DUTCH BIRDING

VOLUME 34 • NO 2 • 2012

Dutch Birding

Internationaal tijdschrift over Palearctische vogels

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Abonnementen De abonnementsprijs voor 2012 bedraagt: EUR 39.50 (Nederland en België), EUR 40.00 (rest van Europa) en EUR 43.00 (landen buiten Europa). Abonnees in Nederland ontvangen ook het dvd-jaaroverzicht.
U kunt zich abonneren door het overmaken van de abonnementsprijs op girorekening 01 50 697 (Nederland), girorekening 000 1592468 19 (België) of bankrekening 54 93 30 348 van ABN•AMRO (Castricum), ovv 'abonnement Dutch Birding'. Alle rekeningen zijn ten name van de Dutch Birding Association. Het abonnement gaat in na ontvangst van de betaling.

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De volgorde van vogels in Dutch Birding volgt in eerste instantie een klassieke 'Wetmore-indeling'. Binnen dit raamwerk worden voor taxonomie en naamgeving de volgende overzichten aangehouden: *Dutch Birding-vogelnamen* door A B van den Berg (2008, Amsterdam; online update 2012) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke, Nederlandse en Engelse namen van West-Palearctische vogels); *Vogels van de wereld – complete checklist* door M Walters (1997, Baarn) (Nederlandse namen van overige vogels van de wereld); *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world* (derde editie) door E C Dickinson (redactie) (2003, Londen) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke namen van overige vogels van de wereld); en *Birds of the world: recommended English names* door F Gill & M Wright (2006, Londen; online update 2010) (Engelse namen van overige vogels in de wereld).

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

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Subscriptions The subscription rate for 2012 is: EUR 39.50 (Netherlands and Belgium), EUR 40.00 (Europe) and EUR 43.00 (countries outside Europe). Subscribers in the Netherlands also receive the DVD year review.
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Dutch Birding is a bimonthly journal. It publishes original papers and notes on morphology, systematics, occurrence and distribution of birds in the Benelux, Europe and elsewhere in the Palearctic region. It also publishes contributions on birds in the Asian-Pacific region and other regions.

The sequence of birds in Dutch Birding basically follows a classic 'Wetmore sequence'. Within this framework, the following lists are used for taxonomy and nomenclature: *Dutch Birding bird names* by A B van den Berg (2008, Amsterdam; online update 2012) (taxonomy and scientific, Dutch and English names of Western Palearctic birds); *Vogels van de wereld – complete checklist* by M Walters (1997, Baarn) (Dutch names of remaining birds of the world); *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world* (third edition) by E C Dickinson (editor) (2003, London) (taxonomy and scientific names of remaining birds of the world); and *Birds of the world: recommended English names* by F Gill & M Wright (2006, London; online update 2010) (English names of remaining birds of the world).

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

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ISSN 0167-2878.

Printed by drukkerij robstolk®, Mauritskade 55, 1092 AD Amsterdam, Netherlands, www.robstolk.nl

Dutch Birding

International journal on Palearctic birds

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Dutch Birding

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Ageing Syrian Serin based on moult and wing-feathers

Yael Lehnardt, Reuven Yosef & Gidon Perlman

Knowledge of moult patterns and feather wear is essential for ageing birds (eg, Svensson 1992, Jenni & Winkler 1994). It is important to know the age of birds when studying various aspects of bird populations. There are many common ageing criteria in passerines. Most juvenile (first calendar-year) birds have plumages different from adults. Juvenile feathers often have different colours, are looser and narrower or weaker than in adult and some juvenile feathers are retained by some species for a long period. Several books and research papers on the ageing of European passerines have been published in the last few decades (eg, Svensson 1992, Jenni & Winkler 1994, Shirihai et al 2001, Blasco 2012). A number of species in Israel, mostly of African and Asian origin, however, have not been previously studied in detail regarding their age-specific moult and feather coloration; one of these species is Syrian Serin *Serinus syriacus*.

