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Redactie
Dutch Birding
Duinlustparkweg 98A
2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid
Nederland
editors@dutchbirding.nl

Fotoredactie
Dutch Birding
p/a René Pop
Postbus 31
1790 AA Den Burg-Texel
Nederland
rene.pop@dutchbirding.nl

Abonnementenadministratie
Maartje Doorn
Dutch Birding Association
Postbus 75611
1070 AP Amsterdam
Nederland
circulation@dutchbirding.nl

www.dutchbirding.nl
webredactie@dutchbirding.nl

Bestuur
Dutch Birding Association
Postbus 75611
1070 AP Amsterdam
Nederland
dba@dutchbirding.nl

Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna
CDNA
Duinlustparkweg 98A
2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid
Nederland
cdna@dutchbirding.nl

Commissie Systematiek Nederlandse Avifauna
CSNA, p/a George Sangster
csna@dutchbirding.nl

Inspreeklijn
010-4281212

Internet
www.dutchbirding.nl

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Drukkerij robstolk®, Mauritskade 55, 1092 AD Amsterdam, Nederland, www.robstolk.nl

Dutch Birding

Chief editor Arnoud van den Berg (+31-235378024, arnoud.van.den.berg@dutchbirding.nl)

Deputy chief editor Enno Ebels (+31-302961335, enno.ebels@dutchbirding.nl)

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Advertising Debby Doodeman, c/o Dutch Birding, Postbus 75611, 1070 AP Amsterdam
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Editors
Dutch Birding
Duinlustparkweg 98A
2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid
Netherlands
editors@dutchbirding.nl

Photographic editor
Dutch Birding
c/o René Pop
Postbus 31
1790 AA Den Burg-Texel
Netherlands
rene.pop@dutchbirding.nl

Subscription administration
Maartje Doorn
Dutch Birding Association
Postbus 75611
1070 AP Amsterdam
Netherlands
circulation@dutchbirding.nl

www.dutchbirding.nl
webredactie@dutchbirding.nl

Board
Dutch Birding Association
Postbus 75611
1070 AP Amsterdam
Netherlands
dba@dutchbirding.nl

Dutch rarities committee
CDNA
Duinlustparkweg 98A
2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid
Netherlands
cdna@dutchbirding.nl

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Voorplaat / front cover

Roodsnavelkeerkringvogel / Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus*, Sierra Negra, Sal, Kaapverdische Eilanden, 24 januari 2015 *(René Pop)*

New identification features for Whistling Swan

Fred Visscher & Nils van Duivendijk

For decades, identification of Whistling Swan *Cygnus columbianus* as a vagrant in Europe and Asia was largely based on Evans & Sladen (1980), reporting on the differences in the amount of yellow on the bill between Whistling and Bewick's Swan *Cygnus bewickii*. Evans & Sladen (1980) found a significant difference in percentage of yellow on the side of the upper mandible between Whistling and Bewick's with no overlap. Of the birds studied, Whistling showed 0-15.8% (average 3.1%) yellow, while the Bewick's with the least amount of yellow had 22.9%.

Of all vagrant Whistling Swans recorded in Europe, a relatively large number concerns birds in which the amount of yellow on the bill approaches the maximum (Evans & Sladen 1980). That is surprising, as birds with this amount of yellow account for just a small fraction of the population of Whistling (Evans & Sladen 1980). Therefore, the 'one feature identification' of Whistling has been unsatisfactory to many birders for a long time.

This unease is further fuelled by the occurrence of hybrids between both taxa. Hybridisation was found sporadically in East Asia (mixed pair with youngsters), while in Canada a 'tundra swan' (the commonly used name for the two species as a superspecies) with 18% yellow (within the 'no-man's-land range' between both species according to Evans & Sladen 1980) was found in a flock of Whistling Swans (Evans & Sladen 1980). In the same flock, a Bewick's Swan was present too, seemingly paired with a Whistling. It was suggested that the 'tundra swan' with 18% yellow could be a hybrid offspring of at least two years old from that pair. Based on our findings, however, we doubt if 18% is outside the variation of pure Whistling (see below).

In 2014, Fred Visscher started to study the morphology of Whistling Swan with the intention to find more features than only the amount of yellow on the bill. This search started on the internet by looking at as many photographs of Whistling as possible.

Apart from the well-known difference in yellow on the bill, a second feature came to light: on the 10s of sufficiently detailed photographs, Whistling Swan showed a dark grey to black orbital ring, as opposed to a yellow one in Bewick's Swan. If this turned out to be highly consistent, it might be a new and useful feature for separating Whistling from Bewick's in the field. FV contacted Nils van Duivendijk, who also wanted to investigate this in a more detailed study.

Material

For our study, we collected detailed photographs of heads of both Whistling Swan and Bewick's Swan (Whistling from a known trapping location in Alaska, USA; Bewick's from sites in the Netherlands). In each of these two areas, only one of the two species can be expected, limiting the chance of having hybrids or wrongly identified birds.

Peter de Vries provided 80 portraits of heads of Bewick's Swan trapped in the Netherlands in December 2014. Christian Dau sent us c 1400 portraits of Whistling Swan from different locations in Alaska, trapped for neck-ringing in late July, the period of the complete flight-feather moult, between 2006 and 2010. In addition, we received a photograph of a proven hybrid in captivity from Welney, England, and found c 10 photographs of presumed hybrids from Japan on the internet, using the Japanese word for Whistling Swan in the search engine.

To measure the percentage of yellow on the bills of our birds we used a method virtually similar to that used by Evans & Sladen (1980). They projected a 35 mm slide of a bill on graphic paper by which they defined the percentage yellow. Our method was to decrease the resolution of the images to such a low level that we could count the number of yellow and black pixels. From this count, we measured the size of the yellow part. We did not correct for possible slight differences in the calculated percentages of yellow arising from these two methods.

Comparing both methods by applying them to the same photographs showed that the difference was small. On our request, PdV measured the same examples more accurately by using the software ImageJ (version 1.48v), which resulted in only (very) slight differences. The percentages given in the plate captions are from PdV's measurements.

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454 Whistling Swan / Fluitzwaan *Cygnus colombianus*, Alaska, USA, 27 July 2010 *(USGS Alaska Wildlife Research Centre)*. Adult type, more or less typical example from our study. Note blackish orbital ring, virtually without yellow (only very small amount), small pale yellow patch with 'granular' edge and erratic outline. Bill structure not different from Bewick's Swan *C bewickii* in this bird. **455** Bewick's Swan / Kleine Zwaan *Cygnus bewickii*, Zonnemaire, Zeeland, Netherlands, 8 January 2011 *(Peter de Vries)*. Adult type, example with relatively little yellow on bill for this species, but still typical bird with yellow orbital ring, well-defined and smoothly outlined border between black and yellow areas, and deep yellow bill patch. Note presence of some yellow on base of culmen, never shown by Whistling Swan *C columbianus*. **456** Bewick's Swan / Kleine Zwaan *Cygnus bewickii*, Vinkel, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands, 26 December 2014 *(Gerard Müskens)*. Adult type. Only bird from our sample with mainly dark orbital ring but not close to minimum range of yellow on bill for Bewick's. Otherwise normal bird with sharply edged and deep yellow on bill. Note that dark spots in yellow here are dirt and, especially, damage; these spots are evenly distributed over yellow, not really black (cf plate 457) and not concentrated along border with black part, as in Whistling Swan *C columbianus*. **457** Bewick's Swan / Kleine Zwaan *Cygnus bewickii*, Vinkel, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands, 26 December 2014 *(Gerard Müskens)*. Same bird as in plate 456. Detail of orbital ring, confirming that orbital ring is really dark and not just dirty. Note that yellow colour on bill is just thin 'coating': when damaged, dark patches will appear, but not especially along border with black.

We found no indications or any reason to expect that the differences between the species presented here could be partially explained by seasonal variation.

Colour of orbital ring

Bewick's Swan normally has a completely yellow orbital ring, often already from first-winter plumage onwards. In our sample of Bewick's, only one out of 80 individuals (1.2%) from the Netherlands

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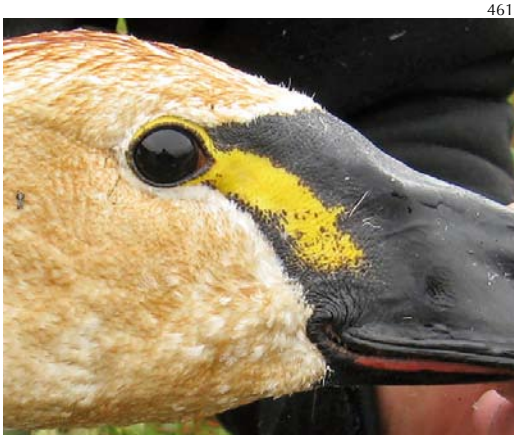

458 Whistling Swan / Fluitzwaan *Cygnus columbianus*, or possible hybrid, Alaska, USA, 28 July 2010 *(USGS Alaska Wildlife Research Centre)*. Adult type. Individual with extremely large yellow patch (21.48%), well outside range given for Whistling in Evans & Sladen (1980) and close to minimum range for Bewick's Swan *C bewickii*. Features pro Whistling and contra Bewick's are 'granular' border between yellow and black part, very little yellow in orbital ring and pale yellow colour on bill. Note how different 'granular' border is compared with pure Bewick's. **459** Whistling Swan / Fluitzwaan *Cygnus columbianus*, or hybrid, Alaska, USA, 27 July 2010 *(USGS Alaska Wildlife Research Centre)*. Adult type. Individual with extremely large yellow patch (24.28%), far outside range given for Whistling and even overlapping with minimum range for Bewick's Swan *C bewickii* (Evans & Sladen 1980). However, 'granular' border between yellow and black parts and not completely yellow orbital ring is perfect for Whistling and contra pure Bewick's. Note domed base of culmen, more often present in Whistling than in Bewick's. **460** Whistling Swan / Fluitzwaan *Cygnus columbianus*, Alaska, USA, 4 August 2006 *(USGS Alaska Wildlife Research Centre)*. Adult type. Individual with again extremely large yellow patch (20.31%), far outside range given for Whistling (Evans & Sladen 1980). Completely dark orbital ring and 'granular' border between yellow and black parts is 'spot on' for Whistling. Note also that even in this example of large yellow bill-patch, there is no yellow at all on orbital ring, again showing that there is just a slight but no direct relation between amount of yellow on bill and presence of yellow in orbital ring. **461** Whistling Swan / Fluitzwaan *Cygnus columbianus*, Alaska, USA, 29 July 2010 *(USGS Alaska Wildlife Research Centre)*. Adult type. Individual with partially yellow orbital ring (1.4% from our sample). Amount of yellow (8.64%) placed this bird far outside minimum range of Bewick's Swan *C bewickii*. Strongly 'granular' border with black part and pale yellow colour of patch are also characteristic for Whistling, rendering this orbital ring colour a rare but normal variation. In fact, yellow in upper orbital ring is on outside, inner side is still black, and this pattern was found in all Whistling with at least some yellow and in none of Bewick's, making this feature of bi-coloured orbital ring even more strong character (but often impossible to see in the field, of course).


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462 Whistling Swan / Fluitzwaan *Cygnus columbianus*, Alaska, USA, 23 July 2009 *(USGS Alaska Wildlife Research Centre)*. Adult type. Individual with black orbital ring, typical of species, but with relatively large yellow patch (12.04%), illustrating that there is no direct relationship between colour of orbital ring and amount of yellow on bill. Note domed base of culmen, more often present in Whistling than in Bewick's Swan *C bewickii*. **463** Whistling Swan / Fluitzwaan *Cygnus columbianus*, Alaska, USA, 27 July 2010 *(USGS Alaska Wildlife Research Centre)*. Immature (second calendar-year) with black orbital ring and yellow on bill still developing. **464** Bewick's Swan / Kleine Zwaan *Cygnus bewickii*, Slimbridge, England, 26 January 2011 *(Otto de Vries)*. Immature (second calendar-year) with already deep yellow orbital ring while yellow bill patch is still developing. Shape of pale patch on bill already matches that of adult and does not change during bird's life. Whitish colour will turn to yellow with age and pink parts will become black. **465** Hybrid Whistling x Bewick's Swan / hybride Fluitzwaan x Kleine Zwaan *Cygnus columbianus x bewickii*, Welney, England, 24 January 2008 *(Otto de Vries)*. Adult in captivity. Yellow patch is c 15% (difficult to measure from this picture). Orbital ring mainly dark with some yellow, yellow bill patch quite deeply coloured and border with black both well-defined and slightly 'granular'. Therefore, this proven hybrid shows more or less even mixture of features of both species. Whistling with relatively much yellow is impossible to separate from bird like this if observed in less favourable conditions, emphasizing importance of high quality photographs when judging possible vagrant Whistling in Europe or East Asia.

had a dark grey instead of a yellow orbital ring (plate 456-457). This confirms our earlier findings that a dark orbital ring is at least rare in Bewick's, and possibly this single individual was aberrant, instead of showing normal variation.

In our sample of Whistling Swan, 97 individuals (c 6.9%) had an orbital ring that showed at least some yellow in the 'segmented' upper edge of the ring (in several individuals just a spot, impossible to see unless in the hand). The remaining birds had a completely dark grey to black orbital ring or showed paler parts in the outer edge. This area is

normally covered by feathering and invisible in field conditions. In most of the Whistling with some yellow, the yellow was evident in the upper eye-lid part of the ring only (plate 461). In other cases, the yellow formed a randomly placed segment, or the ring was yellow with several dark spots; 10 of these 97 (and thus 10 in c 1400; 0.7%) had a completely yellow upper edge of the orbital ring. Even in these 10 Whistling with yellow all around in the orbital ring, the inner side of the ring was still black. So, both a completely black as well as a partially yellow orbital ring are highly indicative for Whistling (we found not a single Bewick's Swan with a bi-coloured orbital ring), and the inner side of a completely yellow orbital ring in Whistling is still black. The presence of yellow in the orbital ring in Whistling seemed to have some – but far from complete – relation with the amount of yellow in the bill. Although yellow in the orbital ring was mostly found in birds with a more than average amount of yellow in the bill (eg, plate 461), the vast majority of these birds had a completely dark orbital ring (plate 462). The lowest percentage of yellow on the bill in a Whistling still with a completely yellow orbital ring was 5%. It seems likely, and the only certain hybrid (plate 465) confirms this, that a partially yellow orbital ring can be present in hybrids too.

The only Bewick's Swan from our sample with a dark orbital ring had an amount of yellow far above the minimum range for Bewick's (plate 456-457).

Border of yellow on bill

During the research on the 1400 photographs of Whistling Swan, FV found another very interesting feature, which appears to be even more consistent and easier to judge in the field. It concerns the transition from the yellow part of the bill to the black part which is diffuse in Whistling Swan, consisting of tiny black spots which gradually increase and finally merge to form a solid black part. Therefore, the border between yellow and black looks strongly 'granular' and ill defined and, when seen from a distance, appearing somewhat erratic. In Bewick's Swan, the border between the yellow and black part is smoothly outlined (rarely tending to erratic) and always well defined on the side of the bill, along the entire length. Note, however, that under less favourable viewing conditions or on low resolution photographs the granular border of a Whistling can appear more sharply and smoothly edged.

In many Bewick's Swans with much yellow on the bill, a strongly variable amount of yellow is present on the base of the culmen (the area where a granular black pattern appears in Bewick's too) but not on the bill side. In Whistling Swan, no yellow is present on the culmen.

The granular border between yellow and black was present in all of our studied Whistling Swans, regardless of the amount of yellow, and in none of the Bewick's Swans. Moreover, in Whistling with a relatively large amount of yellow, it was often more obvious, perhaps because of the larger border. This feature seems to be a reliable and useful tool for separating 'tundra swans' with an amount of yellow in the bill close to the extremes of either of the two species.

Other features

There is a small but – in direct comparison – often detectable, difference in the tone of the yellow on the bill. Whistling Swan often, but not always, has a paler yellow ('cold-yellow') patch, while the yellow in Bewick's Swan is normally a deep, warm yellow. There is overlap, so this can only be used as a supporting feature, and only in birds with a fully developed bill colour (older than third calendar-year).

While a difference in bill structure is sometimes said to be different, this appeared to be too variable in our sample to be useful. However, it should be noted that Whistling Swan generally has a more raised (domed) base of the culmen.

Generally, Whistling Swan has a slightly flatter, less rounded crown than Bewick's Swan but posture and individual variation render this feature rather unreliable.

The generally larger size of Whistling Swan is also of little or no use in a single vagrant bird. Moreover, it should be noted that males are larger than females in both species. A large male Whistling – identified by features described above – is likely the largest bird in a group of Bewick's, while conversely a small female Whistling could be one of the smallest.

Immatures

In immature Bewick's Swan, the yellow in the orbital ring develops earlier than the yellow on the bill and is therefore already present in its first winter (plate 464). In our sample, nine of the 131 (6.8%) immature (second calendar-year) Whistling Swans showed some yellow in the orbital ring, which is the same ratio as in the adults. Most likely, for the few Whistling that show yellow in the orbital ring when adult(-type), the same applies as for Bewick's. Given the unchanged pattern of the bill during the whole long life of swans, it is pos-

sible that the eventual yellow pattern in the orbital ring in Whistling also remains unchanged after it is developed in the second calendar-year (cf Evans 1977).

Records of Whistling Swan in Europe

There can be no doubt that Whistling Swan is very rare in Europe. It is of course the responsibility of country rarity committees but we feel the need to give some guidelines for assessing future and possibly already accepted reports. For example, in Britain (Martin Garner in litt) and the Netherlands (www.dutchavifauna.nl), there are records of Whistling lacking photographic evidence.

We recommend that reports should always be submitted with reasonable photographs in which it is possible to measure the amount of yellow on the bill and judge the border of yellow and black. Also, it has to be ruled out that the yellow part of the bill is partially damaged or dirty.

All accepted Whistling Swans should show little yellow and an obvious granular and erratic edge between the yellow and black part of the bill. Although we found most likely pure Whistling with more than 15.8% yellow on the bill (given as maximum by Evans & Sladen 1980), we could not definitely exclude hybrids in these cases. So, we still recommend their findings and, in ideal cases, a (much) lower value (<10%). An orbital ring which is black or black and yellow is a very strong supporting character for Whistling, although a partially yellow orbital ring can indicate hybrid origin too. The nature of the yellow colour (deep or pale yellow), bill shape and overall size are of little value in a single out-of-range bird.

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Samenvatting

Nieuwe determinatiekenmerken voor Fluitzwaan In dit artikel worden nieuwe kenmerken voor Fluitzwaan *Cygnus columbianus* gepresenteerd. De hoeveelheid geel aan de snavel wordt al decennia als het enige diagnostische verschil met Kleine Zwaan *C bewickii* beschouwd. Zowel de oogrand als de begrenzing van het geel op de snavel met het zwarte deel vertonen echter ook verschillen tussen beide soorten.

Kleine Zwaan heeft een volledig diepgele oogrand (orbital ring). Fluitzwaan heeft een volledig zwarte oogrand of (in 6.9% van de onderzochte exemplaren) gele delen in de zwarte oogrand (slechts 0.7% heeft geel volledig rondom het oog maar met nog wel een donkere binnenkant). Kleine Zwaan heeft waarschijnlijk hoogst zelden een donkere oogrand; in deze studie werd één individu gevonden met een donkere oogrand maar dat was eerder een afwijkend exemplaar dan een representant van normale variatie binnen de soort.

De begrenzing van het geel op de snavel met het zwarte deel verloopt bij Fluitzwaan altijd korrelig waardoor de grens er op afstand diffuus uit ziet. Van nabij zijn bij Fluitzwaan vanuit het geel toenemende aantallen zwarte vlekjes zichtbaar die uiteindelijk 'dichtlopen' waardoor de diffuse begrenzing ontstaat. Bij Kleine Zwaan is de grens tussen geel en zwart steeds scherp, zonder verbrokkeling of korrelige grens. Ook verloopt de grens bij Fluitzwaan grilliger en bij Kleine Zwaan gemiddeld strakker.

Daarnaast bleken meerdere Fluitzwanen aanzienlijk meer geel te hebben dan de maximumgrens die in de tot nu toe leidende studie wordt gegeven. Eén exemplaar kwam binnen de minimumgrens van Kleine Zwaan uit diezelfde studie.

In Japan zijn c 10 vermoedelijke hybriden gefotografeerd. Deze werden net als een zekere hybride in gevangenschap in Engeland bestudeerd voor dit artikel. Zowel de vermoedelijke als de zekere hybriden vertoonden opvallende gelijkenissen in de hoeveelheid geel aan de snavel (binnen Fluitzwaan vallend volgens de hier gepresenteerde gegevens) maar de oogrand was grotendeels geel (als bij een minderheid van Fluitzwaan) en de begrenzing tussen het geel en het zwart aan de snavel minder tot niet korrelig begrensd (hetgeen in het geheel niet werd gevonden bij Fluitzwaan).

Op basis van deze studie wordt geadviseerd om de criteria voor aanvaarding van Fluitzwaan als dwaalgast aan te scherpen en eventueel oude gevallen te herzien (met name wanneer fotografische documentatie ontbreekt).

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Fred Visscher, Beukenlaan 43, 1676 GS Twisk, Netherlands (f.visscher1@quicknet.nl)
Nils van Duivendijk, Vliewint 22, 1755 RH Petten, Netherlands (nils.van.duivendijk@casema.nl)

Barau's Petrel, Mascarene Petrel and other tubenoses off Réunion, Indian Ocean, in December 2014

Robert L Flood, Elaine Cook, Mike Danzenbaker, Doug Koch, John Shemilt & Kirk Zufelt

Réunion, an island in the Indian Ocean c 700 km east of Madagascar and administratively an overseas department of France, has long been on our itinerary of seabird locations to visit, particularly because of its two endemic breeding tubenoses: the endangered Barau's Petrel *Pterodroma baraui* and the critically endangered Mascarene Petrel *Pseudobulweria aterrima*. This paper focuses on our observations of these and other tubenose species in December 2014. During our stay, we booked six short-range pelagic trips to see both species, with a special effort to photograph the rarest tubenose species of all, Mascarene. Joining us on most days were local French ornithologists Fabien Mada and Martin Riethmuller; the latter is author of the plan of action to save Mascarene (Riethmuller et al 2012).

Logistics

The prospect of a pelagic trip off Réunion is very exciting indeed. It is well positioned for visiting/passage seabirds that breed on nearby Round Island, and for others much farther away to the north, east and south. Our trip followed a similar successful trip in December 2012 (Shirihai et al 2014). On our pelagic trips, we set out at c 13:30 and steamed offshore to our chumming spot. We deployed chum blocks, supplied by local company Oceane Production, and a small amount of self-imported Menhaden oil. We placed a little oil and one or two chum blocks per hour into the sea at our chumming locations. We maintained contact with the chum blocks by drifting to the end of the oily slick, then motoring back to the chum block at the top of the slick, drifting back down the slick, and so on. At sunset (c 19:00) we steamed back to port, arriving at c 21:00 or later. Two of our pelagic trips were with Pêche Sud Evasion from St Pierre in the south, and four were with Réunion Fishing Club from St Gilles in the north-west. A seventh daytime trip was organised on 13 December but this was not a serious attempt to see Mascarene Petrel. A summary of locations and conditions for each short-range pelagic trip is given in table 1. Weather conditions were good for petrels on four evenings with force 3 or stronger wind speed.

TABLE 1 Details of short-range pelagic trips off Réunion, Indian Ocean, in December 2014 / Details van pelagische tochten op korte afstand van Réunion, Indische Oceaan, in december 2014

Date	Harbour	Position from harbour	Wind conditions
7 Dec	St Pierre	27-29 km SSW	3-4B
8 Dec	St Pierre	30-32 km SSW	4-5B
9 Dec	St Gilles	16 km W	3B
10 Dec	St Gilles	16 km W	1-2B
11 Dec	St Gilles	32 km WSW	3B
12 Dec	St Gilles	29 km W	1-2B
13 Dec	St Gilles	16 km W	1B

Results

Counts of the tubenoses seen on each trip are given in table 2, with details and discussion about the sightings in the following species accounts.

Barau's Petrel (plate 466-467)

Barau's Petrel was described new to science only in 1963 (Jouanin 1963), based on a bird caught alive on the beach of St Gilles, Réunion, in April of that year. It was taken to Armand Barau who was a prominent figure on the island with a deep interest in (the conservation of) birds of Réunion.

