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

For taxonomy, sequence and nomenclature of birds in Dutch Birding the following lists are used: *Dutch Birding bird names* by A B van den Berg (2008, Amsterdam; online update 2017, 2017, http://tinyurl.com/hfwra7b) (taxonomy and scientific, Dutch and English names of Western Palearctic birds); *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world* (third edition, by E C Dickinson (editor) 2003; fourth edition, volume 1, by E C Dickinson & J V Remsen Jr (editors) 2013) (taxonomy and scientific names of remaining birds of the world); and *IOC world bird list 7.1* by F Gill & D Donsker (2017, www.worldbirdnames.org) (English and Dutch names of remaining birds of the world; Dutch names by P Vercruijsse and A J van Loon).

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Black-winged Kite in the WP: increase in breeding population, vagrancy and range

Łukasz Ławicki & Yoav Perlman

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* is widely distributed across the Afrotropical and Indomalayan regions, with marginal occurrence in the Western Palearctic (WP) and northern Australasia. The species occupies relatively open habitats, from semi-desert to forest margins and clearings within densely forested areas. Population densities range from sparse to locally abundant (Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001). Three subspecies have been identified; two of them, *E c caeruleus* (hereafter *caeruleus*) and *E c vociferus* (hereafter *vociferus*) occur in the WP (del Hoyo & Collar 2014; see below). Both subspecies are readily identified in all plumages. The difference concerns the underwing pattern: *caeruleus* has pale secondaries – white or almost white, depending on light conditions; *vociferus* has dark grey secondaries, and as a result has a prominent white trailing edge to the secondaries, most distinct in adults (Forsman 2016).

In recent decades, Black-winged Kite has experienced a range extension in Europe and the Middle East. In some newly colonised areas, the breeding population is growing rapidly, which also results in an increase of vagrancy to neighbouring countries. This paper reviews the extralimital occurrence of the species in the WP and discusses the probable factors causing population growth and range extension.

Methods

The region covered by our analysis concerns the WP within the boundaries proposed by van den

1 Black-winged Kites / Grijze Wouwen *Elanus caeruleus vociferus*, pair, Hula valley, Israel, 19 October 2011 *(Dror Galili)*

TABLE 1 Status of Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus caeruleus* in France, Portugal and Spain (Dubois et al 2008, BirdLife International 2015, de Juana & Garcia 2015, Quaintenne et al 2016). *First unsuccessful attempt was in 1983.

Country	Year of first record	Year of first breeding	Breeding population (pairs)
France	19th century	1990*	130-150
Portugal	1867	1944	500-1500
Spain	1865	1973	500-1000

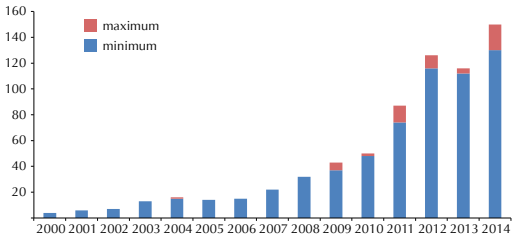


FIGURE 1 Minimum (blue) and maximum (red) number of breeding pairs of Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus caeruleus* in France in 2000-14 (Dubois et al 2008, Quaintenne et al 2016)

Berg (2017) and includes Europe with Macaronesia, all the countries bordering the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea, the Arabian Peninsula (sensu lato) and Iran. Information on breeding populations and vagrancy in the Middle East, northern Africa and south-western Europe was obtained from the literature and unpublished data by regional experts (see acknowledgments). The analysis of vagrancy in Europe includes all records, kindly provided by national rarities committees, from countries where Black-winged Kite does not breed. We have also included some records (almost all are documented photographically) that are still awaiting acceptance by the relevant rarities committees (see appendix 1). To test if vagrancy increased in recent years, we used a simple Poisson Generalized Linear Model that related total annual count in Europe to year and a quadratic term of year that accounts for non-linear relationships. This analysis was carried out in R version 3.3.2 (R Core Team 2016).

Status in Europe

Breeding population

In Europe, *caeruleus* breeds in France, Portugal and Spain (table 1). The first breeding record on the continent was in southern Portugal in 1944, when two nests were found (England 1963). In Spain, the first nesting occurred in Toledo in 1973 (de Juana & Garcia 2015). In the following decades, the species spread north and west from south-western Iberia. At the beginning of the 21st century, the main breeding area included the south-western part of the Iberian peninsula, with the core range in Alentejo and Ribatejo (Portugal) and in Extremadura and western parts of Andalucía, Castilla-La Mancha and Castilla y León (Spain). Breeding in eastern and northern Iberia is widespread but the distribution is more fragmented and large parts of eastern Spain remain unoccupied (de Juana & Garcia 2015). The size of the Iberian population has recently been estimated at 1000-2500 pairs (BirdLife International 2015). The first successful nesting in France was in Pyrénées-Atlantiques in 1990. Since then, the population has grown rapidly, from four to seven pairs in 1998-2002 to as many as 130-150 in 2014. The expansion is particularly noticeable in recent years, when the population increased threefold between 2010 and 2014 (Dubois et al 2008, Quaintenne et al 2016; figure 1). The core breeding area includes the south-western part of the country, with the largest population in Pyrénées-Atlantiques (c 60 pairs) and Landes (c 50 pairs). In recent years, there has been a northward spread, with single pairs breeding in Pays-de-la-Loire, north-western France (Quaintenne et al 2016). In 2016, one pair has bred as far north as near Rennes, Ille-et-Vilaine, constituted the first breeding record for Bretagne (Philippe Dubois in litt).

TABLE 2 Records of Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus caeruleus* in Europe (outside France, Portugal and Spain) to end of 2016

Country	Number of records	Year of first record
Germany	31	1828
Belgium	22	1992
Netherlands	20	1971
Switzerland	16	1990
Denmark	13	1998
Italy	11	1893
Bulgaria	10	1976
Greece	9	1830s
Sweden	4	2004
Czechia	3	1938
Austria	3	1986
Hungary	1	2012
Slovakia	1	2012
Poland	1	2016
Luxembourg	1	2016

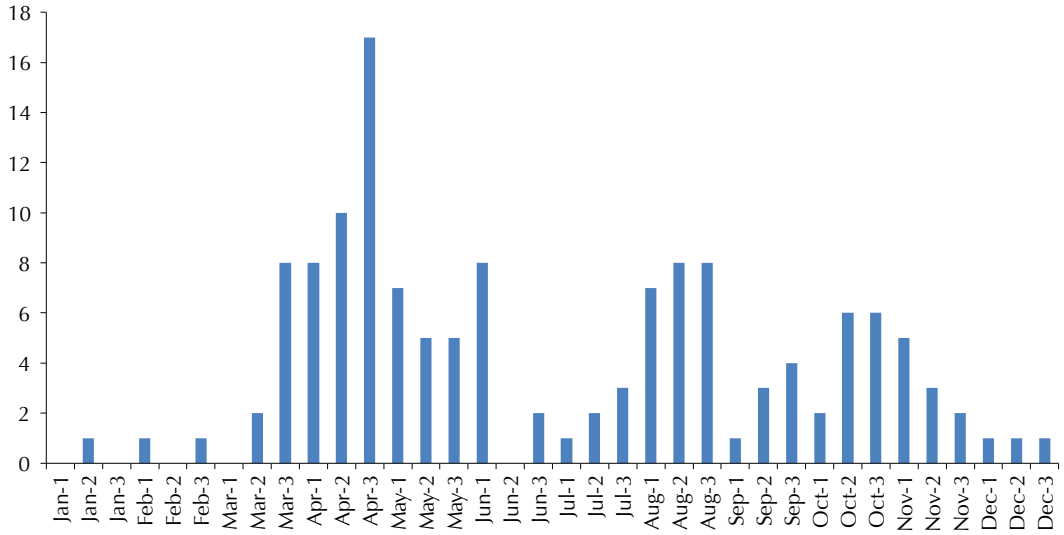


FIGURE 2 Distribution of records of Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus caeruleus* in Europe (outside France, Portugal and Spain) in 10-day periods by date of discovery.

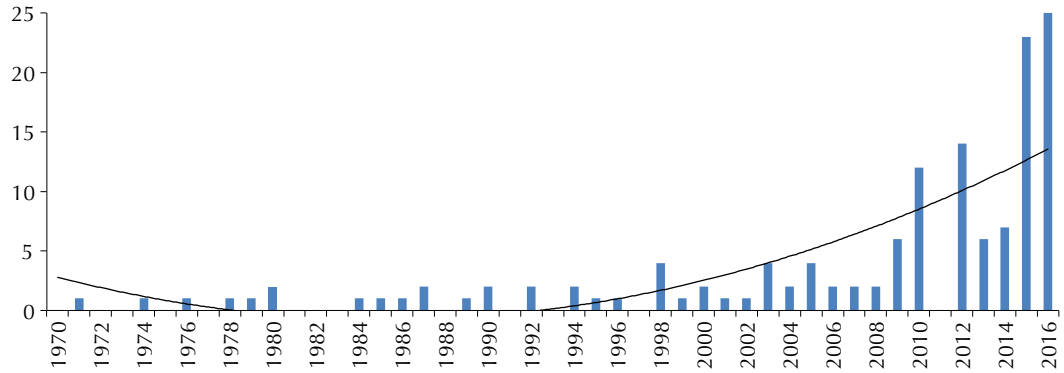


FIGURE 3 Annual totals of Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus caeruleus* recorded in Europe (outside France, Portugal and Spain) in 1970-2016. Black line is prediction of mean count, based on Poisson Generalized Linear Model that relates count to year and quadratic term of year.

Vagrancy

By the end of 2016, there were 143 records (totaling 147 birds) in Europe outside France, Portugal and Spain; 88 records were from the four countries (Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland) closest to the breeding areas in south-western Europe (table 2). Black-winged Kite is very rare in northern Europe, it has been recorded only in Sweden (four records), the northernmost record being at Skånum, Västergötland, in August 2013 (appendix 1). There are two main periods of occurrence in Europe: from the third decade of March to the first decade of June (49% of all records), with the peak in the second and third decade of April, and from the first decade of August to the first decade of November (36% of records), with the highest number in August (figure 2). Winter records (seven from December-February) are few and come from southern Europe only (Bulgaria, Greece and Italy).

A Poisson Generalized Linear Model that related number of records to quadratic term of year indicated that there was a significant increase in the number of records in Europe from the 1990s to

2016 (P<0.0001; figure 3). A notably significant increase has taken place in recent years: in 2010-16 there were 113 records, representing 81% of all records from the last 47 years. This was in line with the very large increase in the breeding population in France in the same period (cf above and figure 1). Best years were 2016 (25 records), 2015 (23 records), 2012 (14 records) and 2010 (12 records). Striking is the lack of records in 2011 (the only such case in the last 19 years). All European records relate to *caeruleus*.

Status in the Middle East

Both subspecies occur in this region; *caeruleus* breeds in Egypt mainly in the Nile valley (see status in North Africa below). While most records outside Egypt concern *vociferus*, there are several records of *caeruleus*, eg, in Israel (before 1996), Oman and Saudi Arabia. The breeding population in Yemen is probably *caeruleus* (see below).

Armenia

The first record for this country was a bird photographed at Armash, Ararat, on 2 May 2016 (Dutch Birding 38: 245, 2016). The second occurred in Kotayk region, central Armenia, on 4 July 2016 (Ani Sarkisyan in litt). Both records involved *vociferus*.

Bahrain

There is only one confirmed record of *vociferus*, from March 2012 (Howard King in litt).

Cyprus

There are two records: from Mazotos on 13-14 March 2004 and Morphou on 9 November 2014. The latter record involved *vociferus*; the subspecific identity of the first record is unclear (Colin Richardson in litt).

Georgia

There are three records of *vociferus*: two in September 2013 and one in summer 2014 (Alexander Rukhaia in litt).

Israel

Up to 1996, there were only six records of *caeruleus* (Shirihai 1996). Subspecies *vociferus* was first recorded in Israel in 2003. Since then, it has been recorded with increasing frequency. The first breeding pair was found at Hula valley in 2011 (Perlman & Israeli 2013), and from that moment, Black-winged Kite has colonised large parts of Israel, in a remarkably rapid process. In early 2016, there were an estimated 130-150 breeding pairs, covering most flat or undulating farmland regions in Israel, as far south as the northern Negev. The parts of the country with the densest populations are the Judean and Inner Coastal Plains, where c 50 pairs breed, and also the Hula and Jizreel valleys (figure 4).

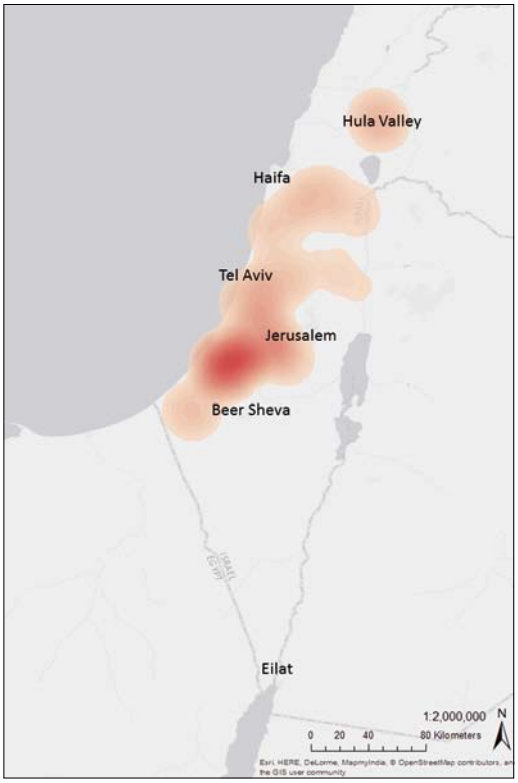
Iran

The species was first recorded as recently as 1998, after which it has colonised Iran quite rapidly. The first breeding record was in 2007 in Kerman province in the south-eastern part of the country (Khaleghizadeh et al 2011). In 2011, it was also found breeding in Fars province in central Iran and the following year three nests were found there (Vosoghi et al 2012). All records apparently involved *vociferus*.

Iraq

The first record was in 2000 but already in 2001 it was found breeding near Kirkuk in northern Iraq (Salim 2002). Since then, more breeding records

FIGURE 4 Range and density of breeding Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus vociferus* in Israel in 2016. Densities higher in darker areas.



2 Black-winged Kites / Grijze Wouwen *Elanus caeruleus vociferus*, adult with juvenile, Hula valley, Israel, 19 November 2011 *(Thomas Krumenacker)*

3 Breeding habitat of Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*, Hula valley, Israel, 17 February 2008 *(Thomas Krumenacker)*

4 Black-winged Kites / Grijze Wouwen *Elanus caeruleus vociferus*, pair, Hula valley, Israel, 27 November 2011 *(Thomas Krumenacker)*

5 Black-winged Kites / Grijze Wouwen *Elanus caeruleus vociferus*, adult with juveniles on nest, Hula valley, Israel, 24 November 2011 *(Thomas Krumenacker)*

have been documented in Baghdad and Diyala provinces in central and eastern Iraq (Ararat et al 2011) and it is apparently expanding its range. The subspecific identity of the Iraqi records is unclear but all are assumed to have been *vociferus*.

Jordan
There are only two records, from Aqaba in April 2013 (via HBW Alive) and an adult and two juveniles at Jordan valley in June 2015 (Harrison 2016), which probably bred nearby or in adjacent Israel. However, with the recent expansion in Israel, including areas along the border with Jordan, more records are to be expected soon.

Kuwait
It is regarded as a rare visitor, first recorded in 2002, and subsequently with 21 records in 2002-14 (Mike Pope in litt). No information is given on the subspecies recorded in Kuwait but it is likely that most if not all have been *vociferus*.

Lebanon
There are two old records from December 1863 and September 1954 (Ramadan-Jaradi et al 2008). A third one is from Harar in December 2013, when a *vociferus* was trapped by a hunter and then released (Ramadan-Jaradi & Serhal 2014).

Oman
There are two early records from Dhofar region in south-western Oman but the exact dates are not known (Jennings 2010). They were *caeruleus*, which probably strayed from its breeding areas in Yemen. More recently, another 18 were recorded between 1992 and the end of 2015, with a marked influx in 2014-15 (seven records in January-March and October-November; Jens Eriksen in litt). Photographs of the most recent individuals are not available but those that we were able to obtain were of *vociferus*. It is interesting to note that the most recent record, near Barka in October 2015, involved a pair showing territorial behaviour (Jens Eriksen in litt). We speculate that breeding in Oman will begin in the near future or is already taking place.

Qatar
There have been four records: the first one in 2008, and another three until late 2014, all between

6 Black-winged Kite / Grijze Wouw *Elanus caeruleus caeruleus*, Zichow, Brandenburg, Germany, 29 June 2016 *(Zbigniew Kajzer)*

7 Black-winged Kite / Grijze Wouw *Elanus caeruleus caeruleus*, Zichow, Brandenburg, Germany, 3 July 2016 *(Steffen Fahl)*

August and November (Neil Morris in litt). From the photographs available it is clear that, as expected, they were all *vociferus*.

Saudi Arabia
Jennings (2010) mentions two old records from before 1984 near Jeddah and Taif, and another two records in far south-western Saudi Arabia. All of these were apparently of *caeruleus*. There are six recent records from northern, central and eastern Saudi Arabia in 2012-15 (between March-May and September-November), all of *vociferus*. There are seven recent records from south-western Saudi Arabia but in that part of the country it should perhaps be regarded as a regular but rare visitor; of all the recent records there, only the most recent one in 2015 was identified as *caeruleus* but it is likely that all seven were of this subspecies (Jem Babbington in litt).

Turkey
Until 2009, Black-winged Kite was regarded as a vagrant with only 12 records (Kirwan et al 2008, Karakaş 2012). Since 2009, 10s of individuals have been recorded in a dramatic influx, mainly in south-eastern Turkey. In spring 2013, it was found breeding there for the first time. The current breeding population is estimated at three to 10 pairs (Murat Bozdoğan & Soner Bekir in BirdLife International 2015). Most, if not all, recent records have involved *vociferus* (Kirwan et al 2014).

United Arab Emirates
The species is still classified as a vagrant, with 23 records until early 2016. Since November 2012, there have been 10 records, so the frequency of records has apparently increased. All birds identified to subspecies were *vociferus* (Nick Moran in litt).

Yemen
The species was a regular but scarce breeder in south-western Yemen until the 1990s (Jennings 2010) but the situation since the late 1990s is not known. It is likely that all Black-winged Kites in Yemen are *caeruleus* (Guy Kirwan & Richard Porter in litt).

Status in North Africa
The population inhabiting the northern part of

8 Black-winged Kite / Grijze Wouw *Elanus caeruleus caeruleus*, Geel-Mosselgoren, Antwerpen, Belgium, 7 June 2016 *(Kris De Rouck)*

9 Black-winged Kite / Grijze Wouw *Elanus caeruleus caeruleus*, juvenile, Maashorst, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands, 4 August 2015 *(Michel Veldt)*

Africa is *caeruleus*, although records of *vociferus* in Egypt cannot be ruled out.

Algeria
A small population occurs in the hills around Algiers, in the Mitidja lowlands and along the coast eastwards to the Oued Isser (Isenmann & Moali 2000).

Egypt
It is a fairly common breeding species in cultivated fields in the Nile valley and Faiyum but less common in the Nile delta (Goodman & Meininger 1989, Meininger 1991, Horner & Megalli 1992). In March 2009, two birds (probably a pair) were photographed in Dakhla Oasis, Western Desert (Enno Ebels in litt). In recent years, it was found in an oasis in this region where it probably breeds (Jens Hering in litt).

Libya
Surprisingly, there have been only two records (involving six birds), from April 1998 and February 2011 (Isenmann et al 2016).

Morocco
It is an uncommon and local resident, breeding regularly in the northern, central and eastern Atlantic plains, in Souss, and also irregularly in Western Sahara. The population has probably increased slightly and is currently estimated at c 500 pairs (Thevenot et al 2003; Patrick Bergier in litt).

Tunisia
It was formerly widespread in small numbers from Cape Bon to Tabarka and declined rapidly in 1975-90. This was followed by a slow recovery and then, at the turn of the century, a sudden expansion from Cape Bon to the valley of Medjerda (Isenmann et al 2005, Ouni 2007). For example, in 1998-99, 32 pairs were found over an area of 155 km^2 in the Medjerda valley (Ouni 2007).

Discussion
The range extension of Black-winged Kite in the WP has continued over several decades but in the last 10 years, a conspicuous and strong growth of local populations in Europe and the Middle East has taken place. In France, the population has increased 15 times in the last decade. This probably translates into a significant increase of vagrancy in western Europe during the same period. Such a spectacular increase in the breeding population has also occurred in Israel, from one pair to c 150 pairs during only five years, but has not been recorded in any other regional populations of the species. The population in Turkey is exhibiting a similar trend, though not nearly at such an impressive rate. Growth or stable trends are usual in most countries of the WP; this applies to both breeding populations and vagrancy, and to both subspecies. Therefore, we can expect a further expansion of the breeding population's range, both in Europe (eg, to eastern and northern France) and the Middle East (eg, to northern Turkey and beyond?), as well as a further increase in vagrancy outside the breeding areas.

Factors affecting expansion and range extension
Black-winged Kite is a nomadic and irruptive species, capable of dispersing over long distances between its natal areas and first breeding sites, which could be the first step in the colonisation of new

10 Black-winged Kite / Grijze Wouw *Elanus caeruleus caeruleus*, adult female (collected at Olbramovice, Jihomoravský, Czechia, on 31 March 1938), National Museum, Prague, Czechia, July 2015 *(Jiri Sirek)*

areas (Negro et al 2006). The main reasons for range extension and population increase in the WP are land-use change and the associated higher density of rodents (Mañosa et al 2005, Balbontín et al 2008, Karakaş 2012). Black-winged Kite is thought to specialise in rodents, which usually make up more than 95% of its diet (Mendelsohn & Jaksić 1989). Its population densities and breeding performance are largely dependent on rodent abundance and availability. Balbontín et al (2008) suggested that the species may have taken advantage of the gradual increase of cultivated parklands in Spain (known as dehesas) in the second half of the 20th century to expand its range there. This particular type of dehesas (eg, characterised by a low density of trees) is structurally similar to African savannahs and may offer a higher density of rodents than other traditional habitats.

