden zich op 1 juni bij Velden, Limburg, op 2 juni bij Den Helder en op 22 en 23 juni bij De Koog op Texel. Eind juni en begin juli bleken **Pimpelmees** *Cyanistes caeruleus* en, in mindere mate, **Koolmees** *Parus major* opvallend algemeen. Op diverse ringstations werden veel meer – hoofdzakelijk juveniele – exemplaren geringd dan anders. In het veld werden aantallen gezien die zelfs in het najaar vaak niet worden gehaald, zoals 1375 Pimpelmezen en 750 Koolmezen op 1 juli bij Laaxum, Friesland; 5390 Pimpelmezen op 3 juli bij

’t Mirnser Klif, Friesland en 1 506 Pimpelmezen op 4 juli bij Schellinkhout, Noord-Holland. Uit gegevens van nestkastonderzoekers blijkt dat de legsels van veel holenbroeders, waaronder mezen, dit jaar groter waren dan gemiddeld. **Kuifleeuweriken** *Galerida cristata* werden alleen nog gemeld uit Venlo, Limburg (twee), en ‘s-Hertogenbosch, Noord-Brabant. Late **Strandleeuweriken** *Eremophila alpestris* werden waargenomen op 13 mei bij Paesens, op 13 en 14 mei bij De Cocksdorp op Texel (maximaal 10), en op 15 mei bij Oosterend op Terschelling (vier). Een **Roodstuitzwaluw** *Cecropis daurica* verbleef van 1 tot 3 mei bij de Kraaijenbergse Plassen bij Gassel, Noord-Brabant. Andere bleven korte tijd op 1 mei op telpost de Kustweg in het Lauwersmeergebied; op 2 mei in de Ezumakeeg; op 14 mei in de Groene Jonker bij Zevenhoven; op 2 juni bij Den Hoorn op Texel; en op 3 juni bij het Paterswoldsermeer, Groningen. Voor **Cetti’s Zangers** *Cettia cetti* kon men nog steeds terecht in de Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant/Zuid-Holland, en lokaal elders in het zuidwesten. Daarbuiten bleef het een zeldzaamheid, met de noordelijkste zangposten bij Huizen en Diemen in Noord-Holland, en vanaf 5 juni in de Oostvaardersplassen bij Almere, Flevoland. Een **Grauwe Fitis** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* zong op 31 mei in het Marnebos bij Lauwersoog, Groningen. Een zingende **Bergfluiter** *P bonelli* werd gemeld op 2 juni nabij Arnhem, Gelderland. Recordaantallen **Iberische Tjiftjaffen** *P ibericus* werden gedetermineerd. Zingende mannetjes verbleven van 17 april tot 5 mei in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen bij Vogelenzang, Noord-Holland; van 2 tot 23 mei in Den Helder; op 6 mei bij Domburg, Zeeland; van 6 mei tot 22 juni bij Eemnes, Utrecht (ook af en toe de grens overstekend naar Noord-Holland); op 25 mei, 2 juni en van 5 tot 7 juni bij De Cocksdorp op Texel (minimaal twee); en op 27 en 28 juni bij Linschoten, Utrecht. **Krekelzangers** *Locustella fluviatilis* zongen op 23 mei bij De Cocksdorp op Texel (eerste voor Texel), op 6 en 7 juni bij Tynaarlo, Drenthe, en van 7 tot 21 juni in de stad Groningen, Groningen. **Orpheusspotvogels** *Hippolais polyglotta* gaven vanaf half mei weer *acte de présence* op verschillende plekken in Zuid-Limburg, al zorgde een aantal ‘mengzangers’ soms voor verwarring. Ook buiten Limburg verliep de determinatie niet altijd eenvoudig, met meldingen in Noord-Brabant (drie) en Utrecht. Op een vijftal plekken in Zeeland werden in deze periode **Graszangers** *Cisticola juncidis* opgemerkt. Daarbuiten waren er waarnemingen van 22 tot 24 juni bij ’s-Gravendeel, Zuid-Holland, en op 26 juni bij De Cocksdorp op Texel.

SPREEUWEN TOT GORZEN Een adulte **Roze Spreeuw** *Pastor roseus* verbleef op 1 juni bij Oosterend op Texel. Een **Waterspreeuw** *Cinclus cinclus* werd gemeld op 18 mei bij Vlagtwedde, Groningen. **Noordse Nachtegalen** *Luscinia luscinia* zongen van 11 mei tot 15 juni in de Meinerswijk bij Arnhem, van 23 tot 28 mei in de Ooijpolder bij Nijmegen, Gelderland, en van 28 mei tot 2 juni bij Hof van Twente, Overijssel. Daarnaast waren er meldingen op 13 mei bij Denekamp, Overijssel, en op 23 mei bij Katwijk. Een vrouwtje **Spaanse Mus** *Passer hispaniolensis* bevond zich op 6 mei bij de Zuidpier van IJmuiden. De determinatie en de bekendmaking van het nieuws vonden pas plaats in de dagen daarna met behulp van de gemaakte foto’s en geluidsopnamen. De melding op 7 mei bleek na bestudering van de foto’s foutief (contra Dutch Birding 32: 214, 2010). Indien aanvaard betreft dit het zesde geval en het eerste van een solitair vrouwtje. Vrouwtjes **Citroenkwikstaarten** *Motacilla citreola* verbleven op 13 mei in ’t Vroon bij Westkapelle, op 14 mei op Breezanddijk, Friesland, en op 7 en 12 juni in de Ezumakeeg. Een **Grote Pieper** *Anthus richardi* werd op 6 mei gefotografeerd bij Sint Michielsgestel, Noord-Brabant, en op 9 mei vloog een exemplaar langs Bloemendaal aan Zee. Van drie trektelposten in het land werden in mei in totaal vijf doortrekkende **Duinpiepers** *A campestris* gemeld. Daarnaast werden er slechts drie andere waarnemingen doorgegeven. In de eerste helft van mei werden op c 10 plekken **Roodkeelpiepers** *A cervinus* waargenomen. Exemplaren op 8 en 9 mei op de Dijkgatsweide in de Wieringermeer, Noord-Holland, en op 13 mei in De Hamert konden zich verheugen op de meeste belangstelling. In de laatste decade van juni tekende zich een invasie van **Kruisbekken** *Loxia curvirostra* af, een fenomeen dat zich niet jaarlijks voordoet. Op meer dan 25 plekken verschenen vanaf 21 mei **Roodmussen** *Carpodacus erythrinus*. Het gros van de waarnemingen lag langs de Noord-Hollandse kust of op de Waddeneilanden. Opmerkelijk was het verschijnen van een onvolwassen mannetje op 24 juni bij Epen, Limburg. Op 26 juni werd er bovendien één geringd in de Kennemerduinen. Een mannetje **Sneeuwgors** *Plectrophenax nivalis* bevond zich nog op 15 mei op Schiermonnikoog. Bijzonder populair waren twee **Ortolanen** *Emberiza hortulana* die van 30 april tot 4 mei bij Nunspeet, Gelderland, verbleven. Op slechts acht andere plekken werden in mei doortrekkers gemeld.

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