At present, Barau's Petrel is only known to breed in burrows in volcanic soils beneath elfin forest in the mountainous centre of Réunion (Brooke 1978, Probst & Thébaud 1998). Breeding has also been reported from nearby Rodrigues (Brooke 1978), although this could not be confirmed (Probst 1996a). Threats to breeding birds include predation by cats and rats (Probst 1996b, Probst et al 2000, Faulquier et al 2009), while many fledglings are disorientated by the bright city lights of Réunion and crash land nearby (Le Corre et al 2002). Between March and September, birds are thought to roam the Indian Ocean possibly west to Madagascar, north to Sri Lanka, east to Australia, and to sea areas 1850 km south of Réunion (van

466 Barau's Petrel / Baraus Stormvogel *Pterodroma baraui*, off Réunion, Indian Ocean, 7 December 2014 *(Mike Danzenbaker)*

467 Barau's Petrel / Baraus Stormvogel *Pterodroma baraui*, off Réunion, Indian Ocean, 7 December 2014 *(Kirk Zufelt)*

den Berg et al 1991, Stahl & Bartle 1991, Robertson 1994, Pinet et al 2011b), but this is uncertain due to problems with at-sea recognition (Shirihai et al 2014).

Each trip, we saw 30 to over 50 Barau's Petrels. They were sighted from shortly after leaving harbour to our farthest chumming point at 32 km offshore. Some Barau's were attracted to the chum and flew up the oily slick sniffing the surface, with several dropping onto the sea by the chum blocks to collect morsels. At times, four or five birds foraged over the chum simultaneously. We occasionally saw Barau's join in the feeding frenzies of shearwaters and noddies. Barau's is one of the most easily seen *Pterodroma* species from land. In the evening, birds fly along the surf close to shore off St Pierre. Prior to dusk, birds gain height offshore before heading inland, as witnessed from St Gilles.

Mascarene Petrel (plate 468-472)

The life history of Mascarene Petrel has recently been detailed by Shirihai et al (2014, 2015). In this paper, we therefore concentrate on our observations.

We saw and photographed two birds: one 30-32 km south-southwest of St Pierre at 16:09 on 8 December (plate 468-469), and one 16 km west

TABLE 2 Counts of tubenoses seen during short-range pelagic trips off Réunion, Indian Ocean, in December 2014 / Tellingen van stormvogels tijdens pelagische tochten op korte afstand van Réunion, Indische Oceaan, in december 2014

	7 Dec	**8 Dec**	**9 Dec**	**10 Dec**	**11 Dec**	**12 Dec**	**13 Dec**
Barau's Petrel *Pterodroma baraui*	50+	40+	40+	45+	40+	50+	30+
Mascarene Petrel *Pseudobulweria aterrima*	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*	40+	25+	30+	70+	25+	30+	25+
Tropical Shearwater *Puffinus bailloni*	100+	20+	40+	100+	20+	20+	20+
Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*	2	1	1	0	6	4	0
Wilson's Storm Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*	0	0	2+	3	4	2	1

of St Gilles at 15:15 on 9 December (plate 470-472). This is only the second occasion that the species has been photographed at sea. The St Gilles record is the first Mascarene Petrel observed and photographed offshore of north-west Réunion. Both birds showed a degree of wear in the plumage with moult contrast and thus were not juveniles. The first Mascarene was relatively lightweight compared with the second bird and probably a female. The second was an exceptionally heavyset bird, with a notably robust bill, and presumably a well-developed adult male. To date, this is the most heavily-built bird to be photographed.

Both birds were drawn in by the chum but neither stayed for long, and neither flew off toward the island. Timing of the sightings suggests birds foraging in offshore waters rather than returning to their burrows. This indicates that birds will forage during the afternoon at least as close as 16 km from shore. Unlike our two birds, the majority of Mascarene Petrels seen by Shirihai et al (2015) were after 17:00, most after 18:00, and some of them headed toward the island presumably returning to their burrows.

We saw two birds in six trips, Shirihai et al (2015) reported 33 observations in three trips. Stage of the breeding season, timing and location of chumming sessions, type of chum, and weather conditions during the two operations were much the same. However, the moon cycle was a variable that differed significantly. The influence of the moon cycle varies depending on species, stage of breeding, and between breeders and non-breeders. In addition, a powerful typhoon hit Réunion a few days after the 2012 operations and the large influx on the 2012 trip may have resulted in part from an urgency of the petrels to return to their burrows before the storm (Hadoram Shirihai pers comm). The operations by Shirihai et al (2014, 2015) were early in a waxing moon while our operations were around the full moon. We know from our own experiences that breeding petrels tend to remain at sea during the full moon (also see Robb et al 2008). Not taking the moon cycle into account during operational planning was something of an oversight.

Two hypotheses have been put forward to explain why seabirds tend to remain at sea during bright moonlight (eg, Rubolini et al 2014). The *predation avoidance hypothesis* is the idea that seabirds like petrels do not return to the colony under moonlight as predators can take advantage from increased visibility. The *foraging efficiency hypothesis* is the idea that moonlight may reduce prey availability, as prey occurs at greater depths on moonlit nights, so petrels need longer foraging trips to collect the required prey. There is also the counter proposition that petrels may stay at sea longer because their prey becomes more detectable (Pinet et al 2011a). Petrels are more likely to return to colony during the full moon if a thick cloud cover creates darkness. We experienced largely clear skies. Particularly pertinent to this article is a unique case study that documents the regulation of the life history of Barau's Petrel by photoperiod and moon phases (Pinet et al 2011a).

We found the field identification of Mascarene Petrel challenging because we lacked previous field experience of the species. Prior to the sighting of the first bird we had several 'false alarms' involving Wedge-tailed Shearwaters *Puffinus pacificus* flying away from the boat at mid-distance in

468-469 Mascarene Petrel / Réunionstormvogel *Pseudobulweria aterrima*, 30-32 km south-southwest of St Pierre, off Réunion, Indian Ocean, 8 December 2014 *(Mike Danzenbaker)*

470-472 Mascarene Petrel / Réunionstormvogel *Pseudobulweria aterrima*, 16 km west of St Gilles, off Réunion, Indian Ocean, 9 December 2014 *(Mike Danzenbaker)*

less than optimal light. Furthermore, we initially thought that the relatively lightly-built first Mascarene was a Jouanin's Petrel *Bulweria fallax*. However, identification of the heftier second bird as Mascarene was straightforward, in part because of its heavy build, and in part because we were better prepared following the field experience and critical analysis of the photographs of the first bird (drawing on Shirihai et al 2014). In short, it took us time 'to get our eye in', a problem accentuated by the paucity of Mascarene throughout our operations. We appreciate the concern expressed by Shirihai et al (2014) about past errors in the identification of Mascarene, and the importance of substantiating future sightings with photographs.

Other tubenose species (plate 473-478)
Few other tubenose species were encountered. Tubenose species most commonly observed were Wedge-tailed Shearwater and Tropical Shearwater *P bailloni* that both breed on Réunion. Less common were Bulwer's Petrel *B bulwerii* and Wilson's Storm Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*. The latter species was only observed off St Gilles. Other common seabirds seen included White-tailed Tropicbird

473 Wedge-tailed Shearwater / Wigstaartpijlstormvogel *Puffinus pacificus*, off Réunion, Indian Ocean, 11 December 2014 *(Mike Danzenbaker)* **474** Wedge-tailed Shearwater / Wigstaartpijlstormvogel *Puffinus pacificus*, off Réunion, Indian Ocean, 7 December 2014 *(Kirk Zufelt)*




475 Tropical Shearwater / Baillons Kleine Pijlstormvogel *Puffinus bailloni*, off Réunion, Indian Ocean, 10 December 2014 *(Mike Danzenbaker)* **476** Tropical Shearwater / Baillons Kleine Pijlstormvogel *Puffinus bailloni*, off Réunion, Indian Ocean, 10 December 2014 *(Kirk Zufelt)* **477** Bulwer's Petrel / Bulwers Stormvogel *Bulweria bulwerii*, off Réunion, Indian Ocean, 11 December 2014 *(Kirk Zufelt)* **478** Bulwer's Petrel / Bulwers Stormvogel *Bulweria bulwerii*, off Réunion, Indian Ocean, 12 December 2014 *(Mike Danzenbaker)*

Phaethon lepturus, Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*, Lesser Noddy *A tenuirostris* and Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus*.

Each trip we encountered several feeding frenzies of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, Tropical Shearwaters and noddies. Feeding frenzies occurred where large fish were preying on small fish and pushing them to the surface, especially in areas baited by the fishing industry. For Wedge-tailed, highest counts were over 40 and over 70 at substantial-sized feeding frenzies, while for Tropical, the highest count was over 100. Both Bulwer's Petrel and Wedge-tailed were readily attracted to chum, often flying up the slick, and occasionally dropping onto the chum and feeding on floating morsels. Some birds flew toward the island, especially in the evening. Tropical gathered in flocks before dusk off St Gilles.

Concluding remarks

Timing is important. Mid-December to late December is a good time to undertake short-range pelagic trips in search of Barau's Petrel and Mascarene Petrel. This is just after or toward the end of the pre egg-laying exodus. We suspect that it is best to avoid periods around the full moon. December is within the relatively settled period November-February, although it is also the typhoon season when the relative calm can turn into a massive storm and potentially blow out a week-long visit. That said, typhoons in December are uncommon and more likely in the New Year.

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Samenvatting
Baraus Stormvogel, Réunionstormvogel en andere stormvogels rond Réunion, Indische Oceaan, in december 2014 Dit artikel bespreekt waarnemingen van stormvogels tijdens een serie van zes korte pelagische trips vanuit Réunion, Indische Oceaan, in december 2014. Speciale aandacht werd besteed aan de bedreigde Baraus Stormvogel *Pterodroma baraui* (waarnemingen van 30 tot meer dan 50 exemplaren op elk van de zes trips) en de ernstig bedreigde Réunionstormvogel *Pseudobulweria aterrima* (twee verschillende exemplaren gefotografeerd op 8 en 9 december).

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Robert L Flood, 14 Ennor Close, Old Town, St Mary's, TR21 0NL Isles of Scilly, UK (live2seabird@gmail.com)
Elaine Cook, 10 Lime Avenue, High Wycombe, HP11 1DP Buckinghamshire, UK
Mike Danzenbaker, 13164 Diercx Dr, Mountain View, CA 94040, USA
Doug Koch, Berkshire Stud, PO Box 309, Pine Plains, NY 12567, USA
John Shemilt, 184 East 64th Street, New York, NY 10065, USA
Kirk Zufelt, 1001 Third Line East, Sault Ste Marie, P6A 6J8 Ontario, Canada

Birding in European Russia: Ural mountains, Yekaterinburg and Orenburg region

Josh Jones, David Monticelli & Pierre-André Crochet

Stretching c 2500 km from the Arctic Ocean coast of the Russian Federation south to north-western Kazakhstan, the Ural mountains form a natural boundary between Europe and Asia as well as the eastern frontier of the Western Palearctic (WP). This peripheral location equates to an enviable list of resident and migrant breeding species that are otherwise difficult – if not impossible – to see elsewhere within the WP. Despite this obvious appeal, the entire range has seldom been visited by European birders and, consequently, information on the birds of the Ural mountains is difficult to come by. In addition, as we found during our trips there, the available information is often fragmentary and sometimes inaccurate. One commercial birdwatching company (Birdfinders, see www.birdfinders.co.uk/tours/russia.html) has offered trips to the area since 2010 but it visited very few sites and found 'only' a number of the potential species. Therefore, there was a genuine exploratory element to trips to the Ural mountains in the summers of 2013 and 2014. In June 2013, two French birders (Pierre-André Crochet and Eric Didner) successfully visited the Yekaterinburg area and the Ural mountains west of Severouralsk for two weeks. Building on this, a contingent of six Belgian and British and another group of Finnish birders then visited the Urals in June 2014, the former team also including a visit to the steppes of the Orenburg region on the border with Kazakhstan. Another two trips by other birders followed in summer 2015.

The results of these trips demonstrate that Russia is very much an accessible and fruitful birding destination at the right time of year, and we envisage that it will become increasingly popular in coming summers. With comprehensive information difficult to find elsewhere, the aim of this paper is therefore to provide a report on the avifauna that we consider to be of particular significance to European birders. The first three sections of this report reflect the three distinct areas of the Ural mountains visited in the first two trips: the Yekaterinburg area, the 'North Urals' west of Severouralsk and the Orenburg region, examining the primary target species within each area. The fourth section of this report contains detailed notes on additional interesting taxa found across the regions.

Please note that the taxonomy and English names here follow the Dutch Birding checklist (www.dutchbirding.nl/page.php?page_id=228), which differs for some taxa from treatments followed by other checklists or publications dealing with the Russian avifauna.

Western Palearctic boundaries in Russia

The visited areas are situated very close to the eastern boundary of the WP as defined by BWP (Cramp & Simmons 1977). Precise knowledge of the location of these boundaries in the field is crucial both to evaluate the significance of local bird records to the WP list (see, eg, Ryabitsev & Wilson 1999, Wilson & Korovin 2003, Boyko 2010) and to know which sightings can be 'admitted' by WP listers on their own list. The eastern boundaries of the WP between the Caspian Sea and Arctic Ocean in BWP are those adopted by the Flora Europaea project (see Cramp & Simmons 1977). These limits can be found in Tutin et al (1964) and are defined for the Ural region as '... along the crest of the Ural mountains (following the administrative boundaries) to 58°30'N; thence by an arbitrary straight line to a point 50 km E. of Sverdlosk [=Yekaterinburg], and by another arbitrary straight line to the head-water of the Ural river (S. of Zlatoust); thence along the Ural river to the Caspian Sea'. The limits of the 'WP sensu BWP' are thus much further east than the traditionally admitted boundary between Europe and Asia, which lie along the southern Ural ridge c 40 km west of Yekaterinburg. Locating the precise WP limits in the field is straightforward south of the Ural headwaters (assuming the limit runs midway between the eastern and western side of the river) and north of 58°30'N (as the administrative limits can be found in Russian maps such as those available online, eg, http://maps.vlasenko.net/soviet-military-topographic-map/map100k.html). Between these two points, the limits can

only be relatively imprecise as '50 km west of Yekaterinburg' is impossible to place precisely on a map given the size of Yekaterinburg city itself and the uncertainty associated with the location of its centre.

Logistics

Reaching Yekaterinburg from western Europe is fairly straightforward. For example, Finnair operates four flights a week from Helsinki while there are also four weekly flights from Istanbul with Turkish Airlines. It is also possible to travel from many European cities via Moscow, from where there are multiple flights to Yekaterinburg on a daily basis. From a northern European perspective, travelling via Helsinki often provides the easiest (and cheapest) option.

Visiting Russia requires a visa and to obtain this, you must possess a letter of invitation. This in turn can be sourced from a local travel agency; ours were supplied by Ural Expeditions & Tours (http://welcome-ural.ru/), an extremely helpful company based in Yekaterinburg. In 2014, the costs were EUR 45 per person. In addition to the visa itself (which cost c EUR 115 in 2014), this makes for a sizeable but necessary sum even before the trip has begun; recent news regarding visa is that you also need to have a Russian health insurance, costing c 30 EUR for short stay (<66 days) and c 40 EUR for long stay (>66 days).

FIGURE 1 Map of European Russia and adjacent countries, with localities of interest (see text for details)

The most challenging aspect is organizing ground logistics within Russia. With only a very small percentage of the population speaking English of any quality, it can be a difficult place to explore for non-nationals – particularly as some areas are restricted for foreigners or at least require permits to visit. Therefore, while it is possible to go without, we would strongly recommend hiring a Russian-speaking guide, driver and cook, at least when exploring the remote region west of Severouralsk where a 4x4 vehicle is necessary. A team of Finnish birders visited this area in 2014 using the aforementioned Ural Expeditions & Tours, who put together a week-long trip and they are recommended as any prospective birders' first port of call for visiting the region. A Russian-speaking guide would also be useful in the Orenburg region, although the roads are good here and it is certainly possible to cover this area in a hire car. The Yekaterinburg area is very easy to explore independently, though it is worth noting that car rental is expensive in Russia and we paid c EUR 125 per day for the cheapest option available from the airport.

In terms of accommodation, camping is the only possibility in the North Urals. We also camped on the steppe of the Orenburg region, although there are presumably hostels/hotels in some of the local towns in the region. When around Yekaterinburg, the 2014 crew based itself at the Liner Hotel (www.vi-hotels.com/en/liner), situated just a few 100 m from the terminal at Koltsavo Airport. Prices here are comparatively cheap, and the food in the hotel's restaurant is of good quality and served 24 hours a day due to airline personnel using the hotel as a base (very useful when returning from a long day in the field). The French crew slept outside (in the car) for most of the nights around Yekaterinburg and experienced no problems; in fact, Russians are quite fond of outdoor activities and often camp outside themselves.

Food and petrol are easy to obtain everywhere except in the remote parts of the Urals, where shops in small villages can be difficult to find and have little choice. Small restaurants can be found easily, even away from Yekaterinburg. Yekaterinburg itself – a city of two million inhabitants – provides the same facilities as all major European cities, with supermarkets and fast foods as prominent as in western Europe. We found travelling and birding generally as easy as in, eg, Finland, although a

Russian dictionary comes handy when trying to choose from a menu. Precise recent road maps of the Yekaterinburg area can be bought in Russia and old maps of the whole area can be downloaded from http://maps.vlasenko.net/soviet-military-topographic-map/map100k.html but are only available in Russian. Generally, most road signs are written only in Cyrillic and learning to read some words before travelling is very useful.

Yekaterinburg area

By far the most straightforward area of the Urals to explore is that around the city of Yekaterinburg. The road network is very good and an excellent array of birding sites are just a short drive away. Typical habitats consist of wet marshes, riparian woodland, birch and/or pine woods and open fields, although many of the area's speciality birds are to be found in the wetter areas. Many of the common species give a very eastern flavour to the bird communities of the area. Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* and Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* are both very common in wet woods and marshes with bushes or trees; River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis* is also quite numerous in similar habitat. Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata* is easily found in low bushes in drier, grassy areas and Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus maurus* can be found in similar dry habitats. Greenish Warblers *Phylloscopus trochiloides* are common in habitats with tall trees and Siberian Chiffchaff *P tristis* (the only chiffchaff species) can be heard just about everywhere. Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* breeds in good numbers in some of the wet marshes such as the 'airport marshes' (see below). Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* was heard calling at two spots in 2013 (the airport marshes and around a small pond at 56°50′17″N, 61°20′46″E), while Spotted Crake *P porzana* was heard at a few sites and Corncrake *Crex crex* is audible in most wet grassy areas. Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* was observed at two sites in 2014 and is presumably a scarce breeder in the area.

For European birders, however, the primary targets in this area will be three species: Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus optatus*, Long-tailed Rosefinch *Carpodacus sibiricus* and Azure Tit *Cyanistes cyanus*. Exciting migrant breeders include Rufous Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis meena*, Lanceolated Warbler *L lanceolata* and Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*, although the latter has declined massively over its entire range in recent years and is now genuinely rare (cf Fijen 2015). Lanceolated Warbler is widespread and common in wet habitats but its temporal abundance seems to vary from year to year. Singing in many spots on 8 June 2013, it was not recorded before 14 June in 2014 and before 10 June in 2015. The airport marshes and the river north of Verknemakarovo seem to hold a good number of this species.

Rufous Turtle Dove

Birds were seen east of the large lake on the east side of the town of Nevyansk in both 2013 and 2014; in 2013, they favoured the telegraph wires and fields while in 2014 a pair – including a displaying male – was seen in the woods on the west side of the road, viewed from the obvious marshy intersection at 57°28′22″N, 60°17′02″E. In 2013, birds were also seen in the pine woods at 57°21′32″N, 60°33′25″E while sightings in 2014 included fly-overs in the marshes east of Monetnyy on 8 June, just inside the WP boundary north of Nijni Taguil at 58°08′12″N, 59°52′60″E on 9 June and at the airport marshes on 20 June. Evidently, the species is widespread but not common in the area.

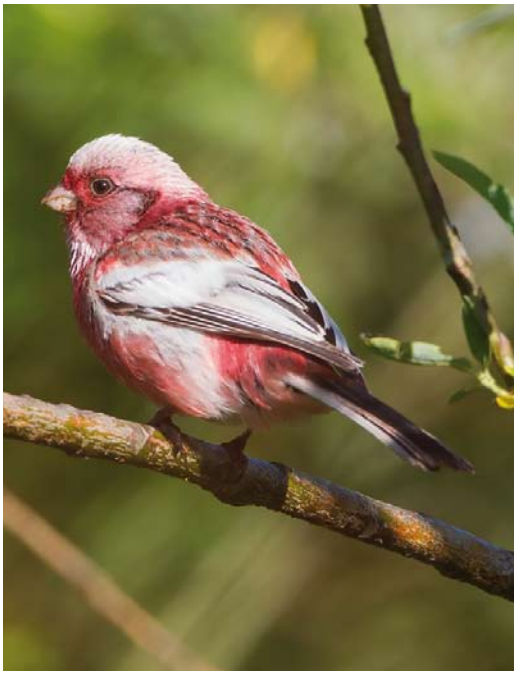
Oriental Cuckoo

This species was fairly common around Yekaterinburg but difficult to observe well and always outnumbered by Common Cuckoo *C canorus*. In 2013, one bird was seen well (with others singing) along the river at 56°35′18″N, 60°21′03″E, near the village of Raskuikha. Birds were also seen here in 2014, though not by us. In 2014, we recorded at least three singing males in the marshes east of Monetnyy early morning on 8 June, with one seen well and photographed in flight there during the evening. In 2013, further records were obtained at 56°50′17″N, 61°20′46″E and along the river at Verknemakarovo while, in 2015, several were heard south of lake Shitovskoye (57°06′20″N, 60°30′13″E).

Azure Tit

This is another species characteristic of the wet marshes and birch-dominated woodland of the area, and sites overlap with Long-tailed Rosefinch. In all three years, birds were observed at Bolshoy Istok (see Long-tailed Rosefinch below), with two adults in 2014 seemingly feeding young. It was nevertheless the marshes at Monetnyy that proved most fruitful for sightings in 2014, with at least eight birds seen well early morning on 8 June and again in the evening. Birds were observed in birch scrub in the marshes along the track running east from 57°01′12″N, 60°58′49″E. In 2015, two individuals were found in the same area. As with Long-tailed Rosefinch, we suspect it to be quite com-

479 Airport marshes near Bolshoy Istok, Yekaterinburg, Russia, 19 June 2013 *(Eric Didner)* **480** Azure Tit / Azuurmees *Cyanistes cyanus*, marshes east of Monetnyy, Yekaterinburg, Russia, 8 June 2014 *(David Monticelli)* **481** Long-tailed Rosefinch / Langstaartroodmus *Carpodacus sibiricus*, marshes east of Monetnyy, Yekaterinburg, Russia, 8 June 2014 *(David Monticelli)*



482 Sykes's Blue-headed Wagtail / Russische Gele Kwikstaart *Motacilla flava beema*, marshes east of Monetnyy, Yekaterinburg, Russia, 9 June 2015 *(Felix Timmermann)*

483 Rufous Turtle Dove / Meenatortel *Streptopelia orientalis meena*, near Nevyansk, Yekaterinburg, Russia, 17 June 2013 *(Eric Didner)*

484 Booted Warbler / Kleine Spotvogel *Iduna caligata*, airport marshes near Bolshoy Istok, Yekaterinburg, Russia, 7 June 2014 *(David Monticelli)*

485 Lanceolated Warbler / Kleine Sprinkhaanzanger *Locustella lanceolata*, singing male, airport marshes near Bolshoy Istok, Yekaterinburg, Russia, 29 June 2014 *(David Monticelli)*

mon in the area, even if localised, and further investigation of similar habitats in the area would probably produce sightings.

Long-tailed Rosefinch
This species was seen in each year, being recorded at two sites in 2013, three in 2014 and three in 2015. Given the plentiful availability of preferred habitat – wet marshes and riparian/wet woodland, predominately birch, willow and alder – it seems likely that this species is quite widespread (possibly even common) in the area. In all three years, several birds were easily observed in the airport marshes at Bolshoy Istok, very close to Koltsavo Airport. It is accessed by parking at the end of the road by a cemetery and rubbish dump at 56°43′56″N, 60°46′58″E and walking north-west into the marsh. The wetter areas around 56°44′06″N, 60°46′24″E routinely proved most productive for sightings of parties of up to seven birds. The river valley at the village of Verknemakarovo also produced sightings in 2013 and 2014. The terrain is drier here and the woodland more mature; parking on the west side of the village at 56°42′58″N, 60°16′17″E and walking north-west along the river valley for up to 2 km should produce sightings. A third site was discovered in 2014 in the wet marshes east of the village of Monetnyy, where at least six birds were seen by the track at 57°01′11″N, 60°59′02″E early morning on 8 June with further sightings in the immediate area that afternoon. Birds were seen here again in 2015, with a further new site discovered south of lake Shitovskoye (57°06′20″N, 60°30′13″E).