Unlike most raptors, the species can raise two broods per year; moreover, it may breed at virtually any time of year, as has been reported from, eg, the Iberian peninsula (Ferrero et al 2003, Negro et al 2006). In Israel, the species performs its breeding cycle at an even more exceptional rate. Typically, breeding pairs manage four or five breeding cycles a year, almost all year round. It has often been observed that a pair feeding its fledglings was already nest-building and mating in readiness for the next cycle. Moreover, breeding success in Israel is apparently high, as pairs typically fledge three or four juveniles per cycle (Yoav Perlman pers obs; David Raved pers comm). Such exceptional breeding behaviour probably resulted in the fast growth rate in Israel but it is unclear whether the colonisation involved individuals that hatched in Israel or whether immigration of new individuals from outside Israel contributed as well. The ecological processes that allowed this colonisation in Israel, and in Turkey, are unclear, contrary to the range expansion and increase in south-western Europe that is linked to land-use change.

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Samenvatting

GRIJZE WOUWEN IN DE WP: TOENAME IN BROEDPOPULATIE, AANTAL DWAALGASTEN EN BROEDGEBIED Dit artikel beschrijft de status van Grijze Wouw *Elanus caeruleus* als dwaalgast in het West-Palearctische gebied (WP) en bespreekt de factoren die waarschijnlijk ten grondslag liggen aan de populatiegroei en gebiedsuitbreiding van deze soort. In Europa (nominaat *caeruleus*), werden de eerste broedgevallen vastgesteld in Portugal in 1944, in Spanje in 1973 en in Frankrijk in 1990. Binnen enkele decennia nam de Europese populatie snel toe tot 1000-2500 broedparen op het Iberisch Schiereiland en 130-150 paren in Frankrijk. Dit vertaalt zich waarschijnlijk in de significante toename als dwaalgast in westelijk Europa tijdens dezelfde periode. Tot het eind van 2016 zijn 143 Grijze Wouwen waargenomen in Europa buiten de broedgebieden; 88 hiervan waren in België, Duitsland, Nederland en Zwitserland. Er zijn twee pieken in het seizoenspatroon van deze dwaalgasten: een opvallende piek in april en een kleinere in augustus. In het Midden-Oosten zijn de lokale populaties (van de Aziatische ondersoort *E c vociferus*) ook dramatisch toegenomen, vooral in Israël (van één paar in 2011 tot c 150 paren in 2016), met minder sterke toenames in Irak, Iran en Turkije. Groeiende en stabiele trends zijn gebruikelijk in de meeste landen van de WP, zowel voor broedpopulaties als dwaalgasten, en voor beide ondersoorten. De belangrijkste oorzaken van deze gebiedsuitbreiding en populatietoename in de WP zijn veranderingen in landgebruik en de bijbehorende

hogere dichtheden van knaagdieren. De succesvolle kolonisatie van nieuwe broedgebieden komt waarschijnlijk door dispersie over grote afstanden waarbij de soort weet te profiteren van lokale 'knaagdierplagen', met als resultaat dat ze in staat zijn om meerdere legsels per jaar te produceren. Ten slotte is het nuttig om de verschillen tussen beide ondersoorten kort te benoemen, omdat *vociferus* in (Zuid-)Oost-Europa kan opduiken als dwaalgast. Het belangrijkste kenmerk betreft (in alle kleden) de tekening op de ondervleugel: bij *caeruleus* zijn de armpennen wit of bijna wit, terwijl deze bij *vociferus* donkergrijs zijn met een opvallende lichte achterrand (dat laatste vooral bij adulte vogels).

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APPENDIX 1 Records of Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus caeruleus* in Europe (outside France, Portugal and Spain) to end of 2016; records marked with asterisk (*) await acceptance by relevant rarities committee (historical records based on Kleinschmidt 1897, Handrinos & Akriotis 1997, Brichetti & Fracasso 2003; records from Bulgaria according to Nankinov 2001 and Bojidar Ivanov in litt; other records come from archives of various rarities committees; see also three comments below table)

Austria (3)
24 May 1986, Lauterach, Vorarlberg
23 September to 22 October 2003, border area with Czechia, Oberösterreich (same individual as in Czechia)
8 November 2015, Kirchdorf/Inn, Oberösterreich (same individual as in Germany)

Belgium (22)
27-28 April 1992, Thuillies, Hainaut
29-30 March 2005, Thoricourt, Hainaut
21 April 2005, Mechels Broek, Mechelen, Antwerpen
2 September 2007, Honnay, Namur
4 August 2009, Groot Schietveld, Brecht, Antwerpen
3 April 2010, Lier, Antwerpen
11 April 2010, Antwerpen
19 April 2010, Tessenderlo, Limburg
28-29 June 2010, Montenaken, Limburg
13 August 2012, Ortho, Luxembourg
22 September 2012, Averbode Bos en Heide, Tessenderlo, Limburg
30 July 2013, Doel, Oost-Vlaanderen
21 October 2013, Heihoek, Lichtervelde, West-Vlaanderen
15-16 September 2014, Rupelmonde, Oost-Vlaanderen
8 May 2015, Thommen, Liège
20 August 2015, Harsin, Luxembourg
10-11 November 2015, Doel, Oost-Vlaanderen (same individual as in the Netherlands on these dates)
14-15 April 2016, Lummen, Limburg
25 April 2016, Oudenaarde, Oost-Vlaanderen
24 May to 1 July 2016, Geel-Mosselgoren, Antwerpen
*12 August 2016, Doel, Oost-Vlaanderen
*11 November 2016, Angreau, Hainaut

Bulgaria (10/11 individuals)
2 May 1976, Krumovgrad, Kardzhali
1978, Kaliakra, Dobrich
12 April 1979, Burgas
24 April 1980, between Glumche and Zimen, Burgas
26-27 June 1980, Rupite, Blagoevgrad
winter 1985/86, Pazardjik
May 1992, Plovdiv
early April 1994, Potsernentsi, Pernik (two)
7 May 1998, Rezowo, Burgas
15 May 2001, Sofia

Czechia (3)
31 March 1938, Olbramovice, Jihomoravský (collected)
26 September to 30 October 2003, Tichá, Jihočeský (same individual as in Austria)
10 May 2014, Sedlec u Mikulova, Jihomoravský

Denmark (13)
29-30 March 1998, Skagen, Nordjylland
15-16 May 2005, Skagen, Nordjylland
16 April 2007, Skagen, Nordjylland
18 April 2012, Gilbjerg Hoved, Sjælland
23 April 2013, Skagen, Nordjylland
28 August 2013, Køge, Sjælland
22 April 2014, Vibæk, Syddanmark
23 April 2015, Bødkermosen, Møn
9 June 2015, Mandehoved, Sjælland
24 August 2015, Hjerl Hede, Midtjylland
*10 June 2016, Skagen, Nordjylland
*22 July 2016, Gedser and Saksfjed Indæmning, Sjælland
*15 September 2016, Gedser, Sjælland

Germany (31/32 individuals)
24 November 1828, Pfungstadt, Hessen (collected)
May 1848, Kühkopf, Hessen (collected)
11 August 1984, Ludweiler, Saarland
19 April 1987, Ober-Ramstadt, Hessen (two)
1 June 1989, Cleverns, Niedersachsen
11 May 1990, Schwittersum, Niedersachsen
10 May 1995, Storbeck, Brandenburg
23 April 1996, Reußenköge, Schleswig-Holstein
4 July 1998, between Ulmbach, Rabenstein and Rebsdorf, Hessen
30 April to 10 May 2003, Maiberger Wiesen, Brandenburg
2-5 November 2003, Radolfzeller Aachried, Baden-Württemberg
19-23 March 2010, Reuters, Hessen
26-27 April 2010, Fronhausen, Hessen
22-25 August 2010, Westendorf, Nordrhein-Westfalen
13 May 2012, Scharbeutz, Schleswig-Holstein
1 August 2013, Grüner Brink/Fehmarn, Schleswig-Holstein
19 March 2014, Holnstein, Bayern
27 March 2015, Hennef-Stadt Blankenberg, Nordrhein-Westfalen
13 April 2015, Strohn, Rheinland-Pfalz

26 July to 9 August 2015, NSG Galgenberg-Milzgund, Thüringen
17 August 2015, Holnstein, Bayern
24 August 2015, Wahlheim, Rheinland-Pfalz
4-9 November 2015, Aigen am Inn, Bayern; 12 November 2015, Lohr am Main, Bayern; 13-14 November 2015, NSG Mittlere Horloffaue, Hessen (the same individual as in Austria)
*9 April 2016, Märkisch Luch, Brandenburg
*20 April 2016, Schöneberg, Bayern
*22 April 2016, Greifswalder Oie, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
*1 June to 25 August 2016, Randowbruch, Brandenburg
*4-5 August 2016, Möckern-Rosian, Sachsen-Anhalt
*5 October 2016, Irschenberg, Bayern
*12-13 October 2016, NSG Freiburger Rieselfeld, Baden-Württemberg
*16-19 November 2016, Neuried, Baden-Württemberg; 26 November to 2 December 2016, Ottenheim, Baden-Württemberg (probably same individual)

Greece (9/10 individuals)
end of April 1830s, exact location unknown (two; collected)
14 December 1987, Agia Triada Irakleiou, Crete
6 November 1999, Rodia, Arta
7 February 2002, Neohori, Arta
22 October 2004, Mesologi, Aitoloakarnania
9 April 2005, Oinofyta, Voiotia
1 December 2006, Mesologi, Aitoloakarnania
24 March 2008, Kohlias, Aitoloakarnania
11 January 2009, Aitoliko, Aitoloakarnania

Hungary (1)
22-27 August 2012, Csákvár, Fejér

Italy (11/12 individuals)
20 October 1893, Lombardore, Piedmont (collected)
autumn 1969, Crati river valley, Calabria
22 November 1974, Catanzaro, Calabria
24 April 2000, Mount Conero, Marche (two)
28 March to 5 April 2009, Bolzano airport, Alto Adige
5 April 2010, Morgano, Veneto
29 September 2010, Cosoleto, Calabria
*2 May 2012, Pianezza, Piedmont
22 February to 15 March 2015, Maniago, Friuli Venezia Giulia
*29 September to 11 November 2015, Agnellengo, Piedmont
*27 December 2015 to 19 February 2016, Cava di Montanaro and Cuneo, Torino

Luxembourg (1)
4 and 16 October 2016, Saeul, Redange

Netherlands (20)
31 May 1971, Knardijk, Flevoland
29-31 March 1998, De Cocksdorp, Texel, Noord-Holland
4 June to 23 August 2000, Bargerveen, Drenthe
22 May 2009, Oud-Alblas, Zuid-Holland
7 April 2010, Nijmegen, Gelderland
12-13 April 2012, Keent, Noord-Brabant and Wijchen, Gelderland
19-20 May 2012, Wageningen, Gelderland and Rhenen, Utrecht
17 October 2014, Buttervlietpolder, Zuid-Holland
25 May 2015, Drogeham, Friesland
3-5 August 2015, Maashorst, Noord-Brabant
20-21 August 2015, Marnewaard, Lauwersmeer, Groningen
25 October 2015, Vianen, Utrecht
*30 October 2015, Vlieland, Friesland
6-18 November 2015, Kootwijkerveld, Gelderland
10-11 November 2015, Emmadorp, Zeeland (same individual as in Belgium on these dates)
4 April 2016, Castricum, Noord-Holland
*10 April 2016, Den Oever, Noord-Holland
10 June 2016, Luntershoek, Zeeland
*23 August 2016, Maashorst, Noord-Brabant
27 August 2016, Wierdense Veld, Overijssel

Poland (1)
8 May 2016, Rewa, Pomorskie

Slovakia (1)
15 August 2012, Žitavský luh nature reserve, Nové Zámky

Sweden (4)
26-28 April 2004, Sällstorp and Balgö, Halland
21-24 April 2012, Tranebo, Dumme mosse, Småland; 11-23 August 2013, Skånum, Västergötland; 5 June 2015, Dumme mosse, Småland (same individual)
29 April 2014, Film, Uppland; 26 May 2014, Falsterbo, Skåne (the same individual)
12 September 2016, Falsterbo, Skåne

Switzerland (16)
29 April 1990, Cartigny, Genève
30 October 1994, Kaltbrunner Riet, St Gallen
15-16 July 2003, Altikon, Zürich
15 July 2006, Köniz, Bern
3 August to 10 November 2008, Avusy and Laconnex, Genève (ringed)
3 April 2009, Neeracherried, Zürich
2 August 2009, Orbe, Vaud
30-31 March 2010, Laconnex, Genève
2 August 2010, Wauwilermoos, Luzern; 4 August 2010; Kaltbrunner Riet, St Gallen (same individual)
6 June 2012, Kaltbrunner Riet, St Gallen
25 August 2012, Untervaz, Graubünden
16 October 2012, Boudevilliers, Neuchâtel
18-22 November 2012, Meinisberg, Bern
30 October 2014, Schwerzenbach, Zürich
14 October 2015, Schönenbuch, Basel-Land
18 October 2016, Rothrist, Aargau

Comment 1: there are two reports from Romania (1844 and 1965) but neither is adequately documented, so they have not been accepted (Szilard Daroczi in litt)
Comment 2: a bird found as a roadkill at Hazeldonk, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands, on 24 October 1992 was not accepted, because the identity of the finder is unknown (van den Berg & Bosman 2001)
Comment 3: a bird recorded at Leipheimer Donaumoos, Bayern, Germany, on 6 December 1994 is treated as a probable escape (Peter Barthel in litt)

Surveys of White-eyed Gull on islands in Red Sea, Egypt, and notes on behaviour

Mohamed I Habib

White-eyed Gull *Larus leucophthalmus* is a monotypic species endemic to the Red Sea basin and the Gulf of Aden, breeding colonially on inshore islands and islets. The total population size has been estimated at 12 000-13 000 breeding pairs (36 000-39 000 individuals), equalling 37 000-44 000 individuals, excluding Eritrea (which was not included in the surveys) (PERSGA/GEF 2003, BirdLife International 2016). The species is resident, although there is some evidence that part of the population moves southwards in winter; it is certainly scarcer in the extreme north of the Red Sea in winter than in summer. Local movements in Saudi Arabia have not been studied and occurrence outside the Red Sea basin is limited (Jennings 2010).

Inventories of seabirds breeding on the Egyptian Red Sea islands were presented by Jennings et al (1985) and Goodman & Storer (1987). In addition, Frazier et al (1984) presented observations along the Egyptian Red Sea coast during spring 1982, with notes on breeding and migratory species. More recently, Hoath et al (1997) discussed the breeding birds of islands in the Gulf of Suez. Grieve & Millington (1999) produced a report on the northern Red Sea islands, representing the most comprehensive survey of breeding seabirds in this area since Jennings et al (1985); this included an appendix of records from a visit to Wadi El Gamal island and Hamata mangroves in September 2000 (cf PERSGA/GEF 2003).

The population in Egypt included 50 pairs on Tiran island (at the entrance of the Gulf of Aqaba)

11 White-eyed Gull / Witoogmeeuw *Larus leucophthalmus*, adult summer, Hurghada, Egypt, 10 June 2014 *(Mohamed I Habib)*

12 White-eyed Gull / Witoogmeeuw *Larus leucophthalmus*, adult summer, off Hurghada, Egypt, 12 August 2014 *(Mohamed I Habib)*. Protecting breeding area.

(Cramp & Simmons 1977) and 1500-2000 pairs on islands off Hurghada and at the mouth of the Gulf of Suez, as estimated in 1983 and 1984 (Jennings et al 1985). Quantitative information is lacking on the number of individuals breeding on islands further south (Goodman & Meininger 1989). Jennings et al (1985) estimated that 30% of the world's population breeds on islands at the mouth of the Gulf of Suez. Baha El Din (1999) estimated the population in the Egyptian Red Sea at 10 000 individuals, whereas the total number of Egyptian breeding pairs was estimated at 2700-3000 by Grieve & Millington (1999) and at 2500 by PERSGA/GEF (2003).

The aim of the present study was to survey all islands located in Egypt's Red Sea governorate for breeding White-eyed Gulls, especially the islands missing from previous studies, eg, Zabargad and Rocky islands. For information on ageing and plumages of White-eyed Gull, see, eg, Winkel (2010).

TABLE 1 Islands in Egyptian Red Sea with breeding colonies of White-eyed Gull *Larus leucophthalmus* in (Tiran & Sanafir have been combined in the surveys)

Island	Coordinates	
Tawila	27°36′20.18″N	33°42′28.32″E
Umm El Humate	27°40′09.65″N	33°38′02.77″E
El Hamra	27°33′34.13″N	33°45′45.54″E
Gysom	27°39′05″N	33°42′31″E
Umm Gawish	27°09′42.32″N	33°52′14.38″E
Wadi El Gamal	24°39′29.96″N	35°08′24.33″E
Zabargad	23°35′39.14″N	36°13′12.66″E
Tiran	27°56′55.29″N	34°33′32.85″E
Sanafir	28°32′59″N	34°31′47.06″E

Surveys in 2012-15

Egypt is a large country with relatively long coastlines along two seas with different marine ecosystems and terrestrial environments. The Red Sea coastline is nearly 1800 km long (PERSGA/GEF 2003). The Red Sea governorate has the longest sea coast compared with any other Egyptian governorate, extending for 1050 km from El Zafrana in the north to Halib in the south and including several archipelagos. Because of the huge length of the coast, it was divided into three segments in this study: ***1*** northern islands (from Hurghada to Gabal El Zait); ***2*** central islands (Wadi El Gamal and Hamata archipelago); and ***3*** southern islands (Zabargad and Rocky). The survey ran from June 2012 to August 2015; islands were visited from late May to late August. A total of 70 islands was surveyed and White-eyed Gulls were found breeding and nesting on only eight of these (see table 1): Tawila, Umm El Humate, El Hamra, Gysom, Umm Gawish, Wadi El Gamal, Zabargad and Trian & Sanafir (treated together). In 2012-15, Umm Gawish was visited in every survey year because of its importance as the main breeding island. In 2012, we started the preliminary survey to discover the breeding colonies on the northern islands and, in 2013, we surveyed the northern and central islands. In 2014, we visited the southern islands; in 2015, only Umm Gawish was visited.

TABLE 2 Number of breeding pairs of White-eyed Gull *Larus leucophthalmus* on islands in Red Sea, Egypt, in 2012-15

Island	Year			
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Tawila		200		
Umm El Humate		10		
El Hamra		20		
Gysom	27	120		
Umm Gawish	1750	1850	1880	1450
Wadi El Gamal			276	
Zabargad			40	
Tiran & Sanafir				50

Visits to each colony were kept short, less than 20 min, to minimize disturbance. Counting units were apparently occupied nests, defined as the total number of occupied and unoccupied nests that appear to have been used during the present breeding season (Bibby et al 2007). All breeding sites on the islands were marked with a GPS and photographs were taken. The weather varied from 37°C at the beginning of the season in late May to over 44°C at the end of the season in late August. An exception was the temperature of 52°C during one day in late May 2015.

During our survey, we visited the Hurghada rubbish area twice a day and five times a week before, during and after the breeding season. To find out how White-eyed Gulls interact with other predators when hunting small fish, I (Mohamed Habib) went diving at the feeding grounds.

Results

Numbers

The main colony in 2012-15 was located on Umm Gawish (table 2) where 1450 to 1880 nests or pairs were counted annually; the other colonies were much smaller. The total number of nests was 2672 (for Gysom and Umm Gawish, using the highest counts of 2013 and 2014, respectively; cf table 2), equivalent to a population of 8016 individuals (number of nests x three: two adults/nest and one extra to account for birds that have not yet reached breeding age; Tim Dodman pers comm). Breeding success and survival rates of the young were not studied during these surveys.

Breeding behaviour

White-eyed Gulls choose remote islands for nesting in colonies with other marine birds. The islands are usually on sandy or fossilized coral substrate, undisturbed and free from land predators. Birds arrive at the breeding site from the second week of April and disperse widely from the end of October, when the breeding season has ended. Once they arrive on the islands, they start browsing the area to establish a territory and pair up. They then perform a special display and start building the nest, which takes three to four weeks. Nests are built in small depressions in sandy substrate and consist of old bones of dead chicks from previous seasons, dead shells and small fossil corals. Old twigs are only rarely used, except when the breeding site is close to shrubs.

13 White-eyed Gull / Witoogmeeuw *Larus leucophthalmus*, adult summer, off Hurghada, Egypt, 8 June 2014 *(Mohamed I Habib)*. Fluffing feathers during hot day.




14 Eggs and pullus of White-eyed Gull / Witoogmeeuw *Larus leucophthalmus*, off Hurghada, Egypt, 18 June 2013 *(Mohamed I Habib)*. Typical nest with three eggs; note asynchronic hatching. **15** Clutch of White-eyed Gull / Witoogmeeuw *Larus leucophthalmus*, off Hurghada, Egypt, 8 June 2014 *(Mohamed I Habib)*. Nest containing high number of five eggs, presumably laid by two females in same nest. **16** White-eyed Gulls / Witoogmeeuwen *Larus leucophthalmus*, off Hurghada, Egypt, 21 June 2012 *(Mohamed I Habib)*. Chicks at sea shore during hot day. **17** White-eyed Gull / Witoogmeeuw *Larus leucophthalmus*, off Hurghada, Egypt, 26 August 2015 *(Mohamed I Habib)*. Two-week old chick.