Distribution and status of Syrian Serin

Syrian Serin breeds from Syria in the north, through Lebanon and northern Israel into Jordan, where it is locally common. It winters in Jordan, southern Israel and Egypt (Clement et al 1993, Andrews 1995, Baumgart 1995, Shirihai 1996, Murdoch & Betton 2008, Ramadan-Jaradi et al 2008). In Israel, Syrian Serins are found during both migration seasons and winter at many locations but the species breeds only on mount Hermon in the north (Clement et al 1993, Shirihai 1996, Perlman 1997), a recognized Important Bird Area (IBA; Evans 1994). The mount Hermon population is considered to represent one of the most important breeding areas of the species throughout its range (Perlman 1997).

To date, the species is poorly described and data in the published literature are based on small sample sizes, especially when it comes to the ageing of individuals (eg, BWPi 2006). The only rele-

102 Syrian Serin / Syrische Kanarie *Serinus syriacus*, juvenile, mount Hermon, Israel, 11 July 2010 *(Yoav Perlman)*. Note obvious rufous tinge to greater coverts and lower scapulars.

vant information available is that adults complete their moult in July while young birds have a partial moult (BWPi 2006, van Duivendijk 2011).

We ringed and studied Syrian Serins as part of an annual monitoring programme of songbirds in the summer on mount Hermon. We studied moult strategy and wing pattern for suitable ageing criteria, based on individuals of known age that had been ringed in previous years either as juvenile or as adult.

103 Syrian Serin / Syrische Kanarie *Serinus syriacus*, juvenile, mount Hermon, Israel, 18 July 2008 *(Gidon Perlman)*. Note brownish-grey basic colour of alula and greater coverts, not blackish; first (smallest) alula feather fringed rufous; little yellow on second alula feather. In addition, greater coverts have broad rufous edges.

Methods

During the last c 30 years, the breeding populations of passerines on mount Hermon have been monitored by ringing during the breeding season (mainly from June to August). Over the years, more than 5000 Syrian Serins were ringed. As a result, a large number of birds of which the exact age is known is re-trapped every year.

Trapping and ringing was conducted at mount Hermon for a total of nine days in July 2007, July 2008 and August 2008. We recorded moult condition of the entire body, including wing and tail. We examined both wings of each bird but we recorded only the moult of the right wing because in all birds moult was symmetrical.

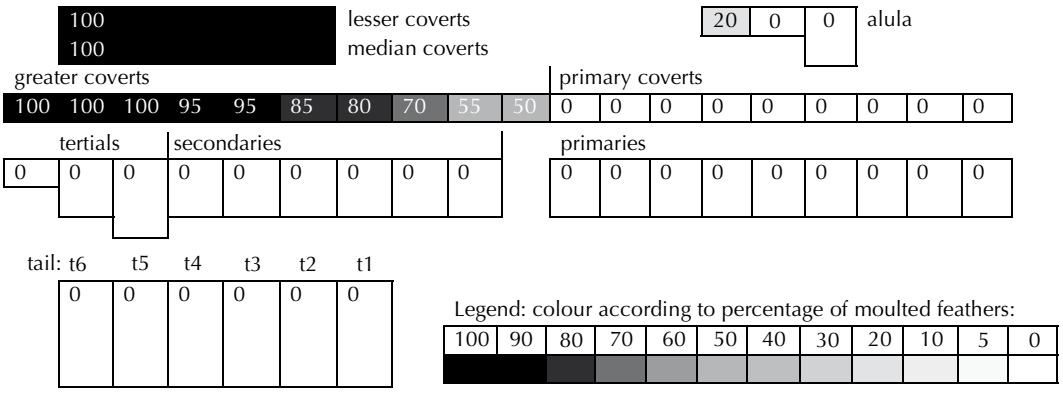
Most of the adults were moulting their feathers when trapped but it was always easy to discern, based on wear and/or feather colour, which of the feathers had been replaced in the previous summer. Before the onset of their first complete post-breeding moult, first-summer (second calendar-year) birds (as defined by ring recoveries) were examined carefully to identify old retained first-generation feathers. These old feathers can in fact be assumed to represent the pattern and extent of the post-fledging moult the year before (Alström et al 2003, Shirihai et al 2001).