Yellow-breasted Bunting
Based on literature, the species should be abundant in the area but our Russian contacts indicated that it had declined dramatically and there was only a single observation in 2013, in the airport marshes at Bolshoy Istok by Eric Didner. The species was neither seen nor heard in 2014, despite local ornithologists suggesting to us in 2013 that the airport marshes were a stronghold for the species a few years ago. This strongly suggests that the species could be quickly disappearing from the area, if it has not done so already.




486 Steppe Gull / Barabameeuw *Larus barabensis*, Yekaterinburg, Russia, 20 June 2013 *(Eric Didner)* **487** Steppe Gull / Barabameeuw *Larus barabensis*, Yekaterinburg, Russia, 19 June 2013 *(Eric Didner)* **488** Oriental Cuckoo / Boskoekoek *Cuculus optatus*, marshes east of Monetnyy, Yekaterinburg, Russia, 8 June 2014 *(David Monticelli)* **489** Siberian Chiffchaff / Siberische Tjiftjaf *Phylloscopus tristis*, marshes east of Monetnyy, Yekaterinburg, Russia, 8 June 2014 *(David Monticelli)*

Ural mountains west of Severouralsk

For the majority of birders, the wilderness of the North Urals will form the pinnacle of a trip to European Russia. It is an epitome of Siberia: vast expanses of unspoiled taiga forest, spectacular rolling hills and of course a fine array of birdlife to go with it. However, the wilderness means that most areas can only be visited by walking or canoeing for several days from the closest drivable track, and the logistics can be discouraging. Even the forest roads that were made under the USSR (when the area was renowned for its prison camps – the infamous gulags – and its mines) are currently not maintained. One such track reaching a disused mine east of Ivdel requires nearly two days' drive from that town, itself a day's drive from Yekaterinburg. The only easily-drivable earth road in the whole area starts from just east of Severouralsk and traverses west to the western foothills of mount Kvarkush (more a plateau than a genuine mountain), just 10 km west of the main Ural ridge. It thus gives easy access to the WP area of the North Urals and is, to our knowledge, the only such place in this region. In this area of the Ural mountains, many of the 'Sibes' that European birders hope to see as vagrants during the autumn months are breeding, some in remarkable abundance. Species such as Greenish, Arctic *P borealis* and Yellow-browed Warbler *P inornatus*, Asian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea asiatica,* White's Thrush *Zoothera aurea*, Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis*, Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*, Olive-backed

Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* and Little Bunting *E pusilla* are among the common species. Great Snipe *Gallinago media* is abundant on mount Kvarkush while typical boreal specialities such as Grey-headed Chickadee (also known as Siberian Tit) *Poecile cinctus*, Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*, Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator* and Rustic Bunting *E rustica* have been found by visiting groups. The forests of the Kvarkush slopes and main Ural ridge are still unspoilt but the vast majority of lowland areas between these two mountains have been cut down for forestry, except for narrow margins along river valleys. The regenerating birch forests are relatively uninteresting birdwise but the mature forests along the rivers hold good numbers of Asian Nuthatch and small numbers of White's Thrush, while a Rustic Bunting was seen along the Uls river just downstream from the bridge (60°06′51″N, 58°53′19″E).

The Ural ridge and Kvarkush are actually represented by a rich mosaic of differing habitats. The 'mountains' (really no more than hills) are steep-sloped and rocky, holding sparse vegetation (mainly grasses but also some shrubs) on the flat plateaus. Willow Ptarmigan *Lagopus lagopus* are reasonably common here and we encountered Rock Ptarmigan *L muta* above the snow line on Kvarkush in 2014. Above the treeline, there are also open areas of moor where we encountered both Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* (Kvarkush only) and European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*. The moors are characterised by scattered patches of scrub, including willow in the wetter areas. Lower down, spruce forest dominates. It is this habitat that hosts the greatest densities of many species such as Greenish Warbler, Red-flanked Bluetail and Olive-backed Pipit and Arctic Warblers can be found, while we encountered interesting species such as Hazel Grouse *Tetrastes bonasia* and Grey-headed Chickadee here. Towards the valley floor there are also large boggy areas where birch prevails. Yellow-browed Warblers are incredibly abundant in this wetter habitat, seemingly singing in every tree, while Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix* and Little Bunting should also be found.

Oriental Cuckoo

As around Yekaterinburg, this species is fairly common in the North Urals but again less numerous than Common Cuckoo. Nevertheless, their loud, softly resonating, Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*-like *pu pu* was omnipresent both along the main

490 Ural ridge (distant view) with mixed coniferous forest, west of Severouralsk, Ural mountains, Russia, 10 June 2014 *(David Monticelli)*

491 Oriental Cuckoo / Boskoekoek *Cuculus optatus*, Ural ridge west of Severouralsk, Ural mountains, Russia, 20 June 2015 *(Felix Timmermann)*

Ural ridge and also at Kvarkush; males were usually audible from our campsites at both locations.

Black-throated Accentor

Black-throated Accentor *Prunella atrogularis* is probably widespread in the North Urals based on available literature; we found it in only one area of the main Ural ridge. Birds favoured open but mature coniferous forest and were best located when singing from exposed perches – often the very tops of spruce trees. In 2013, either one wide-ranging or two different birds were located at 60°08′06″N, 59°03′52″E and 60°08′39″N, 59°04′11″E while, in 2014, what was presumably one wide-ranging male was first observed on 60°08′22″N, 59°04′12″E on 11 June then seen 450 m away at 60°08′35″N, 59°04′02″E the following morning. Despite extensive searching of this area by several parties in 2015, none could be found. Beware that the song is similar to both the commoner Dunnock *P modularis* and the abundant Olive-backed Pipit; both species routinely fooled us before we found the real thing, and Dunnock readily responds to Black-throated Accentor playback. Although obviously a very small sample size, all observers were struck by the birds' distinctive appearance, which contrasts with what has traditionally been illustrated in field guides such as Svensson et al (2009). Most notably, the head is almost completely black with a white supercilium restricted to behind the eye, and a complete lack of the illustrated white malar stripe. Interestingly, in the recently revised edition, Svensson et al (2015) depict this as regular summer plumage, whereas the head pattern with extensive supercilium and white malar stripe is given as 'variation'. On the main Ural ridge, Dunnock is considerably more common than Black-throated Accentor but that species seems to prefer lower bushes at or above the tree line.

Siberian Rubythroat

Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope* arguably is the most enigmatic of the breeding species in the North Urals. It appears to be a scarce summer visitor to the area and is best known from the Kvarkush plateau. Here, it typically inhabits dense patches of willow up to 1.5 m in height on the moor above the treeline, a habitat shared with the much commoner Bluethroat *L svecica*. Arriving back on breeding grounds notoriously late, a trip in early to mid-June seems essential to optimise chances of connecting. In 2014, a male was in full song early on 12 June and this was followed by sightings of at least two males feeding just above the treeline in

492 Siberian Rubythroat / Roodkeelnachtegaal *Calliope calliope*, male, mount Kvarkush, west of Severouralsk, Ural mountains, Russia, 18 June 2015 *(Felix Timmermann)*

493 Siberian Lesser Whitethroat / Siberische Braamsluiper *Sylvia althaea blythi*, Ural ridge west of Severouralsk, Ural mountains, Russia, 11 June 2014 *(David Monticelli)*

494 Black-throated Accentor / Zwartkeelheggenmus *Prunella atrogularis*, male, Ural ridge west of Severouralsk, Ural mountains, Russia, 11 June 2014 *(David Monticelli)* **495** Greenish Warbler / Grauwe Fitis *Phylloscopus trochiloides*, Ural ridge west of Severouralsk, Ural mountains, Russia, 11 June 2014 *(David Monticelli)* **496** Red-flanked Bluetail / Blauwstaart *Tarsiger cyanurus*, female, Ural ridge west of Severouralsk, Ural mountains, Russia, 11 June 2013 *(Eric Didner)*

497 Yellow-browed Warbler / Bladkoning *Phylloscopus inornatus*, Ural ridge west of Severouralsk, Ural mountains, Russia, 11 June 2014 *(David Monticelli)*

498 Arctic Warbler / Noordse Boszanger *Phylloscopus borealis*, Ural ridge west of Severouralsk, Ural mountains, Russia, 10 June 2014 *(David Monticelli)*

499 Black-throated Thrush / Zwartkeellijster *Turdus atrogularis*, Ural ridge west of Severouralsk, Ural mountains, Russia, 10 June 2014 *(Josh Jones)*

500 Asian Nuthatch / Aziatische Boomklever *Sitta europaea asiatica*, Ural ridge west of Severouralsk, Ural mountains, Russia, 12 June 2013 *(Eric Didner)*

poor weather on 13 June, one of which gave occasional bursts of sub-song – their behaviour suggested that they had only recently arrived. Good weather and improved coverage in 2015 resulted in the most productive year so far, with at least six males recorded from 15 June at five different locations spread widely across the plateau.

White's Thrush
This species was fairly common in the forests with the eerie song being a round-the-clock feature, as males performed through the night. Despite being widespread and often singing from the tops of pine trees, it is one of the most difficult species to observe well in the area due to its wariness and far-carrying vocals, which can make it difficult to pinpoint. We found that climbing the ridge above the treeline and scanning the tree tops was the best way to obtain prolonged views.

Black-throated Thrush
The typical thrush-like song and repetitive nervous *chack* of this species were a familiar sound in the North Urals. In 2014 and 2015, it seemed more common on the Kvarkush plateau, where observations were particularly numerous above the treeline, although it was nevertheless seen in small numbers daily on the main Ural ridge. In 2013, numerous birds were singing on the main Ural ridge while smaller numbers were seen on the Kvarkush plateau. In 2013, several females were seen dueting with males, a behaviour not previously reported, as far as we know (female song seems to be unreported in this species).

Orenburg region
Situated c 500 km south of Yekaterinburg, the Orenburg Oblast borders north-western Kazakhstan. The South Urals stretch through the centre of the region but, by this point, are little more than low, rolling hills. The Ural river, which forms the WP border, traverses the province, flowing south to the city of Orsk before sharply turning westwards to the city of Orenburg and onwards into western Kazakhstan. As such, the area around Orsk represents one of the south-eastern extremities of the WP and consequently was identified as a prime location to search for our target species: Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo*, White-winged Lark *Alauda leucoptera*, Black Lark *Melanocorypha yeltoniensis* and Red-headed Bunting *E bruniceps*.

To identify areas worthy of exploration, we spent considerable time studying Google Earth prior to visiting the region. Unfortunately, much of the steppe on the European side of the Ural river is now significantly degraded and/or fragmented due to agricultural use (grazing, crops) and settlements but pockets of good conditioned 'virgin' steppe do still exist. The habitat is much better preserved to the south and east of the Ural river where human habitation is sparser but, for the keen WP lister, this is of little use because it lies outside the boundary. Despite this, birdlife (as well as mammal and insect life) is still found in impressive abundance in the region. Easily, the most numerous bird here is Eurasian Skylark *A arvensis*, and its song fills the air almost everywhere you go. Sykes's Blue-headed Wagtails *M flava beema* and Ortolan Buntings *E hortulana* also appear very common. For European birders, exciting species that are likely to be

seen in summer include Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*, Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*, Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*, Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* (although we found Montagu's Harrier *C pygargus* to be considerably more common), Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes* (recorded in 2015), Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*, Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*, Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* and Paddyfield Warbler *A agricola*. Both warbler species are quite common in their respective preferred habitats. Species such as Siberian Chiffchaff, Booted Warbler, Blyth's Reed Warbler and Citrine Wagtail are again easy to find in the right habitat and we also saw Siberian Lesser Whitethroat *S althaea blythi* along the Ural river. In 2015, a male Rufous Turtle Dove was recorded singing north-east of Malokhalilovo (51°26′08″N, 58°10′46″E) on 18 June and two birds (including a displaying male) were seen north of Urtazim (52°16′46″N, 58°51′17″E).

In summary, we enjoyed surprising success with our primary targets in the region in June 2014 but failed with one: Black Lark. We have nevertheless included it below and summarised our thoughts on its possible occurrence in this area, and we included significant sightings made by two teams in June 2015.

Demoiselle Crane

Given that the limited information we had received before the 2014 trip suggested Demoiselle Crane was only very sparsely distributed in both the Orenburg and Chelyabinsk Oblasts and that locations varied each year, this was the species we least expected to see. Our only sighting was of a pair flying over the road near the town of Khalilovo (51°23′42″N, 58°07′10″E) during mid-afternoon on 17 June. Further coverage in 2015 produced a significant upturn in sightings, the highlight being a flock of 12 at the western end of the lake south-east of Makan, viewed west from 51°56′20″N 58°23′04″E, on 18 June (with c 50 Black-winged Pratincoles also there). Nearby, a pair was recorded south-east of Podolsk (51°59′56″N, 58°31′07″E) on 19 June. Further south, a pair was nesting along the river valley south of Gaynulino (51°19′34″N, 58°15′32″E), with another pair seen north of Novonikolaevka (51°40′20″N 58°18′20″E) on 9 June. Presumably, it is possible to come across the species anywhere in suitable habitat. Exploring the expansive, rolling steppe of the Ural valley from Orsk north to the city of Magnitogorsk in the Chelyabinsk Oblast must offer plenty of opportunities for sightings.

501 Steppe west of Orsk, Orenburg Oblast, Russia, 15 June 2014 *(David Monticelli)*

502 Red-headed Bunting / Bruinkopgors *Emberiza bruniceps*, male, near Malokhalilovo, north-west of Orsk, Orenburg Oblast, Russia, 17 June 2014 *(Josh Jones)* **503** Paddyfield Warbler / Veldrietzanger *Acrocephalus agricola*, Ural valley north of Orsk, Orenburg Oblast, Russia, 16 June 2014 *(Josh Jones)* **504** Siberian Stonechat / Aziatische Roodborsttapuit *Saxicola maurus maurus*, male, near Gaynulino, north-west of Orsk, Orenburg Oblast, Russia, 17 June 2014 *(Josh Jones)*

White-winged Lark
Due to fragmented and degraded habitat on the European side of the Ural river, we found this species at only one site in 2014: a large expanse of wormwood (*Artemisia*) steppe east of the village of Gaynulino. In all, two pairs were located: a singing male was observed 2 km east of the large lake (c 51°22′06″N, 58°21′52″E) on 16 and 17 June, with a female also seen in the vicinity. A second pair was then located by the roadside at 51°21′02″N, 58°22′29″E, although extensive searching of the area failed to produce any further sightings. In 2015, the latter site produced three birds on 8 June, with four seen just west of Novonikolaevka (51°38′40″N, 58°19′16″E) on 9 June. Presumably, there is every chance that the species may be found in suitable habitat within the WP further north along the Ural valley; we did not search this area but we saw a pair just shy of 53°N, well east of the WP boundary, on 19 June. Finally, it is worth mentioning that the species seemed fairly common on the extensive sandy steppe just 30 km east of the WP boundary; we observed several birds with ease south-east of the town of Novoorsk where habitat is much more continuous and evidently less disturbed.

Black Lark
This was the only one of our main targets that we failed to see in the Orenburg region in 2014, both in and outside the WP. BirdLife International (2015) lists the species as very common in the Orenburgski Nature Reserve, situated c 180 km to the east of Orsk in the easternmost reaches of the region – something reinforced by local ornithologists (E Barbazyuk & A Davygora pers comm) but it is apparently thinly distributed. Our exploration was far from exhaustive in the three full days we spent in the area, and there were numerous areas identified as potentially good that we did not manage to check. As such, it seems entirely possible that Black Lark may be present in the area in small numbers, although two parties again failed to find the species in 2015.

Red-headed Bunting
Prior to the 2014 trip we had managed to glean information that Red-headed Bunting was possible well to the south of the Ural river but that there had also been sporadic reports near the village of Khalilovo, to the north-west of Orsk (E Barbazyuk pers comm) while further research had revealed photographs taken near the city of Orenburg. It therefore seemed possible that we could find it within the WP – and so it proved. At least three males and two females were seen along the river near the village of Malokhalilovo on 16 and 17 June: two males and a female were seen in the tall weeds and grasses (51°24′59″N, 58°08′46″E) and another pair favoured more mature scrub with scattered bushes 1 km further along the valley (51°25′27″N, 58°08′12″E). We also had two sightings along the track between Lylovo and Izhberda, 15 km to the south-west. In 2015, the Malokhalilovo area (51°25′31″N, 58°08′26″E) produced a male on 10 June. Another was seen a few 100 m south of the road between Gaynulino and Repino (51°20′35″N, 58°22′27″E) on 8 June with this general area producing at least four (including three males) on 18 June. Based on our limited experience, we would suggest that the species appears to favour weedy areas with scattered bushes, perhaps with an affinity for water (ie, river valleys). It would not surprise us if more extensive research would reveal the species to be fairly common, though probably localised, in the area.

Other selected taxa

Steppe Gull
The distribution of large white-headed gulls *Larus* in Russia is still imperfectly known. Based on recently published maps (eg, Snow & Perrins 1998, Olsen & Larsson 2004), the area around Yekaterinburg is devoid of breeding large white-headed gulls. However, we saw large white-headed gulls daily around Yekaterinburg, sometimes in numbers, suggesting that they are breeding in the area even though colonies were not located. All adult birds seen in 2013 were Steppe Gulls *L barabensis* in appearance, with upperparts paler than Lesser Black-backed Gull *L fuscus graellsii*, similar to Yellow-legged Gull *L michahellis*, and with more extensive black on the wing-tip than Caspian Gull *L cachinnans* (see plate 486-487). If these birds really breed around Yekaterinburg, it would represent a significant westward extension of the breeding range of Steppe Gull into the WP but more research is clearly needed.

Asian Nuthatch
The nuthatches seen in the Ural mountains were all of the *asiatica* subspecies, characterized by pale upperparts, wide whitish supercilium, upturned bill shape due to straight culmen and oblique gonys and reduced amount of colouring on the vent and undertail-coverts. This well-marked subspecies (when compared with European breeders) belongs to the eastern group of subspecies as defined by Red'kin & Konovalova (2006); this group is a

505 Demoiselle Cranes / Jufferkraanvogels *Grus virgo*, south-east of Podolsk, Orenburg Oblast, Russia, 19 June 2015 *(Rami Mizrachi)* **506** White-winged Lark / Witvleugelleeuwerik *Alauda leucoptera*, in display, near Gaynulino, north-west of Orsk, Orenburg Oblast, Russia, 17 June 2014 *(David Monticelli)*

strong candidate for future split due to reduced intergradation with the western group in contact zones in the southern Ural range and in the lower basins of the Kama and Vyatka rivers (Red'kin & Konovalova 2006). This is supported by markedly different mitochondrial and nuclear genomes of the eastern and western groups (Hung et al 2012). Their voice was not audibly different from European birds but detailed analysis would be needed. Some nuthatches seen around Yekaterinburg did not look so obviously different from European birds but they were not photographed, inviting better scrutiny of the nuthatches there.

Siberian Lesser Whitethroat

In 2013, 'lesser whitethroats' were only recorded in the Ural mountains west of Severouralsk, where all birds heard were giving a short but complex warbling song phrase very different from the song of Lesser Whitethroat *S curruca curruca* in western Europe. In 2014, birds were also recorded along the Ural river in the north Orenburg region. As can be seen from the accompanying photograph, these birds look very similar to western European breeders but seem to exhibit paler underparts with less contrast between the white throat and chest and flanks, slightly paler, sandier mantle and paler grey head with less marked pale brown facial mask. No differences in calls were noted. Based on range and song, these birds should belong to the taxon *S a blythi*, which looks so similar to nominate *curruca* that it was synonymized by Shirihai et al (2001). Genetic data (Olsson et al 2013), on the contrary, indicate that *blythi* harbours a divergent mitochondrial lineage, suggesting a long period of genetic isolation from *curruca*. As the accompanying photographs illustrate, identification of *blythi* in western Europe based on plumage alone will probably remain a challenge for birders.

Siberian Chiffchaff

Siberian Chiffchaff was very common around Yekaterinburg and in the Ural mountains, and was also numerous in scrub and wooded habitat in the Orenburg region (see below). Its song formed part of the acoustic environment in most localities where trees grow, from marshes with scattered trees to edges of dense forest through most type of open forests. No western chiffchaff song type was heard either in 2013 or in 2014. This matches well with what is known on the location of the hybrid zone between Common Chiffchaff *P collybita* and Siberian Chiffchaff which lies west of the Ural mountains (Lindholm 2008, Marova et al 2009).

Eurasian Bullfinch

Considerable interest has arisen in the variations of Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula pyrrhula* calls in recent years following invasions in western Europe of birds with a call type unfamiliar to most birders there, the so-called 'trumpet' call. The origin of these 'trumpeter' bullfinches is still mostly unclear, although available evidence points toward populations in eastern Russia/western Siberia (see Pennington & Meek 2006). It might thus be of interest to mention that all Eurasian Bullfinches heard in 2013 either around Yekaterinburg or in the North Urals were giving trumpet calls and that no soft contact call of the western Europe type were heard. This seemingly confirms the suspicion

of Pennington & Meek (2006) that the populations giving 'trumpet' calls originate from Russia east of Finland but west of the Siberian plains (but see also Constantine & The Sound Approach 2006).

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Samenvatting
Vogelen in Europees Rusland: Oeralgebergte, Jekaterinenburg en Orenburgregio In dit artikel worden de resultaten samengevat van vogelreizen in 2013-15 naar gebieden ten westen van het Oeralgebergte in Europees Rusland, aan de uiterste oostgrens van het West-Palearctische gebied (WP). Drie gebieden worden behandeld: de noordelijke Oeral, het gebied rond Jekaterinenburg en de regio van Orenburg. In de inleiding wordt ingegaan op de ligging van de grens van de WP (die niet op alle plekken exact te bepalen is) en op de logistiek om deze gebieden te bereiken en er rond te reizen. Per gebied worden de meest interessante vogelsoorten en waarnemingen vermeld, met speciale aandacht voor soorten die elders in Europa schaars of afwezig zijn of daar alleen als dwaalgast worden waargenomen; veel van deze Siberische soorten behoren tot de meest begeerde dwaalgasten in Noordwest-Europa.

De meest interessante soorten worden individueel behandeld. Voor het gebied rond Jekaterinenburg (moerassen, open velden en gemengde bossen) zijn dit bijvoorbeeld Meenatortel *Streptopelia orientalis meena*, Boskoekoek *Cuculus optatus*, Azuurmees Tit *Cyanistes cyanus*, Kleine Sprinkhaanzanger *Locustella lanceolata*, Langstaartroodmus *Carpodacus sibiricus* en Wilgengors *Emberiza aureola*; de laatste soort is inmiddels zeer schaars geworden en mogelijk al verdwenen als broedvogel. In de noordelijke Oeral (berghellingen/heuvels met taigabos in het gebied rond Severouralsk) gaat het met name om Boskoekoek, Goudlijster *Zoothera aurea*, Zwartkeellijster *Turdus atrogularis,* Roodkeelnachtegaal *Calliope calliope* and Zwartkeelheggenmus *Prunella atrogularis* (vogels in dit gebied vertonen een uitgebreide zwarte koptekening, afwijkend van illustraties in veldgidsen en wellicht duidend op een aparte kleurvorm). In het steppegebied van de regio Orenburg betreft het Jufferkraanvogel *Grus virgo*, Witvleugelleeuwerik *Alauda leucoptera* en Bruinkopgors *E bruniceps*. Zwarte Leeuwerik *Melanocorypha yeltoniensis* was een andere doelsoort maar deze werd niet gevonden, hoewel de soort waarschijnlijk wel aanwezig is in de regio.

Ten slotte wordt aandacht besteed aan soorten die vanuit taxonomisch oogpunt en/of determinatieoogpunt interessant zijn, zoals Barabameeuw *Larus barabensis*, Aziatische Boomklever *Sitta europaea asiatica*, Siberische Tjiftjaf *Phylloscopus tristis*, Siberische Braamsluiper *Sylvia althaea blythi* en Noordse Goudvink *Pyrrhula pyrrhula pyrrhula*; van de laatste werd alleen de nasale trompetroep gehoord en niet de zachte *puu*-roep.