At Umm Gawish, the distance between individual nests was 0.5-5 m, while at Gysom individual nests were much further, 50-100 m, apart. On all eight islands, White-eyed Gulls defended the eggs or young by aggressively attacking any intruders and flying around nervously (plate 12). This behaviour was also noticed during Arabian surveys of breeding seabirds (Jennings 2010). Both male and female built the nest, while the female occupied the nest before laying eggs. Clutch size was one to three eggs on most islands; most commonly, the clutch consisted of three eggs (plate 14). A nest containing five eggs on Umm Gawish was exceptional and may have been the result of two females laying in the same nest (plate 15). Eggs were detected from the second week of May. Nests were mostly located in the open and exposed to direct sunlight. During hot summer temperatures of 40°C or more, parents fluffed up their feathers to cope with the heat (plate 13) and to protect the eggs from the heat of the sun, while some nests were built under shrub (*Nitraria retusa* and other salt shrubs) for protection from the direct sunlight. During hot days, chicks of one week or older left the nest to join their parents to the edge of the shoreline where they received care and food and were able to cool down by swimming (plate 16).

The main reason for the preference for breeding on Umm Gawish could be the close proximity of the landfill site of Hurghada where most of the tourist hotels are located, producing 1000s of tons of garbage annually and swimming pools of the




18 White-eyed Gulls / Witoogmeeuwen *Larus leucophthalmus*, off Hurghada, Egypt, 12 August 2014 *(Mohamed I Habib)*. Adult guarding two fledglings. **19** White-eyed Gull / Witoogmeeuw *Larus leucophthalmus*, juvenile, Hurghada, Egypt, 25 September 2014 *(Mohamed I Habib)* **20** White-eyed Gull / Witoogmeeuw *Larus leucophthalmus*, first-summer, Hurghada, Egypt, 8 June 2014 *(Mohamed I Habib)* **21** White-eyed Gull / Witoogmeeuw *Larus leucophthalmus*, juvenile, Hurghada, Egypt, 12 October 2015 *(Mohamed I Habib)*

hotels and private villas and the main sewage ponds are used for drinking (see above). In 1998, the Red Sea Governor banned the burning of rubbish in open fires, enabling the gulls to take advantage of the garbage dump. The species increased rapidly and its main breeding colony moved from the northern islands to Umm Gawish in front of Hurghada city. This island is relatively undisturbed because it is not important to the diving business. It mainly offers protection from wind and landing space for the daily boats and safari boats. Where habitats are not disturbed, most bird numbers remain relatively stable over long periods. Breeding numbers may fluctuate from year to year but within narrow limits. The low number of nests (1450) on Umm Gawish in 2015 may have been due to the unusually high temperatures reaching 52°C on one day in late May.

Timing of egg laying

On the Saudi Arabian coast, nests with eggs and chicks were observed on 28 July 2011, suggesting that breeding probably started in late May/early June (Shobrak & Aloufi 2014). Jennings (2010) suggested that there is a slight bias towards earlier nesting in the northern Red Sea, with eggs laid between June and August from Tiran to Farasan and from July to September in Yemen. Previous studies mentioned the period of egg laying as June-July (Cramp & Simmons 1977, Jennings et al 1985, Goodman & Storer 1987, Grieve & Millington 1999). However, in the 2012-15 surveys, two one-week old chicks were observed being attended by their parents at the shoreline on 21 June 2012, and the first nest containing two eggs was found on 19 May 2013, indicating that breeding already started in the second or third week of May.

22 White-eyed Gulls / Witoogmeeuwen *Larus leucophthalmus*, adult summer, Hurghada, Egypt, 10 June 2014 *(Mohamed I Habib)*. Feeding at rubbish tip.

23 White-eyed Gulls / Witoogmeeuwen *Larus leucophthalmus*, adult summer, Hurghada, Egypt, 12 July 2008 *(Mohamed I Habib)*

Feeding behaviour

In Egypt, the species is a pelagic feeder outside the breeding season, probably taking mainly fish but sometimes also intertidal crustaceans such as crabs, mollusks and annelids, and it will scavenge in harbours (Cramp & Simmons 1977). In Saudi Arabia, feeding behaviour is poorly known and the species is more difficult to study as birds spend not as much time in harbours or on rubbish tips as in Egypt (Jennings 2010). In Egypt, birds have sometimes been noted feeding on the red fruit of the *N retusa* bushes they seek shelter from (Goodman & Storer 1987). White-eyed Gulls (including recently fledged juveniles) visited the rubbish tip in Hurghada at c 5 km from the breeding islands daily during the breeding season. The preferred food was rice, chicken meat, watermelons and bread (plate 22, 24-25). During the four years of the survey, I did not notice scavenging of eggs or chicks from neighbouring nests as Sooty Gulls *L hemprichii* are known to do. In other gull species and terns, considerable interest in shoals of fish such as sardines when these are under attack from bigger species of fish or dolphins has been proven (Jennings 2010). During diving, I observed White-eyed Gulls fishing with White-cheeked Terns *Sterna repressa* and Lesser Crested Terns *S bengalensis* by plunging their heads into the water to catch juvenile fish that were being attacked by jack fish. The gulls were also seen drinking water from resorts, private schools, private swimming pools and sewage ponds (plate 23). Owners complained about having to replace the drinking water once a week and having to clean up dirt consisting of faeces and old feathers around the edge of swimming pools. Roosting flocks were observed on the northern islands waiting for shoals of small fish that tried to escape from predation by tuna and other carnivorous fish. The fish came up to the surface, making it easy for the flocks of gulls and terns to feed. The gulls were also seen waiting for low tide to take crustaceans and mollusks. Scavenging on other seabirds or cannibalism (attacking chicks from its own species) or feeding on *Nitraria retusa* fruits as described by Goodman & Storer (1987) was not detected during the surveys.

Threats

White-eyed Gull is categorized as near-threatened on the IUCN Red List (BirdLife International 2016). 'It is expected to experience a moderately rapid population decline in the next three generations (33 years) owing to a number of threats including introduced predators, oil-spills, the harvest of eggs and chicks, and disturbance. If the population was found to be declining more rapidly, the species might qualify for a higher threat category' (BirdLife International 2016).

The total of 2672 nests counted during the surveys, representing c 8000 individuals, means that Egypt hosts almost 30% of the world population during the breeding season. These birds should therefore receive solid protection against threats such as disturbance from tourists. Fishermen collected eggs as they believed it could boost their sex life. Pollution of the environment is an important threat as the species is a surface feeder all year round and therefore always vulnerable to oil pollution and entanglement by fishing lines or ropes (plate 26-27). In order to safeguard these significant colonies, signs should be posted to keep people out of the area during the breeding season.

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Samenvatting

Inventarisaties van Witoogmeeuw op eilanden in Rode Zee, Egypte, en aantekeningen over gedrag Witoogmeeuw *Larus leucophthalmus* broedt op eilanden in de Rode Zee en de Golf van Aden. Dit artikel beschrijft de uitkomst van inventarisaties in Egypte in 2012-15. Eerdere opgaven van het aantal broedparen op eilanden in de Egyptische Rode Zee waren met name gebaseerd op schattingen. Recente inventarisaties hebben beter inzicht gegeven in het aantal broedparen, met name op Umm Gawish, één van de belangrijkste broedlocaties. De tellingen van broedparen vonden jaarlijks plaats van juni 2012 tot augustus 2015 (in de periode van eind april tot half oktober), waarbij ook werd gekeken naar bedreigingen voor deze soort. In totaal werden 70 eilanden bezocht; slechts acht bleken broedparen te huisvesten, met in totaal 2672 nesten (geschat ruim 8000 individuen): Tawila (200 nesten in 2013), Um el-Humate (10 nesten in 2013), El Hamra (20 in 2013), Gysom (120 in 2013), Umm Gawish (1880 in 2014), Wadi El Gamal (276 in 2014), Tiran & Sanafir (50 in 2015) en Zabargad (40 in 2014). Deze getallen geven aan dat de populatie hoger is in vergelijking met uit eerdere studies bekende schattingen of extrapolaties. In het artikel worden verder details gegevens over het broed- en voedselgedrag van de Egyptische populaties. De studies toonden bijvoorbeeld veranderingen aan in het voedselgedrag door de groei van de stortplaats in Hurghada, een nieuwe voedselbron

tijdens het broedseizoen. Bedreigingen tijdens het broedseizoen zijn vooral menselijke verstoringen (zowel vissers als toeristen, onder meer met safariboten, landen en overnachten op de eilanden) en vervuiling van oppervlaktewater met olie of vistouw.

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24 White-eyed Gulls / Witoogmeeuwen *Larus leucophthalmus*, adult summer, Hurghada, Egypt, 10 June 2014 *(Mohamed I Habib)*. Feeding on chicken waste. **25** White-eyed Gull / Witoogmeeuw *Larus leucophthalmus*, juvenile, Hurghada, Egypt, 25 September 2014 *(Mohamed I Habib)*. Fledgling feeding on rice. **26** White-eyed Gull / Witoogmeeuw *Larus leucophthalmus*, adult summer, Hurghada, Egypt, 11 June 2014 *(Mohamed I Habib)*. Bird entangled in fishing rope. **27** White-eyed Gull / Witoogmeeuw *Larus leucophthalmus*, first-year, Hurghada, Egypt, 12 October 2015 *(Mohamed I Habib)*. Bird with fishing line.

28 White-eyed Gull / Witoogmeeuw *Larus leucophthalmus*, second-summer type, Hurghada, Egypt, 10 June 2014 *(Mohamed I Habib)*

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Roodkeelnachtegaal in Hoogwoud in januari-april 2016

Remco Hofland, Wietze Janse & Ferry Ossendorp

Eén tot anderhalve week voor 15 januari 2016 zag Mark van der Capellen een voor hem onbekende zangvogel in zijn achtertuin aan de Beukenlaan in Hoogwoud, Noord-Holland. Daarna zag hij de vogel kort op verschillende dagen, vrijwel altijd in de kruiden langs de schutting in zijn tuin. Zijn moeder, Hanneke de Boer, maakte op 15 januari twee foto's en plaatste deze op de Facebook-groep 'Vogelaars natuur & vogelfotografie' met de vraag of iemand wist welke soort het was. Rond het middaguur bekeek Wietze Janse Facebook, stuitte op het berichtje van HdB en zag in een *split second* dat de foto een Roodkeelnachtegaal *Calliope calliope* toonde, een Siberische soort die niet eerder in Nederland was vastgesteld! WJ nam contact op met HdB om te achterhalen waar en hoe de vogel was gezien. Ondertussen werd de foto verspreid via whatsapp-groepen en rond 13:00 via Dutch Bird Alerts. De eerste vogelaars reden op goed geluk naar Hoogwoud en via grondig telefonisch speurwerk van onder meer Jaap Denee werd het juiste adres gevonden. In de loop van de middag verzamelden zich 10-tallen vogelaars in de buurt van de tuin; (pas) om 17:14 uur (in de schemer) werd de vogel teruggevonden door Remco Hofland en Ferry Ossendorp toen hij c 10 sec in een els zat, waarna hij de naastgelegen laurierstruik indook. Hij vloog vervolgens de nabijgelegen tuinen in, daarbij enkele keren zeer kort landend op schuttingen, en werd nog gezien door c vijf van de c 30 aanwezige waarnemers. Die avond arrangeerden HdB en Remco Hofland openstelling van Marks woonkamer (de tuin was vanaf de openbare weg niet goed te bekijken) voor de te verwachten invasie van vogelaars, tegen een bescheiden vergoeding per persoon.

Op 16 januari verzamelden zich al vroeg vele 10-tallen vogelaars bij de tuin. RH had meelwor-

29 Roodkeelnachtegaal / Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope*, eerste-winter mannetje, Hoogwoud, Noord-Holland, 16 januari 2016 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

30 Roodkeelnachtegaal / Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope*, eerste-winter mannetje, Hoogwoud, Noord-Holland, 20 januari 2016 *(Alex Bos)*

31 Roodkeelnachtegaal / Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope*, eerste-winter mannetje, Hoogwoud, Noord-Holland, 17 januari 2016 *(Thijs Glastra)*

32 Roodkeelnachtegaal / Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope*, eerste-winter mannetje, Hoogwoud, Noord-Holland, 22 januari 2016 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

33 Roodkeelnachtegaal / Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope*, eerste-winter mannetje, Hoogwoud, Noord-Holland, 21 januari 2016 *(Leo J R Boon)*

men neergelegd en nam positie in in het huis. Amper geïnstalleerd in de woonkamer zag hij de vogel al in de tuin scharrelen en toen kon het kijkcircus van start gaan. In groepen van 10 mochten de vogelaars vanuit de huiskamer kijken. Om snel te kunnen rouleren met de volgende groep was al het meubilair aan de kant geschoven. In de eerste twee uren konden zo enkele 100en vogelaars de vogel zien. Rond 10:00 joeg een kat hem de tuin uit. Vervolgens werd hij in enkele tuinen in de directe omgeving gezien alvorens terug te keren naar dé tuin. Dit patroon herhaalde zich enkele malen, hoewel hij naarmate de dag vorderde vaak langer uit beeld was. In totaal zagen c 400 vogelaars hem vanuit het huis en een flink aantal in de tuinen in de omgeving. De massale toeloop leidde zoals te verwachten tot veel media-aandacht van bijvoorbeeld NOS, RTL4 en RTV Noord-Holland. Op 17 januari verbleef de Roodkeelnachtegaal veelal buiten de tuin, terwijl de meeste waarnemers wachtten in de woonkamer. Hij verscheen elke c 15-20 minuten in de tuin. Daar verbleef hij dan, net als op 16 januari, meestal niet langer dan c 1 min per keer. Op 17 januari werd hij ook meermalen gezien in vegetatie buiten de tuin; op deze dag was ook het balkon boven de tuin kortstondig geopend voor publiek, waarop zich met name fotografen bevonden. Op beweging van boven en het incidenteel gebruik van flitslicht reageerde de vogel verschrikt. Toen het balkon gesloten werd voor waarnemers en fotografen nam dit nerveuze gedrag af. De opbrengsten van beide dagen werden grotendeels bestemd voor een goed (ornithologisch) doel. Vanaf 18 januari werd hij gevoerd buiten de tuin, onder en naast de laurierstruik vlak achter de bekende tuin. Op de meeste dagen dook hij af en toe elders op maar nooit verder dan c 100 m van het voetpad achter Beukenlaan (cf Ebels 2016).

Op zaterdag 23 januari werd hij voor het eerst zeer zacht zingend waargenomen in de kale struiken naast Beukenlaan 19. Hij zong vaak minutenlang maar nauwelijks hoorbaar tussen 08:15 en 09:45, soms onderbroken vanwege verjaging door katten of Merels *Turdus merula*. In de koude periode van midden-januari werd geen zang gehoord maar na 23 januari zong hij vrijwel dagelijks. In februari-april werd de zang steeds luider.

Gedurende zijn verblijf is hij door enkele 1000-en vogelaars uit Nederland en België gezien en door vele 10-tallen uit c 15 andere Europese landen. Op www.waarneming.nl is hij gedurende zijn verblijf van drie maanden 1983 keer ingevoerd (inclusief dubbeltellingen van vogelaars die één of meer keren zijn teruggegaan maar omgekeerd zijn er ook veel waarnemers die hun waarneming hier niet invoeren). De laatste waarneming was op 12 april 2016.

De waarneming in Hoogwoud is aanvaard door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) en betrof het eerste geval voor Nederland.

Beschrijving

De beschrijving is gebaseerd op eigen veldwaarnemingen, veel foto's en video-opnamen en verschillende geluidsopnamen (cf www.dutchbirding.nl, www.waarneming.nl; cf Dutch Birding 37: 113, plaat 177, 125, plaat 198, 126, plaat 199, 198, plaat 305-306, 2016). Op www.waarneming.nl staan maar liefst 2470 foto's van de vogel.

GROOTTE & BOUW Formaat als Roodborst *Erithacus rubecula* maar iets forser, met relatief lange poten en relatief korte staart. Staart vaak iets opgewipt en vleugels afhangend. Dolkachtige puntige snavel. Handpenprojectie voorbij toppen van tertials c 67-74% van lengte van langste tertials. In zit minimaal vijf handpentoppen duidelijk zichtbaar maar door afhangende vleugels vaak tot negen handpennen zichtbaar. Duidelijke versmallingen aanwezig op een-na-buitenste drie handpennen. Vanaf stuit gerekend onderstaartdekveren tot c tweederde van onderstaart reikend. Staartveren iets puntig. Lichte verdikking op bovenzijde van middelste teen aan rechterpoot.

KOP & HALS Olijfbruine kruin met kleine donkere veertoppen, vooral op voorhoofd. Opvallende, vrij brede witte wenkbrauwstreep, niet verbonden boven snavel, doorlopend tot net achter oog, uitlopend in lichte grijsbruine tint richting achterhoofd. Brede zwarte teugel, doorlopend onder oog en uitlopend in dunne zwarte snorstreep. Opvallende brede witte mondstreep. Robijnrode keel met wit puntje aan veertoppen; vanaf c 23 januari robijnrode keelkleur in intensiteit ogenschijnlijk toenemend, mogelijk veroorzaakt door afslijten van witte veertoppen (maar intensiteit keelkleur variërend per foto). Onopvallende dunne zwarte rand tussen robijnrode keel en witte mondstreep. Bovenzijde van keel ook omlijnd door dunne zwarte lijn, aan bovenzijde van keel onderzijde van snavel rakend. Vorm van keelvlek in vooraanzicht als 'kerkklok', iets breder uitwaaierend onder bovenste deel begrensd door zwarte lijn. Boven snavel plekje met lichtbruine veertjes, waardoor zowel witte wenkbrauwstreep als zwarte teugel niet doorlopend boven snavel. Iets warmer bruine kleur direct achter oog. Vier snorharen boven mondhoek en enkele kleine onder snavel.

BOVENDELEN Geheel olijfkleurig bruin, met uitzondering van iets lichter olijfkleurig bruine achternek met grijzige tint. Stuit lichtbruin (afhankelijk van foto met olijfkleurige of roodbruine tint).

ONDERDELEN Borst en flank beigebruin, lichter dan bovendelen. Onderzijde van keel begrensd door diffuse grijze band. Onderdelen lichter wordend richting onder-

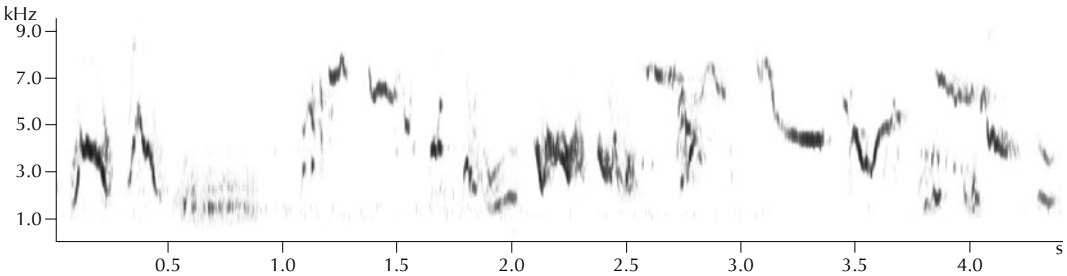
staartdekveren. Buik vaalwit tussen poten en tot anaalstreek. Onderstaartdekveren vaalwit tot wit.
VLEUGEL Iets warmer roodbruin gekleurd dan mantel. Lichtbeige veertop aan grote dekveren, tertials, armpennen en binnenste handpennen. Fijne maar opvallende roodbruine rand aan buitenvlag van alle armpennen en handpennen. Enkele lichte (beige) groeibanen ('fault bars') op de grote dekveren, tertials en armpennen.
STAART Bovenstaart warmbruin. Onopvallende rossige tint op middelst deel van bovenstaart. Centrum van uiterst deel van staartveren op sommige foto's wat donkerder bruin lijkend. Resterend deel van onderzijde van staart bruin.
NAAKTE DELEN Poot en tenen lichtroze. Teennagels bleekwit. Snavel vanaf mondhoek wit tot onder en rondom neusgat, naar punt toe donkerder wordend op bovensnavel, met geheel donkere punt op zowel bovensnavel als ondersnavel. Iris donkerbruin. Oogrand grijs.
GELUID Roep hoog lang *tjieeeep* (opname van 25 januari in serie van zeven) en zacht *tsjuk* (opname van 16 januari). Vanaf 23 januari geregeld zang gehoord. Op 23 januari geregeld zingend tussen 08:15 en 09:45 uur; op 26 januari geregeld zingend vanaf verborgen positie, daarbij in drie uur tijd slechts 15 sec zichtbaar. Zang nauwelijks hoorbare, enigszins prevelende 'plastic song', mengeling van hardere en zachtere noten, als aaneenschakeling van voornamelijk melodieuze maar ook krassende elementen. In zang imitaties van meer dan 15 in Siberië broedende soorten (zie onder). In maart-april zang veel luider wordend met vogel meer geëxponeerd zittend.
GEDRAG Op 16 en 17 januari meestal in kruidenborder, veelal beschutting zoekend onder conifeer. Gemiddeld eens per c 10 min naar voor hem uitgelegde (levende) meelwormen aan rand van border komend, waar c 1 min aanwezig om te eten. Soms etend van eveneens uitgelegde meelwormen op andere plekken in de tuin. Gedurende verblijf steeds tammer wordend en tot op enkele meters te benaderen. Regelmatig genoodzaakt te vluchten voor kat, deze ontkomend door snel in rechte lijn weg te vliegen.

Determinatie, leeftijd en geslacht

De vogel van Hoogwoud was gemakkelijk te determineren als Roodkeelnachtegaal, vanwege de unieke combinatie van Roodborst-achtig formaat en postuur, overwegend bruin verenkleed, robijnrode keel en opvallende witte wenkbrauwstreep en mondstreep. De enige soort die voor verwarring zou kunnen zorgen is Zwartborstnachtegaal *C pectoralis*, die een grijze in plaats van bruine grondkleur heeft, wit in de basis van de staart en een zwarte borst (cf Clement & Rose 2015); laatstgenoemde is standvogel in Centraal-Azië die in Europa als escape zou kunnen opduiken.