Results

We caught 86 first calendar-year (estimated as 2-4 months old), 15 second calendar-year and 46 adult (third calendar-year or older) birds, ie, a total of 147 known-age birds, and examined the moult strategy, wing pattern and tail pattern.

It appears that Syrian Serins of all age groups did not replace any primaries or secondaries dur-

FIGURE 1 Moult strategy of juveniles, as observed in second calendar-year Syrian Serins *Serinus syriacus* before their first complete post-breeding moult (n=15). Colour and numbers both show percentage of birds that have replaced each feather. Black (100%) denotes that all birds have replaced that specific feather. White (0%) denotes that all birds have not replaced that specific feather. Grey scale shows all other percentages in descending order. Percentages have been rounded to nearest 5%.



104 Syrian Serin / Syrische Kanarie *Serinus syriacus*, second calendar-year female, mount Hermon, Israel, 15 August 2008 *(Yael Lehnardt)*. All alula feathers and three outer greater coverts juvenile, with rusty fringes, and more strongly worn. Unmoulted outer primary coverts also worn and brownish. Note that two new inner primaries and primary coverts are part of this bird's first post-breeding moult that has started just few weeks before this wing was photographed in July, and are not part of the discussed moult pattern. **105** Syrian Serin / Syrische Kanarie *Serinus syriacus*, adult male, mount Hermon, Israel, 18 July 2008 *(Yael Lehnardt)*. All alula feathers from same moult period, having blackish centre and yellow fringes. Primary coverts neatly tipped pure grey. Compare with plate 103 and 104.

ing the winter since they had no more than only one or two different wear and colour patterns in their wings. Feathers that had been replaced due to accidental loss in winter, evident because they were the least worn and not symmetrically moulted, were not included in our analysis.

Moult

We found considerable variation in the moult strategy of the juveniles as reflected by the retained feathers of second calendar-year birds prior to their first complete post-breeding moult. Many of the second calendar-year birds showed considerable variation in the moult of the alula feathers and greater wing-coverts (figure 1). In contrast, the adults had obviously replaced all their wing-, tail- and body-feathers in the previous post-breeding season.

Juveniles undertake only a partial moult, which is obvious in second calendar-year birds. They replace the whole body plumage but they retain their tail-feathers, primaries, primary coverts, secondaries, tertials and the two outer or sometimes all three alula feathers. In some individuals, some of the greater coverts are also not replaced. This partial moult begins immediately after fledging in the lesser wing-coverts and body-feathers. Part of this moult probably takes place away from the breeding grounds as it was not extensive in juveniles during our study period (July-August).

The second calendar-year birds had replaced all their lesser and median wing-coverts, most (or all) of their greater wing-coverts and occasionally one of their alula feathers. In addition, they had replaced all their body plumage in the post-fledging period. In contrast to the adults, they had not replaced their primaries, primary coverts, secondaries and tertials. After their first breeding season, when one year old, they undertook their first complete moult, like adults.

Adults undertake a complete moult after the breeding season. All wing-feathers had been replaced in all adults examined in the previous year and all adults were in various stages of completing their post-breeding moult, when examined at the end of the summer.

Alula feathers pattern

We found that the colour pattern of the first and second alula feathers was an important criterion for ageing Syrian Serins. In juveniles, the centre of the alula feathers is brownish, whereas in adults the centre is more blackish. In addition, the fringes of the alula feathers of the juveniles are rufous, while in adults these are bright to greenish-yellow (compare plate 103-105). All second calendar-year birds had retained at least the two larger (outer) alula feathers, and some even had retained all juvenile alula feathers (figure 1). Therefore, they can be separated from adults by the stronger wear of the juvenile alula feathers and, in a few cases, by the contrast between the moulted first

106 Syrian Serin / Syrische Kanarie *Serinus syriacus*, second calendar-year female, mount Hermon, Israel, 19 July 2008 *(Yael Lehnardt)*. All retained feathers, especially primaries, extensively worn and browner than adult-type feathers (compare with plate 107). Note that all fresh feathers, including fresh/growing inner primaries and primary coverts, are part of this bird's first post-breeding moult that had started just few weeks before this wing was photographed in July, and are not part of the discussed moult pattern.