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Josh Jones, 64 Flanders Mansions, London, W4 1NF, UK (joshrjones90@gmail.com)
David Monticelli, Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre, Faculty of Sciences and Technology, University of Coimbra, Portugal (monticelli.david@gmail.com)
Pierre-André Crochet, CEFE UMR 5175, CNRS - Université de Montpellier, 1919 route de Mende, F-34293 Montpellier, Cedex 5, France (pierre-andre.crochet@cefe.cnrs.fr)

Afrikaanse Woestijngrasmus bij Alphen aan den Rijn in november-december 2014

Hans Zaal & Gert Ottens

Het optreden van dwaalgasten is voor een belangrijk deel onvoorspelbaar. Toch zijn sommige soorten (op grond van het voorkomen in omringende landen, of aan de hand van trekgedrag) eerder te verwachten dan andere. Daarnaast is er de 'buitencategorie': soorten waarvan een optreden in Nederland door niemand werd verwacht. De bleke grasmus *Sylvia* die Hans Zaal op 12 november 2014 rond 13:20 ontdekte langs een slootkant in Polder Gnephoek bij Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland, en die hij bij nadere bestudering als Afrikaanse Woestijngrasmus *Sylvia deserti* determineerde, past bij uitstek in die laatste categorie.

HZ gaf zijn ontdekking door aan zijn kennis Adri de Groot. Bij een aantal andere vogelaars werd het gerucht van een 'woestijngrasmus bij Alphen' vervolgens bekend maar omdat de exacte plek onbekend was en verdere details ontbraken, werd er verder geen ruchtbaarheid aan gegeven. Op woensdag 19 november zag HZ de vogel opnieuw en hij belde wederom met AdG. Op 21 november gingen ze samen de polder in. De vogel bleek nog aanwezig en AdG maakte foto's en een video-opname. De waarneming werd niet verder bekend gemaakt, uit bezorgdheid dat de te verwachten grote toeloop van vogelaars tot problemen zou kunnen leiden voor de vogel of de omgeving. Op 22 en 23 november werd de vogel ondanks zoekpogingen niet gezien. Op 25 november plaatste AdG een uitgebreid artikel op zijn veelgelezen website www.vogeldagboek.nl. Het nieuws werd snel opgepikt op verschillende fora en het informatiecircuit kwam direct op gang. Er werd speurwerk verricht naar de exacte locatie. De gevonden informatie werd verspreid via Dutch Bird Alerts, zodat gerichter kon worden gezocht. Aan het eind van de volgende ochtend ging Rob Halff zoeken en ter plekke ontmoette hij Rutger Rotscheid. Als enig houvast hadden ze een foto van AdG met HZ op de plek van de waarneming. RH keek of hij de herkenningspunten op de achtergrond kon terugvinden en dat lukte, en even later kregen RH en RR de vogel op precies die locatie in beeld! De herontdekking werd direct doorgegeven en vervolgens werden de nodige zaken geregeld. Van de eigenaar van het land (Boerderij Landlust) werd toestemming gekregen om onder enkele voorwaarden het land op te mogen. De rest van de dag en de volgende dagen trokken vele 100en vogelaars de polder in om de grasmus met eigen ogen te aanschouwen. Hij verbleef bijna voortdurend in de begroeiing en op de hopen langs de slootkanten of bij hekwerken en bruggetjes, midden in een verder uitgestrekt en open poldergebied met weilanden, sloten en enkele modderige gerooide akkers. Soms verbleef hij kort tussen de stoppels op de akkers. Hij overnachtte in een bosje nabij het eind van de Notweg. Er was volop media-aandacht voor deze bijzondere waarneming, met onder meer interviews voor Radio 1, NOS-journaal en Jeugdjournaal en aandacht in de Volkskrant en NRC Handelsblad,

507 Afrikaanse Woestijngrasmus / African Desert Warbler *Sylvia deserti,* Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland, 29 november 2014 2014 *(Johnny van der Zwaag)*

508 Afrikaanse Woestijngrasmus / African Desert Warbler *Sylvia deserti,* Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland, 29 november 2014 *(Oscar Balm)*

509 Afrikaanse Woestijngrasmus / African Desert Warbler *Sylvia deserti,* Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland, 29 november 2014 *(Michel Veldt)*

510 Vogelaars bij Afrikaanse Woestijngrasmus *Sylvia deserti,* Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland, 28 november 2014 *(Enno B Ebels)*

bij TV West en op diverse nieuwswebsites (Zaal et al 2014).

In verband met een uitbraak van vogelgriep op een pluimveebedrijf in het nabijgelegen Zoeterwoude op 30 november, werd het vanaf 1 december niet langer toegestaan om de percelen van Boerderij Landlust te betreden. De vogel werd vervolgens nog tot en met 9 december enkele keren waargenomen, alleen bij zijn slaapplaats. Toen het betredingsverbod per 1 januari 2015 werd opgeheven kon hij ondanks enkele zoekpogingen niet worden teruggevonden.

Beschrijving

De beschrijving is gebaseerd op foto's van een groot aantal fotografen (cf Dutch Birding 36: 420, plaat 563, 435-436, plaat 586-588, 2014; 37: 62-63, plaat 87-89; www.dutchbirding.nl, www.waarneming.nl) en videobeelden van onder anderen Julian Bosch, Peter van de Braak en Steven Wytema (cf www.youtube.com).

GROOTTE & BOUW Kleine zangvogel, ongeveer ter grootte van Tjiftjaf *Phylloscopus collybita*, met relatief korte vleugel en lange staart.
KOP Kruin en achterhoofd licht oranje-zandkleurig (oorstreek iets lichter) met witachtige teugel, 'wenkbrauwstreep' en zijhals.
BOVENDELEN Mantel en bovenvleugel licht oranje-zandkleurig, net als kop.
ONDERDELEN Keel, borst, buik en flank vuilwit met zeer licht zeemkleurig waas.
VLEUGEL Dekveren en armpennen vrijwel egaal licht oranje-zandkleurig, net als bovendelen. Handpennen en armpennen met iets donkerder centrum. Tertials en duimvleugel effen bleek oranje-zandkleurig.
STAART Buitenste staartpennen vrijwel volledig wit; t4 en t5 (van binnen naar buiten genummerd) met witte top, zwarte binnenvlag en deels witte/deels oranje buitenvlag. Middelste staartpen (t1) effen oranje. Overige staartpennen met oranje buitenvlag en donkergrijze binnenvlag.
NAAKTE DELEN Iris heldergeel. Oogring wit. Snavel en poot geel (beide lichter geel dan iris).
GELUID Soms, onder meer voordat slaapplaats werd opgezocht, serie roepjes (droog ratelend *krrrrrrr*) en 'zang' (zelfde ratel, meteen gevolgd door paar korte (eerst stijgende dan dalende) melodieuze fluittonen).
RUI & SLEET Rui in staart (centrale staartpennen groeiend), sommige bovenstaartdekveren ontbrekend. Meeste staartpennen in meer of mindere mate gesleten aan top. Handpennen gesleten aan top, handdekveren rafelig.
GEDRAG Vrij beperkte actieradius langs randen van enkele percelen grasland. Vaak op geringe afstand waar te nemen, bedrijvig sluipend door wat hogere vegetatie als Winterkoning *Troglodytes troglodytes*, meestal langs slootkant en af en toe geheel in lage begroeiing verdwijnend. Soms kort zittend op hoger punt, zoals hek of paal. Slaapplaats op klein eilandje, in paar struiken.

Determinatie

Verenkleed

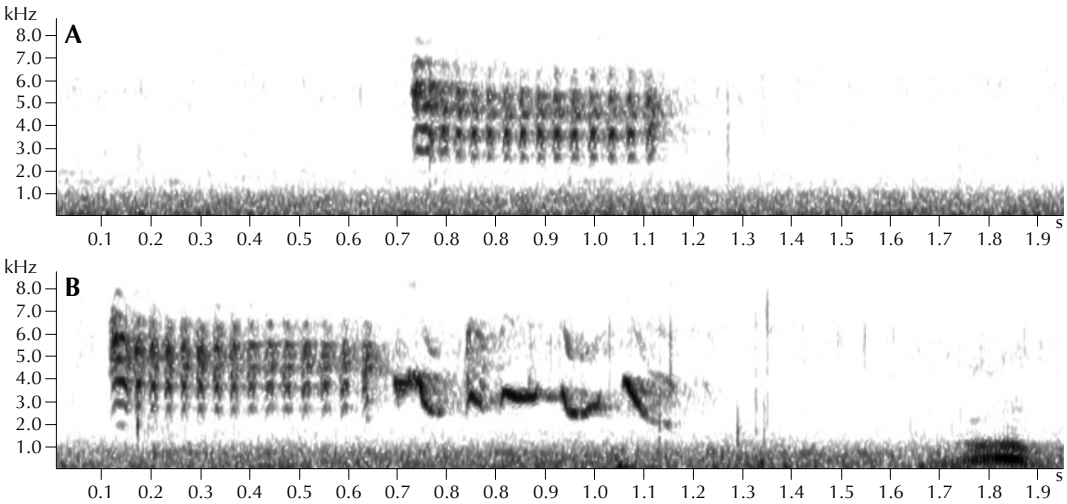
De combinatie van kenmerken duidt op een Afrikaanse Woestijngrasmus (hierna *deserti*) en sluit alle andere soorten (inclusief mogelijke escapes) uit. De enige soort waarmee *deserti* kan worden verward is Woestijngrasmus *S nana* (hierna *nana*). Belangrijke verschillen waren onder meer de vrijwel effen tertials (donkerder centrum bij *nana*), weinig contrast tussen bovendelen en bovenstaart (meer contrast bij *nana*), geen duidelijk donker centrum van de centrale staartpennen (wel aanwezig bij *nana*), het 'blonde' naar geeloranje neigende verenkleed (meer grijsbruin bij *nana*), de witachtige onderdelen (meer grijswit bij *nana*), de lichte zijkop (grijzer bij *nana*) en de weinig contrasterende duimvleugel (donkerder bij *nana*) (cf Shirihai et al 2001, van Duivendijk 2011, Svensson et al 2012).

Roep en zang

Figuur 1a geeft een opgenomen roep van de vogel weer, een droog ratelend *krrrrrrr*. Op basis van deze roep is geen diagnostisch verschil tussen *deserti* en *nana* vast te stellen, want de roep van beide taxa is nagenoeg identiek (Shirihai et al 2001). De zang, opgenomen voordat de vogel ging slapen, begon met eenzelfde ratel als de roep, meteen gevolgd door een paar korte (eerst stijgende dan dalende) melodieuze fluittonen (figuur 1b). Hoewel *deserti* en *nana* volgens Shirihai et al (2001) nogal verschillen wat zang betreft, biedt deze korte opname evenmin aanknopingspunten voor een zekere determinatie van één van beide soorten. Een vergelijking van deze sonagrammen met die van *deserti* uit Marokko geeft echter wel aan dat de geluidsopnamen in figuur 1 de determinatie als *deserti* ondersteunen (Arnoud van den Berg/The Sound Approach in litt).

Leeftijdsbepaling en geslacht

Het bepalen van de leeftijd van de vogel was niet eenvoudig maar het vermoeden bestaat dat het een eerste-winter betrof. De handpennen waren namelijk erg licht van kleur en duidelijk gesleten. Bij *nana* is dat voldoende om de leeftijd als eerstewinter te bepalen maar bij *deserti* zijn de handpentoppen ook lichter en is dit kenmerk daarom minder betrouwbaar (cf van Duivendijk 2011). Ook de genoemde sleet kon duiden op een eerstewinter. Verder zagen de handdekveren er wat rafelig uit, wat de leeftijd als eerste-winter lijkt te bevestigen (Nils van Duivendijk in litt). De vastgestelde staartpenrui is overigens geen betrouwbaar



FIGUUR 1 Afrikaanse Woestijngrasmus / African Desert Warbler *Sylvia deserti,* Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland, december 2014 *(Reinoud Vermoolen)*. **A** roep / call en **B** zang / song.

leeftijdskenmerk. De timing hiervan past namelijk op zowel adulte als eerste-winter vogels maar het kan ook zijn dat de centrale staartpennen per ongeluk verloren zijn gegaan en opnieuw groeiden (Nils van Duivendijk in litt). De Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) heeft de leeftijd niet met zekerheid vastgesteld maar wel bevestigd dat er aanwijzingen zijn dat het om een eerste-winter ging (CDNA in litt). Het feit dat de vogel zong zou een aanwijzing kunnen zijn dat het een mannetje betrof (Shirihai et al 2001).

Verspreiding en voorkomen

Deserti is overwegend standvogel in woestijngebieden in Noordwest-Afrika van Marokko (mogelijk ook Mauritanië) tot Tunesië en het westen van Libië, maar met een sterk verbrokkelde verspreiding (Urban et al 1997, del Hoyo et al 2006). De soort kent beperkte trek- of zwerfbewegingen, soms als reactie op extreme droogte (Cramp 1992). In Marokko worden verschillende broedlocaties in de periode juli-december verlaten, waarbij de vogels in januari-februari terugkeren (Thévenot et al 2003). Winterwaarnemingen in Massive de l'Aïr, Niger, en de Awanaregio in Mali (waar de soort mogelijk ook broedt) lijken het trekgedrag van deze soort te bevestigen (Cramp 1992, Urban et al 1997, Shirihai et al 2001).

Buiten het reguliere verspreidingsgebied zijn gevallen bekend van het uiterste noordoosten van Libië; Malta (zes gevallen); Italië (vijf); Canarische Eilanden (zeven); Kaapverdische Eilanden (twee; waaronder een geval op Razo, meer dan 1000 km van het meest dichtbijgelegen broedgebied); Porto Santo, Madeira (650 km van de kust van Marokko); en het vasteland van Spanje (twee, waaronder ook een geval in najaar 2014). De meest noordelijke gevallen betreffen verzamelde vogels in Italië, in Lombardije (c 1200 km van de meest nabijgelegen broedgebieden in Tunesië, waar de soort lokaal alleen in de zuidelijke helft van het land voorkomt; Isenmann et al 2005) en bij Rome. Voor een overzicht van alle gevallen buiten de reguliere gebieden, zie tabel 1. Een waarneming op 16 mei 1971 in de Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, Frankrijk, is aanvaard als *deserti/nana* (Commission de l'Avifaune Française 2006) al duidt de originele (maar enigszins summiere) beschrijving in Ertel & Ertel (1972) eerder op *deserti*.

Er zijn meer zangvogelsoorten die in woestijngebieden in Noord-Afrika voorkomen en tot ver buiten hun reguliere verspreidingsgebied als dwaalgast zijn vastgesteld, zoals Rosse Woestijnleeuwerik *Ammomanes cinctura*, Witkruintapuit *Oenanthe leucopyga* en Woestijnvink *Bucanetes githagineus*. Van Rosse Woestijnleeuwerik en Witkruintapuit (soorten die ook vooral standvogel zijn en dispersie vertonen) zijn onder meer gevallen bekend van respectievelijk Noordoost-Spanje en in Brittannië, Denemarken/Duitsland, Frankrijk, Portugal en Polen (de Juana 2006, Slack 2009, Deutsche Avifaunistische Kommission 2012, Dutch Birding 37: 201, plaat 313-314, 2015). Woestijnvink heeft zich vanuit Noord-Afrika zelfs gevestigd als broed-

TABEL 1 Gevallen van Afrikaanse Woestijngrasmus *Sylvia deserti* buiten regulier verspreidingsgebied / extralimital records of African Desert Warbler *Sylvia deserti* (Goodman & Meininger 1989, Hazevoet 1995, 2012, de Juana 2006, Dubois et al 2008, Garcia-del-Rey & Garcia Vargas 2013; Edward Bonavia in litt, Andrea Corso in litt, Raymond Galea in litt, Daniel Lopez Velasco in litt)

Canarische Eilanden (7)
20 april 1993, Fuerteventura
3 maart 1997, Tenerife
16 februari 2001, Fuerteventura
23 juli 2004, Fuerteventura
18-22 maart 2012, Tenerife
24-25 maart 2012, Lanzarote
30 oktober tot 26 november 2013, La Graciosa

Italië (5)
7 november 1883, Cremona, Lombardia (verzameld; balg in Florence Museum of Zoology and Natural History; catalogusnummer 2.252; plaat 511)
23 mei 1910, Maccarese, Rome (verzameld; balg in Roma Museum; MCZR)
23 april 1988, Linosa, Sicilië
23 april 2005, Linosa, Sicilië
3-4 mei 2007, Marettimo, Sicilië

Kaapverdische Eilanden (2)
9 maart 1924, Sal
28 februari 2012, Razo

Libië (1)
28 januari 1920, c 16 km ten westen van Salloum, Egypte

Madeira (1)
29 januari 1901, Porto Santo

Malta (6)
oktober 1912, Hal Far (exacte datum onbekend)
april 1913 (exacte datum en locatie onbekend)
16 maart 1931, Dingli
13 april 1982, Kuncizzjoni
19 april 1982, M'Xlok
22-23 april 2010, Migra L-Ferha

Spanje (2)
28 oktober 2011, Clot de Galvany, Alicante
4 oktober 2014, L'Albufera de Valencia, Valencia (onder beoordeling)

vogel in Zuid-Spanje, vanaf de jaren 1970. Vervolgens namen ook waarnemingen in Noordwest-Europa toe (Slack 2009). Het voorkomen van *deserti* werd in noordelijk Europa echter niet verwacht. Op basis van de Zuid-Europese gevallen, het dispersie- en trekgedrag en gezien het feit dat de soort niet als kooivogel bekend staat, heeft de CDNA de Afrikaanse Woestijngrasmus van Alphen aan den Rijn aanvaard (www.dutchavifauna.nl; Dutch Birding 37: 338-339, 2015) Het betekende een onverwachte aanvulling op de Nederlandse lijst.

511 Afrikaanse Woestijngrasmus / African Desert Warbler *Sylvia deserti* (verzameld nabij Cremona, Lombardia, Italië, op 7 november 1883), Florence Museum of Zoology and Natural History, September 2015 *(Fausto Barbagli)*

Nana is veel meer een trekvogel dan *deserti* en heeft al wel een geschiedenis als dwaalgast in Europa, met onder meer twee gevallen in Nederland, van 30 oktober tot 3 november 1988 in de AW-duinen bij Zandvoort, Noord-Holland, en op 8-9 oktober 1994 in Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland (van den Berg & Bosman 2001, www.dutchavifauna.nl) en een patroon van vooral late najaarswaarnemingen in Noordwest-Europa (Slack 2009). *Nana* broedt in steppe- en (half)woestijngebieden van het oosten van de Kaspische Zee tot in Mongolië en brengt de winter door in Zuid-Azië, het Midden-Oosten en Noordoost-Afrika (del Hoyo et al 2005).

Taxonomie

Deserti wordt sinds de publicatie van Shirihai et al (2001) doorgaans als een soort apart van de nauw verwante *nana* beschouwd (eg, Redactie Dutch Birding 2002, Sangster et al 2004, Dickinson & Christidis 2014, Gill & Donsker 2015). Beide taxa kennen een nagenoeg allopatrisch voorkomen, en er zijn diagnostische verschillen in verenkleed en geluid (Shirihai et al 2001).

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Garry Bakker, Fausto Barbagli (Florence Museum of Zoology and Natural History) Arnoud van den Berg (The Sound Approach), Edward Bonavia (Malta Rarities and Records Committee; MRRC), Andrea Corso, Nils van Duivendijk, Enno Ebels, Raymond Galea (MRRC), Herbert Grimm (Naturkundemuseum Erfurt), Adri de Groot, Rob Halff, Remco Hofland, Marnix Jonker, Daniel Lopez Velasco (Comité de Rarezas-SEO), Magnus Robb (The Sound Approach), Rutger Rotscheid, George Sangster, Gerard Steinhaus en Reinoud Vermoolen waren behulpzaam bij de totstandkoming van dit artikel, waarvoor dank. De eigenaren van Kaasboerderij Landlust worden bedankt voor hun gastvrijheid, door vogelaars op hun land toe te laten.

Summary
African Desert Warbler near Alphen aan den Rijn in November-December 2014 From 12 November until 9 December 2014, an African Desert Warbler *Sylvia deserti* was present near Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands. The bird was identified as African Desert and not as (the more-to-be-expected) Asian Desert Warbler *S nana* based on its whitish underparts, whitish cheek, pale sandy coloured upperparts (lacking strong contrast with the uppertail), plain tertials and central tail-feathers. The recorded song and calls fitted *deserti* but were similar to *nana* and insufficient to identify the bird on sound alone. Ageing of *deserti* is not straightforward; although it was presumably a first-winter, it was not aged with certainty.

Although largely sedentary, with some dispersal and apparently some birds leaving the breeding areas during July-December, the species has been recorded outside its regular range: in north-eastern Libya, Malta (six records), Italy (five), Canary Islands (seven), Cape Verde Islands (two, including one on Razo, more than 1000 km from the nearest breeding grounds), Porto Santo, Madeira (650 km from the Moroccan coast) and on mainland Spain (two, including a record in October 2014). The most northerly records so far pertained to birds collected in Italy, near Cremona, Lombardia (c 1200 km from the nearest breeding grounds in North Africa) and near Rome. The bird at Alphen aan den Rijn was accepted by the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA) as the first African Desert Warbler for the Netherlands and is therefore the first for northern Europe as well.

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Hans Zaal, Judith Leijsterstraat 29, 2406 DN Alphen aan den Rijn, Nederland (idaspijker1@hotmail.com)
Gert Ottens, Ganzebloem 14, 3984 CG Odijk, Nederland (glanskraai@hotmail.com)

Zwarte Ooievaar overwinterend bij Schiphol in november 2014-april 2015

Op 12 november 2014 om 14:30 zag Ellen de Bruin een eerste-kalenderjaar Zwarte Ooievaar *Ciconia nigra* langs de Vijfhuizerweg bij Schiphol, Noord-Holland (52°18'24"N, 04°43'52"O). Ze maakte enkele bewijsfoto's en voerde hem in op www.waarneming.nl. Op 23 november werd (naar wordt aangenomen) dezelfde vogel enkele kilometers noordelijker waargenomen door Dick Groenendijk boven de A9 bij Boesingheliede, Noord-Holland. Een dag later werd hij enkele kilometers oostelijker door Jan van Blanken gefotografeerd in de Lutkemeerpolder bij Amsterdam-Osdorp, Noord-Holland. Een waarneming op 3 december van een overvliegend exemplaar boven Haarlem, Noord-Holland, kan op dezelfde vogel betrekking hebben gehad maar dit is onzeker. Op 6 december werd de vogel weer gefotografeerd langs de Vijfhuizerweg. Langs deze weg werd hij vervolgens tot 25 december regelmatig gezien door vele 10-tallen vogelaars. Daarna was er één melding in januari 2015 (21 januari) maar vanaf 1 februari werd hij weer regelmatig gemeld (cf Dutch Birding 37: 207, plaat 323, 2015). Af en toe werd hij in de ruimere omgeving in Noord-Holland gezien (tabel 1). De laatste waarneming (ingevoerd als 'adult' maar zeer waarschijnlijk betrekking hebbend op dezelfde vogel) is van 20 april toen de vogel ter hoogte van de kruising met de N520 over de A5 naar het oosten vloog. Meldingen op 14 februari over de AW-duinen, Noord-Holland, op 15 februari over Rijnsaterwoude, Zuid-Holland (gefotografeerd), en op 5 maart over Amstelveen, Noord-Holland, hadden waarschijnlijk betrekking op vroege doortrekkers (de vogel over Amstelveen werd ingevoerd als 'adult'; www.waarneming.nl) maar kunnen ook op de vogel van Schiphol betrekking hebben gehad. Tijdens zijn verblijf foerageerde de ooievaar vaak in de sloten langs de Vijfhuizerweg en nabijgelegen wegen en was daardoor soms lastig te vinden (Roy Slaterus in litt).

Verspreiding en voorkomen

Zwarte Ooievaars broeden in grote delen van Eurazië, van het Iberisch Schiereiland en de Belgische Ardennen in het westen tot de Pacifische kust van Siberië, Rusland, in het oosten. Daarnaast broedt de soort in grote delen van zuidelijk Afrika. De meeste populaties zijn trekvogels; overwinteren vindt plaats in Afrika (voornamelijk ten zuiden van de Sahara, in oostelijk Afrika noordelijk tot in Egypte), op het Indisch Subcontinent en in Zuidoost-Azië. De populaties in Portugal en Spanje en in zuidelijk Afrika betreffen (deels) standvogels; de meest noordelijke vogels in de winter verblijven rond 41°N in het westen (Portugal en Spanje) en rond 37°N in het oosten (Zuid-Korea) (BirdLife International 2015). In Spanje neemt het aantal overwinteraars de afgelopen 20 jaar toe (Alonso 2006, Cano et al 2014). In Bulgarije overwinteren jaarlijks c 100 exemplaren nabij Plovdiv; hier werden voor het eerst overwinteraars vastgesteld in 1978 (Boschert et al 2002). Sinds 1997 overwintert jaarlijks een klein aantal in Zuid-Frankrijk (van den Berg & Haas 2010).