34 Roodkeelnachtegaal / Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope*, eerste-winter mannetje, Hoogwoud, Noord-Holland, 18 januari 2016 *(René van Rossum)*

35 Roodkeelnachtegaal / Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope*, eerste-winter mannetje, Hoogwoud, Noord-Holland, 1 april 2016 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*. Zingend.



FIGUUR 1 Roodkeelnachtegaal *Calliope calliope*, eerst-winter mannetje, sonagram van 4 sec zang met imitaties van Grote Pieper *Anthus richardi* (eerste twee geluidjes) en Bladkoning *Phylloscopus inornatus* (na 3.5 sec) / Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope*, first-winter male, sonagram of 4 sec song with imitations of Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* (first two sounds) and Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* (after 3.5 sec), Hoogwoud, Noord-Holland, 26 februari 2016 *(Arnoud B van den Berg/The Sound Approach)*

Het betrof een mannetje vanwege de robijnrode keel, aan de onderzijde begrensd door grijstint; vrouwtjes missen de rode keel en hebben een veel minder contrasterend koppatroon (Clement & Rose 2015). Het betrof een tweede-kalenderjaar vanwege de volgende kenmerken: ***1*** lichte toppen aan de grote dekveren en tertials; ***2*** puntige staartveren; ***3*** afwezigheid van lichte top aan de staartveren (Leader 2009); ***4*** grotendeels lichte snavel; ***5*** iets lichtere keel dan een adult mogelijk zou tonen; en ***6*** afwezigheid van een volledige zwarte omgrenzing van de rode keelvlek.

Zang

In de loop van zijn verblijf liet de vogel een zich ontwikkelende 'plastic song' horen (cf Constantine & The Sound Approach 2006). In de zang konden imitaties van meer dan 15 in Siberië broedende soorten worden herkend (Arnoud van den Berg in litt). Net als de meeste zangvogels zal ook deze soort vooral in de eerste maanden geluiden van andere soorten in zijn geheugen opslaan om in zijn zang te verwerken (cf Kroodsma 1982). De zang vormt derhalve een zeer sterke indicatie dat de vogel van Hoogwoud in het broedgebied van de soort is geboren en getogen, en niet in gevangenschap is grootgebracht. De duidelijkst te herkennen soorten die hij liet horen waren vooral Bladkoning *Phylloscopus inornatus* en verder Zwarte Specht *Dryocopus martius* en Grote Pieper *Anthus richardi* (zie 6 sec zang op http://tinyurl.com/jxevyou) maar ook bijvoorbeeld Siberische Sprinkhaanzanger *Locustella certhiola* en Roodmus *Erythrina erythrina* (figuur 1; Arnoud van den Berg & Magnus Robb in litt). Een aparte publicatie met de uitgebreide analyse van de zang wordt voorbereid door The Sound Approach (Arnoud van den Berg in litt).

Status

Op basis van het trekgedrag, de eerdere gevallen in West-Europa en de zang met imitaties van in Siberië broedende vogelsoorten is het zeer aannemelijk dat het een wilde vogel betrof. De naakte delen, het gedrag en het verenkleed toonden geen onregelmatigheden die op een afkomst uit gevangenschap duidden. Gedurende zijn verblijf ontwikkelde de vogel, net als overigens hongerige Merels en Zanglijsters *T philomelos*, een grote mate van tamheid, gestimuleerd door het bijvoeren met meelwormen. Dit verschijnsel is bekend uit bijvoorbeeld China, waar fotografen meelwormen gebruiken om zangvogels voor hun camera te lokken. Hij leek voornamelijk te eten van de uitgelegde meelwormen; door deze na de eerste dagen op een vaste plek neer te leggen werd de grote stroom van vogelaars en fotografen in goede banen geleid. Roodkeelnachtegaal is normaal gesproken een teruggetrokken, vrij schuwe zangvogel die zich voornamelijk ophoudt in of nabij dicht struikgewas, vaak nabij zoet water (zoals moerassen, stroompjes en zelfs open riolen). Op plekken waar de soort veel voorkomt, worden veel meer vogels gehoord dan daadwerkelijk gezien (RH pers obs). Regelmatig zijn er echter exemplaren die zich beter laten zien; dit is bijna altijd op plekken waar de soort een overvloedig voedselaanbod kent (zoals veel vliegen bij open riolen) en/of nabij mensen voorkomt (doortrek of overwintering in steden of dorpen). Op trek wordt de soort vaak aangetroffen in stedelijk gebied, mede omdat een groot deel van de natuurlijke trekroute (de Chinese oostkust) thans sterk verstedelijkt is. In het overwinteringsgebied is de soort voornamelijk te vinden in natuurlijk habitat, hoewel theeplantages en ook tuinen in steden geen uitzondering zijn.

Op detailfoto's is een kleine verdikking boven

36 Roodkeelnachtegaal / Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope*, eerste-winter mannetje, Hoogwoud, Noord-Holland, 18 maart 2016 *(Enno B Ebels)*

37 Roodkeelnachtegaal / Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope*, eerste-winter mannetje, Hoogwoud, Noord-Holland, 22 januari 2016 *(Harvey van Diek)*

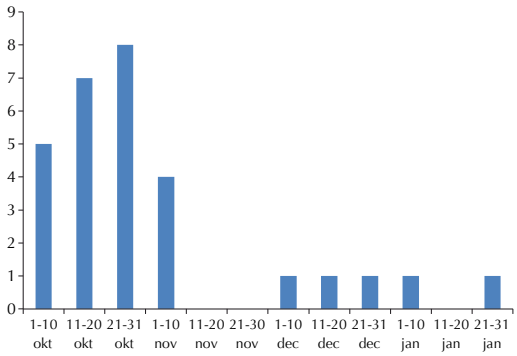
op de middelste teen van de rechterpoot zichtbaar. Een dergelijke afwijking is geen indicatie voor een niet-wilde herkomst.

De groeibanen op de grote dekveren en op de tertials en armpennen duiden op perioden van voedselschaarste, waardoor veren onregelmatig groeien en lichte banen zichtbaar worden. Het is bekend dat dit bij wilde vogels regelmatig optreedt, vooral bij opgreiende vogels, als het aanbod van voldoende voedsel varieert (cf Newton 1967, Svensson 1992, Menzie 2015); het fenomeen komt ook bij vogels in gevangenschap voor (Peter de Vries in litt) en vormt dus geen argument voor een wilde herkomst.

Hoewel de meeste gevallen in Europa dateren van oktober-november, betreft de vogel van Hoogwoud niet het eerste Europese wintergeval (er zijn eerdere gevallen in december en januari; cf tabel 1). De winter van 2015/16 was de op één na zachtste winter ooit in Nederland; tot ver in december werden temperaturen van boven 15°C gemeten (cf www.knmi.nl). De condities voor een overwinterende insecteneter om te overleven waren dus gunstig. De Roodkeelnachtegaal kent inmiddels heel wat voorgangers: de lijst van overwinterende zeldzame Siberische (dwaal)gasten in Nederland wordt met elke jaar langer; vaak duiken deze vogels op in tuinen of andere beschutte stedelijke gebieden. Ook een aantal zeldzame Nearctische zangvogels in Nederland overwinterde in een woonwijk (cf www.dutchavifauna.nl). De vertrekdatum (medio april) past goed bij wat van een wilde vogel die aan de voorjaarstrek begint is te verwachten.

Voorkomen in gevangenschap

Willem van Rijswijk (pers meded) bezoekt met enige regelmaat vogelbeurzen (de laatste jaren gemiddeld één per jaar); ook bezoekt hij met enige regelmaat de grootste vogelbeurs van Nederland en Europa die twee keer per jaar wordt georganiseerd in Zwolle, Overijssel. Hier worden 10 000en vogels per keer verhandeld. Hij kwam per beurs gemiddeld drie paar Roodkeelnachtegalen tegen; alle exemplaren (waaronder jonge vogels) waren voorzien van een gesloten kweekring. WvR en Frank Neijts (in litt) gaven beiden aan dat er in Nederland relatief weinig met de soort wordt gekweekt, waarbij WvR schatte dat het om c 50 paar ging. WvR gaf aan dat sommige Roodkeelnachtegalen die hij tijdens de vogelbeurzen tegenkwam een meer oranjerode keel hadden dan de vogel van Hoogwoud, wat verklaard zou kunnen worden uit het soort voedsel dat deze (in gevangenschap gehouden) vogels kregen. Hij kwam



FIGUUR 2 Gevallen (n=29) van Roodkeelnachtegaal *Calliope calliope* in het West-Palearctische gebied (buiten Europees Rusland) per decade naar datum van ontdekking (exclusief geval in Estland uit mei en twee gevallen uit Italië zonder maand, cf tabel 1) / records (n=29) of Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope* in the Western Palearctic (outside European Russia) per 10-day period by date of discovery (excluding one record from May in Estonia and two records from Italy without month, cf table 1)

echter ook vogels tegen die wel een mooie rode keel hadden.

Verspreiding en voorkomen in Europa

Roodkeelnachtegaal broedt in Siberië, Rusland. Het broedareaal strekt zich aan de westkant uit tot in Rusland, net binnen de grenzen van het West-Palearctische gebied (cf Jones et al 2015). Het is een trekvogel die voornamelijk overwintert in Zuidoost-Azië (Clement & Rose 2015, del Hoyo et al 2016). Hoewel de soort zijn mythische status als dwaalgast in Europa de afgelopen decennia heeft afgezwakt door met grotere regelmaat in West-Europa op te duiken, gaat het nog altijd om een extreme zeldzaamheid en één van de meest door twitchers begeerde dwaalgasten (cf Slack 2009).

Er zijn in Europa ten minste 32 gevallen (buiten Europees Rusland): 10+ in Schotland, zes in Italië, drie in Finland, twee in Denemarken, twee in Engeland, twee in Noorwegen en telkens één in Duitsland, Estland, IJsland, Letland, Malta, Slovenië en Zweden (Barthel 1996, Slack 2009; tabel 1, figuur 2). De 32 gevallen hebben betrekking op 33 individuen (één geval betreft twee volwassen mannetjes samen in Italië). Er zijn 20 gevallen uit oktober (met een piek in de tweede en derde decade, n=15), ten minste vier in november, drie in december, drie in januari en één in mei (datum van ontdekking). Ten minste 19 vogels werden als eerstejaars gedetermineerd en vier als adult (leeftijd niet vermeld bij de andere gevallen). Negen werden

TABEL 1 Gevallen van Roodkeelnachtegaal *Calliope calliope* in het West-Palearctische gebied buiten Rusland (n=32; *nog niet aanvaard) / records of Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope* in the Western Palearctic outside Russia (n=32; *not yet accepted) (Lowe 1979, Barthel 1996, Slack 2009; Pierandrea Brichetti in litt, Łukasz Ławicki in litt, Gunnlaugur Pétursson in litt; Dutch Birding 38: 465, 2016).

Brittannië (12+)
9-11 oktober 1975, Fair Isle, Shetland, Schotland, eerste-winter mannetje (ringvangst)
19 oktober 1997, Osmington Mills, Dorset, Engeland, eerste-winter mannetje
25 oktober 2001, Bixter, Mainland, Shetland, Schotland, mannetje (vers dood gevonden als verkeersslachtoffer)
17-19 oktober 2003, Fair Isle, Shetland, Schotland, eerste-winter vrouwtje
23-27 oktober 2005, Fair Isle, Shetland, Schotland, eerste-winter vrouwtje (ringvangst)
26-28 oktober 2006, Fulwell, Durham, Engeland, eerste-winter
5 oktober 2007, Foula, Shetland, Schotland, mannetje
18-30 oktober 2011, Gulberwick, Mainland, Shetland, Schotland, eerste-winter mannetje
23 oktober tot 3 november 2012, Fair Isle, Shetland, Schotland, vrouwtje
21-23 oktober 2013, Fair Isle, Shetland, Schotland, eerste-winter mannetje
3-8 oktober 2014, Levenwick, Mainland, Shetland, Schotland, mannetje
20 oktober 2015, Fair Isle, Shetland, Schotland, eerste-winter vrouwtje
*18 november 2016, Fair Isle, Shetland, Schotland, mannetje

Denemarken (2)
20 oktober 1985, Christiansø, Bornholm, eerste-winter vrouwtje (ringvangst)
30 oktober tot 2 november 1995, Christiansø, Bornholm, eerste-winter mannetje (ringvangst)

Duitsland (1)
5-12 november 1995, Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, eerste-winter mannetje

Estland (1)
25 mei 1974, Suur-Kõbaja laid, Hanila, Läänemaa, adult mannetje

Finland (3)
15 oktober 1991, Västra Norrskär, Mustasaari, eerste-winter vrouwtje (ringvangst)
12 oktober 2000, Hietasaari, Oulu
27 oktober 2005, Rödsö, Kokkola, eerste-winter vrouwtje (dood gevonden in nestkast van Dwerguil *Glaucidium passerinum*)

IJsland (1)
8 november 1943, Kvísker í Öræfum, Austur-Skaftafellssýsla, eerste-winter mannetje (verzameld, balg in Náttúruminjasafn Íslands, Reykjavík)

Italië (6; 7 exemplaren)
c 1883, waarschijnlijk Valtellina, Lombardia, mannetje (verzameld)
15 december 1886, Montecchia, Colli Euganei, Veneto, mannetje (verzameld, balg in Museo Zoologico La Specola, Firenze)
10 december 1898, Vicenza, Veneto, twee adulte mannetjes (verzameld, balg in Museo Civico di Zoologia, Roma)
8 oktober 1899, Camposampiero, Veneto, mannetje (verzameld, balg in Museo di Storia Naturale, Verona)
januari 1903, Empoli, Toscana (verzameld)
23 december 1906, Rosarno, Calabria, adult mannetje (verzameld, balg in het Museo ISPRA Ozzano dell'Emilia, Bologna)

Letland (1)
3 november 2016, Lauteri, Salacgriva, eerste-winter vrouwtje (verzameld)

Malta (1)
25 januari 2004, Rabat, eerste-winter vrouwtje (ringvangst)

Nederland (1)
begin januari tot 12 april 2016, Hoogwoud, Noord-Holland, eerste-winter mannetje

Noorwegen (2)
6 oktober 2005, Utsira, Rogaland, eerste-winter vrouwtje (ringvangst)
1 november 2008, Utsira, Rogaland, eerste-winter vrouwtje (ringvangst)

Slovenië (1)
24 oktober 2013, Ormož, eerste-winter mannetje (ringvangst)

geringd, twee dood gevonden en acht op andere wijze verzameld (waarvan zeven in Italië). Alleen de Nederlandse vogel was een echte 'long-stayer' (meer dan drie maanden); 10 exemplaren verbleven meerdere dagen (variërend van drie tot 13 dagen) en de andere slechts één dag. De beste locaties in Europa zijn Fair Isle, Shetland, Schotland (ten minste zes gevallen); Mainland, Shetland (drie); Christiansø, Denemarken (twee); en Utsira, Noorwegen (twee). Maar liefst 17 gevallen stammen uit de afgelopen 16 jaar (2000-16) en de soort is jaarlijks vastgesteld sinds 2011. Daarnaast zijn er vier gevallen uit de 19e eeuw in Frankrijk (1826, 1829, 1845, '19e eeuw') en één in Denemarken

(volwassen mannetje dood aangetroffen in Kopenhagen op c 20 november 1990), die in 'Categorie E' zijn geplaatst ('ontsnapt').

Dankzegging
Wij danken Christian Brinkman voor uitleg over groeibanen en verwijzingen naar relevante literatuur; Frank Neijts voor links naar websites van vogelhouders; Vincent Hart en Hisko de Vries voor informatie over www.waarneming.nl; Mark van der Capellen, Hanneke de Boer en René Bruinsma voor het gebruik van hun woonkamer en balkon; Gerald Driessens voor zijn veldschetsen; en Leo Boon, Julian Bosch, Rob Halff, Alain Hancel, Arno ten Hoeve, Karel Hoogteyling, Eric Menkveld, Marten Miske, Chris van Rijswijk en Martin van der Schalk voor het gebruik van hun foto's. Pierandrea Brichetti en Gunnlaugur Pétursson leverden gegevens voor het overzicht van WP-gevallen. The Sound Approach verschafte informatie over de analyse van de zang.

Summary
Siberian Rubythroat at Hoogwoud in January-April 2016 On 15 January 2016, photographs posted on Facebook of an unidentified passerine in a village garden at Hoogwoud, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, clearly showed a male Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope*. The news was spread and, after the exact location had been traced, the bird was found by birders just before dark. Apparently, it had been present for more than a week. Arrangements were made for the next day, with birders being allowed to watch the bird from inside the living room overviewing the little garden. On 16 January, c 400 birders in groups of 10 visited the house to see the bird eating mealworms, and it was also briefly watched when it made visits to other gardens. The same happened on 17 January. In the following months, the bird became a regular visitor to a public footpath adjacent to the garden and was visited by a few 1000 birders from all over Europe. From 23 January onwards, it was regularly heard singing a soft and quiet plastic song consisting of imitations of species occurring in Siberia, becoming louder from late March. It remained until 12 April. The remaining, small pale tips on some wing-coverts and tertials combined with the red throat indicated that it was a second-calendar-year male.

This was the first record for the Netherlands. There have been at least 32 previous records in Europe (outside European Russia), mostly in October-November (table 1, figure 2). The 32 records relate to 33 individuals (one concerns two adult males together in Italy). There have been 20 records in October (peak in the second and third decade), at least four in November, three in December, three in January and one in May (by date of discovery). At least 19 were aged as first-winter and four were adults (age not reported in other birds). Nine have been ringed, two found dead and eight collected otherwise (of which seven in Italy). Only the Dutch bird was a true long-stayer (more than three months); 10 individuals stayed for more than one day (ranging from three to 13 days) and others only a single day. The species' best sites have been Fair Isle, Shetland, Scotland (at least six records); Mainland, Shetland (three); Christiansø, Denmark (two); and Utsira, Norway (two). Of all records, 18 are from 2000-16 and the species has been recorded annually since 2011. In addition, there are four records from the 19th century in France (1826, 1829, 1845, '19th century') and one in Denmark (adult male found dead at Copenhagen on c 20 November 1990) which have been placed in Category E ('presumed escapes').

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Western Meadowlark on Chukotka, Russia, in July 2004

Arkhipov & Ławicki (2016) listed the only record of Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta* outside North America, in Russia. As the year and period listed in that paper were incorrect and because the record has not been fully documented outside Russia (and may be cited in future literature with reference to vagrants to the Palearctic region), I consider it timely to publish this important record.

Western Meadowlark breeds on the west side of North America south to the Gulf Coast and Mexico and north into Central Alberta and British Colombia just north of Vancouver in western Canada (del Hoyo et al 2011). It is not a species prone to long distance vagrancy, with 11 records in Alaska up to 2004 (Jack Withrow in litt) and c 20 records to date. Most were in the south-east and all but one in autumn. So, the discovery of one near Provideniya, Chukotka, Russia, on 2 July 2004 (not 'last decade of June 2002', as stated in Arkhipov & Ławicki 2016), the first for the Palearctic region, was highly noteworthy. Even more curious was the presence of a brood-patch.

In June-July 2004, I was a member of an expedition to locate breeding Spoon-billed Sandpipers *Calidris pygmea* on Chukotka as part of a survey organised by Russian researchers led by Evgeny Syroechkovskiy. This was at a time when Spoon-billed Sandpipers were not considered as seriously threatened as we subsequently found them to be on that trip.

On 2 July 2004, towards the end of our expedition, we were heading back to Provideniya. After 6 h, we reached Lesovskogo Cape at the mouth of Provideniya Bay (64°21'31''N, 173°29'59''W). We had planned to meet a small boat to finish our journey but it did not turn up. So, I decided to survey the area for Spoon-billed Sandpipers. I waded through a river checking tundra pools when, suddenly, I saw a meadowlark species fly up from the grass in front of me and land in distant long grass. Realising that it would be new for the Palearctic, I called ES on my radio to help me get views of the salient features to clinch its identification. Western Meadowlark was the obvious candidate, being the closest geographically. However, with birds, you can take nothing for granted, so I needed to be sure. I tried several times to get close for a better view. However, the bird would flush long before I was near and then land out of sight in long grass, never in the open. I wanted to see the face pattern and amount of white in the tail but soon realised that the only way I had a hope of doing this was to grab flight photographs – remember that these were the days when we used film and the idea of using a camera as an identification tool to check the features on a computer screen, was unheard of. But I had just bought an early generation digital camera too. That said, I still could not rattle off 100s of pictures, because I had no access to electricity for charging batteries or downloading cards. I did manage a couple of record shots but thought there was not enough detail to be 100% sure of the identification.

At that time, it was pretty much the policy of Russian scientists to obtain a specimen for any important record to be formally accepted. I had been pleased that no birds had been killed at all during our expedition but our leader knew that this was such an important record that he had little choice but to try and obtain it. So, it was with great reluctance that the expedition leader walked into the grass with his rifle. The meadowlark sprang up in front of him and was taken so quickly in mid-air that I first assumed that he had missed it. On examination, the meadowlark showed a brood patch and enlarged cloaca, so we felt even more guilty as perhaps it had a mate and was breeding? I searched further but no more birds were seen, nor the following day as we had to camp overnight. The bird was skinned in Provedeniya, where we confirmed the identity as Western Meadowlark, and it was taken to Moscow where it remains at ZMMSU (plate 330 in Arkhipov & Ławicki 2016).

Separation of the two North American meadowlark species is difficult, even in the hand. The most reliable way is by song (Sibley 2014). In general, Eastern Meadowlark *S magna* shows white on four outer tail-feathers on each side. Western Meadowlark shows less white in the tail than Eastern and this individual shows an amount towards the 'least white' end of the scale. Few (if any?) Easterns would show so little white as this bird. In addition, Eastern tends to show more rufous, particularly in the wing, thicker dark bars on the central tail-feathers, more buff on the flank and more continuous flank streaking (rather than the spots shown by this bird) (Pyle 1997, Sibley 2014).

To date, there has been no other record in the Palearctic region. If I had to predict which vagrant passerines I was most likely to come across, thrushes, sparrows and warblers would have been top of the list, with Western Meadowlark not on my radar at all. So, it will always be one of my better rare bird finds, but I would have gladly






38-43 Western Meadowlark / Geelkaakweidespreeuw *Sturnella neglecta*, Provideniya, Chukotka, Russia, 2 July 2004 *(Phil Palmer)*

Western Meadowlark on Chukotka, Russia, in July 2004

44-45 Western Meadowlark / Geelkaakweidespreeuw *Sturnella neglecta*, Provideniya, Chukotka, Russia, 2 July 2004 *(Phil Palmer)*

swapped it for a nice red Spoon-billed Sandpiper on that trip.

My thanks go to ES for allowing me to accompany him on this trip and who will always remain a great friend. Thanks also go to Łukasz Ławicki for his comments and information about Alaskan records and to Jack Withrow for his list of Alaskan records up to 2004.

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Corrigenda

In de Engelse samenvatting van de DB Actueel-tekst over de Bruine Lijster *Turdus eunomus* (Dutch Birding 38: 488, 2016) staat een typefout in een jaartal in de laatste regel. De eerste vogel van de twee oude gevallen werd verzameld in 1899 (niet 1989). REDACTIE

In the summary of the item on the Dusly Thrush *Turdus eunomus* (Dutch Birding 38: 488, 2016) a typo was made in a given year (last line). The first bird of the two old records was collected in 1899 (not 1989). EDITORS

In the paper 'Nearctic passerines in Russia' (Dutch Birding 38: 201-214, 2016) the wrong date was mentioned on pp 207 (plate 330), 209 and 214. The Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta* was observed and collected on 2 July 2004 (cf Dutch Birding 39: 32-34, 2017). EDITORS

Redactiemededelingen

Naamgeving van taxa in Dutch Birding

Voor taxonomie, naamgeving en volgorde van in Nederland waargenomen taxa houdt Dutch Birding zich aan de beslissingen van de Commissie Systematiek Nederlandse Avifauna (CSNA) (Sangster et al 1999, 2003, 2009). Dit is een gevolg van afspraken tussen Dutch Birding Association (DBA), Nederlandse Ornithologische Unie (NOU) en Sovon Vogelonderzoek Nederland die werden gemaakt in het kader van de publicatie van *Avifauna van Nederland* (van den Berg & Bosman 1999, 2001, Bijlsma et al 2001). Voor taxonomie van niet in Nederland vastgestelde taxa wordt de derde en vierde editie van 'Howard and Moore' (Dickinson 2003, Dickinson & Remsen 2013) gevolgd, behoudens aanvullingen en wijzigingen gepresenteerd in redactiemededelingen in de eerste nummers van Dutch Birding-jaargangen. De volgorde van families van non-passerines (en de meeste taxa in deze families) sluit aan op Cracrafts bijdrage in Dickinson & Remsen (2013) en Sangster et al (2013). In de in 2008 door DBA gepubliceerde lijst van vogelnamen (van den Berg 2008) zijn alle redactiemededelingen van Dutch Birding jaargang 19-30 (1997-2008) verwerkt en in de digitale versie op www.dutchavifauna.nl (http://tinyurl.com/hfwra7b) tevens die van 2009-16 (Redactie Dutch Birding 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016) en 2017. In afwachting van beslissingen van de CSNA is Dickinson & Christidis (2014) niet in deze mededeling verwerkt, behoudens voor de wijzigingen genoemd door Sangster et al (2016).

Onder het West-Palearctische gebied ('de WP') wordt sinds 2013 in Dutch Birding een groter gebied verstaan dan voorheen, namelijk Europa met inbegrip van Macaronesië, alle landen die grenzen aan de Middellandse of Zwarte Zee, het Arabische schiereiland (sensu lato) en Iran. Aangezien landsgrenzen worden gevolgd komen de definities van dit gebied wel in grote lijnen maar niet precies overeen met de door, eg, Martins & Hirschfeld (1998) of Mitchell (2017) gedefinieerde WP. In tabel 1 staan nieuwe wijzigingen in de naamgeving van WP-taxa vermeld die per 1 januari 2017 in Dutch Birding worden doorgevoerd. Aan de lijst van vogeltaxa binnen het WP-gebied kan een aantal worden toegevoegd: Stepperegenwulp *Numenius phaeopus alboaxillaris* (Jemen; Callan Cohen pers meded), Lepelbekstrandloper *Calidris pygmaea* (Oekraïne, verzameld op 20 augustus 1952; Lysenko 1974, Grishchenko 2004, Mitchell 2017), Vegameeuw *Larus vegae* (Ierland, 10 januari 2016; Killian Mullarney in litt), Brahmaanse Wouw *Haliastur indus* (Oman, 20 november 2016), Steenboszanger *Phylloscopus griseolus* (Denemarken, 30 mei 2016) en Toendragors *Spizelloides arborea* (Zweden, 12 november 2016). Soorten die werden herzien en verwijderd betroffen, eg, Vorkstaartkoningstiran *Tyrannus savana* en Lousiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla*. Zie Redactie Dutch Birding (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016) voor andere recentelijk toegevoegde soorten.

Voor Engelse vogelnamen volgt Dutch Birding sinds 1 januari 2008 de aanbevelingen van het Internationaal Ornithologisch Congres (IOC) (Gill & Wright 2006, Gill & Donsker 2017). Aanvullingen en wijzigingen worden door het IOC op internet gepubliceerd en veranderingen in Engelse namen worden overgenomen door Dutch Birding (recentelijk bijvoorbeeld Common Loon *Gavia immer*, Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*, American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus* en Shorelark *Eremophila flava*).

De redactie dankt Peter de Knijff, Kees Roselaar en George Sangster voor hun assistentie.

Summary

Taxa names in Dutch Birding From 1 January 2017, Dutch Birding will use revised names or new taxonomic treatments for taxa listed in table 1. For English vernacular names, updates by the International Ornithological Congress are followed. New taxa documented in 2016 for a WP region defined as Europe with Macaronesia, all countries bordering the Black and Mediterranean Sea, the Arabian Peninsula (sensu lato) and Iran, include Steppe Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus alboaxillaris* (Yemen), Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmaea* (Ukraine; collected on 20 August 1952), Vega Gull *Larus vegae* (Ireland), Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* (Oman), Sulphur-bellied Warbler *Phylloscopus griseolus* (Denmark) and American Tree Sparrow *Spizelloides arborea* (Sweden). For Dutch Birding's digital WP checklist on www.dutchavifauna.nl, see http://tinyurl.com/hfwra7b.

Verwijzingen

Adriaens, P & Gibbins, C 2016. Identification of the *Larus canus* complex. Dutch Birding 38: 1-64.

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TABEL 1 Vanaf 1 januari 2017 door Dutch Birding gebruikte gewijzigde wetenschappelijke namen van West-Palearctische (WP) taxa / Revised scientific names for Western Palearctic (WP) taxa used in Dutch Birding from 1 January 2017

Amerikaans Purperhoen / Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica* (was *Porphyrio martinicus*)
Zie / see Schodde & Bock (2016).

Kaapverdisch Stormvogeltje / Cape Verde Storm Petrel *Hydrobates jabejabe* (was *Oceanodroma jabejabe*)
Madeirastormvogeltje / Madeiran Storm Petrel *Hydrobates castro* (was *Oceanodroma castro*)
Monteiro's Stormvogeltje / Monteiro's Storm Petrel *Hydrobates monteiroi* (was *Oceanodroma monteiroi*)
Japans Stormvogeltje / Matsudaira's Storm Petrel *Hydrobates matsudairae* (was *Oceanodroma matsudairae*)
Vaal Stormvogeltje / Leach's Storm Petrel *Hydrobates leucorhoa* (was *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)
Chinees Stormvogeltje / Swinhoe's Storm Petrel *Hydrobates monorhis* (was *Oceanodroma monorhis*)
Een fylogenetische studie van montichondriaal en nucleair DNA laat zien dat het genus *Oceanodroma* niet monofyletisch is (Wallace et al 2017). Parelgrijs Stormvogeltje *Oceanodroma furcata*, de typesoort van *Oceanodroma*, bleek nauwer verwant aan Stormvogeltje *Hydrobates pelagicus* dan aan andere *Oceanodroma*-soorten (cf Penhallurick & Wink 2004, Robertson et al 2011). De naam *Hydrobates* heeft prioriteit over *Oceanodroma* en daarom dienen alle soorten in Hydrobatidae in het genus *Hydrobates* te worden opgenomen.

A phylogenetic study of mitochondrial and nuclear DNA sequences shows that the genus *Oceanodroma* is not monophyletic (Wallace et al 2017). Fork-tailed Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma furcata*, the type species of *Oceanodroma*, was found to be more closely related to European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* than to other species of *Oceanodroma* (cf Penhallurick & Wink 2004, Robertson et al 2011). The name *Hydrobates* has priority over *Oceanodroma*. Thus, all species in Hydrobatidae are placed in the genus *Hydrobates*.

Oostelijke Willet / Eastern Willet *Tringa semipalmata* (was *Tringa semipalmata semipalmata*)
Westelijke Willet / Western Willet *Tringa inornata* (was *Tringa semipalmata inornata*)
Zie / see Oswald et al (2016).

Amerikaanse Stormmeeuw / Short-billed Gull *Larus brachyrhynchus* (was *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*)
Zie / see Sibley & Monroe (1997), Olsen & Larsson (2003), Sternkopf (2011), Adriaens & Gibbins (2016).

Marokkaanse Kleine Karekiet / Ambiguous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus baeticatus ambiguus*
Olsson et al (2016) onderscheidden verscheidene groepen in kleine karekiet sensu lato (Kleine Karekiet / Kortvleugelkarekiet *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* / *baeticatus*). Hiervan vallen Kaspische Kleine Karekiet *fuscus*, Mangrovekarekiet *avicenniae* en de nieuw beschreven Egyptische Karekiet *amon* met nominaat *scirpaceus* onder Kleine Karekiet *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* (Gill & Donsker 2017, cf Hering et al 2016). Tot Kortvleugelkarekiet *A baeticatus* worden zes taxa gerekend waarvan het herrezen *ambiguus* in de WP (Zuidwest-Europa en Noordwest-Afrika) voorkomt; Marokkaanse Karekiet *A b ambiguus* werd voorheen als een synoniem van nominaat Kleine Karekiet beschouwd, waarvan dit taxon genetisch en fenotypisch verschilt (Gill & Donsker 2017, cf Jiguet et al 2010).

Olsson et al (2016) recognized several groups of reed warbler sensu lato (Eurasian / African Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* / *baeticatus*). Of these, nominate *scirpaceus*, Caspian *fuscus*, Mangrove *avicenniae* and the newly described Egyptian *amon* are included in Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* (Gill & Donsker 2017, cf Hering et al 2016). Six taxa are included in African Reed Warbler *A baeticatus* of which the resurrected *ambiguus* occurs in the WP (south-western Europe and north-western Africa); formerly, Ambiguous Reed Warbler *A b ambiguus* had been synonymized with nominate Eurasian Reed Warbler but differs genetically and phenotypically (Gill & Donsker 2017, cf Jiguet et al 2010).

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Varia

Pallas's Sandgrouse

More than 50 years ago, in December 1964, I (Edward van IJzendoorn) was a youngster who had just started birdwatching. I had been informed by postcard that a Pallas's Sandgrouse *Syrrhaptes paradoxus* was present in the coastal dunes near Zandvoort, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, c 30 km from my home (see photograph in van den Berg & Bosman 2001). It was attracted to seeds put out for Common Pheasants *Phasianus colchicus* by local hunters. I went there and waited for the bird to appear but half frozen I left after a few hours. A week later, I was informed, again by postcard, that the bird had shown up a quarter of an hour after I had gone. Just a quarter of an hour... At the time, I was too young to realise what I had missed but growing older that changed. From 1964 onwards, I always stayed searching for a quarter of an hour longer at a twitching scene than I normally would have done and I would always search up to half a kilometre further as well. This proved a fruitful way of birding and provided me with many good findings – which I would never have experienced if I had seen the Pallas's in 1964... So the species' scientific name *paradoxus* became clear to me. Further, I was helped to forget the Pallas's dip by the fact that I was hardly ever reminded of it: for many years, birders never saw photographs of Pallas's, which simply did not seem to exist. There were only some obscure drawings in the back of the birding books. The

46 Pallas's Sandgrouse / Steppehoen *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*, male, between Zaysan lake and Tarbagatai mountains, East Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan, 25 May 2014 *(Ralph Martin)*

47 Pallas's Sandgrouse / Steppehoenders *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*, male (right) and female, between Zaysan lake and Tarbagatai mountains, East Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan, 25 May 2014 *(Ralph Martin)*

species was not seen by birders and observations in Europe appeared to have become something of the past.

But times changed. Travelling to the former Soviet Union became possible and photographic equipment improved enormously. On 25 May 2014, Daniel Honold and Ralph Martin were birding on the steppes between Zaysan lake and the Tarbagatai mountains in north-eastern Kazakhstan. While driving on a dirt track, they flushed several flocks of Pallas's Sandgrouse. Around mid-morning, they came across a small pool and RM decided to give it a chance and to hopefully photograph the sandgrouse at the pool. Laying camouflaged, soon eight Pallas's landed right in front of his camera and slowly walked to the water. They were bathing and drinking for some minutes, giving RM the opportunity to take the excellent photographs shown here.

The plumage characters of both males and females are well visible. The typically elongated outer primary and central tail-feathers are shown, especially in the male, which is also identified by the lack of dark spots on head and neck-side, making the nice ochre parts stand out. Also visible are the mostly unmarked wing-coverts and the delicate silvery-white, narrow black-scaled lower breast-band of the male. Only the female shows a thin dark throat-band. Both sexes have a dark band across the belly above their densely feathered feet (Madge & McGowan 2002).

The sandgrouse flew off but just few minutes later, a new group arrived. However, the birds had hardly settled when RM was alarmed by dull sounds, approaching from behind. He recognized the rumble as the noise of a large group of big-hoofed animals and was put in a dilemma: stand up and flush the birds or just hope that nothing would happen? His pondering did not last long, as the animals quickly got close. In no time, cows were all around and while RM was still lying down, a horse was nosing his feet. Two cowboys had driven their cattle to the puddle to let them drink. The men were quite astonished when suddenly a camouflaged figure with a large camera stood among their animals. After a short conversation, the matter was cleared. The sandgrouse, however, did not return.

Some of the photographs show the typical habit of sandgrouse to collect water for their young with the feathers of the belly. Another remarkable behaviour which is barely described in the literature is well illustrated here: three sandgrouse, walking away from the pool, suddenly and for no clear reason started raising and spreading the feathers of vent and tail. Probably it was the expression of anxiety. Perhaps plate 47 reveals the origin of the tail displaying movements, because the male on the right appears to prevent the feathers of vent and tail becoming wet while drinking. Cramp (1985) mentions similar behaviour on two occasions with different captive birds in the 19th century. Glutz von Blotzheim et al (1977) do not mention it, neither for Pallas's Sandgrouse nor for other species for sandgrouse. However, Arnoud van den Berg (in litt) photographed this behaviour in other sandgrouse species in Morocco, namely Spotted Sandgrouse *P senegallus* and Crowned Sandgrouse *P coronatus*.

Distribution and movements

Pallas's Sandgrouse breeds and winters in steppe regions of the Caspian region and Kyrgyzstan to Manchuria, China. Once known for its irruptive movements west to western Europe and east to Japan, the species still was a regular visitor to Europe in the late 19th century, even resulting in local breeding in some years (eg, in the Netherlands in 1863 and 1888). Massive invasion years involving 100s of birds in western Europe were 1863-64 and 1888-89. Both invasions started in May and lasted until the following year. Apart from the Netherlands, there were also late 19th century breeding attempts or even records in Belgium, Britain, Denmark, Germany, Poland and Sweden, especially after the invasion of 1888. The causes of invasions are not known but may have had to do with food shortages in the breeding areas. In the 20th century, the species became much rarer, although a small invasion occurred in 1908. In the Netherlands, 20th century records were in June 1908, November 1952, October and November-December 1964 (two), May-December 1969 (three records involving four birds) and December 1972 (www.dutchavifauna.nl). In 1964 and 1969, individuals were also seen in Britain (one in Kent, England, in December 1964, one in Shetland, Scotland, in May 1969 and two in Northumberland, England, on 5-6 September 1969; Dymond et al 1989). In 1960, a small influx occurred in France (three records of four birds) and, in 1961, one was observed in Belgium. Also in 1969, there were two records of four birds in Finland, one in Denmark (trapped) and one in Sweden. In 1972, again one was recorded in Denmark (Slack 2009). Since 1975, only very few birds have been recorded in Europe: two on Isle of May, Fife, Scotland, in May 1975; on Helgoland, Germany, in July 1983; seven at Drozdowo, Podlaskie, Poland, in April 1990; on Mainland, Shetland, Scotland, in May-

48 Pallas's Sandgrouse / Steppehoen *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*, female, between Zaysan lake and Tarbagatai mountains, East Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan, 25 May 2014 *(Ralph Martin)*

49 Pallas's Sandgrouse / Steppehoen *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*, male, between Zaysan lake and Tarbagatai mountains, East Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan, 25 May 2014 *(Ralph Martin)*. Collecting water with belly-feathers.

50 Pallas's Sandgrouse / Steppehoenders *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*, females, between Zaysan lake and Tarbagatai mountains, East Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan, 25 May 2014 *(Ralph Martin)*. Displaying vent and tail-feathers.

51 Pallas's Sandgrouse / Steppehoen *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*, females, between Zaysan lake and Tarbagatai mountains, East Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan, 25 May 2014 *(Ralph Martin)*

52 Pallas's Sandgrouse / Steppehoenders *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*, males (left and right) and females (centre), between Zaysan lake and Tarbagatai mountains, East Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan, 25 May 2014 *(Ralph Martin)*

June 1990; in Nord-Trøndelag, Norway, in July-November 1990; at Kuusamo, Finland, in June 1992; and at Askola, Lappeenranta, Finland, in July-August 2010 (Slack 2009; cf Dutch Birding 32: 336, 2010).

Of all Asian vagrants to Europe, Pallas's Sandgrouse remains one of the most enigmatic. With the decline of the species in its breeding areas, the chances of large-scale invasions must be nil now, although the odd bird apparently still finds its way to Europe. For birders who do not want to wait for such an occasion, a visit to the breeding areas in Russia (Altai), Kazakhstan or Mongolia or at Chaka salt lake, Qinghai, China, is an option; although birds can be hard to find, due to their nomadic behaviour, the species is widespread and encountered on most birding trips. To finally settle the matter for myself and inspired by Ralphs photographs, I went to the Russian Altai and Mongolia in spring 2016, where I saw several of this wonderful species. I saw the first two in the eastern part of the Altai Republic of Russia, where a foraging pair showed well in the steppe south of Kosj-Agatsj. This implied celebrations and final relaxation with some shots of wodka.

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WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting Western Palearctic birds reported mainly from **December 2016 to late January 2017**. The reports are largely unchecked and their publication here does not imply future acceptance by a rarities committee. Observers are requested to submit their records to each country's rarities committee. Corrections are welcome and will be published.

GEESE TO DUCKS A **Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens* photographed at Sete Cidades, São Miguel, on 20 December was the fifth for the Azores. Fox et al (Ibis 159: 66-75, 2017) used multi-element feather stable isotope analyses to find out that **Taiga Bean Geese** *A fabalis* from different breeding ranges have separate wintering areas; those wintering in northern Denmark, England and Scotland originate from Norway and Sweden, those wintering in southern/north-eastern Denmark and southern Sweden originate from northern Fennoscandia and western Russia, and those wintering in eastern Germany and Poland presumably originate from western Siberia. Two adult **Greenland White-fronted Geese** *A albifrons flavirostris* at Seewinkel, Burgenland, on 3 December constituted the third record for Austria. An adult male **Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata* photographed west of Songbong, North Korea, on 27 November was presumably the first for Korea. An adult male was seen c 120 km inland east of Le Mans, Sarthe, France, on 16 January. The second **Asian White-winged Scoter** *M deglandi stejnegeri* for Spain was an adult photographed at Santa Pola, Alicante, Valencia, on 6-20 December (the first was in December 2011). The previous winter's **American White-winged Scoter** *M d deglandi* was back at Keflavík, Iceland, on 11 January. An adult male **Black Scoter** *M americana* stayed off Goswick, Northumberland, England, from 29 December through mid-January. For the third consecutive winter, the male off Rossbeigh, Kerry, Ireland, returned on 25 October and remained into January. The fifth **Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola* for Iceland at Sandgerði from 9 November stayed into January. In Scotland, the male **Hooded Merganser** *Lophodytes cucullatus* from Kilbirnie Loch, Ayrshire, in October-November was relocated at Lochwinnoch, Clyde, where it stayed from December through mid-January. Another was seen on Terceira, Azores, on 16 December. A **Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator* at Rajaveli lake, Vasai, Palghar, Maharashtra, on 23 December was the first for India. A first-winter **Harlequin Duck** *Histrionicus histrionicus* photographed on Irtysh river at Öskemen, East Kazakhstan, on 13-20 December was the first for Kazakhstan and Central Asia. In China, a record

53 Ivory Gull / Ivoormeeuw *Pagophila eburnea*, adult, Hallig Hooge, Schleswig Holstein, Germany, 31 December 2016 *(Jens Voß)*

290 **Baer's Pochards** *Aythya baeri* (78% males) and at least five Baer's Pochard x Ferruginous Duck *A baeri x nyroca* hybrids were counted at Hengshui Hu, Hebei, on 9 December. A female **Gadwall** *Anas strepera* at Barragem de Poilao, Santiago, on 8 January was the first for the Cape Verde Islands. For 24 European countries, Guillemain et al (Wildfowl 66: 126-141, 2016) estimated that an annual total of c 5.6 million ducks were hunted in the 2013/14 season; the majority of these were shot in France (more than 2 million), Britain (c 1 million), Denmark (c 600 000), Finland (c 450 000), Germany (c 350 000) and Spain (c 350 000). Almost half of them concerned **Mallard** *A platyrhynchos* (more than 2.5 million), while also high numbers were shot of **Eurasian Teal** *A crecca* (c 590 000), **Eurasian Wigeon** *A penelope* (c 245 000) and **Northern Shoveler** *A clypeata* (c 120 000). In Scotland, the resident male **American Black Duck** *A rubripes* remained at Strontian, Highland, through December-January. Other males remained into December at Ballymote, Sligo, Ireland, and Torekov, Skåne, Sweden. In the Azores, two **Wood Ducks** *Aix sponsa* were seen at Sete Cidades from 24 December.