512 Zwarte Ooievaar / Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, omgeving Schiphol, Noord-Holland, 1 februari 2015 *(Rutger Rotscheid)*

513 Zwarte Ooievaar / Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, omgeving Schiphol, Noord-Holland, 21 maart 2015 *(Olvin van Keeken)*

Boschert et al (2002) gaven aan dat Zwarte Ooievaars een verschuiving laten zien in het voorkomen in Europa, waarbij vogels steeds vroeger in het voorjaar terugkeren en steeds later in het najaar worden gemeld. Dit heeft mogelijk te maken met de groei van de populaties in Europa en dat steeds vaker wordt overwinterd in Zuid-Europa en Marokko (Thévenot et al 2003).

De soort keert normaal gesproken vanaf maart terug in Nederland als doortrekker vanuit de overwinteringsgebieden; vanaf eind april komt de voorjaarstrek meestal goed op gang. Eind juli start de najaarstrek die piekt in augustus-september en dan snel afloopt in oktober (Bijlsma et al 2001). In het najaar komen de laatste waarnemingen normaal gesproken uit november en er zijn enkele gevallen uit (begin) december (Sovon 1987, Bijlsma et al 2001), waaronder een exemplaar met kleurring (wit TA20) dat van 25 november tot 5 december 2014 verbleef bij Haamstede en Sint Philipsland, Zeeland. Deze was als nestjong geringd op 17 juni 2014 in Maulberg, Bayern, Duitsland (www.waarneming.nl). Een exemplaar bij Lochem, Gelderland, op 24 december 2008 droeg een rode ring met inscripties (niet afleesbaar op de foto's) en is ingevoerd als escape (http://waarneming.nl/waarneming/view/41285292).

De vogel van Schiphol betrof het eerste overwinteringsgeval in Nederland. Januari- en februarigevallen waren voor 2015 niet bekend (www.waarneming.nl; in het archief van Sovon Vogelonderzoek Nederland zijn behalve de genoemde gevallen ook geen andere waarnemingen bekend uit december-februari (Arjan Boele in litt)). Het betrof tevens het meest noordelijke overwinteringsgeval dat ooit in West-Europa is vastgesteld. Mogelijk was de zachte winter van 2014/15 hierbij een factor van invloed.

Andere wintergevallen in Noord-Europa

Andere overwinteringsgevallen in Europa vonden plaats van 19 december 2000 (vermoedelijk reeds vanaf november) tot 16 april 2001 bij Achern, Baden-Württemberg, Duitsland (48°38'39" N, 08°01'02" O; 135 m boven zeeniveau). Op dezelfde locatie vond een jaar later, van 4 december 2001 tot 24 januari 2002 wederom overwintering plaats (waarschijnlijk dezelfde vogel). Dit betroffen de eerste overwinteringsgevallen in Duitsland. Er zijn verder incidentele waarnemingen in Duitsland uit december en januari (Boschert et al 2002). Op www.ornitho.de zijn recente gevallen ingevoerd voor december 2012, januari 2013, december 2013 en januari 2014 op vier verschillende locaties in Duitsland. In december 2014 werd een exemplaar enkele malen waargenomen bij Steppach in Bayern (49°46'10.94''N, 10°48'25.45''O). In het noorden van Polen werd op 26 januari 2001 een verzwakt onvolwassen exemplaar door schoolkinderen in veiligheid gebracht bij Warcino, Pomerania (54°13'25"N, 16°51'24"O) (Tomiałojć & Stawarczyk 2003). Dit Poolse geval betreft de meest noordelijke winterwaarneming. In Zwitserland werd in november 1997 een eerstejaars gezien bij de Greifensee, Zürich (47°21'26"N, 08°47'31"O); deze keerde vanaf de winter 2000/01 ieder jaar terug tot en met 2013/14 (www.braendliweb.ch/news/28.html). In het departement Jura in de regio Franche-Comté, Frankrijk (tegen de grens met Zwitserland), overwinteren sinds 1993 jaarlijks maximaal drie vogels van oktober tot februari; dit zijn de meest noordelijke reguliere overwinteraars in de wereld (Boschert et al 2002). In Midden-Frankrijk overwinterde een terugkerend exemplaar van 2004/05 tot 2009/10 in Sologne, Loir-et Cher (Mabilleau 2009). Een vogel vanaf 22 januari 2009 bij Lille, Nord, in Noord-Frankrijk werd in midden-maart 2009 dood gevonden over de Belgische grens (Tancrez 2009; hij was in augustus 2007 als draadslachtoffer meegenomen bij Zwolle, Overijssel, en op 15 augustus 2008 geringd losgelaten.

Summary

Black Stork wintering near Schiphol in November 2014-April 2015 From 12 November 2014 to 20 April

TABEL 1 Waarnemingen van Zwarte Ooievaar *Ciconia nigra* in omgeving van Schiphol, Noord-Holland, in winter 2014/15 / observations of Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* in surroundings of Schiphol, Noord-Holland, in winter 2014/15 (www.waarneming.nl)

10 december, recreatiegebied Houtrak ten noorden van Zwanenburg	6 april, Nieuwe Bennebroekerweg, Hoofddorp; gezien afstand tot andere waarnemingsplekken mogelijk andere vogel
25 december, vliegend over A9 tussen Boesingheliede en Zwanenburg	8 april, Spaarndammerdijk bij recreatiegebied Houtrak
8 februari, A200 ten noorden van Zwanenburg	11 april, ten westen van Hoofdweg/N520
2 maart, vliegend over Knooppunt Raasdorp	12 april, laag vliegend naar noord over A9
28 maart, ten oosten van Drie Merenweg, Vijfhuizen	

2015, a first-year Black Stork Ciconia nigra wintered at Schiphol and surrounding areas, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands. Previously, only a few records in December were known and, in spring, the first birds are normally seen from March onwards. Remarkably, there were two records in February 2015 and one in early March which may relate to other (migrating) individuals. This was the first documented wintering for the Netherlands. Birds regularly winter as far north as Portugal, Spain and southern France and, in smaller numbers, in Bulgaria. Annually (since 1993), a few birds winter as far north as Franche-Comté, France, and there are cases of wintering in southern Germany, in 2000/01 and 2001/02 (probably same bird) and December 2014, as well as single-day records in Germany (at different sites) in December 2012, January 2013, December 2013 and January 2014. One bird wintered in Switzerland in 1997/98 and then returned each winter from 2000/01 to 2013/14. A Dutch-ringed bird wintering in northern France in 2009 was found dead in Belgium. A weakened immature was taken into care in northern Poland in January 2001, constituting the most northerly winter record.

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

Kaspische Plevier op Noord-Beveland in januari 2014

Op vrijdag 10 januari 2014 om 14:30 ontdekte ik (Mark Hoekstein) tijdens een watervogeltelling langs de noordkust van Noord-Beveland, Zeeland, een Kaspische Plevier *Charadrius asiaticus*. De vogel bevond zich in een grote groep Kieviten *Vanellus vanellus* en een paar Goudplevieren *Pluvialis apricaria* en Steenlopers *Arenaria interpres* op een akker ten westen van Colijnsplaat. Ik was niet gelijk 100% zeker maar gaf de waarneming snel door als 'mogelijke Kaspische Plevier' om andere vogelaars te waarschuwen. Binnen een half uur waren vier Zeeuwse vogelaars ter plaatse. Nadat ze de vogel hadden gezien en we samen de determinatie hadden bevestigd vloog de plevier op met een aantal Kieviten en verdween in westelijke richting. De volgende ochtend duurde het een paar uur totdat Hans Moerman en Hugo Moerman hem tussen enkele Watersnippen *Gallinago gallinago* terugvonden enkele kilometers naar het westen op een geploegde akker in de Vlietepolder bij Wissenkerke, Zeeland. Hier werd hij tot 12:30 waargenomen. De dagen erna was hij met enige moeite steeds terug te vinden op akkers in de omgeving, vaak solitair en lastig te zien tussen de kleihopen of de lage begroeiing. Tijdens zijn verblijf trok hij enkele 100en vogelaars uit binnen- en buitenland (Hoekstein 2014). Op 26 januari rond 10:15 zagen c 10 waarnemers hoe de plevier samen met een Watersnip werd opgeschrikt door een Smelleken *Falco columbarius*. Het Smelleken pakte één van de steltlopers. Volgens toelichtingen van de waarnemers op www.waarneming.nl was daarbij niet met zekerheid te zien of het om de plevier of de snip ging. Hierna is de plevier niet meer waargenomen.

Beschrijving

De beschrijving is gebaseerd op aantekeningen van MH, op foto's van onder anderen Arnoud van den Berg, Kris De Rouck, MH, Tobi Koppejan, Thomas Luiten en Jaco Walhout (cf Dutch Birding 36: 69, plaat 45-46, 2014; www.dutchbirding.nl, www.waarneming.nl) en op videobeelden

514 Kaspische Plevier / Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus*, eerste-winter, Wissenkerke, Zeeland, 10 januari 2014 *(Jaco Walhout)* **515-517** Kaspische Plevier / Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus*, eerste-winter, met Kieviten / Northern Lapwings *Vanellus vanellus*, Wissenkerke, Zeeland, 10 januari 2014 *(Mark Hoekstein)* **518-519** Kaspische Plevier / Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus*, eerste-winter, Wissenkerke, Zeeland, 24 januari 2014 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*

van onder anderen Sjaak Schilperoort (www.dutchavifauna.nl).

GROOTTE & BOUW Sierlijke plevier met relatief lange poten, lange vleugels (in zit duidelijk voorbij staarteinde stekend) en slanke en voor plevier lange snavel. Formaat vergelijkbaar met aanwezige Steenlopers maar hoger op poten en slanker. Poten in vlucht voorbij staart uitstekend.
KOP Bovenkop grijsbruin (als petje), iets donkerder dan hals en mantel- en schouderveren. Bovenkop meest donker aan zijkant, donkere wenkbrauwbegrenzing vormend. Streek direct voor, achter en onder oog donkerbruin, vaag masker vormend. Rest van kop lichtbruin met heldere crèmewitte wenkbrauwstreep, breedst achter oog en doorlopend tot boven snavel. Wenkbrauwstreep sterk contrasterend met donkere bovenkop. Hals grijsbruin als bovenkop. Kin en keel wit.
BOVENDELEN Mantel en schouder koud grijsbruin. Enkele schouderveren met vage schubtekening door donker centrum en zeer smalle lichte rand.
ONDERDELEN Borst lichtbruin, iets 'gewolkt' (vlekkerig) en vrij scherp afgesneden van buik. Buik, flank en anaalstreek helder wit.
VLEUGEL Bovenvleugel lichtbruin met korte lichte vleugelstreep op buitenste armpennen en binnenste handpennen, vaag doorlopend tot op buitenste handpennen. Grote vleugeldekveren donker aardebruin. Tertials donkerbruin. Handpennen donkerbruin. Ondervleugel licht met naar vleugelpunt toe toenemende grijsachtige tekening.
STAART Bovenstaart bruin met donkerdere eindband. Geen witte staartzijden. Onderstaart licht bruingrijs. Staartpennen met smalle witte top.
NAAKTE DELEN Poot vaal grijsgroen. Snavel en oog zwart.
VLUCHT Snelle vlucht met voor plevier krachtige diepe vleugelslagen.
RUI & SLEET Dekveren sterk gesleten met gerafelde randen en puntige top.

Determinatie

De combinatie van slanke bouw, lange vleugels, licht verenkleed, slanke snavel, lichtbruine borstband, opvallende koptekening met donker petje en lichte wenkbrauwstreep en lichte ondervleugel past alleen op Kaspische Plevier. Woestijnplevier *C leschenaultii*, Mongoolse Plevier *C mongolus* en Tibetaanse Plevier *C atrifrons* (alle drie als dwaalgast vastgesteld in West-Europa) kunnen worden uitgesloten door de lange lichte wenkbrauwstreep naar het achterhoofd, duidelijke borstband, dunnere spitse snavel en kortere witte vleugelstreep, en daarnaast door de elegantere en meer langgerekte lichaamsvorm met vleugels die voorbij de staart steken. Daarnaast zijn Mongoolse en Tibetaanse meer gedrongen in postuur en aanzienlijk kleiner en zijn de poten bij deze soorten donker tot zwart. Morinelplevier *C morinellus* heeft kortere poten, een kortere en iets dikkere snavel, een nog veel scherper afgetekende crèmewitte wenkbrauwstreep en een andere tekening op de onderdelen met een smalle witte borstband en een 'vuilere' benedenborst en bovenbuik. De bovendelen zijn bij Morinelplevier bovendien veel duidelijker getekend door de duidelijk aanwezige lichte geelbruine veerranden. De enige soort die echt voor verwarring kan zorgen is Steppeplevier *C veredus* uit Oost-Azië (één geval in de WP, in Finland in mei 2003; Haas 2012). Deze kan worden uitgesloten door een combinatie van kenmerken: de heldere brede witte wenkbrauwstreep (meer 'open' licht gezicht bij Steppeplevier), de scherpe begrenzing van borstband met keel en buik (meer diffuus bij Steppeplevier) en door de korte witte vleugelstreep en lichte ondervleugel (langere vleugelstreep en donkergrijze ondervleugel bij Steppeplevier). Steppeplevier is ook groter dan Kaspische, met een langere hals en langere poten (cf Hayman et al 1986, del Hoyo et al 1996, Chandler 2009, van Duivendijk 2011).

De sterk gesleten vleugeldekveren, de vage schubtekening op enkele schouderveren en het vlekkerige patroon op de lichtbruine borstband geven aan dat het om een eerste-winter vogel ging (cf Hayman et al 1986, Mitchell & Young 1997).

Verspreiding en voorkomen

Kaspische Plevier broedt in open habitats zoals laaglandwoestijnen, steppegebieden en zilte graslanden in Centraal- en Zuidwest-Azië (inclusief een klein gedeelte van Europees Rusland), van de Kaspische Zee tot de oostzijde van het Balkasjmeer in Kazakhstan (Tucker & Heath 1994). De najaarstrek vindt van half juli tot oktober plaats in zuidwestelijke richting over land (Iran, Irak en Saoedi-Arabië) en over zee (Rode Zee en Golf van Aden). De soort overwintert voornamelijk in twee gebieden: in Oost-Afrika (Ethiopië, Kenia en Tanzania) en in zuidelijk Afrika (Botswana, Namibië, Zambia, Zimbabwe en Zuid-Afrika). Elders in Afrika is het een dwaalgast (Delany et al 2009). Cramp & Simmons (1983) suggereren dat de meeste exemplaren in een nonstop-vlucht naar het zuiden gaan omdat de pleisterplaatsen in het Midden-Oosten die in het voorjaar worden bezocht in het najaar niet zouden worden aangedaan. Dit beeld is inmiddels bijgesteld: in het Midden-Oosten is de soort een regelmatige maar schaarse doortrekker in zowel voorjaar als najaar in Israël en Koeweit, en met name in het najaar in Oman en de Verenigde Arabische Emiraten (Richardson 1990, Shirihai 1996, Eriksen et al 2003, Gregory 2005).

De waarneming op Noord-Beveland is aan-

vaard door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) en betrof het derde geval (www.dutchavifauna.nl). Beide eerdere gevallen waren op Texel, Noord-Holland, op 17-20 oktober 2009 en op 26-28 april 2011 (Morel & Ebels 2010, Ebels & de Jong & 2011). In Europa (buiten de broedgebieden in Europees Rusland) is de soort een zeer zeldzame dwaalgast. Tot en met 2014 zijn er gevallen voor de Azoren (één); Brittannië (vijf; zes exemplaren); Bulgarije (één); Duitsland (twee); Finland (twee); Frankrijk (vier); Griekenland (drie buiten Lesbos); Hongarije (één); Italië (vier); Malta (zes; acht exemplaren); Noorwegen (vier); Roemenië (één); en Zweden (twee) (Morel & Ebels 2010; www.netfugl.dk, www.tarsiger.com). Op Cyprus en Lesbos, Griekenland, is het een zeldzame doortrekker in het voorjaar. Elders in de WP is de soort ook zeldzaam: in Egypte en Turkije is het een dwaalgast, met respectievelijk c zeven en 10 gevallen.

De meeste gevallen in Europa stammen uit het voorjaar (maart-juni) en verder uit de zomer (juli-augustus) en het najaar (september-november). Voor een gedetailleerd overzicht van Europese gevallen tot en met 2009, zie Morel & Ebels (2010). Het geval van Noord-Beveland betrof de eerste winterwaarneming voor Europa (december-februari). In de WP (conform begrenzing in van den Berg 2015, de 'greater WP') zijn verder alleen wintergevallen vastgesteld in Oman (Eriksen et al 2003).

De opmerkelijke winterwaarneming zo ver noordelijk in Europa werd mogelijk 'geholpen' door het feit dat januari 2014 een zachte wintermaand was. Met een gemiddelde temperatuur van 5.7°C tegen een langjarig gemiddelde van 3.1°C eindigde de maand bij de 10 zachtste januarimaanden sinds 1901. De eerste decade (dag 1-10) was met gemiddeld 8.5°C zelfs de op een na zachtste eerste januaridecade in ruim een eeuw. Pas in het weekend van 24 tot 26 januari bereikte kou het noordoosten van Nederland (www.knmi.nl/nederland-nu/klimatologie/gegevens/mow).

Summary

Caspian Plover at Noord-Beveland in January 2014 On 10-26 January 2014, a first-winter Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus* stayed at Noord-Beveland, Zeeland, the Netherlands. The bird loosely associated with other waders; when found, it was with a large group of Northern Lapwings *Vanellus vanellus* and a few Eurasian Golden Plovers *Pluvialis apricaria* and Ruddy Turnstones *Arenaria interpres*. Later during its stay, it associated mainly with a small number of Common Snipes *Gallinago gallinago*. On the last day, it was scared and possibly taken as prey by a Merlin *Falco columbarius*. This was the third record for the Netherlands, after two on Texel, Noord-Holland, in October 2009 and April 2011. It constituted the first winter record for Europe (December-February); all other records are from March-November. Elsewhere in the 'greater WP', there are only some winter records from Oman.

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Mark Hoekstein, 's Heerhendrikskinderendijk 60, 4461 DX Goes, Nederland (mhoekstein@zeelandnet.nl)

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

Lesser Yellowlegs in Malta in May 2015

In the early morning of 22 May 2015, a medium-sized, long-legged wader resting on seaweed on the beach at Riviera Martinique, Malta, was noticed by Natalino Fenech and Kevin Francica. The bird looked a bit like a Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* but had distinctly long and yellow legs. The limited amount of black and white summer plumage mottling on the mantle, coverts and scapulars indicated that it was a first-summer bird or older. Attempts were made to approach it slowly in order to take a good photograph but unfortunately only one shot was taken before it flew out of the bay after being disturbed by a man with a metal detector approaching it too closely. When flushed, it uttered a characteristic repeated *tiu tiu ... tiu tiu*. At this point, it showed a square white patch on the rump, lacking the white wedge towards the back typical of Common Greenshank *T nebularia* and Marsh, and no white in the wing. Also visible were barring on the uppertail and legs projecting well beyond the tail.

Based on the characters seen in the field, the call and the single photograph, the bird was unmistakably a Lesser Yellowlegs *T flavipes*; all other waders can be easily excluded. Greater Yellowlegs *T melanoleuca*, the only likely confusion species, has a different call (a repeated *peu-peu-pew* … – usually three syllables with the last slightly lower pitched – although some calls come close; Svensson et al 2010), a longer and stronger, slightly upturned bill and more strongly barred flanks (eg, Svensson et al 2010, van Duivendijk 2011).

Lesser Yellowlegs breeds in northern North America and migrates to the Gulf coast of the USA and south to South America. It is a regular vagrant to western Europe (mainly in spring, summer and autumn) and has been recorded from most European countries (Perrins 1998), and also in, eg, Israel, Morocco, Oman and Turkey. The first for nearby Tunisia was on 18 March 2014 (Bradshaw 2015) and there was another report on 5 May 2015 (www.hbw.com/report/lesser-yellowlegs-tunisia). There was a first-winter bird in Sicily, Italy, on 30 October and 1 November 1995 and probably the same bird on 3 November 1995 at another location (Corso 2005). The bird in May 2015 constituted the first record in Malta.

520 Lesser Yellowlegs / Kleine Geelpootruiter *Tringa flavipes*, Riviera Martinique, Malta, 22 May 2015 *(Natalino Fenech)*

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Natalino Fenech, 90 Greece Street, Naxxar, NXR 3408, Malta (natalino.fenech@yahoo.com)
Kevin Francica, 58 Bakery Street, Lija, LJA1200 Malta (Zulluwa@onvol.net)
Michael Sammut, 11 Sqaq Rigu, Birkirkara BKR 2131, Malta (sammutmichael@gmail.com)

Omani Owl at Wadi Wurayah, United Arab Emirates, in March 2015

An unknown *Strix* owl population was recently discovered in the eastern part of the Hajar Mountains of Oman and described as a new species, Omani Owl *Strix omanensis* (Robb et al 2013). Since then, the taxonomic status of this population and its relationship to *Strix* populations of western Arabia, until recently known as 'Hume's Owl *S butleri*', has been a subject of debate. Kirwan et al (2015) showed that populations in western Arabia were genetically different from the old type specimen of 'Hume's Owl' (collected in south-western Pakistan) and named them *S hadorami*. They proposed the vernacular name Desert Tawny Owl, to prevent confusion with the former 'Hume's Owl'. This is best shortened to Desert Owl (Gill & Donsker 2015). The most recent genetic study (Robb et al 2015) concluded that *S omanensis* is a junior synonym of *S butleri*, found in Oman and Iran and possibly still in south-western Pakistan, but recommended retaining the vernacular name Omani Owl for this taxon.

An owl heard in Wadi Wurayah National Park, United Arab Emirates (UAE), in October 2006 had been tentatively identified as what was then known as 'Hume's Owl' (Tourenq et al 2009). With hindsight, this suggested that Omani Owl might also be present in the UAE. In 2015, a three-month owl survey to study the status of owl populations and investigate the presence of Omani Owl took place in the park. On 8 March 2015, Elvin Miller obtained a first response to playback of Omani Owl. On 13 March 2015, he made sound recordings at the same location, which are described here.

Methods

The owl survey in Wadi Wurayah NP, Fujairah, UAE, roughly covered an 8 km^2 area and took place from 30 December 2014 to 8 March 2015. It consisted of playing back recordings of Pallid Scops Owl *Otus brucei*, Little Owl (Cucumiau) *Athene noctua*, Pharaoh Eagle-Owl *Bubo ascalaphus* and Omani Owl. The only Omani Owl detected was recorded with a Marantz recorder PDM660, using the internal microphone. For comparison, we used recordings of Omani Owl and Desert Owl from Oman in the collection of The Sound Approach (figure 1). We measured sonagrams with Raven Pro version 1.5. Criteria for identifying Omani Owl vocalisations are those of Robb et al (2013), refined (with improved criteria for sexing) in Robb & The Sound Approach (2015).

Identification

Based on its compound hooting (figure 1a), the owl at Wadi Wurayah was certainly an Omani Owl. This consisted of four notes, grouped as one, one and two. The first note was longest, the second and fourth were of similar length and the third was shortest. The second showed a noticeable rise in pitch and the final two remained at a higher pitch, suggesting the caller was a male (in females, the second note tends to be lower pitched than the rest of the strophe, which is higher pitched than in males). The very low pitch of the whole strophe also suggested a male. Modular frequency of the first note was 274 Hz, maximum frequency of remaining notes 300 Hz, length of strophe 3.04 s; means for n=20 strophes. In Al Jabal Al Akhdar, Oman (figure 1c), these measurements were 336 Hz, 361 Hz and 3.09 s, respectively (means of means for three presumed males, n=128 strophes).

Desert Owl compound hooting has a higher number of notes in a very different rhythmic pattern, as well as a higher pitch and much shorter length (figure 1e). It has five notes, grouped as one, two and two. The first is longest, the second and fifth are much shorter, and the third and fourth are shortest. In each of the groups of two, the notes are joined together. Modular frequency of first note is 598 Hz, maximum frequency of remaining notes 595 Hz, length of entire strophe 1.54 s (means of means for four presumed males from Dhofar, Oman, n=83 strophes).