FLAMINGOS TO NIGHTJARS On 4-5 January, an adult **Lesser Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus minor* was staying for its third consecutive winter at Sulaibikhat bay, Kuwait. In France, the **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podylimbus podiceps* in Maine-et-Loir from July-August was present at Armaillé from 4 December onwards. Long-stayers at Estanque del Matorral, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, and on São Miguel, Azores, remained into January. A **Horned Grebe** *Podiceps auritus* off Lady's Mile on 14 November was the third for Cyprus. The fourth for Israel stayed at Ma'agan Michael on 15-17 December. An **Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis* shot at Larnaca on c 15 December was the first for Cyprus. A first-winter **Rufous Turtle Dove** *S o meena* stayed at Revtangen, Rogaland, Norway, from 10 December to at least 13 January (it was ringed on 14 December). Two adult **Laughing Doves** *S senegalensis* photographed at Byala between 27 March and 1 April 2016 were the first to be documented for Bulgaria. A **Sykes's Nightjar** *Caprimulgus mahrattensis* photographed at Muntasar oasis on 12 December was the first for Oman and the fifth for the 'greater' WP outside the species' breeding range in Iran; the previous records were in the United Arab Emirates between December and February (cf Dutch Birding 23: 99, plate 120, 2001).

RAILS TO BUSTARDS A **Sora** *Porzana carolina* photographed on São Miguel on 9 January was the sixth for the Azores. The first for mainland Portugal was found at Silves, Algarve, in early January. In western France, a **Western Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio* was seen at Le Mont-Saint-Michel, Manche, on 20 January. A first-winter **Allen's Gallinule** *P alleni* was found exhausted at Palma, Mallorca, Balearic Islands, Spain, on 6 December (later released in the same place). Another exhausted first-winter picked up at Las Nieves, Gran Canaria, on 10 January was the fourth for the Canary Islands. The **American Coot** *Fulica americana* remained at Balranald, North Uist, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, from 11 November to at least 12 January. In the Azores, three were seen at Sete Cidades on 29 December. In Iran, a **Siberian Crane** *Grus leucogeranus* returned for its ninth winter to Mazandaran province on 9 November. In the Netherlands, 21 territorial pairs of **Common Crane** *G grus* were counted in 2016 (an increase from 18-19 in 2015); they were found at 10 sites in four provinces (Drenthe, Friesland, Gelderland and Overijssel), with most at Fochteloërveen, Drenthe/Friesland (eight) and Dwingelderveld, Drenthe (three). If accepted, a **Little Bustard** *Tetrax tetrax* at Fujairah on 1-3 December will be the first for the United Arab Emirates. The fourth for Cyprus was found at Paphos on 28 December and probably the same individual was photographed at Karpas on 6 January.

LOONS TO SHEARWATERS **Pacific Loons** *Gavia pacifica* were back at Penzance, Cornwall, England, from 18 December to at least 13 January (first reported in 2007) and Tawin, Galway, Ireland, from 19 November to at least 5 January (first reported in 2009). In Northumberland, a first-winter stayed at Blyth Estuary, East Chevington and Druridge Bay from 18 January onwards. A good number of **Common Loons** *G immer* was reported from November onwards inland in Europe with, eg, seven in Germany, three in Poland and one at Dolním Benešově, Czechia (9 December). A **Yellow-billed Loon** *G adamsii* at Balatonföldvár on 3-13 December was the first for Hungary. A juvenile at Plumlov dam near Prostejov on 24 and 30 December was the fifth for Czechia. In Germany, one was seen at Diemelsee, Hessen, on 14-28 December and another at Ammersee, Bayern, from 15 January. In Scotland, as many as 13 were counted off Papa Westray, Orkney, on 5 December. A juvenile stayed on the River Witham, Lincolnshire, England, from 20 January onwards. A near-adult **Black-browed Albatross** *Thalassarche melanophris* was reported off Rerwick Head, Mainland, Orkney, on 2 January. In December, the 66-year-old **Laysan Albatross** *Phoebastria immutabilis* ('Wisdom'; the oldest-known wild bird on the world) returned to lay an egg again in her colony on Midway Atoll in the Hawaiian archipelago of the North Pacific Ocean; ringed as an adult of at least five years old in 1956, she raised chicks almost annually since at least 2006, showing that fertility in birds does not disappear with age (cf Dutch Birding 35: 131, 2013). A **Great Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis* photographed swimming on Elbe river at Hamburg-Altona, Hamburg, on 18 December was (only) the third for Germany (previous ones were found dead on 30 August 1896 and 5 January 1988). A **Manx Shearwater** *P puffinus* flying past Bel Air on 4 November was the first for Guinea.

STORKS TO IBISES **Marabou Storks** *Leptoptilos crumenifer* were reported at Cabo de Gata, Almería, Spain, on 19 December, and at Istmo de la Pared, Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, on 25 December; there are 33 records of this species in Spain and the Canary Islands, in 'category A and D'. A **White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia* at Ribeira Grande, São Miguel, on 31 December was the third for the Azores. BOURC recently accepted an adult **Chinese Pond Heron** *Ardeola bacchus* at Eccles-on-Sea, Norfolk,

54 Spanish Imperial Eagle / Spaanse Keizerarend *Aquila adalberti*, immature, Lago di Massaciuccoli, Toscana, Italy, 9 January 2017 *(Daniele Occhiato)*

55 Yellow-billed Loon / Geelsnavelduiker *Gavia adamsii*, first-winter, Balatonföldvár, Balaton lake, Hungary, 3 December 2016 *(József Mészáros)*

56 Red-footed Booby / Roodpootgent *Sula sula*, immature, Atlantic Ocean, off Cape Verde Islands, 10 January 2017 *(René Pop)*

57 Sykes's Nightjar / Sykes' Nachtzwaluw *Caprimulgus mahrattensis*, Muntasar oasis, Oman, 12 December 2016 *(Albert Burgas)*

58 American Herring Gull / Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw *Larus smithsonianus*, third-winter, Portimão, Algarve, Portugal, 4 December 2016 *(Peter Adriaens)* **59** Forster's Tern / Forsters Stern *Sterna forsteri*, adult, Playa de Santa Cruz, Oleiros, A Coruña, Spain, 3 December 2016 *(David Calleja Marcos)* **60** Ring-billed Gull / Ringsnavelmeeuw *Larus delawarensis*, adult (front), with Mew Gull / Stormmeeuw *L canus*, Aktau, Mangystau, Kazakhstan, 3 December 2016 *(Anna Yasko)*

61 Sociable Lapwing / Steppekievit *Vanellus gregarius*, first-winter, Ebro delta, Tarragona, Spain, 27 December 2016 *(Rafael Armada)*

62 Red-necked Stint / Roodkeelstrandloper *Calidris ruficollis*, first-winter, Vejbystrand, Skåne, Sweden, 5 December 2016 *(Mattias Ullman)*

63 Killdeer / Killdeerplevier *Charadrius vociferus*, first-winter, Sandwick, Mainland, Shetland, Scotland, 13 December 2016 *(Hugh Harrop/shetlandwildlife.co.uk)*

64 Killdeer / Killdeerplevier *Charadrius vociferus*, first-winter, Bjørøya, Nord-Trøndelag, Norway, 24 December 2016 *(Wenche A L Dahle/norway-nature.com)*

on 31 October 2004 and later at East Dean, Hampshire, on 13 November 2004 as the first for Britain ('category A'); it pre-dates the one at Hythe and Saltwood, Kent, from 17 January to 13 March 2014. Possibly, relevant rarities committees will review the species' status in Finland, Hungary and Norway as well (cf Dutch Birding 38: 328, 2016). In Denmark, an adult photographed in Vestjylland on 21 June 2016 may have been the same individual as the one at Ronekilen, Norway, on 23 June (cf Dutch Birding 38: 326, plate 504, 2016). An influx of more than 100 **Cattle Egrets** *Bubulcus ibis* occurred in England and Ireland in December-January, with a large flock of 18 at Newquay, Cornwall. A **Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* was seen at São Miguel, Azores, on 27 December. A moribund **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* found exhausted at Kiratsi, Saaremaa, on 29 November was (only) the second for Estonia.

BOOBIES TO CORMORANTS The first **Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula* for Britain found exhausted in East Sussex, England, in September 2016 (and then taken into care at a wildlife rehabilitation centre) was transported in December to a nature reserve in the Cayman Islands; unfortunately, the young bird never recovered from its long journey and died before it could be released (cf Dutch Birding 38: 395, plate 603, 2016). In the Cape Verde Islands, up to 11 individuals were present on Raso in November, and three immatures were seen on 10 January from a boat sailing north of the Cape Verde Islands. A first-winter **Brown Booby** *S leucogaster* photographed off Las Puntas, El Hierro, on 2 January was the second for the Canary Islands (the first was in September 2012). Up to 18 **Pygmy Cormorants** *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* were recorded in Poland in December-January, including 13 at Bydgoszcz, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, on 17 December. Another three wintered in Germany at Concordiasee, Sachsen-Anhalt, from 16 December; at Illerstausee, Bayern, from 19 December; and at Niederwalgern, Hessen, from 29 December. In the Azores, two **Double-crested Cormorants** *P auritus* were seen at Lagoa das Furnas, São Miguel, on 28 December.

WADERS A first-winter **Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus* at Sandwick, Mainland, Shetland, Scotland, from 13 November remained until at least mid-January. The second for Norway, a first-winter at Bjørøya, Nord-Trøndelag, on 24-26 December, was found dead on 28 December (the first was on 10 April 1974). Five **Semipalmated Plovers** *C semipalmatus* were present on Terceira, Azores, on 6 and 16 December. In Spain, **Sociable Lapwings** *Vanellus gregarius* stayed at Vistabella, El Hondo, Alicante, from 25 October to 2 January; at Ebro delta, Tarragona, from 19 December to at least 15 January; and at Monzalbarba, Zaragoza, on 8 January. In Portugal one was present at Cavaleiro, Odemira, Alentejo, from 5 November until early December. In Kuwait, 11 individuals were found at Sulaibiya Pivot fields on 9 January. Alves et al (Sci Rep 6: 38154, 2016) used geolocators to discover that **Eurasian Whimbrels** *Numenius phaeopus* breeding in Iceland have rapid non-stop migrations to and from their wintering grounds in western Africa. In autumn 2012, four individuals flew non-stop to their wintering grounds covering distances of 3900-5500 km in just five days, achieving the fastest recorded speeds (64-87 km/h) for terrestrial birds on a long-distance flight over oceanic waters. On the return migration in spring 2013, two of these individuals paused for 11 and 15 days, covering a total migration distance of c 10 500 and 11 000 km, respectively; the other two birds, however, completed the return spring migration in a non-stop flight that made their total round trip c 7800 and 11 000 km. In England, the long-staying **Hudsonian Whimbrel** *N hudsonicus* at Perranuthnoe, Cornwall, from October 2015 remained into January. The first **Ruff** *Calidris pugnax* for Fiji was an adult male photographed on 25 December. The first-winter **Red-necked Stint** *C ruficollis* at Vejbystrand, Skåne, Sweden, from 13 November remained until 6 January. A re-examination of photographs of a juvenile stint at Ventry Harbour, Kerry, Ireland, on 6-7 September 2007 has established that it was not a Semipalmated Sandpiper *C pusilla*, as believed at the time, but a Red-necked Stint. A **Temminck's Stint** *C temminckii* at Strandfontein, Cape Town, from 26 November was the first for South Africa in 29 years. Kempenaers & Valcu (2017) discovered that male **Pectoral Sandpipers** *C melanotos* travel as far as 13 045 km in a four-week period, visiting up to 24 different potential breeding sites spread across the entire Arctic breeding range of the species, in order to have copulations with as many females as possible (eg, one male sired 22 offspring with six different females). The results suggest that males do not have a final breeding destination after their northbound migration in spring, instead making nomadic movements across the Arctic (http://tinyurl.com/jpav73o). The first for Mozambique was photographed at Maputo on 14 January. In the Azores, two **Wilson's Snipes** *Gallinago delicata* were seen on Terceira on 11 December.

GULLS The first **Black-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* for Pakistan was an adult photographed at Borith lake near Gojal Tehsil, Gilgit-Baltistan, on 12 December. An adult **Ivory Gull** *Pagophila eburnea* on Hallig Hooge, Schleswig-Holstein, from 30 December to 1 January and again at Westerhever, Tümlauer Bucht, from 15 January was the sixth for Germany (previous ones were in 1963 (three), 1980 and 1997); at the last site, its condition worsened by the day and it was picked up dead on 20 January. Davis et al (PLoS ONE 11 (12): e0166043, 2016; http://tinyurl.com/jpuke65) used geolocators to track 33 **Sabine's Gulls** *Xema sabini* breeding on Nasaruvaalik Island in the Canadian High Arctic to determine their migratory routes and wintering sites. The majority (93%) migrated west to the Pacific to winter off the coast of Peru; however, two birds migrated east to the Atlantic to winter off the coasts of Namibia and South Africa. Remarkably, the female of one pair migrated west to the Pacific while the male went east to the Atlantic; during autumn migration, mean travel distances were 14 578 km to the Pacific wintering site, and 14 615 km to the Atlantic wintering site, excluding movements during stopover periods. A **Franklin's Gull** *Larus pipixcan* at Slatina, Olt, on 26 December was the first for Romania.

65 Harlequin Duck / Harlekijneend *Histrionicus histrionicus*, first-winter, Irtysh river, Öskemen, East Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan, 18 December 2016 *(Askar Isabekov/birds.kz)* **66** Asian White-winged Scoter / Aziatische Grote Zeeeend *Melanitta deglandi stejnegeri*, adult male, Santa Pola, Alicante, Valencia, Spain, 9 December 2016 *(Rafael Armada)* **67** Yellow-billed Loon / Geelsnavelduiker *Gavia adamsii*, first-winter, Diemelsee, Hessen, Germany, 20 December 2016 *(Norbert Uhlhaas)* **68** Great Shearwater / Grote Pijlstormvogel *Puffinus gravis*, Hamburg-Altona, Hamburg, Germany, 18 December 2016 *(Nick Netzler)*

The fourth for Belgium was photographed at Mur de Lixhe, Liège, on 27-31 December and 4 January. If accepted, a first-winter flying past Asserbo Strand and Kikhavn, Sjælland, on 30 December will be the second for Denmark. Apparently, an **Audouin's Gull** *L audouinii* at Bel Air on 28 October was the first for Guinea. A first-year at Brickfields, Trinidad, Trinidad & Tobago, on 10-12 December was the first for the New World. The number of breeding pairs on Vendicari, Sicily, increased from the first in 2010 to 130 in 2016 (Avocetta 40: 71-76, 2016). Up to four first-winter **Relict Gulls** *L relictus* on the ice at Gulpo on 26-27 November constituted the second record for North Korea (the first concerned five individuals in the same area in late March 2014). An adult **Ring-billed Gull** *L delawarensis* photographed at the eastern Caspian coast of Aktau, Mangystau, on 7 January 2015 and again on 5 November 2015 and 3 and 29 December 2016 was the first for Kazakhstan and Central Asia. Returning adults turned up at Leverkusen-Hitdorf, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, on 30 December (fifth winter) and at Pruszków, Mazowieckie, Poland, on 6 January (third winter). An influx was noted in Britain (four) and Ireland (c 15) in late December and early January. In Bulgaria, a first-winter was photographed at Plovdiv on 14 January. An adult stayed at Wijchen, Gelderland, the Netherlands, from 19 January onwards. An adult **Kelp Gull** *L dominicanus* at Quidi Vidi lake, St John's, Newfoundland, on 23-25 December was the first for Canada. The first **European Herring Gull** *L argentatus* for Azerbaijan was found at Besh Barmag on 25 January 2016. An adult female **Yellow-legged Gull** *L michahellis* wearing a Polish colour-ring (trapped at a breeding colony near Warsaw on 11 May 2011) and photographed on a rubbish dump near Minsk on 13 August 2016 was the




69 Steppe Grey Shrike / Steppeklapekster *Lanius lahtora pallidirostris*, first-year, Andarax river mouth, Almería, Andalucia, Spain, 30 November 2016 *(Jesús Nieto Latorre)* **70** Steppe Grey Shrike / Steppeklapekster *Lanius lahtora pallidirostris*, first-year, Saline Joniche, Reggio Calabria, Italy, 22 December 2016 *(Giuseppe Martino)* **71** Franklin's Gull / Franklins Meeuw *Larus pipixcan*, adult, with Black-headed Gull / Kokmeeuw *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, Mur de Lixhe, Liège, Belgium, 27 December 2016 *(Robin Gailly)* **72** Thayer's Gull / Thayers Meeuw *Larus thayeri*, adult, Lago, Xove, Lugo, Spain, 13 January 2017 *(David Calleja Marcos)*

first for Belarus. If accepted, a fourth-year **Vega Gull** *L vegae* at Charny, Seine-et-Marne, on 17 November will be the first for France and the second for the WP (the first was in Ireland in January 2016; cf Dutch Birding 38: 104, 2016). A third-winter **American Herring Gull** *L smithsonianus* was photographed at Portimão, Algarve, Portugal, on 4 December, while an adult returned to Sesimbra, Setubal, where it was first observed in February 2014. In Spain, two returning adults were seen at Lires, Muxia, A Coruña, from 7 December, and at Ondarroa harbour, Bizkaia, from 23 December. A first-winter was reported at Couso, Ribeira, A Coruña, on 1 January. Also in Spain, the **Thayer's Gull** *L thayeri* returned for its 10th winter to Lago, Xove, Lugo, on 13 January. An **Iceland Gull** *L glaucoides* at Tallinn on 13 January was the second for Estonia. If accepted, a putative second-winter **Slaty-backed Gull** *L schistisagus* at Gdańsk, Pomerania, on 2-3 December would be the first for Poland and the eight for the WP (all previous ones concerned (near-)adults). An adult **Glaucous Gull** *L hyperboreus* near Minsk on 27 November was (only) the first for Belarus.

TERNS In England, a first-winter **Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri* was discovered at Stour estuary, Essex/Suffolk, on 19-20 November, and refound at Felixstowe Ferry, Suffolk, on 21 November and at Seabrook, Kent, on 26 November. The returning adult in Ireland was seen at several sites in Galway, Cork and Clare from November to mid-January, while one reported at Courtmacsherry, Cork, on 8 December may have been a new bird. An adult at Playa de Santa Cruz, Oleiros, A Coruña, from 23 November to 6 December was the eighth for Spain. In the Azores, one stayed at Praia da Vitória, Terceira, on 8-16 December. An **Elegant Tern** *S elegans* photographed

at Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, on 12 June 1988 (Dutch Birding 14: 161-169, 1992) has (only) recently been accepted as the first for Belgium.

RAPTORS On 18 December, a male **Bearded Vulture** *Gypaetus barbatus* ('Adonis') returned to its release area at Grands Causses, France, after visiting in chronological order Austria, Slovakia, Poland, Belarus, Ukraine and Romania from June through summer (cf Dutch Birding 38: 331, 405, 2016). A high number of 740 wintering **Egyptian Vultures** *Neophron percnopterus* was counted in Oman on 19 November, including at least 640 at Al Multaqa and c 100 at Qurayyat. In 2016, there were 84-87 territorial pairs in France, and 76 pairs started to breed (of which 59 in the Pyrenees); these numbers were somewhat lower but productivity was with 61 young much higher than in 2015 (which was the worst year on record). In Israel, the **Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus* present since 2015 remained in Judean plains through November-December. If accepted, a **Cinereous Vulture** *Aegypius monachus* reported at Raysut on 28 November will be the sixth for Oman. For the population of 15 pairs of **Greater Spotted Eagles** *Aquila clanga* in the Biebrza marshes, Poland, 2016 was the worst year ever with only one young fledging (in many pairs, females did not produce eggs); an explanation for this very low breeding success is a two-years sustained drought affecting feeding areas. In northern Germany, one stayed at Steller See, Rehm-Flehde-Bargen, Schleswig-Holstein, from 23 October into at least late January. An immature **Spanish Imperial Eagle** *A adalberti* photographed at Lago di Massaciuccoli, Toscana, from 8 January onwards was the first for Italy. All previously accepted **Bonelli's Eagles** *A fasciata* in Switzerland have been placed in 'category E' (escaped from captivity) following a revision of all records; it was triggered by a captive-origin individual seen repeatedly and a continuing series of adult-only sightings (Ornithol Beob 113: 269-298, 2016). In Scotland, the returning adult male **Northern Harrier** *Circus hudsonius* remained on North Ronaldsay, Orkney, until at least 5 January. In the Netherlands, **Red Kite** *Milvus milvus* is increasing as a breeding bird, nesting annually since 2010 with eight pairs in 2015-16 in Gelderland, Limburg and Overijssel; **Black Kite** *M migrans* has nested annually since 2009 with at least three breeding pairs in 2016 in the south-east (Limburg and Noord-Brabant). A **Black-eared Kite** *M lineatus* photographed on St Paul Island, Alaska, on 3 January was the first for the North American mainland (there are three records in Hawaii). A first-year **Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus* at St Andrä, Burgenland, from 16 December to at least 9 January was the second ever to winter in Austria, where an unprecedented influx of 60 occurred this autumn (cf Dutch Birding 38: 405-406, 2016).

OWLS In Denmark, four **Northern Hawk-Owls** *Surnia ulula* stayed in Sjælland in December-January. A study on the phenology of songs in **Eurasian Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium passerinum* in Switzerland revealed that, while normal song could be heard all year, the autumn song ('scale') peaked between 23 September and 22 October, being detectable in 46% of visits in the morning and 21% in the evening; for mornings, September (82%) was the best month and April (21%) the worst, while for evenings October (46%) was the best and December (9%) the worst, with an average song length of 9 min 30 sec (n=396) (Nos Oiseaux 63: 272, 2016). In Ireland, a female/immature **Snowy Owl** *Bubo scandiacus* was seen at Spiddal, Galway, on 10-27 December while an adult male turned up at Lahinch, Clare, on 28 December. In Orkney, the one on Westray in November was seen again on Eday on 7-9 January (cf Dutch Birding 38: 455, 2016). In south-western Iran, a **Turkish Fish Owl** *B semenowi* was found at Khaeiz protected area, Zagros, on 20 November.

FALCONS TO SHRIKES The second **Amur Falcon** *Falco amurensis* for Iran was photographed at Anarestan, Bushehr province, on 31 October. An unprecedented influx of **Tundra Peregrine Falcons** *F peregrinus calidus* was reported for Italy in October-November, with juveniles all over the country (eg, one or two almost daily on Linosa and Pantelleria), and a record of more than 10 on Lampedusa on 21-25 November. The **Acadian Flycatcher** *Empidonax virescens* at Dungeness, Kent, on 22 September 2015 has recently been accepted for the British list; its identification was confirmed by DNA analysis from faeces (Br Birds 110: 18-20, 2017, cf Dutch Birding 37: 351-352, 2015). The fourth **Steppe Grey Shrike** *Lanius lahtora pallidirostris* for Greece was trapped at Spata, Attika, on 21 November. The first for Spain stayed at Andarax river mouth, Almería, Andalucia, from 29 November to 8 January and a first-year photographed at Saline Joniche, Reggio Calabria, on 22 December was the fifth for Italy.

PENDULINE TITS TO LONG-TAILED TITS By examining the genetic variation in four species and most subspecies of penduline tit *Remiz*, Barani-Beiranvand et al (2017) demonstrated that **White-crowned Penduline Tit** *R coronatus* and **Chinese Penduline Tit** *R consobrinus* are genetically well differentiated in independent evolutionary lineages separated from each other and **Eurasian Penduline Tit** *R pendulinus* and **Black-headed Penduline Tit** *R macronyx*. However, they found only marginal differences among individuals of Eurasian and Black-headed. Based on their data, they recommend to treat Eurasian and Black-headed as conspecific and White-crowned and Chinese as separate species (J Avian Biol; http://tinyurl.com/zu4t5mb). The first **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* for Thailand turned up at Kaeng Krachan national park on 30 April 2016. In the Canary Islands, two **Pied Crows** *C albus* remained at the harbour of Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, until at least 2 December (cf Dutch Birding 38: 462, 2016). From 9 January, one was seen c 30 km north-east of Tarfaya and later at Khnifiss, Morocco. A **Greater Hoopoe-Lark** *Alaemon alaudipes* at Famara plains, Lanzarote, on 5-12 November was the fifth for the Canary Islands. The first **Greater Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla* for Guinea was found near Bel Air on 11 November. If accepted, an **Asian House Martin** *Delichon dasypus* photographed at Ma'agan Michael on 16-27

73 Presumed Asian House Martin / vermoedelijke Aziatische Huiszwaluw *Delichon dasypus*, Ma'agan Michael, Israel, 16 December 2016 *(Barak Granit)* **74** Dusky Thrush / Bruine Lijster *Turdus eunomus*, first-winter female, Beeley, Derbyshire, England, 6 December 2016 *(Alan Curry)* **75** Vinous-throated Parrotbill / Bruinkopdiksnavelmees *Sinosuthora webbiana*, Swartbroek, Limburg, Netherlands, 30 December 2016 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*. Bird of small feral population in this area.

76 Eastern Black Redstart / Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides*, first-winter male, Torness, East Lothian, Scotland, 4 December 2016 *(Sam Northwood)*

77 Eastern Black Redstart / Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides*, first-winter male, Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 14 January 2017 *(Alex van der Giessen)*

December will be the first for Israel; three previous records in the 'greater' WP are from the United Arab Emirates (8-21 October 1999, 25 November 2001 and 20 February to 8 March 2008). By comparing autumn migration in **White-headed Long-tailed Tits** *Aegithalos caudatus caudatus*, Bojarinova et al (Ornis Fenn 93: 235-245, 2016) concluded that, apart from significant fluctuations in numbers, both the northern European (considered to be irruptive) and north-eastern Asian populations (believed to migrate regularly) share migratory habits and patterns of migratory behaviour similar to what is known for regular migrant species.

LEAF WARBLERS In December-January, up to five **Hume's Leaf Warblers** *Phylloscopus humei* were recorded in Spain (in Barcelona, Cádiz, Valladolid, A Coruña and Asturias; eighth to 12th record) and six in Italy. In the Netherlands, a record 10 were discovered from mid-October to December. If accepted, a **Dusky Warbler** *P fuscatus* photographed in Gilan province on 5 January will be the first for Iran. DNA analysis demonstrated that a chiffchaff trapped and identified as a probable Caucasian Mountain Chiffchaff *P lorenzii* in Germany on 20 October (cf Dutch Birding 38: 464, 2016) in fact concerned a **Common Chiffchaff** *P collybita*. Gordo et al (Ardeola 64: 49-65, 2017) used 24 morphological traits measured in c 6700 **Iberian Chiffchaffs** *P ibericus* and **Common Chiffchaffs** trapped during autumn migration in 2014-15 at Doñana national park, Spain, to demonstrate that biometrics are of no use to separate the two species; however, they hardly overlap in time as 90% of Iberian have already departed for their trans-Saharan migration when the first Common arrive to winter in the Mediterranean. An adult **Iberian Chiffchaff** sound-recorded at Messinia, Taygetos, on 21 June 2010 has recently been accepted as the first for Greece.

SYLVIAS Martin Collinson (Br Birds 110: 20-24, 2017) showed that DNA analysis of 40 lesser whitethroats *Sylvia* on migration or wintering in Britain in September-February 2003-15 confirmed the identification of 19 **Siberian Lesser Whitethroats** *S althaea blythi* and six **Desert Lesser Whitethroats** *S a halimodendri*. DNA analysis also confirmed the identification of the first **Siberian** for Finland at Jokela, Tuusula, on 1-29 December 2015 and one trapped at Gedser, Denmark, on 27 October 2016. DNA analysis of faeces collected from one sound-recorded at Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands, on 22-31 October showed it to be a Siberian as well, despite some features indicating otherwise (contra Dutch Birding 38: 464, 2016). These findings confirm that Siberian (*blythi*) is a regular migrant and occasional winterer in western Europe, that Desert (*halimodendri*) is much rarer but turning up from September through winter as well, and also that (Western) Lesser Whitethroat *S curruca* has never been found later than November (Br Birds 110: 20-24, 2017). For taxonomy and phylogeny of the lesser whitethroat complex, see Olsson et al in Mol Phylogenet Evol 67: 72-85, 2013, who showed that cytb of *curruca* differs 7% from *blythi* and that the difference between *blythi* and *halimodendri* is 2.5%. Pomeroy et al (Bird Conserv Int 26: 436-450, 2016) showed that **Cyprus Warbler** *S melanothorax* declined at a rate of c 59% per decade in western Cyprus. This decline coincided with a recent, rapid colonisation by Sardinian Warblers *S melanocephala*; by contrast, Cyprus Warbler's abundance showed no significant change in central and eastern Cyprus, where Sardinian remained sparse or absent during the breeding season.

PARROTBILLS TO REED WARBLERS In the Netherlands, a record flock of more than 55 **Vinous-throated Parrotbills** *Sinosuthora webbiana* was found in the Krang nature reserve, south-east of Weert, Limburg, on 30 December. Although the species is well established since the 1990s in a rather extensive stream bed area of c 10 km^2, along Leukerbeek and Tungelroyse Beek, it is rarely reported because the birds tend to remain mostly invisible in reeds and bushes, forming roaming flocks in winter only. A better known introduced population of c 5000 individuals of this north-eastern Asian species thrives since 1995 in northern Italy's Po delta (Birding World 22: 471-474, 2009, Mol Phylogenet Evol 57: 1312-1318, 2010). A **Booted Warbler** *Iduna caligata* at Mai Po from 27 November into January was the first for Hong Kong, China. Apparently, **Upcher's Warbler** *Hippolais languida* started breeding in Georgia already by at least 2007 and probably a few years earlier (cf Dutch Birding 38: 407, 2016; Philippe Dubois in litt). In Britain, two **Caspian Reed Warblers** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus* have been identified by DNA analysis; one was found dead near Jenny Brown's Point, Lancashire, on 11 December 2011 and the second was trapped at Kergord, Shetland, on 4 November 2012 (Br Birds 110: 16-18, 2017). This taxon is closely related to nominate Eurasian Reed Warbler *A s scirpaceus* (1.2% difference in cytb) but diagnostically different (Mol Phylogenet Evol 102: 30-44, 2016); these findings suggest that any Eurasian Reed encountered in late autumn or winter should be scrutinised. In Switzerland, a **Moustached Warbler** *A melanopogon* was wintering at Klingnau, Aargau, from 8 December.

WALLCREEPERS TO THRUSHES A **Wallcreeper** *Tichodroma muraria* stayed at Ennert Süd, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, from 4 December through mid-January. One **Eyebrowed Thrush** *Turdus obscurus* on 24 November and two on 15 December at Ayn Hamran were the fourth and fifth record for Oman. The third for Spain was found at Añorbe, Navarra, on 18 January. In England, a first-winter female **Dusky Thrush** *T eunomus* stayed at Beeley, Derbyshire, from 4 December through mid-January. A record 42 **Black-throated Thrushes** *T atrogularis* for Oman were counted at Sayq plateau on 1 January. In Kuwait, a flock of 19 in one tree was seen at Jahra pools on 13 December. In Europe, nine were found in December-January, with three in Finland, two in England, two in Norway and singles in Sweden and Wales. A record influx of **Eastern Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides* from October into January in north-western Europe comprised 28 males, including 10 in Sweden, eight in England, three in Germany, three in

78 Siberian Accentor / Bergheggenmus *Prunella montanella*, Hirtshals havn, Nordjylland, Denmark, 7 January 2017 *(Sander Bot)*

79 Blyth's Pipit / Mongoolse Pieper *Anthus godlewskii*, first-winter, Brabantse Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands, 15 January 2017 *(Hans Gebuis)*

80 Hume's Leaf Warbler / Humes Bladkoning *Phylloscopus humei*, Montjuïc, Barcelona, Catalunya, Spain, 24 December 2016 *(Rafael Armada)*

81 Blue Rock Thrush / Blauwe Rotslijster *Monticola solitarius*, adult male, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, England, 28 December 2016 *(John Pringle)*

82 Masked Wagtail / Maskerkwikstaart *Motacilla personata*, first-winter male, Camrose, Pembrokeshire, Wales, 30 November 2016 *(Steve Gantlett)*

83 Rustic Bunting / Bosgors *Emberiza rustica*, first-winter, Paphos, Cyprus, 24 November 2016 *(Jane Stylianou)*

the Netherlands (with two additional poorly photographed birds in early November and late December), two in Norway, and singles in Denmark and Scotland (at Torness, East Lothian, on 1-18 December; first record). Two wintering males remained in England at Mousehole, Cornwall, and Skinningrove, Cleveland, until at least 22 January; other ones stayed at Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands, on 12-15 January and at Frankfurt, Hessen, Germany, on 22-25 January (cf Dutch Birding 38: 465, 2016). An adult male **Moussier's Redstart** *P moussieri* turned up on Linosa, Italy, on 13 November. If accepted as a presumed wild bird, an adult male **Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius* at Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, England, from 27 December through mid-January was the seventh for Britain.

STONECHATS TO SPARROWS Two males **Caspian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus hemprichii* on Linosa between 17 and 26 November were the second and third for Italy. A first-winter female **Stejneger's Stonechat** *S stejnegeri* at Spurn, Yorkshire, on 23-24 October was the third for Britain and, like the previous two, its identification was confirmed by DNA analysis (cf Br Birds 108: 423-428, 2015, Dutch Birding 38: 465, 2016). A **Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* at Transport Dam, Kruger National Park, in December was the third and first twitchable for South Africa. The eighth to 10th **Basalt Wheatears** *O lugens warriae* for Israel were found at Amram Pillars near Eilat on 1 January; north of Beer-Ora on 5 January; and at Ovda on 17 January. Another 14 **Siberian Accentors** *Prunella montanella* were found in Europe between 23 November and 18 January, with seven in Sweden, four in Finland, two in Ukraine (trapped near Kosachevka, Chernihiv, on 26 November; second and third record) and one in Hungary (at Pócsmegyer, Pest, from 18 January; first record). Moreover, one remained at Hirtshals havn, Nordjylland, Denmark, from 9 November to at least 15 January. By 18 January, the tally of the unprecedented influx in 2016/17 stood at 242 individuals: 81 in Sweden, 76 in Finland, 13 in Britain, 12 in Denmark, 11 in Germany, 10 in Norway, 10 in Poland, nine in Latvia, eight in Estonia, four in Lithuania, three in north-western Russia, two in Ukraine, and singles in Czechia, Hungary and the Netherlands (cf Dutch Birding 38: 465, 2016). The first **Sudan Golden Sparrow** *Passer luteus* for the Canary Islands was a male photographed while building a nest at Pajara, Fuerteventura, from 27 December to 6 January. At Oued Jenna, Aousserd, Western Sahara, Morocco, again a male was seen on 9 January.

WAGTAILS TO PIPITS The first **Forest Wagtail** *Dendronanthus indicus* for Iran was photographed at Jihad Park, Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan, on 30 November. If accepted, a first-winter **'Eastern Yellow Wagtail'** *Motacilla tschutschensis/plexa* found at Lezíria da Ponta da Erva near Lisbon on 9 December and still present on 5 January will be the first for Portugal (for information on the record influx in October 2016, see Dutch Birding 38: 465, 2016). The fourth **Citrine Wagtail** *M citreola* for Portugal was discovered at the same location on 1 January. The fifth for Morocco was a male at Larache on 29-30 December. The first **Masked Wagtail** *M personata* for Britain stayed at Camrose, Pembrokeshire, Wales, from early November to 26 December; previous records in Europe were in Norway (November 2003-April 2004), Sweden (April 2006) and Bulgaria (September 2015). The sixth for Kuwait was photographed on 15 November. **Blyth's Pipits** *Anthus godlewskii* stayed at Blagdon lake, Somerset, England, on 14-31 December and at Brabantse Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant, the Netherlands, from 8 January onwards. An **Olive-backed Pipit** *A hodgsoni* photographed at Hatay on 29 November was the fourth for Turkey. **Siberian Buff-bellied Pipits** *A rubescens japonicus* at Achna Dam on 19-29 November and at Makedonitissa, Nicosia, on 8 November were the fourth and fifth for Cyprus. The first **Eurasian Rock Pipit** *A petrosus* for Ukraine was photographed at Danube delta biosphere reserve on 7 November.

FINCHES TO BUNTINGS The first **European Serin** *Serinus serinus* for Armenia was trapped at Yerevan on 15 December. A group of up to 10 **Eurasian Siskins** *Spinus spinus* at Gojal Tehsil, Gilgit-Baltistan, in November-December constituted the species' first record for Pakistan. A male **Lapland Longspur** *Calcarius lapponicus* photographed at Laguna de las Salinas, Cuba, on 26 May 2016 was the first for the Caribbean (Bull Br Ornithol Club 136: 295-299, 2016). The **American Tree Sparrow** *Spizelloides arborea* photographed at Torreberga, Staffanstorp, Skåne, on 12-18 November has recently been accepted as the first for Sweden and the WP (cf Dutch Birding 38: 470, 2016). In England, an adult male **Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis* was seen at West Mersea, Essex, on 8 December. A **Rock Bunting** *Emberiza cia* photographed at Perná, Jihomoravský, on 23 November was the fourth for Czechia. In southern England, the breeding population of **Cirl Bunting** *E cirlus* has grown from 100 pairs in 1991 to 1078 pairs in 2016 following re-introductions in a conservation programme. The second **Pine Bunting** *E leucocephalos* for the United Arab Emirates was found at Al Ain on 16 November. The fourth for Alaska and North America was photographed on Gambell, St Lawrence, on 23 November. During the major influx in Europe of more than 35 individuals in October-November (cf Dutch Birding 38: 470, 2016), an additional 30 were found in December-January, including eight in the Netherlands and Norway, four in Switzerland (three males and a female at Riazzino, Ticino, from 18 January), three in Italy, two in England and Finland, and singles in Austria, Belgium (the first twitchable ever) and Greece (at Pikrolimni lake, Thessaloniki, on 6 January; sixth record). In 2009, BOURC decided to shift eight records of **Chestnut Bunting** *E rutila* in England, Scotland and Wales from 'category D' into 'category E' and all British records, from late May to mid-June, from July (Fair Isle in 1974), and (two) from early September, were considered to concern birds escaped from captivity. However, a new sighting of this breeding bird from eastern Siberia on Papa Westray, Orkney, on 19-29 October 2015 has recently been accepted by BOURC as the first for Britain (cf Dutch Birding 37: 410, 2015). This course of events may be






84 Pine Bunting / Witkopgors *Emberiza leucocephalos*, male, Widooie, Limburg, Belgium, 31 December 2016 *(Vincent Legrand)* **85** Caspian Stonechat / Kaspische Roodborsttapuit *Saxicola maurus hemprichii*, Linosa, Italy, 25 November 2016 *(Ottavio Janni)* **86** Pine Bunting / Witkopgors *Emberiza leucocephalos*, male, Pikrolimni lake, Thessaloniki, Greece, 6 January 2017 *(Antonis Tsaknakis/birdingingreece.gr)* **87** Dark-eyed Junco / Grijze Junco *Junco hyemalis*, adult male, West Mersea, Essex, England, 8 December 2016 *(Steve Grimwade)* **88** Basalt Wheatear / Basalttapuit *Oenanthe lugens warriae*, Ovda valley, Israel, 17 January 2017 *(Lior Kislev)* **89** Sudan Golden Sparrow / Bruinruggoudmus *Passer luteus*, male, Pajara, Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, 28 December 2016 *(Eckhard Möller)*

regarded as an interesting example of how a rarities committee sometimes decides where and when a species occurs rather than the birds themselves. Also, it suggests that this species is not 'allowed' to occur outside migration periods and outside rarity hotspots. Other accepted records in the WP include those at Wassenaar, Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands, on 5 November 1937 (collected); on Utsira, Norway, in October 1974 and October 2010; on Gozo, Malta, in November 1983; at Godovi, Slovenia, in October 1987; in France at Vuillecin in October 1995, on Île de Sein in October 2009 and on Ouessant in October 2014; and at Hanko, Finland, in September-October 2002. Records in Belgium (October 1928 and April 1974) and Hungary (September 2011) have been placed in 'category D'. A **Rustic Bunting** *E rustica* was photographed at Khoosheh Mehr village, Bonab, East Azerbaijan province, Iran, on 23 October. A first-winter at Paphos on 24 November was the first for Cyprus. In the Azores, an adult male **Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* was seen at Lagoa Azul, São Miguel, on 24 December.

RARE BIRDS IN AUSTRIA The Austrian rarities committee reviewed undocumented records from 1950-2011 (ie, those not supported by a specimen, photograph, video or sound-recording); as a result, three species were added to the Austrian list (**American Wigeon** *A americana*, **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* and **Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*) and four were removed: **Manx Shearwater**, **Barolo Shearwater** *P baroli*, **Laughing Gull** *L atricilla* and **Steppe Grey Shrike** (Egretta 54: 105-109, 2016).

FRENCH LIST In Ornithos 23: 254-271, 2016, a new list of species (and subspecies) recorded in France until 31 July 2016 has been published; it contains 583 species, of which 557 in category A, 16 in category B (records from before 1950 only) and 10 in category C (introduced species), ie, 29 species more than in 2007. Recently, the following (sub)species were added: **Rüppell's Vulture** *Gyps rueppellii*, **Semipalmated Plover**, **Oriental Pratincole** *Glareola maldivarum*, **Bar-tailed Lark** *Ammomanes cinctura*, **Asian Desert Warbler** *S nana*, **Tristram's Warbler** *S deserticola*, **Eastern Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos golzii*, **White-crowned Wheatear** *O leucopyga* and **Kurdish Wheatear** *O xanthoprymna*. Eight subspecies have been removed: **Siberian Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus longipes*, **Oriental Curlew** *N arquata orientalis*, **Russian Common Gull** *L canus heinei*, **Cucumiau** *Athene noctua noctua*, **North African Lanner Falcon** *F biarmicus erlangeri*, **British Eurasian Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula pileata*, **Greenland Redpoll** *Acanthis flammea rostrata* and **American Lapland Longspur** *C l subcalcaratus* (Ornithos 23: 238-253, 2016).

ABA YEAR LIST In 2016, four birders passed the American Birding Association's Big Year record of 749 by Neil Hayward from 2013. John Weigel had the highest total of 783 including three pending species. The others with more than 750 including two or three pending species were Olaf Danielsson (778), Laura Keene (762) and Christian Hagenlocher (752). The ABA area consists of Canada, continental USA, the islands of St Pierre and Miquelon, and adjacent waters up to 200 nautical miles from land, or half the distance to a neighbouring country; Bahamas, Bermuda, Greenland and Hawaii are excluded.

WORLD YEAR LIST Arjan Dwarshuis has finished his worldwide 2016 big year with 6839 species, following the 'IOC's taxonomy'. On 31 December, Black-crowned Fulvetta *Alcippe klossi* in Vietnam was his last new species. The previous world year list record was 6042 species in 2015 by Noah Strycker, who followed the 'Clements taxonomy'. Arjan's complete list can be found at http://tinyurl.com/jdkhmpj and information on his fund-raising to protect endangered bird species at http://tinyurl.com/jgs9vgg.