Pulsed hooting of the owl at Wadi Wurayah (figure 1b) was also closer to Omani Owl than to Desert Owl, both in rate of delivery and frequency. Rate of delivery in Wadi Wurayah was 3.3 notes/s, minimum frequency 247 Hz and maximum frequency 293 Hz (n=8 strophes). By comparison, in Omani from Al Jabal Al Akhdar, Oman (figure 1d), these measurements were 3.52 notes/s, 290 Hz and 337 Hz, respectively (means of means for three presumed males, n=57 strophes). In Desert from Dhofar (figure 1f), they were 3.89 notes/s, 356 Hz and 473 Hz, respectively (means of means for two presumed males, n=18 strophes).

Discussion

The strong analogy of the calls recorded in Wadi Wurayah with those from Al Jabal Al Akhdar confirmed the presence of Omani Owl in UAE (figure 2), as the earlier report of 'Hume's Owl' (Tourenq

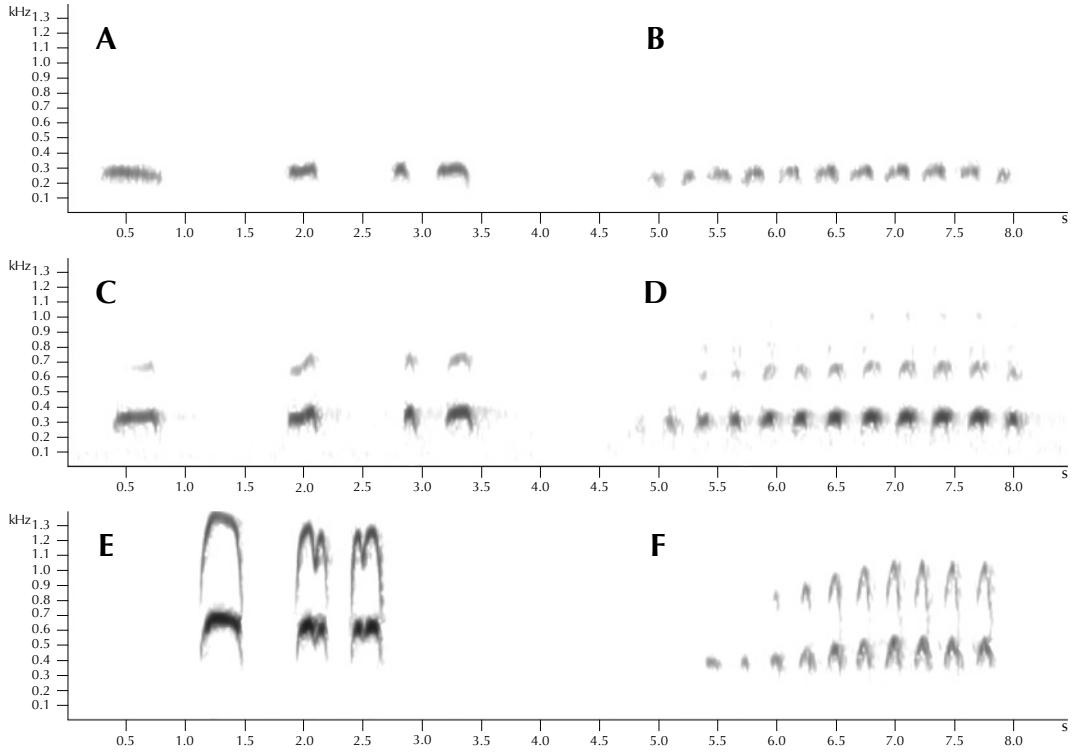

FIGURE 1 Hooting of (presumed male) *Strix* owls. Omani Owl / Omaanse Uil *S butleri* (=*S omanensis*), Wadi Wurayah National Park, Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, 13 March 2015 *(Elvin Miller)*: **A** compound hooting and **B** pulsed hooting. Omani Owl / Omaanse Uil, Al Jabal Al Akhdar, Al Hajar Mountains, Al Batinah, Oman *(Arnoud B van den Berg/The Sound Approach)*: **C** compound hooting, 27 May 2013 (130527.AB.233200) and **D** pulsed hooting, 28 May 2013 (130528.AB.003000). Desert Owl / Palestijnse Bosuil *S hadorami*, Wadi Al Mughsayl, Dhofar, Oman *(Magnus Robb/The Sound Approach)*: **E** compound hooting, 15 April 2010 (100415.MR.211332) and **F** pulsed hooting, 22 February 2014 (140222.MR.200554).

et al 2009) had suggested. The putative identification turned out to be correct retrospectively, despite the fact that, at the time, the authors were referring to 'Hume's Owl' from western Arabia (Dhofar being the closest known location), now recognized as Desert Owl. All attempts to re-locate the owl heard in 2006 failed, and in 2015 it was only after three months of survey in a rather small area that the species could be contacted twice over a week. Since then, no more signs of activity have been recorded, which once more underlines the difficulty of detecting this species. Intensive and long field surveys may be required to clarify its distribution range and learn more about the ecology of this species.

The habitat occupied in Wadi Wurayah is at lower elevation (150 to 350 m above sea level from wadi bed to surrounding ridges), has lower cliffs and receives less precipitation than in the currently known sites of Al Jabal Al Akhdar. Consequently, vegetation cover is scarcer and trees much smaller and rare. Rock composition and geomorphology also differ. The bedrock in Wadi Wurayah NP is composed of the ultrabasic Semail Ophiolites, while carbonates sediments are dominant in Jabal Akhdar sites. All these differences suggest that suitable habitats for the Omani Owl could potentially cover the whole Hajar Mountains range of UAE and Oman.

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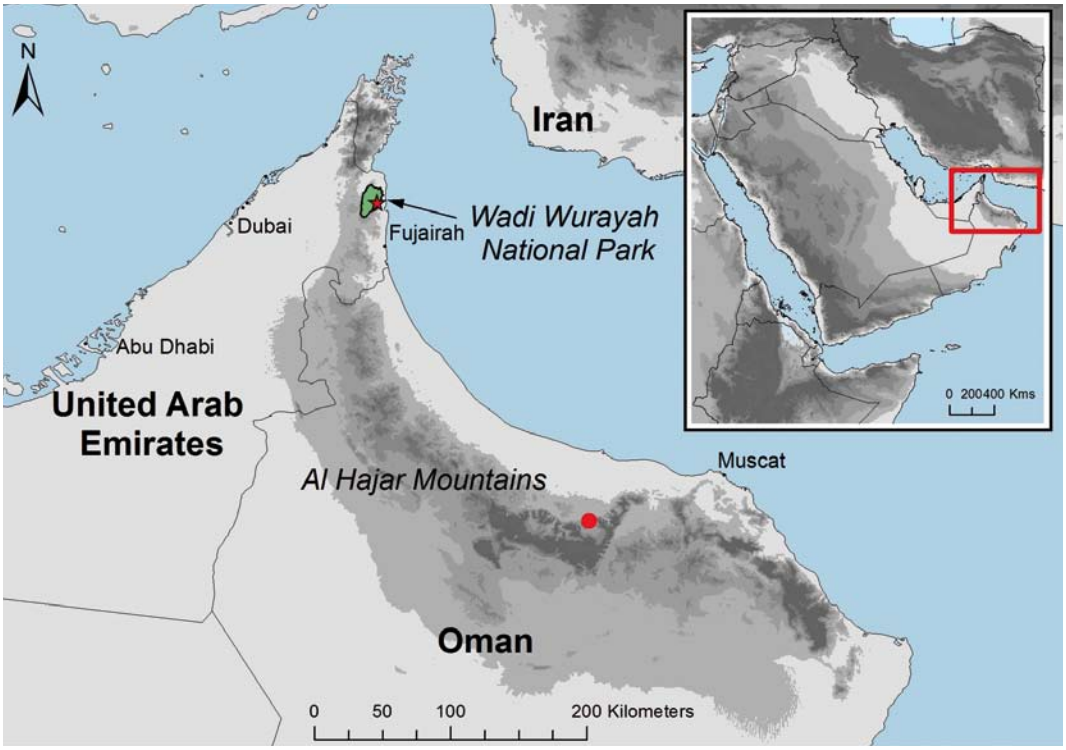

FIGURE 2 Map showing locations of Omani Owl in Al Hajar Mountains. Red star: new record from Wadi Wurayah National Park, UAE, presented in this note; red circle: location of Omani Owl in Oman (Robb et al 2013).

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Jacky Judas, Emirates Wildlife Society – WWF, PO Box 454891, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (jjudas@ewswwf.ae)
Magnus S Robb, The Sound Approach, Rua Dr Pedro Almeida Lima 6, 2710-122 Sintra, Portugal (magnus.robb@me.com)
Elvin Miller, Tour du Valat, Le Sambuc, 13200 Arles, France (elvin1000r@gmail.com)

Brieven

Dramatic decline of Yellow-breasted Bunting due to illegal trapping

A recently published paper showed that Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* decreased dramatically, both in numbers and in distribution area (Kamp et al 2015). Once one of the most abundant species in the Palearctic (Rogacheva 1992), numbers have now declined by 84-95% throughout the whole distribution range since the year 1980 and the breeding distribution has retracted 5000 km to the east, a breath-taking 200 km per year. The species has recently been uplisted from vulnerable to endangered, because of indications that the rate of population decline is more rapid than previously thought (BirdLife International 2015).

A major cause of the dramatic decline seems to be illegal trapping (plate 521). Trapping of songbirds for consumption has long been a common practice in southern and eastern Asia and especially in China. Although trapping has been forbidden in China since 1997, it continued illegally on an even higher rate than before. In 2001, a dazzling estimated one million Yellow-breasted Buntings were consumed in Guangdong province, China, alone (Chan 2004). On a single market in Sanshui, Guangdong, 10 000 individuals were sold daily, leading to an estimated 500 000 sold during the full season (October-November 2001). Yellow-breasted Bunting has the habit of feeding and roosting in large groups in rice fields and at other stopover sites. There, birds are easily caught and sold as a delicacy on the market for USD 8-11, mostly to rich, highly educated young men.

This research shows that illegal trapping of birds can have disastrous effects on a population. More than half of the bird species listed as threatened in China are affected by illegal hunting for food, making studies on the effects of trapping on populations of other bird species badly needed.

The future for Yellow-breasted Bunting looks bleak. The species is practically extinct from Scandinavia east to Lake Baikal, and is declining rapidly in the remaining breeding areas in Mongolia and the Russian Far East. Other species might

521 Yellow-breasted Buntings / Wilgengorzen *Emberiza aureola*, illegally trapped, China, 2 November 2012 *(Huang Qiusheng)*

522 Yellow-breasted Bunting / Wilgengors *Emberiza aureola*, female or first-year, Boschplaat, Terschelling, Friesland, Netherlands, 11 September 2010 *(Erik van Winden)*. The most recent Yellow-breasted Bunting in the Netherlands.

follow the same fate: in 2011, Chinese police confiscated two million songbirds in two cities, including many buntings of various species. (Kamp et al 2015). However, with international support against these illegal trapping events, it may be possible to reverse these dramatic declines. A first step is made, as the Convention on Migratory Species has agreed to develop an international action plan for the recovery of Yellow-breasted Bunting populations and to combat illegal trapping throughout the world (CMS 2015).

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Thijs P M Fijen, Asserpark 44-8A1, 6706 HC Wageningen, Netherlands (thijsfijen@gmail.com)

CDNA-mededelingen

Recente CDNA-besluiten Op zondag 23 augustus 2015 hield de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) haar zomervergadering in Haren, Groningen, waarin onder meer de volgende punten aan de orde kwamen en de volgende besluiten werden genomen.

Per 1 april is Nils van Duivendijk gestopt als voorzitter en als stemmend lid. Sander Bot heeft zijn taak van voorzitter overgenomen. Om Sanders werklast te beperken stopt hij met het stemmen op gevallen en wordt dus een niet-stemmend lid. Rob van Bemmelen is per 1 augustus gestopt als commissielid. Er waren daarom drie vacante posities voor stemmend lid en deze zijn opgevuld door Diederik Kok, Eddy Nieuwstraten en Vincent van der Spek. In de komende maanden wordt bekeken wie de secretarisrol op zich neemt.

Er is behoefte om het beleid ten aanzien van Lammergier *Gypaetus barbatus* te herzien. De redenen zijn nieuwe publicaties over zwerfgedrag van wilde en geherintroduceerde populaties en nieuwe waarnemingen (waaronder een exemplaar zonder ringen of markeringen) in 2015. Samen met de al beschikbare informatie wordt voor komende vergadering gewerkt aan een voorstel hoe om te gaan met de status van deze soort. Het reeds roulerende geval van 5 mei 2015 op de Sallandse Heuvelrug, Overijssel (en 8 en 9 mei waargenomen nabij de Lauwersmeer in Friesland en Groningen), wordt totdat het beleid is vastgesteld 'in de koelkast geplaatst'.

Onderzoek naar de noodzaak om Notenkraker *Nucifraga caryocatactes macrorynchos* terug op de lijst van te beoordelen soorten te zetten is afgerond met als resultaat dat beoordeling (nog) niet nodig is. Diksnavelnotenkraker *N c caryocatactes* blijft wel een beoordeeltaxon. Er zijn geen andere taxa die worden opgevoerd of afgevoerd van de lijst van te beoordelen soorten. Wel is afgesproken dat niet strak naar het gemiddelde aantal

gevallen (twee) per jaar in de laatste 30 jaar regel wordt gekeken en dat soms daarvan wordt afgeweken, zoals dat recent is gebeurd bij Kuifleeuwerik *Galerida cristata*.

Het logo van de CDNA betreft een Terekruiter *Xenus cinereus*. De ontwerper kon zich destijds (jaren 1970) waarschijnlijk niet voorstellen dat de soort ooit te talrijk zou worden voor een beoordeelsoort, wat sinds 2015 toch echt een feit is. Onderzocht wordt wie een nieuw logo zou willen ontwerpen, met een soort die hopelijk niet aan sterke inflatie onderhevig zal zijn.

De Afrikaanse Woestijngrasmus *Sylvia deserti* die vanaf 12 november 2014 bij Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland, verbleef is bekrachtigd als nieuwe soort voor Nederland. De einddatum is vastgesteld op 9 december 2014. Ook Stejnegers Roodborsttapuit *Saxicola stejnegeri* is bekrachtigd als nieuwe soort voor Nederland, op basis van het geval van 8-23 oktober 2012 op Texel, Noord-Holland; een bijzondere nieuwe soort omdat het individu pas werd gedetermineerd na eerst in een nacht linea recta naar Dorset, Engeland, te zijn gevlogen, daar te zijn gevangen en op DNA te zijn geanalyseerd. Een IJslandse Koperwiek *Turdus iliacus coburni* van 25 oktober tot 4 november 2014 op Vlieland, Friesland, is als nieuwe ondersoort bekrachtigd. Sander Bot & CDNA

DBA-nieuws

Vernieuwing in bestuur en redactie Het bestuur van de Dutch Birding Association is verheugd te melden dat Pieter van Veelen en Jorrit Vlot het bestuur gaan versterken. Tegenover de komst van Pieter en Jorrit staat het vertrek van Rob Gordijn. Via deze weg willen wij Rob bedanken voor zijn enthousiaste en gedreven inzet de afgelopen jaren. De komende periode wordt gebruikt om de taken binnen het bestuur te herverdelen. Hierover zullen we u te zijner tijd informeren via onze website.

Binnen de redactie hebben eerder dit jaar ook al de nodige mutaties plaatsgevonden. Na jarenlange trouwe inzet hebben Ferdy Hieselaar en Rik Winters hun inzet beëindigd. Namens het bestuur en de redactie willen we hen hiervoor hartelijk bedanken. Nieuw toegetreden als redactieleden zijn Thijs Fijen, Łukasz Ławicki en Peter de Vries. Łukasz verzorgt sinds enige tijd samen met Arnoud van den Berg de rubriek WP reports. Jelmer Poelstra ondersteunt als nieuwe redactiemedewerker de redactie op het gebied van taxonomie en systematiek. We wensen hen veel succes. Arjan van Egmond & bestuur Dutch Birding Association

Corrigenda

Bij de omslagfoto van het vorige nummer (Dutch Birding 37-4, 2015) van de Bonte Zanger *Mniotilta varia* werd de verkeerde locatie op Corvo vermeld. Deze moet luiden: Ribeira da Ponte, Corvo, Azoren. Een foto van dezelfde vogel, met de juiste locatie, werd eerder gebubliceerd in Dutch Birding 36: 415, plate 553, 2014.

In het artikel over de Roodborstlijster *Turdus migratorius* bij Heemskerk, Noord-Holland, in april 2014 (Dutch Birding 37: 234-237, 2015) werd een overzicht gegeven van gevallen in Europa. Het geval in Noorwegen werd abusievelijk vermeld in deze lijst; deze waarneming is niet aanvaard en de soort staat niet op de Noorse lijst. (zie 'Norwegian list' in Dutch Birding 25: 421, 2003) redactie

The caption of the cover photograph of the previous issue (Dutch Birding 37-4, 2015) of the Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* the wrong location on Corvo was mentioned. This should be: Ribeira da Ponte, Corvo, Azores. A photograph of the same bird, with the correct location, was published in Dutch Birding 36: 415, plate 553, 2014.

In the paper on the American Robin *Turdus migratorius* near Heemskerk, Noord-Holland, in April 2014 (Dutch Birding 37: 234-237, 2015), an overview was given of records in Europe. The record in Norway was erroneous; this report has not been accepted and the species is not on the Norwegian list (see 'Norwegian list' in Dutch Birding 25: 421, 2003). editors

WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic mainly from **August to late September 2015**. 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.

DUCKS TO GROUSE In Portugal, a **Fulvous Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor* was photographed at Lagoa do Salgados, Algarve, on 18 September. At the staging grounds of **Lesser White-fronted Goose** *Anser erythropus* at Porsanger Fjord, Finnmark, Norway, a total of 126 individuals was counted on 23 August, including 70 juveniles from 22 nests. This record-breaking breeding season for the species' Fennoscandian population coincided with a good rodent year, resulting in a decreased predation pressure for breeding birds. The previous highest autumn total at Porsanger Fjord was in 1995, when 61 adults and 67 juveniles were counted; these birds migrate to wintering areas in Greece and Hungary. On 1 August, more than 850 moulting **Ruddy Shelducks** *Tadorna ferruginea* were counted in the Netherlands, with 580 at Eemmeer, Utrecht, 181 at De Kreupel, Enkhuizen, Noord-Holland, 31 at Lauwersmeer, Groningen, and more than 50 at other sites. All these birds arrive from abroad and, up to now, ringing recoveries indicate an origin up the Rhine river, eg, France and Switzerland but arrivals from further away cannot be excluded. An adult male **Asian White-winged Scoter** *Melanitta deglandi stejnegeri* stayed at Fauske, Nordland, Norway, from 15 July to 14 August. The adult male **Hooded Merganser** *Lophodytes cucullatus* from 18 November 2014 was still present near Reykjavík, Iceland, during August. An artificial nest programme of **Scaly-sided Merganser** *Mergus squamatus* in Russia produced the 1000th duckling this year; in China, after 10 years of trying, the first 11 ducklings hatched from a nest-box this year as well. Just under 2000 pairs of this species now breed in Far East Russia and neighbouring parts of China and North Korea. In France, two **Marbled Ducks** *Marmaronetta angustirostris* were present at Chambéon, Loire, and one remained until at least 7 September; up to and including 2013, 100 individuals have been accepted for France of which 31 since 1981, with the majority in August-November. In Belgium, one stayed at Berlare, Oost-Vlaanderen, on 20-24 August. The first confirmed breeding records for Libya concerned two dead ducklings at Mallaha, Tripoli, in June 2012 and an adult with chick near Tripoli in July 2013. Molecular analyses on **Western Capercaillie** *Tetrao urogallus* did not support the currently recognised taxonomy at the subspecies level (Klinga et al in Biol J Linn Soc 2015).

FLAMINGOS TO GREBES The wintering population of **Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus* in Turkey increased from 36 459 to 98 687 individuals between 1999 and 2014, mainly concentrated in the Gediz, Büyük Menderes and Çukurova deltas (Balkız et al in Zool Middle East 61: 201-214, 2015); the main breeding colonies were at Gediz delta (10 812 pairs in 2014) and Tuz lake (20 292 fledglings in 2013). A melanistic individual was found near Limassol, Cyprus, on 9 April; probably the same bird stayed at Eilat, Israel, in 2012-14 (cf Dutch Birding 36: 242-243, 2014). Genetic analysis of 69 **Lesser Flamingos** *Phoeniconaias minor* in Kenya and Gujarat, India, show that two or three migrants per generation may move from one continent to the other (Parasharya et al in Ostrich 86, 2015). Two adults videoed at Maly Teniz on 8 September were the first for Kazakhstan. In Norway, an adult **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* stayed at Storeidvatnet, Vestvågøy, Nordland, from 3 May to at least 14 September. In the Azores, one remained on São Miguel through September.

DOVES TO TROPICBIRDS A juvenile **Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis* was shot together with adult European Turtle Doves *S turtur* in Malta on 9 September. After the first **Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* for Uzbekistan was photographed on 18 May 2009, another (male) was photographed in central Kyzyl Kum, 170 km west of Bukhara, on 6 June 2013. These constituted the first records in Central Asia (Russian J Ornithol 24: 642-643, 2015). In May 2013, one was also recorded in Abkhazia constituting the first for the Caucasus (cf Russian J Ornithol 22: 1969-1970, 2013). On 9 August, at least 140 **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles exustus* were present near Sandafa, Minya, Egypt (cf Dutch Birding 37: 95-97, 2015). In Israel, a **Red-billed Tropicbird** *Phaethon aethereus* was seen at North Beach, Eilat, on 31 July. The sixth for Britain flew near the Runnel Stone off Porthgwarra, Cornwall, on 28 August. The second for Portugal flew past Peniche, Leiria, on 22 September.

SWIFTS TO CUCKOOS A **Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica* was reported at sea 3 nautical miles off Staffin Bay, Highland, Scotland, on 24 August. An **Alpine Swift** *Apus melba* at St George on 13 July was the fourth for Barbados. A **Pacific Swift** *A pacificus* flew past Helsingborg, Skåne, Sweden, on 29 August. A **Common Swift** *A apus* at Zackenberg Research Station on 18 August was the first for Greenland. For Iceland, it was the species' second-best year ever with at least 32 reported at many sites by 24 August (1980 was the best year with 56). A female **Western Koel** *Eudynamys scolopaceus* observed on 8-10 May 2013 and then found dead on 14 May in the valley of Koytendari near Hodzhakaraul, Kugitang-Tau, was the first for Turkmenistan and Central Asia (Russian J Ornithol 24: 326, 2015).

RAILS TO BUSTARDS A **Sora** *Porzana carolina* was seen at Foz da Ribeira de São Francisco, Santa Maria, Azores, on 22 September. An exhausted **African Swamphen**

523-524 Fea's Petrel / Gon-gon *Pterodroma feae*, off Scilly, England, 16 August 2015
(Joe Pender)

525 Hudsonian Godwit / Rode Grutto *Limosa haemastica*, adult, Inismor, Galway, Ireland, 17 September 2015
(David Monticelli)

Porphyrio madagascariensis at the beach of Aqaba on 23 July concerned the third for Jordan (previous ones were in 1989 and 1999). During July-September, at least seven were recorded at various sites in Israel, where the species seems to be on the increase. A **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* found dead near the beach of Van Muydenbukta, Nordenskiøldkysten, on 31 July was the second for Svalbard (the first was in 1970). Two adult **Demoiselle Cranes** *Grus virgo* were present at Jahra pools reserve, Kuwait, on 13 September. A **Little Bustard** *Tetrax tetrax* was seen at Länsikylä, Pyhtää, Finland, on 6 September.

LOONS TO TUBENOSES In February 2013, 14 161 **Red-throated Loons** *Gavia stellata* were present in the Outer Thames Estuary, the highest number ever found in one place in north-western Europe (Br Birds 108: 506-513, 2015). Molecular phylogenetic analysis of an old museum specimen of a storm petrel from the Marquesas Islands (French Polynesia) revealed that it is closely related to some individuals of **White-bellied Storm Petrel** *Fregatta grallaria*, which apparently is a non-monophyletic species (Cibois et al in Bull BOC 135: 240-246, 2015); in the past, this specimen had been alternatively attributed to Black-bellied Storm Petrel *F tropica*, or described as a new taxon (cf Dutch Birding 32: 36-42, 2010, 37: 86-91, 2015). The long-staying adult **Black-browed Albatross** *Thalassarche melanophris* was chased by two White-tailed Eagles *Haliaeetus albicilla* at Agger Tange, Nordjylland, Denmark, on 17 August and then seen more than a month later when it followed for five minutes the ferry between Hirtshals, Nordjylland, and Langesund, Telemark, Norway, on 20 September (cf Dutch Birding 37: 262, 2015). A **Swinhoe's Storm Petrel** *Oceanodroma monorhis* at Bank of Fortune, Graciosa, on 27 August was the fifth for the Azores in four years. In the mountains of Dominica, 968 breeding **Black-capped Petrels** *Pterodroma hasitata* have been rediscovered (after one breeding female was found in May 2007); the last confirmed nesting before 2007 on this island was in 1862. The species also breeds in Haiti and Dominican Republic while it is considered to be extinct on some other Caribbean islands. Several **Fea's/Zino's Petrels** *P feae/madeira* were seen off Ireland on 2-9 August and a Fea's was photographed off Scilly, England, on 16 August. On 9 September, a Fea's/Zino's flew past Spurn, Yorkshire, England. In June 2010, the breeding population of **Scopoli's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea* in the world's largest colony on Zembra, Tunisia, was estimated at 141 780 pairs, and the global population of this species throughout the Mediterranean Basin was estimated at 141 000-223 000 pairs (J Ornithol 156: 877-892, 2015). At Pendeen, Cornwall, England, a record 15 000 **Manx Shearwaters** *Puffinus puffinus* flew past on 28 July and a **Barolo Shearwater** *P baroli* on 29 July. The breeding grounds of **New Zealand Storm Petrel** *Fregetta maoriana*, a species considered extinct until 2003, have been discovered by using miniaturized radiotelemetry on 11 individuals captured and radio-tagged at sea near Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island (Ibis 157: 754-766, 2015). Information collected from 500 seabird populations by Michelle Paleczny et al (2015) led to the conclusion that global seabird numbers (eg, tubenoses, pelicans, terns and gulls) dropped by 69.6% in 1950-2010, ie, a loss of 230 million seabirds in 60 years (http://tinyurl.com/nrcgg47). The causes are well known: overfishing, fishing gear casualties, pollution by oil and plastics, lack of protection of breeding colonies and environmental changes.

STORKS TO CORMORANTS An adult **Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis* at Tirat Zvi fishponds, Beit She'an valley, Israel, on 17 September had gone unnoticed all summer. The eighth **Pink-backed Pelican** *Pelecanus rufescens* for Israel in the Harod and Jizreel valleys from 9 July remained until 30 August, when it had moved to Kfar Baruch reservoir with a relatively large group of Great White Pelicans *P onocrotalus*. A second calendar-year **Dalmatian Pelican** *P crispus* in the Noteć valley, Wielkopolska, from 14 August to at least 15 September was the seventh for Poland. In J Caribb Ornithol 28: 1-5, 2015, the first **Least Bittern** *Ixobrychus exilis* for Aruba on 9 April 2013 was published; this was a few months earlier than the one on 23 October 2013 published in Dutch Birding 36: 244, 2014. If accepted, a putative **Yellow Bittern** *Ixobrychus sinensis* seen and heard near Luxor on 11 August would be the first for the Nile Valley, Egypt (small numbers breed at Hamata, Red Sea). A pair of **Striated Herons** *Butorides striata* and one fresh juvenile were present at Hayarkon Park, Tel Aviv, Israel, on 24 August; the species has probably been breeding here for the last three years. The biggest flocks ever of **Cattle Egrets** *Bubulcus ibis* for Britain were 25 flying past Brighstone, Isle of Wight, on 30 August, and 23 past Christchurch Harbour at the Dorset/Hampshire border on 31 August. The second **Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* for southern Africa was present along the Black River, Western Cape, South Africa, from 8 June into July. In the Azores, an adult **Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula* was photographed at Pontas Negras, Lajes, Pico, on 2 August. If accepted, a **Masked Booby** *S dactylatra* off North Beach, Eilat, on 17 August will be the second for Israel (the first was in 2004). An influx of **Pygmy Cormorants** *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* occurred in Poland, where c 55 were found at 11 sites between 4 August and 18 September, with the largest-ever flock of 26 at Buda Stalowska, Podkarpackie, on 15 August. In Germany, singles were observed at Frose, Sachsen-Anhalt, from 6 August to at least 9 September; at Kröbeln, Brandenburg, on 9-12 August; and at Rhäden, Hessen, on 14-21 September. In France, an adult was seen in Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, on 30 August. An **Atlantic Great Cormorant** *P carbo carbo* staying at Artis, Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, from 14 August had been ringed as a chick at Vinga Södra Fjiskar, Västergötland, Sweden, on 9 June 2015, when it was misidentified as Continental Great Cormorant *P c sinensis*; up to now, only the latter taxon was known here as a breeding bird but Atlantic Great occurred in winter.

WADERS Three **Semipalmated Plovers** *Charadrius semipalmatus* were present on Terceira, Azores, on 3 August and 13-17 September. **Greater Sand Plovers** *C lesche-*




526 Dalmatian Pelican / Kroeskoppelikaan *Pelecanus crispus*, second calendar-year, Występ, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Poland, 15 August 2015 *(Teresa Blank)* **527** Atlantic Great Cormorant / Grote Aalscholver *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*, first-year, Artis, Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 14 August 2015 *(Willem van der Waal)*. Ringed as nestling in Västergötland, Sweden, on 9 June 2015. **528** Sooty Tern / Bonte Stern *Onychoprion fuscatus*, juvenile, Ilheu da Praia, Graciosa, Azores, 25 August 2015 *(Richard Bonser)* **529** Forster's Tern / Forsters Stern *Sterna forsteri*, adult, Rogerstown Estuary, Dublin, Ireland, 7 September 2015 *(Paul Kelly)*

naultii were seen at Dieksanderkoog, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, on 19-31 July; at Clauen, Niedersachsen, Germany, on 20-22 July; and at Hyères, Var, France, on 7-8 August (second-year). An adult female **Lesser Sand Plover** *C atrifrons* was found on Lanzarote, Canary Islands, on 7 August. If accepted, a **Caspian Plover** *C asiaticus* at Ruan, Loiret, from 11 September will be the fifth for France. An **Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda* at Banc d'Arguin on 5 September was the second for Mauritania (the first was in 1986) and the third for Africa. Adult **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** *Calidris acuminata* stayed at Camperduin, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, from 6 to at least 17 September, and at Langåker, Lista, Vest-Agder, Norway, on 7 September. In the Azores, no less than 40 **White-rumped Sandpipers** *C fuscicollis* were present at Ponta de Escalvado, São Miguel, on 23 August. Others were found in July-August in Britain (at least seven), Germany, Ireland, Iceland, Norway and Spain. In Germany, a first-year **Semipalmated Sandpiper** *C pusilla* first stayed at Luneplate, Niedersachsen, on 9-14 August and then at Wesel, Nordrhein-Westfalen, on 21 August. Another juvenile was found at Ladeira beach, Corrubedo, Ribeira, A Coruña, Spain, on 31 August. On São Miguel, a **Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria* was present at Faja de Cima on 26-29 August and at Achada das Furnas on 14 September. The long-staying **Hudsonian Whimbrel** *Numenius hudsonicus* on Terceira remained until at least 17 September. The long-stayer at Pagham Harbour, Sussex, England, from 9 June was last seen on 27 July. In Galway, Ireland, an adult **Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica* at Inismor from 15 September may be the same as the one at Ballyconneely on 22 July (cf Dutch Birding 37: 268, 2015).

530 Greater Sand Plover / Woestijnplevier *Charadrius leschenaultii*, adult, Clauen, Niedersachsen, Germany, 20 July 2015 *(Jens Voß)*

531 Lesser Sand Plover / Tibetaanse Plevier *Charadrius atrifrons*, adult female, Lanzarote, Canary Islands, 7 August 2015 *(Francisco Javier García Vargas)*

532 Least Sandpiper / Kleinste Strandloper *Calidris minutilla*, adult, St Agnes, Scilly, England, 17 July 2015 *(Ashley Fisher)* cf Dutch Birding 37: 268, 2015

533 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper / Siberische Strandloper *Calidris acuminata*, adult, Camperduin, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 7 September 2015 *(Eric Menkveld)*

534 Black-winged Kite / Grijze Wouw *Elanus caeruleus*, juvenile, Maashorst, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands, 4 August 2015 *(Michel Veldt)* **535** Pygmy Cormorants / Dwergaalscholvers *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, Spytkowice, Małopolska, Poland, 14 August 2015 (*Paweł Malczyk)* **536** Wilson's Phalarope / Grote Franjepoot *Phalaropus tricolor*, first-winter, with Pectoral Sandpiper / Gestreepte Strandloper *Calidris melanotos*, Goulven, Bretagne, France, 12 September 2015 *(Valentin Condal)*

AUKS TO GULLS Geolocators deployed on four **Ancient Murrelets** *Synthliboramphus antiquus* breeding in Haida Gwaii, British Columbia, Canada, in 2013 showed that the following year that all moved rapidly westwards after breeding, three of them reaching waters between Japan and China by November, and that return migration was rapid too, beginning in February and reaching Haida Gwaii in March; it provided the first evidence for bird migration spanning the entire width of the North Pacific, and the longest migration recorded in any of the Alcidae (Gaston et al in Ibis 157: 877-882, 2015). If accepted, an adult **Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini* at Jahra pools on 31 July was the first for Kuwait. An **Audouin's Gull** *Larus audouinii* at Simrishamn, Skåne, on 12 August was the first for Sweden. In Georgia, an adult was seen at Chorokhi delta, Batumi, on 28 August. The British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC) has accepted **Thayer's Gull** *L thayeri* to 'category A' of the British list based on an adult well-photographed at Pitsea, Essex, England, on 6 November 2010.

TERNS In the Netherlands, a **Sooty Tern** *Onychoprion fuscatus* or **Bridled Tern** *O anaethetus* flew past Den Helder, Noord-Holland, on 4 September. For the second consecutive year, a pair of **Sooty Terns** bred successfully on Ilheu da Praia, Graciosa, Azores. On 8 August, at least 160 **Saunders's Terns** *Sternula saundersi* were present in their colony near Ras Sudr, Sinai, Egypt, and a putative second-year was seen at Eilat on 18 August. The population of **Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, had a good breeding season with 47 young being ringed, a handful more than last year (cf Dutch Birding 36: 147-158, 2014). A pair of **White-cheeked Terns** *Sterna repressa* with two eggs at Eilat probably failed to raise young but constituted the first breeding record for Israel; on 12 September, 87 gathered at North Beach, Eilat, probably a new national record. In Ireland, the **Forster's Tern** *S forsteri* was back at Rogerstown Estuary, Dublin, from at least 7 September. An adult **Elegant Tern** *S elegans* was seen at Banc d'Arguin, Gironde, France, on 13 and 27 July, and one stayed in Camargue on 23-25 August. In China/Taiwan, **Chinese Crested Tern** *S bernsteini* had its best season since its rediscovery as birds were successful in all three known breeding sites, thanks to the use of decoys and audio attraction, a method first applied in 2013: Jiushan islands and Wuzhishan islands, Zhejiang province, and Mazu islands, Fujian province, as compared with only Jiushan islands in 2014. Over 70% of the world population, 52 birds, were breeding on Tiedun Dao, Jiushan islands, and raised at least 16 young; the species was regarded as extinct from 1937 until its rediscovery in 2000 (cf Dutch Birding 22: 248-249, 2000, 23: 300, 2001, 24: 378, 2002, 26: 267, 343, 2004).

RAPTORS The number of **Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* nesting pairs in Europe, northern Africa, and the Middle East was between 9500 and 11 500 in the early 21st century, doubling the number of the 1980s. The increase is most obvious in Britain and Germany while the largest European populations in Finland, Russia and Sweden appear stable. In contrast, Portugal, mainland Spain and Turkey lost their last breeding pairs in the 1980-90s, and negative trends are also reported from Poland, south-eastern Europe and northern Africa, where only very few pairs remain. Reintroductions in England, Italy and Spain have resulted in a few new breeding pairs in recent years (J Raptor Res 48: 375-386, 2014). The influx of **Black-winged Kites** *Elanus caeruleus* in north-western Europe (cf Dutch Birding 37: 193, 269, 2015) continued with singles at Mandehoved, Sjælland, Denmark, on 9 June; at Altikon, Zürich, Switzerland, on 3 August; at Maashorst, Noord-Brabant, the Netherlands, on 3-5 August (first-ever juvenile); at Holnstein, Bayern, Germany, on 17 August; at Harsin, Luxembourg, Belgium, on 20 August; and at Lauwersmeer, Groningen, the Netherlands, on 20-21 August. In autumn 2014, 1 384 548 raptors were counted at Batumi, Georgia, including 100 000 **European Honey Buzzards** *Pernis apivorus* in a nine-hour period, and 230 000 **Steppe Buzzards** *Buteo buteo vulpinus* in a further eight-hour period; the record day was 2 October, when 264 891 raptors were counted. A female **European Honey Buzzard** fitted with a satellite tracking system in Finland spent the austral summer of 2014/15 around Reitz, Free State, South Africa, where she left on 20 April to reach Finland on 2 June; so, in just 42 days, she covered over 10 000 km, ie, an average of more than 230 km a day. In Georgia, 27 **Crested Honey Buzzards** *P ptilorhynchus* were counted at Batumi between 17 August and 20 September. The long-staying second calendar-year **Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus* at Judean Plains, Israel, from 31 May was last seen on 16 August. A **Short-toed Snake Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus* flew over Braishfield, Hampshire, England, on 14 September. The first estimates of a 30-year Pan-African vulture decline have been published by Ogada et al (Conserv Lett 2015; http://tinyurl.com/o3eusbr). Eight species declined at a rate of 70% or more over three generations: **Bearded Vulture** *Gypaetus barbatus* (-70%), **Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus* (-92%), **White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus* (-90%), **Rüppell's Vulture** *G rueppelli* (-97%), **Cape Vulture** *G coprotheres* (-92%), **Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus* (-83%), **Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotos* (-80%) and **White-headed Vulture** *Trigonoceps occipitalis* (-96%). The most significant threats are poisoning and trade in traditional medicines, which accounted for 90% of reported deaths. The **Bearded Vultures** reintroduced in the Alps since 1986 had another good year with 34 nesting pairs, 29 clutches and 19 fledglings (eight in Switzerland, six in France, four in Italy and one in Austria). A **Rüppell's Vulture** picked up moribund at the beach of Sagres, Portugal, on 29 June was a juvenile. A **Cinereous Vulture** *Aegypius monachus* chick hatched on 14 July from one of two nests built this year in Herdade da Contenda, Moura, Alentejo, was the first in southern Portugal for more than 40 years; it has been colour-ringed and gps-tagged. The current breeding populations of **Lesser Spotted Eagle** *Aquila pomarina* in central and eastern Europe numbers 3700-4000 pairs in Latvia, 3200-3800 pairs in Belarus, 1100-1300 pairs in Ukraine, 600-1000 pairs in Russia, 600-700 pairs in Estonia, 600-

537 Long-legged Buzzard / Arendbuizerd *Buteo rufinus*, second calendar-year, Goddelsheimer Hochfläche, Hessen, Germany, 19 September 2015 *(Martin Gottschling)*

538 Demoiselle Cranes / Jufferkraanvogels *Grus virgo*, adult, Jahra pools reserve, Kuwait, 13 September 2015 *(AbdulRahman Al-Sirhan)*

539 Lesser Kestrel / Kleine Torenvalk *Falco naumanni*, second calendar-year male, Bäntorf, Niedersachsen, Germany, 23 August 2015 *(Jens Voß)*

540 Eleonora's Falcon / Eleonora's Valk *Falco eleonorae*, second calendar-year, Skagen, Nordjylland, Denmark, 15 September 2015 *(Niels Evald Jensen)*

800 pairs in Slovakia and 40 pairs in Hungary (Slovak Raptor Journal 9, 2015). In the Biebrza valley, Poland, the proportion of pairs producing hybrids **Greater Spotted x Lesser Spotted Eagle** *A clanga x pomarina* increased by over 30% between 1996 and 2012. The percentage of territories occupied by pure Greater Spotted pairs had declined by 50% at the end of this period. The increasing number of mixed pairs correlated very significantly with the decreasing number of pairs of Greater Spotted, but weakly with the numbers of the more common Lesser Spotted. Mate replacement was frequently recorded, and favoured Lesser Spotted or hybrids (Acta Ornithol 50: 33-41, 2015, cf Dutch Birding 32: 384-397, 2010). In France, a subadult **Spanish Imperial Eagle** *A adalberti* was seen at Laroque-de-Fa, Aude, on 13 July and a second-year at Eyne, Pyrénées-Orientales, on 27 July. In June-July, 11 breeding pairs of **Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus* were found in Finland.

OWLS TO BEE-EATERS DNA analyses confirmed that the *Strix* owl trapped and photographed near Vakilabad garden, just west of Mashhad, Kharasan-e Razavi province, Iran, on 21 January 2015 concerned the country's first **Omani Owl** *S butleri* (formerly *S omanensis*; cf Robb et al 2015 in http://biorxiv.org/content/early/2015/08/20/025122). This Iranian locality is 1440 km due north of Al Hajar mountains, Oman, where the species was first sound-recorded and photographed in 2013 (cf Dutch Birding 35: 275-310, 2013, 37: 127-129, 2015). In August, the second for Iran was photographed in Bushehr province, c 1000 km north-west from Al Hajar (Seyed Babak Musavi in litt). This summer, a higher number of **European Bee-eaters** *Merops apiaster* than usual were recorded in northern Europe and, for instance, four pairs bred successfully on Öland, Sweden, and two pairs in Cumbria, Britain.

FALCONS A second calendar-year male **Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni* at Bäntorf, Niedersachsen, on 22-23 August was the first twitchable ever in Germany. The breeding population of **Red-footed Falcon** *F vespertinus* in Hungary increased from 558 pairs in 2006 to 1200 in 2014, mainly due to the implementation of a large scale nest-box programme. Almost the entire population occurs east of Budapest, and in the second week of September 2014 the largest single roost site of 2000 individuals was present near Dévaványa (Ornis Hung 23: 77-93, 2015). From late July to mid-September, many 100s (mainly second calendar-year) were reported in many countries of western, central and eastern Europe (including three young ones in Poland with colour-rings from Hungary and Romania). Two or three **Eleonora's Falcons** *F eleonorae* turned up on three consecutive days in Germany: a pale-morph at Gotteskoogsee, Schleswig-Holstein, on 20 August; a dark-morph at Hoher Fläming, Brandenburg, on 21 August; and a pale-morph at St

541 Eastern Olivaceous Warbler / Oostelijke Vale Spotvogel *Iduna pallida*, Gravelines, Nord, France, 8 September 2015 *(Quentin Dupriez)* **542** Pine Bunting / Witkopgors *Emberiza leucocephalos*, first-year female, Jeziorsko reservoir, Łódzkie, Poland, 13 September 2015 *(Marcin Faber)* **543** Desert Wheatear / Woestijntapuit *Oenanthe deserti*, adult male, Hinterhornbach, Tirol, Austria, 6 September *(Manfred Schmid)* **544** American Yellow Warbler / Gele Zanger *Setophaga aestiva*, Lugar de Baixo, Madeira, 20 August 2015 *(Tor Olsen)* **545** Basra Reed Warbler / Basrakarekiet *Acrocephalus griseldis*, adult, Agamon Hula Ringing Station, Israel, 19 August 2015 *(Natan Eidelstein/KKL-JNF Wings)*

Peter-Ording, Schleswig-Holstein, on 22 August. In France, 33 were reported in July and 44 in August, all but one in the south. A pale-morph at Skagen, Jylland, on 15 September was the fourth for Denmark (previous ones were in 1988, 1996 and 2012). In Sweden, on 16 September, a pale-morph was seen at Falsterbo, Skåne, and a dark-morph at Sundre, Gotland. At the breeding colony on Mogador, Essaouira, Morocco, it was discovered that these falcons kept captured songbirds alive as food storage by putting them in a narrow rocky hole and often disabling them by removing all remiges and rectrices (Qninba et al in Alauda 83: 149-150, 2015).

PARROTS On 4 April 2015, a **Night Parrot** *Pezoporus occidentalis* was trapped in south-western Queensland, Australia. The last living specimen was collected in western Australia in 1912 and since then two corpses have been found, most recently in 2006. Then, in 2007, one was sound-recorded and, on 26 May 2013, a live one was photographed (John Young in Australian BirdLife September 2013). The Commission de l'Avifaune Française (CAF) has decided to delete **Fischer's Lovebird** *Agapornis fischeri* from 'category C' in the French list, and therefore the WP list. The species was easily seen around Saint Jean de Cap Ferrat near Nice, Alpes-Maritimes, where now only c 50 lovebirds survive with a majority being Yellow-collared Lovebird *A personatus* hybrids and an unsustainable population of c 10 pure Fischer's. (CAF is also discussing the status of **California Quail** *Callipepla californica* and **Reeves's Pheasant** *Syrmaticus reevesii*, of which the French 'category C' population is not doing very well either.)

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS An **Acadian Flycatcher** *E virescens* at Dungeness, Kent, England, on 22 September was the second for the WP (the first was in Iceland in 1967). A **Bimaculated Lark** *Melanocorypha bimaculata* briefly at Beltringharder Koog, Reußenköge, Schleswig-Holstein, on 31 July was the second for Germany. If accepted, a **Brown-throated Martin** *Riparia paludicola* at Heimar reservoir, Judean Desert, on 21 July may be the first for Israel.

WARBLERS The first **Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus* this autumn in north-western Europe was trapped at Hoburgen, Gotland, Sweden, on 12 August; in Finland, a record 710 individuals were reported between 4 and 21 September alone. In Scotland, Fair Isle had a record day count of 53 on 22 September. The second and third for Belarus were trapped at Sasnovy Bor, Rasony on 8 and 19 September (the first was in 2014). The first **Scandinavian Chiffchaff** *P collybita abietinus* confirmed for Ireland concerned one trapped and identified by DNA analysis at Ross Castle, Kerry, on 23 January. A presumed **Greenish Warbler** *P trochiloides* singing and sound-recorded on top of Lingshan on 22 July was the first or Beijing, China, and it was thought to belong to the subspecies *P t obscuratus*, possibly representing part of the missing link between the Two-barred Warbler *P plumbeitarsus* and Greenish 'ring species'. The **African Desert Warbler** *Sylvia deserti* near Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland, from 12 November to 9 December 2014 has been accepted as the first for the Netherlands by the Dutch rarities committee. The autumn's first **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella certhiola* and the second-earliest ever for Britain stayed at Isbister, Shetland, Scotland, on 11-12 September. The second for Sweden was trapped at Häradsskär, Östergötland, on 15 September (the first was also trapped at Häradsskär in October 2010). In July, a pair of **Booted Warbler** *Iduna caligata* with juveniles was present in the northern part of Pasvalys district, and another breeding pair was at Kiluciai, Birzai, representing the first confirmed breeding records for Lithuania. The one trapped at Bartosovice on 19 September was the second for Czech Republic (the first was in 2013). A **Sykes's Warbler** *I rama* trapped and ringed at the Cervenohorske sedlo pass, Jeseniky mountains, on 19 August was the first for Czech Republic. At Reserva Natural de Zaframagón, Andalucía, Spain, a high total of 742 **Western Olivaceous Warblers** *I opaca* were trapped on 11 ringing days in just two 18 m mistnets between 5 July and 1 August: an average of more than 67 a day and with a maximum of 186 trapped on 18 July. Previous highs were 42 on 4 August 2013, 37 on 25 August 2013 and 36 on 26 July 2014. In France, **Eastern Olivaceous Warblers** *I pallida elaeica* were photographed on Sein, Finistère, on 28 August and at Gravelines, Nord, on 8-9 September. In Scotland, one was trapped at Skaw, Whalsay, Shetland, on 12 September. On 12 August, **Mangrove Olivaceous Warblers** *I pallida alulensis* proved to be common in mangroves south of Safaga, Red Sea, Egypt. A **Basra Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus griseldis* was trapped at Agamon Park, Hula valley, Israel, on 19 August; there is one breeding record for Israel, at Lehavot Habashan in 2006 (cf Dutch Birding 28: 254, 2006, Sandgrouse 29: 210-214, 2007). The second **Blyth's Reed Warbler** *A dumetorum* for Hungary was trapped at Izsák, Bács-Kiskun, on 14 September (the first was in 2014). The one photographed on St Lawrence Island, Gambell, Alaska, on 18 September may be the first for the USA.