For a number of reports Birdwatch, British Birds, Go-South Bulletin, Sovon-nieuws, www.birdguides.com, www.netfugl.dk, www.rarebirdalert.co.uk, www.tarsiger.com and www.waarneming.nl were consulted. We wish to thank Peter Adriaens, Mohamed Amezian, Vasil Ananian, Rafael Armada, Peter Barthel, Nilesh Bhanage, Paul Bradbeer, Albert Burgas, Stuart Butchart, David Calleja Marcos, Oscar Campbell, Martin Collinson, José Luis Copete, Magnus Corell, Andrea Corso, Pierre-André Crochet, Alan Curry, Wenche Dahle, Ron Demey, Philippe Dubois, Enno Ebels, Jens Eriksen, Wouter Faveyts, Ronan Felix, Natalino Fenech, Robin Gailly, Raymond Galea, Steve Gantlett, Eduardo Garcia del Rey, Hans Gebuis, Barak Granit, Steve Grimwade, Ricard Gutiérrez, Axel Halley, Trevor Hardaker, Hugh Harrop, Sarfraz Hayat, Magnus Hellström, Eva Foss Henriksen, Askar Isabekov, Ottavio Janni, Zbigniew Kajzer, Guido Keijl, Leander Khil, Bence Kókay, Szabolcs Kókay, Christopher König, Richard Kvetko, Jesús Nieto Latorre, Vincent Legrand, James Lidster, André van Loon, Bruce Mactavish, Giuseppe Martino, Lionel Maumary, József Mészáros, Gerbrand Michielsen, Geir Mobakken, Eckhard Möller, Nial Moores (North Korea), Killian Mullarney, Nick Netzler, Steve Norman, Sam Northwood, Mark O'Brien, Daniele Occhiato, Alex Olle, Gert Ottens, Yoav Perlman, René Pop, John Pringle, Nikos Probonas, Colin Richardson, Magnus Robb, Michael Sammut, Martin van der Schalk, Peter Schleef, Jiri Sirek, Roy Slaterus, Rasmus Strack, Jane Stylianou, Ehsan Talebi, Antonis Tsaknakis, Norbert Uhlhaas, Mattias Ullman, Hugo Touzé, Roland van der Vliet, Jens Voß, Peter de Vries, Arend Wassink and Anna Yasko for their help in compiling this review.

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Recente meldingen

Dit overzicht van recente meldingen van zeldzame en interessante vogels in Nederland beslaat voornamelijk de periode **november-december 2016**. 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 Naast kleine aantallen **Witbuikrotganzen** *Branta hrota* in het Waddengebied, werden groepjes gezien begin december bij Cadzand en Breskens in Zeeland (zeven) en vanaf 19 december bij Ter Heijde, Zuid-Holland (zes). **Zwarte Rotganzen** *B nigricans* werden in kleine aantallen waargenomen op de drie westelijke Waddeneilanden, op Wieringen, Noord-Holland, en in de Prunjepolder, Zeeland. **Roodhalsganzen** *B ruficollis* werden opnieuw verspreid over het gehele land gemeld, met grotere groepen op Schiermonnikoog, Friesland (maximaal 10); bij Yerseke en Wolphaartsdijk, Zeeland (maximaal acht); en in De Onlanden, Drenthe (vijf). Opmerkelijk was een langsvliegende groep van vijf op 4 december over de Zuidpier bij IJmuiden, Noord-Holland. Bij Strijen, Zuid-Holland, waren in december maximaal 43 **Dwergganzen** *Anser erythropus* aanwezig. Elders werden slechts enkele waarnemingen verricht. Vanaf telposten langs de kust werden maar liefst 73 **IJseenden** *Clangula hyemalis* doorgegeven. Ook werden vaker dan anders zwemmende exemplaren gemeld, in de duinstreek maar ook onder meer bij Itteren en Bergen in Limburg, bij Lage Zwaluwe en op de Strabrechtse Heide in Noord-Brabant en bij Zeewolde in Flevoland. Het aantal langs de Brouwersdam, Zeeland/Zuid-Holland, was met maximaal 14 eveneens aardig op peil. Een mannetje **Brilzee-eend** *Melanitta perspicillata* werd op 19 november gemeld langs Rottumerplaat, Groningen. **Grote Zee-eend** *M fusca* werd opvallend vaak vanaf telposten gezien; in totaal werden er 1505 gemeld, ongeveer vijfmaal zo veel als een jaar eerder in deze periode. Het mannetje **Buffelkopeend** *Bucephala albeola* bij Den Oever, Noord-Holland, bleef de gehele periode, en ook het mannetje op de Gaatkensplas bij Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland, was vanaf 5 november weer present voor zijn 13e winter. Van c 20 locaties kwamen waarnemingen van **Witoogeenden** *Aythya nyroca*, waaronder op enkele plaatsen twee bij elkaar, zoals op het Wolderwijd, Flevoland, en bij Borgharen, Limburg. Eén of twee **Kleine Toppers** *A affinis* werden opgemerkt op het Wolderwijd op 15 november en 16 en 17 december.

90 Steppekiekendief / Pallid Harrier *Circus marcourus*, tweede-winter mannetje, De Onlanden, Drenthe, 21 januari 2017 *(Thijs Glastra)*

91 Blauwstaart / Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*, eerstejaars, Berkheide, Zuid-Holland, 6 december 2016 *(René van Rossum)*

92 Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaart / Eastern Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides*, eerstejaars mannetje, West-Terschelling, Terschelling, Friesland, 5 november 2016 *(Arie Ouwerkerk)*

93 Blauwstaart / Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*, eerstejaars, Berkheide, Zuid-Holland, 6 december 2016 *(Peter Soer)* **94** Witkopgors / Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*, mannetje, Camping Loodmansduin, Texel, Noord-Holland, 8 januari 2017 *(Alex Bos)* **95** Woestijntapuit / Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*, eerste-winter mannetje, Paal 29, Texel, Noord-Holland, 6 november 2016 *(Eric Menkveld)*

Een eerstejaars mannetje **Bronskopeend** *Anas falcata* vanaf 29 november op het universiteitsterrein in Wageningen, Gelderland, bleek helaas voorzien van een zwarte kwekersring. Een mannetje **Amerikaanse Smient** *A americana* werd op 28 december opgemerkt bij Leeuwarden, Friesland. Het mannetje **Amerikaanse Wintertaling** *A carolinensis* van de Brabantse Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant, bleef de gehele periode en op 7 december zwom er één in de Mokbaai op Texel, Noord-Holland.

DUIKERS TOT STORMVOGELS Ruim 20 **IJsduikers** *Gavia immer* werden doorgegeven, waaronder twitchbare van 2 tot 29 november bij Lobith, Gelderland; van 11 tot 22 november bij Well, Limburg; van 23 november tot 22 december bij IJmuiden; en vanaf 5 december op de Kagerplassen, Zuid-Holland. Op 11 november werd een adulte dood gevonden op Vlieland, Friesland. Zeetrektellers registreerden in totaal zes **Vale Stormvogeltjes** *Hydrobates leucorhoa*, een treurig aantal van 16 **Noordse Stormvogels** *Fulmarus glacialis*, 109 **Grauwe Pijlstormvogels** *Puffinus griseus* en drie vrij late **Noordse Pijlstormvogels** *P puffinus*. **Vale Pijlstormvogels** *P mauretanicus* werden gemeld op 2 november langs Westkapelle, Zeeland, en op 2 en 6 november langs Camperduin, Noord-Holland.

REIGERS TOT STRANDLOPERS **Koereigers** *Bubulcus ibis* deden het goed en werden op c 40 plaatsen gemeld, voornamelijk in de westelijke helft van het land. Bij Weesp, Noord-Holland, verbleven er maximaal drie. **Zwarte Ibissen** *Plegadis falcinellus* werden voornamelijk op de bekende plekken waargenomen: bij Leidschendam, Zuid-Holland (vier); Berkel en Rodenrijs, Zuid-Holland (drie); Koedijk, Noord-Holland (twee); en Heemskerk, Noord-Holland. Een stervende adulte **Jan-van-gent** *Morus bassanus* werd op 28 december opgeraapt in Oldenzaal, Overijssel (de vorige waarneming uit deze provincie stamt uit 2005). De eerste-kalenderjaar **Kuifaalscholver** *Phalocrocorax aristotelis* bij Nijmegen, Gelderland, bleef tot 7 november. Vanaf 6 december verbleef, net als vorige winter, een **Aziatische Goudplevier** *Pluvialis fulva* bij Goedereede, Zuid-Holland. Met slechts 17 langs telposten vliegende exemplaren bleef **Rosse Franjepoot** *Phalaropus fulicarius* schaars. Een pleisteraar van 3 tot 8 november bij Den Helder, Noord-Holland, trok de meeste bezoekers.

ALKEN TOT STERNS In de eerste helft van november waren er diverse meldingen van één of enkele langsvliegende **Papegaaiduikers** *Fratercula arctica* bij Camperduin. Verder was de soort zoals gebruikelijk zeldzaam, met slechts enkele waarnemingen langs de kust. Er waren c vijf meldingen van **Zwarte Zeekoeten** *Cepphus grylle*, waaronder op 25 november langs de Brouwersdam, Zuid-Holland. Er werden enkele 10-tallen **Kleine Alken** *Alle alle* waargenomen, verreweg de meeste tijdens en net na een paar onstuimige dagen begin november. Het hoogste aantal bedroeg 26 op 2 november bij Lauwersoog, Groningen. Zeetrektellers noteerden 36 **Kleine** *Stercorarius parasiticus*, 66 **Middelste** *S pomarinus* en 89 **Grote Jagers** *S skua*. Er was een opvallende reeks meldingen van late **Vorkstaartmeeuwen** *Xema sabini*; tussen 16 november en 26 december werden er c 10 doorgegeven, waarvan liefst zeven adulte. Een derde-winter **Kleine Burgemeester** *Larus glaucoides* keerde op 17 november voor de derde opeenvolgende winter terug in Amsterdam, Noord-Holland. Mogelijk dezelfde werd op 11 november al bij IJmuiden gezien. Verder was de soort schaars, met alleen een tweede-winter op 29 november bij Berkelaar, Limburg, en een eerste-winter vanaf 23 december bij Heemskerk. **Grote Burgemeesters** *L hyperboreus* deden het weer eens iets beter, met een 10-tal waarnemingen, vrijwel allemaal langs de kust. Tijdens een pelagische tocht op 13 november ten noorden van de Waddeneilanden kon een eerste-winter uitgebreid worden gefotografeerd. Op 7 december werd een eerste-winter dood gevonden op Terschelling, Friesland. De eerstejaars **Witwangstern** *Chlidonias hybrida* bij Nederweert, Limburg, bleef tot 8 november.

ROOFVOGELS Trektellers noteerden in totaal 122 **Blauwe Kiekendieven** *Circus cyaneus*, zeven **Zeearenden** *Haliaeetus albicilla*, 17 **Rode Wouwen** *Milvus milvus*, slechts zes **Ruigpootbuizerds** *Buteo lagopus*, slechts zeven **Velduilen** *Asio flammeus*, 22 **Smellekens** *Falco columbarius* en 50 **Slechtvalken** *F peregrinus*. Het bekende (inmiddels tweede-winter) mannetje **Steppekiekendief** *C macrourus* overwinterde opnieuw in De Onlanden. Op 12 november werd tevens een eerstejaars gefotografeerd op Texel.

HOPPEN TOT STAARTMEZEN **Hoppen** *Upupa epops* van 9 tot 19 november op Terschelling en van 28 november tot 16 december bij Hapert, Noord-Brabant, waren aan de late kant. Een vogel die van 13 tot 29 november bij Ede, Gelderland, verbleef, droeg een rode kwekersring. Twee **Buidelmezen** *Remiz pendulinus* werden op 2 november geringd bij Castricum, Noord-Holland. Opnieuw was er een melding van een ontsnapte **Azuurmees** *Cyanistes cyanus* (met rode kwekersring), ditmaal half november in Noord-Holland. Van c 20 plekken verspreid over het land kwamen meldingen van kleine aantallen **Witkopstaartmezen** *Aegithalos caudatus caudatus*; op 1 november werden zeven exemplaren gefotografeerd in Den Haag, Zuid-Holland, de enige bewezen grotere groep van deze periode.

BOSZANGERS TOT GRASZANGERS De enige twitchbare **Pallas' Boszanger** *Phylloscopus proregulus* verbleef op 4 november bij Westkapelle. Daarnaast waren er enkele kortstondige waarnemingen. Er waren vangsten op 8 en 21 november bij Castricum en op 3 december bij Den Oever. Het totaal aantal vangsten kwam daarmee dit jaar uit op maar liefst 12. Vanaf 11 november overwinterde een **Bladkoning** *P inornatus* in Park Bloeyendael in Utrecht, Utrecht. **Humes Bladkoning** *P humei* kende het beste najaar ooit, met waarnemingen van 4 (vangst) tot 16 november op Koarnwertersân (Kornwerderzand), Friesland; op 5 november op Vlieland; van 8 tot 11 november op Terschelling; op 8, 15 en 16 november op twee verschillende locaties in Meijendel, Zuid-Holland;

96 Vermoedelijke Siberische Braamsluiper / presumed Siberian Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia althaea blythi*, Katwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland, 1 december 2016 *(René van Rossum)* **97** Humes Bladkoning / Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*, Noordwijkerhout, Zuid-Holland, 6 januari 2017 *(Martin van der Schalk)* **98** Veldrietzanger / Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*, eerste-winter, Zwanenwater, Noord-Holland, 5 november 2016 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*

99 Dwerggors / Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*, Noordwijk, Zuid-Holland, 7 december 2016
(Co van der Wardt)

100 Dwerggorzen / Little Buntings *Emberiza pusilla*, Noordwijk, Zuid-Holland, 30 november 2016
(René van Rossum)

op 8 november bij Maasdam, Zuid-Holland; vanaf 28 november bij Vinkel (tweede geval voor Noord-Brabant); van 4 tot 20 december bij Coevorden (tweede geval voor Drenthe); en vanaf 27 december in Noordwijkerhout, Zuid-Holland. Eerder in 2016 waren er ook al drie gevallen. Na een fenomenale oktobermaand kwam er verrassend genoeg nog maar één **Bruine Boszanger** *P fuscatus* bij; een vogel die op 27 november in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen, Noord-Holland, werd geringd bracht de teller voor het najaar op c 23 en voor heel 2016 zelfs op c 24. Enkele 10-tallen **Siberische Tjiftjaffen** *P tristis* werden deze periode gemeld. Mogelijke **Siberische Braamsluipers** *Sylvia althaea blythi* verbleven van 1 tot 4 december in Katwijk, Zuid-Holland, en van 6 tot 23 december in Heinenoord, Zuid-Holland. DNA-analyse wees uit dat de eerder als vermoedelijke Vale Braamsluiper *S a halimodendri* gemelde vogel eind oktober bij Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, eveneens een Siberische was, evenals de vangst op Schiermonnikoog op 23 oktober. Een **Veldrietzanger** *Acrocephalus agricola* werd op 3 en nogmaals op 5 november gevangen in het Zwanenwater bij Callantsoog, Noord-Holland; het betrof het 38e geval en eerste in november. Een late **Rietzanger** *A schoenobaenus* werd op 5 november geringd bij Castricum. Op 4 december werden twee **Graszangers** *Cisticola juncidis* waargenomen in het Verdronken Land van Saeftinghe, Zeeland.

PESTVOGELS TOT WATERSPREEUWEN De influx van **Pestvogels** *Bombycilla garrulus* ging in november gestaag door, met meldingen vanuit 437 uurhokken, maar liep in december flink terug (64 uurhokken). Op diverse plekken werden groepen van 40 of meer vogels gezien, bijvoorbeeld in IJmuiden (56); Groningen, Groningen (53); en Leeuwarden (52). Vanaf telposten werden er nog 286 gemeld, wat het najaarstotaal vanaf telposten op 424 bracht. Ongeveer een kwart daarvan was afkomstig van De Vulkaan bij Den Haag. In het najaar werden er in totaal 10 geringd op Vlieland en 13 bij Castricum. In november werden enkele **Taigaboomkruipers** *Certhia familiaris* gemeld, met name op Texel en Schiermonnikoog. **Zwartbuikwaterspreeuwen** *Cinclus cinclus cinclus* waren op meerdere plekken te bewonderen: vanaf 12 november op exact dezelfde plek als vorige winter bij Zutphen, Gelderland; van 17 tot 20 november in Wieringerwerf, Noord-Holland; vanaf 24 november bij Kraggenburg, Flevoland; en van 19 tot 27 december in de dierentuin (!) in Emmen, Drenthe.

VLIEGENVANGERS Spectaculair was de eerste veldwaarneming van een **Bruine Lijster** *Turdus eunomus* op 8 november in de – bij vogelaars inmiddels beroemde – wijk Beijum in Groningen. De volgende ochtend liet de vogel zich met moeite en steeds vluchtig bekijken door de toegestroomde menigte. Verrassend was dat hij hier op 11 november dood gevonden werd. Indien aanvaard betreft dit het derde geval. Begin november werd een klein aantal **IJslandse Koperwieken** *T iliacus coburni* gemeld in de kustprovincies, de ene overtuigender dan de andere... Verrassend was de (stil gehouden) melding van één of twee **Blauwstaarten** *Tarsiger cyanurus* van 12 tot 14 november in Edam, Noord-Holland. Op 5 december werd een exemplaar ontdekt in Berkheide, Zuid-Holland; deze trok de nodige bekijks op 6 december. Nederland werd goed bedeeld tijdens een influx van **Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaarten** *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides* in Noordwest-Europa, alleen ontbrak het nog aan een twitchbare vogel op het vasteland. Een eerstekalenderjaar mannetje werd op 4 en 5 november gezien op Vlieland, gevolgd door een tweede eerste-kalenderjaar mannetje van 5 tot 10 november op Terschelling, hemelsbreed c 10 km verderop. Een mannetje op de Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, op 7 november was helaas snel verdwenen. Tot slot verschenen op Facebook kwalitatief magere maar erg suggestieve foto's van een mannetje op 23 december in Alphen aan den Rijn, Zuid-

101 Aziatische Goudplevier / Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*, adult winter, Goedereede, Zuid-Holland, 1 januari 2017 *(Kris De Rouck)*

102 Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaart / Eastern Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides*, eerstejaars mannetje, Oost-Vlieland, Vlieland, Friesland, 4 november 2016 *(Sander Lagerveld)*

103 Witkopgors / Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*, mannetje, Camping Loodmansduin, Texel, Noord-Holland, 19 december 2016 *(Eric Menkveld)* **104** Witkopgors / Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*, vrouwtje, IJmuiden, Noord-Holland, 23 november 2016 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)* **105** Zwartbuikwaterspreeuw / Black-bellied Dipper *Cinclus cinclus cinclus*, Wildlands Adventure Zoo, Emmen, Drenthe, 22 december 2016 *(Frank van der Wielen)* **106** Zwartbuikwaterspreeuw / Black-bellied Dipper *Cinclus cinclus cinclus*, Wieringerwerf, Noord-Holland, 17 november 2016 *(Luuk Punt)*

Holland. Tot 2016 waren er slechts vier gevallen. Een eerste-kalenderjaar mannetje **Woestijntapuit** *Oenanthe deserti* verbleef op 6 november op het strand op de noordpunt van Texel.

KWIKSTAARTEN TOT GORZEN Trektellers registreerden nog 11 **Grote Piepers** *Anthus richardi*. Voorts werd er op 30 december één gefotografeerd in het Verdronken Land van Saeftinghe. De laatste **Siberische Boompieper** *A hodgsoni* van het najaar vloog op 13 november over De Vulkaan bij Den Haag (de zesde op deze plek in 2016!). Er werden relatief veel **Fraters** *Linaria flavirostris* opgemerkt, waaronder 217 over, veelal noordelijk gelegen, telposten en opvallend genoeg enkele pleisterende groepjes in het binnenland (onder andere c 20 bij Lent, Gelderland, zes bij Veesen, Gelderland, en c 13 bij Deventer, Overijssel). Tussen 27 november en 4 december waren er enkele meldingen van een **Witstuitbarmsijs** *Acanthis hornemanni exilipes* op Texel. Vanaf telposten werden nog 468 **Sneeuwgorzen** *Plectrophenax nivalis* en 62 **IJsgorzen** *Calcarius lapponicus* doorgegeven, beduidend meer dan in dezelfde periode vorig jaar. Groepen **Grauwe Gorzen** *Emberiza calandra* werden gemeld bij Doenrade, Limburg (maximaal 30); bij Sibbe, Limburg (maximaal 11); in het Verdronken Land van Saeftinghe (maximaal 15); en bij Zuidbroek, Groningen (maximaal zes). De ongekende influx van **Witkopgorzen** *E leucocephalos* was nog niet ten einde. Er waren meldingen op 23 en 24 november bij de Zuidpier bij IJmuiden (vrouwtje); op 28 november en 3 december bij Wolfheze, Gelderland (mannetje); van 10 tot 17 december bij Lieshout, Noord-Brabant (mannetje); op 17 de-

cember bij Puth, Limburg (mannetje); vanaf 18 december tot half januari bij Den Hoorn op Texel (mannetje); en van 30 december tot 2 januari bij Zuidbroek (maximaal drie). Het najaarstotaal kwam hiermee uit op een ongekend aantal van c 18. Ten minste 10 **Dwerggorzen** *E pusilla* werden er gemeld, waaronder twee veel bezochte exemplaren vanaf 5 november bij Noordwijk, Zuid-Holland.

Voor het samenstellen van deze rubriek is dankbaar gebruikgemaakt van de websites dutchbirdalerts.nl, waarneming.nl, trektellen.nl en sovon.nl.

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DBA-nieuws

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Ook is Dutch Birding op zoek naar versterking voor ons team redacteurs, zowel voor het tijdschrift als voor de websites. Taken kunnen, in overleg, bestaan uit (mee) schrijven van artikelen, benaderen van potentiële auteurs, redigeren van teksten en plaatsing van artikelen op de website. Interesse? Neem dan contact op met: editors@dutchbirding.nl. REMCO HOFLAND