THRUSHES A **Grey-cheeked Thrush** *Catharus minimus* was discovered on St Agnes, Scilly, England, on 23 September. Light-level geolocators deployed on male **Red-spotted Bluethroats** *Luscinia svecica svecica* at breeding sites in Czech Republic and Norway showed that they follow the Indo-European flyway, spending the boreal winter in India and Pakistan, on average more than 6000 km from their breeding areas (Lislevand et al in Bird Study 2015). Whether or not bluethroats wintering in Africa belong to other subspecies, such as White-spotted Bluethroat *L s cyanecula*, should be subject of further study. If accepted, a **White-capped Redstart** *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus* at 2100 m at Val d'Uina, Switzerland, on 9 September would be the first for the WP. Molecular analysis of a male mystery bird trapped at Lista, Vest-Agder, Norway, on 18 September 2013 revealed that it was a hybrid **Common Redstart x Whinchat** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus x Saxicola rubetra*, with Whinchat being the mother (Hogner et al in J Ornithol 2015). As a result of the revision of all Polish records, those of

546 Acadian Flycatcher / Beukenfeetiran *Empidonax virescens*, first-calendar year, Dungeness, Kent, England, 22 September 2015 *(Steve Nuttall)* **547-548** Acadian Flycatcher / Beukenfeetiran *Empidonax virescens*, first-calendar year, Dungeness, Kent, England, 22 September 2015 *(Martin Casemore)*

Siberian Stonechat *S maurus* have been removed; this spring, the first for Poland was a second-year male trapped and ringed at Mikoszewo, Pomerania, on 15 May. Two **Isabelline Wheatears** *Oenanthe isabellina* at Dévaványa, Békés, on 14 July (one staying until 17 August) constituted the third record for Hungary (the second was at Hortobagy in May-June 2015; cf Dutch Birding 37: 271, 2015). An adult male **Desert Wheatear** *O deserti* at Hinterhornbach, Tirol, on 6 September was (only) the first for Austria.

WAGTAILS TO BUNTINGS A **Masked Wagtail** *Motacilla personata* was photographed on the coast of Burgas, Bulgaria, on 13 September. The first **Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni* this autumn in Europe was trapped in Norway at Lundgård, Lofoten, on 13 September. A study on morphometrics, vocalisations and DNA by Sangster et al (2015) reveals that the blue chaffinches of the Canary Islands represent two highly distinctive species: **Gran Canaria Blue Chaffinch** *Fringilla polatzeki* (consequently, Europe's rarest songbird species) and **Tenerife Blue Chaffinch** *F teydea* (http://tinyurl.com/ngzsu6g). A **Pallas's Rosefinch** *Carpodacus roseus* on St Paul, Alaska, on 21 September was the first for North America. If accepted, a first-year female **Pine Bunting** *Emberiza leucocephalos* at Jeziorsko reservoir, Łódzkie, on 13 September will be the second for Poland; the first was in 1994 at Biebrza marshes (male breeding with a female Yellowhammer *E citrinella*). A **Grey-necked Bunting** *E buchanani* at Al Abraq on 18 September was the fifth for Kuwait. On 10 September, a **Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula* landed on a boat at sea c 400 km north of Corvo, Azores. An **American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla* photographed at Porto Pim, Faial, on 19-21 September was the 10th for the Azores. An adult male **American Yellow Warbler** *S aestiva* at Lugar de Baixo on 20 August was the second for Madeira (the first was in 1994). In Scilly, a **Blackpoll Warbler** *S striata* was found on St Agnes, on 23 September.

HYBRIDS In total, 1714 out of 10 446 bird species (16.4%) have now been documented to have hybridized with at least one other bird species in nature; when hybridization in captivity is included, this figure increases to 2204 species (21.1%) (see avianhybrids.wordpress.com; Ottenburghs et al in Ibis 157: 892-894, 2015).

RARITIES COMMITTEES AND JOURNALS In 2015, a new list of birds recorded in Bulgaria was published by the Bulgarian rarities committee (BUNARCO). Compared with the first list from 2009, nine new species have been added (www.bunarco.org/bg/dokladi.html). A new journal, Macaronesian Birds, has been founded by Eduardo Garcia del Rey and Sociedad Ornithológica Canaria (SOC); it publishes articles and notes about birds and birdwatching, with the emphasis on Azores, Madeira, Salvages, Canary Islands and Cape Verde Islands.

549 American Yellow Warbler / Gele Zanger *Setophaga aestiva*, Lugar de Baixo, Madeira, 20 August 2015 *(Tor Olsen)*

YEAR LISTS By September, American birder Noah Strycker had beaten the world year-listing record with 4342 species, still having more than three months to go to reach 5000.

For a number of reports Birdwatch, British Birds, Bulletin African Bird Club, Go-South Bulletin, Sovon-Nieuws, www.birdguides.com, www.birdingfrontiers.com, www.netfugl.dk, www.rarebirdalert.co.uk, www.tarsiger.com and www.trektellen.nl were consulted. We wish to thank Eric Jan Alblas, Mohammed Amezian, Soner Bekir, Patrick Bergier, David Boertmann, Erik van Bogaert, Richard Bonser, Kerem Boyla, Simba Chan, Rolf Christensen, Andrea Corso, Pierre-André Crochet, Wim Delodder, Kris De Rouck, Philippe J Dubois (France), Quentin Dupriez, Enno Ebels, Tobias Epple, Natalino Fenech, Thijs Fijen, Dick Forsman, Raymond Galea, Martin Garner, Wouter van Gasse, Mark Golley, Luis Gordinho, Martin Gottschling, Geert Groot Koerkamp, Marcello Grussu, Ricard Gutiérrez, Jannik Hansen, Paul Holt, Peter Knaus, Bence Kókay, André van Loon, Klaus Malling Olsen, Gerby Michielsen, Dominic Mitchell, Geir Mobakken (Norway), Killian Mullarney, Seyed Babak Musavi, Tor Olsen, Troels Eske Ortvad, Gert Ottens, Sarah Outen, Gerard Ouweneel, Yoav Perlman, Magnus Robb, Luciano Ruggieri, Jiri Sirek, Roy Slaterus, Diana Solovyeva, Tom van Spanje, Vincent van der Spek, Terry Townshend, Joost Valkenburg, Fred Visscher, Roland van der Vliet, Peter de Vries, Arend Wassink, Remco Wester, Anders Wirdheim and Emin Yoğurtçuoğlu for their help in compiling this review.

Łukasz Ławicki, West-Pomeranian Nature Society, Pionierów 1/1, 74-100 Gryfino, Poland (izuza@interia.pl)
Arnoud B van den Berg, Duinlustparkweg 98, 2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid, Netherlands (arnoud.b.vandenberg@gmail.com)

Recente meldingen

Dit overzicht van recente meldingen van zeldzame en interessante vogels in Nederland beslaat voornamelijk de periode **juli-augustus 2015**. 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 (CDNA) wordt verzocht hun waarnemingen zo spoedig mogelijk in te dienen via www.dutchavifauna.nl.

EENDEN TOT RALLEN Bij Den Oever, Noord-Holland, werd vanaf 29 juli weer een **Buffelkopeend** *Bucephala albeola* gemeld en vanaf 28 augustus zelfs twee (adult mannetje in eclipskleed en vrouwtje). Het aantal **Krooneenden** *Netta rufina* in Meijendel, Zuid-Holland, nam toe tot 319 op 29 augustus. In 2000 bedroeg het maximum hier nog slechts 22. Daarmee is het gebied in korte tijd uitgegroeid tot de plek met de hoogste aantallen na de Randmeren. Het bekende mannetje **Witoogeend** *Aythya nyroca* van het Dwingelderveld, Drenthe, bleef tot zeker 11 augustus. Van een viertal andere locaties kwamen eveneens meldingen. Een juveniele **Kuifkoekoek** *Clamator glandarius* bevond zich op 16 juli in de duinen bij Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland; het betrof de eerste sinds de vier gevallen in juli-augustus 2011. Een **Kwartelkoning** *Crex crex* werd op 21 augustus gefotografeerd in het Moreelsepark midden in Utrecht, Utrecht. Opmerkelijk was ook de vondst van een dood exemplaar op 24 augustus op Schiphol, Noord-Holland. Met slechts zes vangsten, waarvan drie in Meijendel, was **Porseleinhoen** *Porzana porzana* slecht vertegenwoordigd. Twee of drie **Kleine Waterhoenders** *P parva* zouden deze zomer te horen zijn geweest in de Onnerpolder bij Haren, Groningen; op 10 augustus werd er nog één gemeld. Een juveniel liet zich van 12 tot 15 augustus zien bij Nieuwkoop, Zuid-Holland. Tot 27 juli werden **Kleinste Waterhoenders** *P pusilla* waargenomen in de Onnerpolder; eerder werden hier maximaal vijf jongen gemeld maar of deze groot zijn geworden is onduidelijk. Van 10 tot 14 augustus werd een adult waargenomen bij Warmond, Zuid-Holland.

STORMVOGELS TOT AALSCHOLVERS Trektellers langs de kust noteerden in totaal 85 **Noordse Stormvogels** *Fulmarus glacialis*, drie **Grauwe Pijlstormvogels** *Puffinus griseus* en 30 **Noordse Pijlstormvogels** *P puffinus*. Vanaf 9 juli waren er bovendien c 10 meldingen van langsvliegende **Vale Pijlstormvogels** *P mauretanicus*. Na zijn uit-

550 Bairds Strandloper / Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*, adult, Mariëndal, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 17 juli 2015 *(Martijn Verdoes)*

551 Bairds Strandloper / Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*, adult, Mariëndal, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 17 juli 2015 *(Martijn Verdoes)*

552 Grijze Wouw / Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*, juveniel, Maashorst, Noord-Brabant, 4 augustus 2015 *(Michel Veldt)*

stapje naar Zwitserland verbleef de ongeringde **Roze Pelikaan** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* van 13 augustus tot 10 september langs de IJssel bij Arnhem en Westervoort in Gelderland. Vanaf 11 september deed hij België aan. Eén of meer eerste-kalenderjaar vogels, naar verluidt afkomstig uit Artis in Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, werden opgemerkt op 28 augustus boven de Haarlemmermeer, Noord-Holland, en Leiden, Zuid-Holland, en op 29 augustus vliegend van IJmuiden tot voorbij Camperduin, Noord-Holland. Er werden slechts vijf **Koereigers** *Bubulcus ibis* gemeld. De grootste groep **Zwarte Ibissen** *Plegadis falcinellus* (maximaal vijf) verbleef ditmaal bij Koedijk, Noord-Holland. In totaal werden c 20 vogels waargenomen. Een **Grote Aalscholver** *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo* die vanaf 14 augustus in Artis in Amsterdam verbleef, bleek als nestjong te zijn geringd op 9 juni 2015 in Västergötland, Zweden (waar dit taxon niet bekend is als broedvogel).

GRIELEN TOT STRANDLOPERS Een **Griel** *Burhinus oedicnemus* werd op 18 juli druk bezocht bij 's-Gravenzande, Zuid-Holland. **Aziatische Goudplevieren** *Pluvialis fulva* waren goed vertegenwoordigd, met exemplaren op 7 juli in de Kroonspolders op Vlieland, Friesland; van 8 juli tot 16 augustus bij De Cocksdorp en Oost op Texel, Noord-Holland (ten minste twee); op 8, 9 en 20 juli in de Ezumakeeg, Friesland; van 11 tot 16 juli bij Workum, Friesland; en van 7 tot 12 augustus bij Westkapelle, Zeeland. In de tweede helft van augustus werden c 50 **Morinelplevieren** *Charadrius morinellus* opgemerkt. Vanaf half juli lieten zeker acht **Breedbekstrandlopers** *Calidris falcinellus* en zeven **Gestreepte Strandlopers** *C melanotos* zich zien, waaronder maximaal drie Gestreepte op 22 augustus in de Ezumakeeg. Een adulte **Bairds Strandloper** *C bairdii* bevond zich van 14 tot 23 juli in Mariëndal bij Den Helder, Noord-Holland; het betrof het 10e geval en het zesde sinds september 2011. Voornamelijk in augustus werden c 45 **Grauwe Franjepoten** *Phalaropus lobatus* waargenomen. De grootste groep bestond uit zes vogels op 28 augustus op De Kreupel in het IJsselmeer, Noord-Holland. Een **Terekruiter** *Xenus cinereus* bevond zich van 18 tot 20 juli in de Breebaartpolder bij Termunten, Groningen. In deze periode werden zeven **Poelruiters** *Tringa stagnatilis* doorgegeven. Een **Poelsnip** *Gallinago media* werd op 29 augustus gefotografeerd bij Den Hulst, Overijssel.

JAGERS TOT MEEUWEN **Kleinste Jagers** *Stercorarius longicaudus* waren zeldzaam, met alleen meldingen op 17 augustus langs de Eemshaven, Groningen (adult zomerkleed), en op 29 augustus langs Texel. Trektellers gaven verder slechts twee **Middelste** *S pomarinus*, 89 **Kleine** *S parasiticus* en zes **Grote Jagers** *S skua* door. Een onvolwassen Kleine Jager die van 19 tot 21 augustus bij Stevensweert, Limburg, verbleef, was de eerste twitchbare voor deze provincie. Een adulte **Vorkstaartmeeuw** *Xema sabina* werd op 30 augustus gefotografeerd bij Lauwersoog, Groningen. Een dag later volgde een mel-

553 Vale Gier / Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*, Harmelen, Utrecht, 7 augustus 20015 *(Michael Kars)* **554** Dwergarend / Booted Eagle *Aquila pennata*, lichte vorm, tweede-kalenderjaar, Veenklooster, Friesland, 2 juli 2015 *(Kees Bode)* **555** Grijze Wouw / Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*, juveniel, Maashorst, Noord-Brabant, 4 augustus 2015 *(Alex Bos)* **556** Grijze Wouw / Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*, adult, Marnewaard, Lauwersmeer, Groningen, 21 augustus 2015 *(Lazar Brinkhuizen)* **557** Roodpootvalk / Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*, juveniel, Vlieland, Friesland, 29 augustus 20015 *(Vincent Hart)* **558** Baltische Mantelmeeuw / Baltic Gull *Larus fuscus fuscus*, tweede-kalenderjaar, Arnhem, Gelderland, 26 juli 2015 *(Herman Bouman)*

559 Kuifkoekoek / Greater Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*, juveniel, Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, 16 juli 2015 *(René Lenting)* **560** Bergfluiter / Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*, eerstejaars, Oost-Vlieland, Vlieland, Friesland, 29 augustus 2015 *(Vincent Hart)* **561** Citroenkwikstaart / Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, eerstejaars, Robbenjager, Texel, Noord-Holland, 29 augustus 2015 *(Hans Brinks)* **562** Kortteenleeuwerik / Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*, Noordhollands Duinreservaat, Castricum, Noord-Holland, 2 juli 2015 *(Richard Reijnders)*

ding bij Camperduin. Een (ongeringde) tweede-kalenderjaar **Baltische Mantelmeeuw** *Larus fuscus fuscus* bevond zich van 22 tot 30 juli in Arnhem. Een andere werd gemeld op 16 augustus in Katwijk, Zuid-Holland. Bij Nieuwe Pekela, Groningen, werden op 30 juli maximaal 31 **Lachsterns** *Gelochelidon nilotica* geteld (27 adulte en vier juveniele). Het hoogste aantal op de slaapplaats op het Balgzand, Noord-Holland, was 28 op 7 augustus (19 adulte en negen juveniele). Een landelijke slaapplaatstelling van **Reuzensterns** *Hydroprogne caspia* op 21 augustus resulteerde in een totaal van 148; het hoogste aantal tijdens eerdere tellingen betrof 153 op 30 augustus 2013. In de Kropswolderbuitenpolder, Groningen, werden nog maximaal vier **Witwangsterns** *Chlidonias hybrida* waargenomen en elders werd nog een handvol gemeld. **Witvleugelsterns** *C leucopterus* brachten in de Kropswolderbuitenpolder ten minste drie jongen groot. Verspreid over het land werden nog c 20 vogels waargenomen.

VISARENDEN TOT SPERWERS Vanaf telposten werden in totaal 106 **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus*, 1117 **Wespendieven** *Pernis apivorus,* 1124 **Bruine** *Circus aeruginosus* (met maar liefst 131 over Kamperhoek, Flevoland, op 30 augustus; vierde dag ooit in Nederland), 26 **Blauwe** *C cyaneus* en 29 **Grauwe Kiekendieven** *C pygargus*, twee **Rode Wouwen** *Milvus milvus* en zes **Zwarte Wouwen** *M migrans* gezien. Een **Grijze Wouw** *Elanus caeruleus* van 3 tot 5 augustus in de Maashorst bij Schaijk, Noord-Brabant, betrof de eerste juveniel voor Nederland. Een adult bevond zich op 20 en 21 augustus in de Marnewaard bij Lauwersoog en betekende de eerste voor Groningen. De **Slangenarend** *Circaetus gallicus* van het Fochteloërveen, Drenthe/Friesland, bleef tot 22

augustus en kreeg van 8 tot 11 juli gezelschap van een tweede. Ook op andere plekken in Drenthe werd de soort waargenomen: op 11 juli op het Aekingerzand, op 18 juli op het Dwingelderveld en van 22 juli tot 5 augustus bij Holtinge. Een **Vale Gier** *Gyps fulvus*, voorzien van een Spaanse kleurring (geel R04), werd op 31 juli achtereenvolgens gezien in Noord-Holland bij Bergen, boven Den Helder en op Texel, waar hij ook de volgende dagen nog veelvuldig werd waargenomen. Op 3 en 4 augustus bezocht hij Vlieland, op 5 en 6 augustus Ameland, Friesland, en op 7 augustus vloog hij via Eemnes, Harmelen en Woerden in Utrecht naar Reeuwijk, Zuid-Holland, waar hij de volgende dag voor het laatst werd gezien. Tot slot volgde er nog een melding van een exemplaar op 28 augustus boven de Blauwe Kamer bij Wageningen, Gelderland. Een lichte vorm **Dwergarend** *Aquila pennata* werd op 2 juli gefotografeerd bij Veenklooster, Friesland. Een adult mannetje **Steppekiekendief** *C macrourus* werd op 25 augustus gefotografeerd bij Roodeschool, Groningen. Juvenielen werden gemeld op 23 augustus bij Westhoek, Friesland, en op 30 augustus bij Katwijk.

HOPPEN TOT LEEUWERIKEN Vanaf 9 augustus werden ten minste zeven **Hoppen** *Upupa epops* gezien, waaronder een exemplaar van 13 tot 21 augustus bij Castelré, Noord-Brabant. Met alleen al 41 vangsten was augustus een goede maand voor **Draaihalzen** *Jynx torquila*. Zes exemplaren op het ringstation in de Kennemerduinen bij Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland, op 24 augustus sprongen het meest in het oog. Er werden nog altijd goede aantallen **Bijeneters** *Merops apiaster* waargenomen. Om broedgevallen niet te verstoren werden details vaak niet openbaar maar de meeste waarnemingen kwamen uit de Noord- en Zuid-Hollandse duinstreek en Limburg. De eerste **Roodpootvalk** *Falco vespertinus* van het najaar was een tweede-kalenderjaar mannetje dat op 2 augustus op de mast van een zeilboot op het IJmeer, Noord-Holland, werd gefotografeerd. Er volgden relatief veel (sub)adulte vogels, waaronder 10 langs trektelposten. Populaire vogels verbleven van 21 tot 28 augustus bij Leeuwarden, Friesland (adult mannetje), en op 27 en 28 augustus in de Wieringermeer, Noord-Holland (juveniel). Een nagekomen melding betrof een tweede-kalenderjaar vrouwtje op 13 juni bij telpost Loozerheide, Limburg, dat op 13 juli 2014 als nestjong was gekleurringd (wit 3M8) te Székkutas, Csongrád, Zuidoost-Hongarije. Op 26 juni verbleef de vogel langs de Elbe nabij Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Sachsen-Anhalt, Duitsland. Trektellers noteerden in totaal 15 **Smellekens** *F columbarius* (vanaf 20 augustus), 287 **Boomvalken** *F subbuteo* en 58 **Slechtvalken** *F peregrinus*. **Roodkopklauwieren** *Lanius senator* werden waargenomen op 2 en 3 juli op Terschelling, Friesland, van 17 tot 20 juli bij Zeewolde, Flevoland, en op 18 augustus op de ringbaan in de Kroonspolders op Vlieland. Een **Kortteenleeuwerik** *Calandrella brachydactyla* die op 2 juli werd geringd bij Castricum, Noord-Holland, betekende het eerste geval voor de maand juli. Een dag later (al) werd er één gefotografeerd op het Aekingerzand, Friesland.

BOSZANGERS TOT GRASZANGERS De **Grauwe Fitis** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* van Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, werd op 16 juli voor het laatst waargenomen. Een **Bergfluiter** *P bonelli* bevond zich op 29 augustus op de oostpunt van Vlieland. Op 13 augustus werd de eerste van in totaal c 25 **Sperwergrasmussen** *Sylvia nisoria* geringd (acht hiervan op Vlieland). In de laatste decade van deze maand waren er ook nog c 12 veldwaarnemingen. Een **Krekelzanger** *Locustella fluviatilis* werd op 23 augustus knap in de vlucht gefotografeerd op de Vliehors op Vlieland. Een eerste-kalenderjaar **Kleine Spotvogel** *Iduna caligata* die op 23 augustus werd gevangen bij Castricum, was de vroegste ooit. Er was een vangst van

563 Kleine Spotvogel / Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata*, eerstejaars, Noordhollands Duinreservaat, Castricum, Noord-Holland, 23 augustus 2014 *(Leo Heemskerk)*

564 Waterrietzanger / Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*, eerstejaars, Lentevreugd, Wassenaar, Zuid-Holland, 2 augustus 2015 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

565 Ortolaan / Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*, Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, 30 augustus 2015 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

een adulte **Struikrietzanger** *Acrocephalus dumetorum* op 2 augustus op Goeree, Zuid-Holland. In augustus waren er ten minste 20 veldwaarnemingen van **Waterrietzanger** *A paludicola*. Vergeleken hiermee stelde het aantal van 10 ringvangsten enigszins teleur. In augustus werden vier **Grote Karekieten** *A arundinaceus* geringd. Een **Graszanger** *Cisticola juncidis* werd regelmatig waargenomen in het Verdronken Land van Saeftinghe, Zeeland.

SPREEUWEN TOT GORZEN Een adulte **Roze Spreeuw** *Pastor roseus* werd op 17 juli gemeld op Texel. Een juveniele vogel die op 18 en 19 augustus bij Den Oever verbleef, was waarschijnlijk de vroegste juveniel ooit. Op 24 en 25 augustus was ook een juveniel aanwezig bij IJmuiden. Eind juli werden op ten minste twee locaties in Zuid-Limburg jonge **Waterspreeuwen** *Cinclus cinclus* gemeld. Bijzonder was de zomerse vangst van een adulte **Koperwiek** *Turdus iliacus* in handpenrui op 16 juli in de Kennemerduinen. Een **Noordse Nachtegaal** *Luscinia luscinia* werd op 22 augustus gemeld op de Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland. Daarnaast waren er vangsten van eerste-kalenderjaar vogels op 20 augustus bij Castricum en op 29 augustus bij Overdinkel, Overijssel. Het mannetje **Roodsterblauwborst** *L svecica svecica* bij Blijham, Groningen, werd voor het laatst gemeld op 10 juli. Een juveniele **Citroenkwikstaart** *Motacilla citreola* bevond zich op 29 augustus op de noordpunt van Texel. Vanaf trektelposten werden maar liefst 82 **Duinpiepers** *Anthus campestris* waargenomen en daarmee was dit de beste augustusmaand sinds 2009 (91 exemplaren). Ook aan de grond werden er diverse gezien, waaronder veelbezochte exemplaren op 21 en 22 augustus op het Kootwijkerzand, Gelderland (drie); van 23 tot 30 augustus op de Beninger Slikken, Zuid-Holland (twee); en op 30 augustus bij Harderwijk, Gelderland. Begin juli werden nog enkele zingende **Roodmussen** *Erythrina erythrina* opgemerkt. In de eerste week van augustus werden de eerste drie najaarstrekkers waargenomen op Texel en op 28 en 29 augustus was een juveniel aanwezig bij Den Helder. Het was eindelijk weer eens een aardige augustusmaand voor **Ortolanen** *Emberiza hortulana*, met 26 langs telposten en c 25 overige waarnemingen, waaronder een vogel op 27 augustus aan boord van een schip voor de Zuid-Hollandse kust. Op 28 augustus was er een vangst in de Kennemerduinen. De enige waarneming van **Grauwe Gors** *E calandra* buiten Limburg betrof twee vogels op 10 augustus bij Haamstede, Zeeland.

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Roy Slaterus, Bervoetsbos 71, 2134 PM Hoofddorp, Nederland (roy.slaterus@dutchbirding.nl)
Vincent van der Spek, Acaciastraat 212, 2565 KJ Den Haag, Nederland (vincent.van.der.spek@dutchbirding.nl)
Martijn Renders, Frans Hanegraafstraat 18, 4273 EK Hank, Nederland (martijnrenders@gmail.com)