107 Syrian Serin / Syrische Kanarie *Serinus syriacus*, adult (third calendar-year or older) male, mount Hermon, Israel, July 2007 *(Yael Lehnardt)*. Most feathers moulted c 1 year before, at same period. As a result, these feathers have same basic colour, abrasion and pattern (compare with plate 106). Note that all fresh feathers, including fresh/growing inner primaries, are part of this bird's post-breeding moult that had started just few weeks before this wing was photographed, and are not part of the discussed moult pattern.

(inner) alula feather and the retained outer two alula feathers. Adults have a complete moult and do not exhibit this contrast.

Greater coverts pattern
Juvenile Syrian Serins have very broad rufous edges to the greater coverts (plate 103). Adults have bright greenish-yellow edges to the greater coverts (plate 105). When all greater coverts are replaced after fledging, there is no difference in pattern compared with the greater coverts of adults. However, 50% of the second calendar-year birds had a moult limit, usually between one to four outer coverts (retained juvenile feathers) and the inner moulted greater coverts. The retained outer coverts are usually worn and bleached but retain a faint rusty tinge, unlike the bright yellow of the inner replaced greater coverts.

Primary coverts
In juveniles, as in second calendar-year birds, the shape of the primary-coverts is different from that in adults. Second calendar-year birds have narrow, pointed primary coverts (plate 104), while adults have broader feathers with a rounded tip (plate 105). After a year of wear, second calendar-year birds not only retain the narrow pointed coverts but these are also more worn than in adults. The primary coverts in juveniles and second calendar-year birds are brown with pale greenish-yellow edges and tip. In contrast, adults have darker-centered primary coverts with bright greenish-yellow edges and distinct pure grey tips.

Discussion
In our study we show that the moult strategy of Syrian Serins, similar to several other passerines in which it has been studied (Svensson 1992, Jenni & Winkler 1994), is a good criterion for reliable ageing. Ageing according to moult pattern can be used for both males and females, irrespective of the colour or pattern differences between the sexes (plate 108-109), and can be used both in the hand and in the field, provided that the bird can be observed well (plate 110-111). We present the moult strategy of juvenile (post-fledging) Syrian Serins, and we also confirm that adults replace all their feathers as described before (eg, BWPi 2006, van Duivendijk 2011). The major difference in the moult strategy allows to distinguish three age groups during spring/summer before the post-breeding moult is completed in August-September: ***1*** recently fledged juveniles (first calendar-year), having fresh feathers; ***2*** second calendar-year

108 Syrian Serin / Syrische Kanarie *Serinus syriacus*, adult female, mount Hermon, Israel, 18 July 2008 *(Yael Lehnardt)*. Females are greyer in appearance than males but the age of this bird can be told by evenly fresh alula feathers and primary coverts; latter are also edged bright yellow and neatly tipped grey.

109 Syrian Serin / Syrische Kanarie *Serinus syriacus*, second calendar-year male, mount Hermon, Israel, 18 July 2008 *(Yael Lehnardt)*. Despite colourful appearance, this bird can be aged by retained juvenile alula feathers and by worn primaries.

110 Syrian Serin / Syrische Kanarie *Serinus syriacus*, second-year female, mount Hermon, Israel, 29 May 2008 *(Lior Kislev)*. Note brownish and worn alula feathers and primary coverts, lacking yellowish edges and grey tip.

birds, having both adult-type feathers and some old retained juvenile feathers; and ***3*** adults (third calendar-year or older) of which all feathers are similar in age and pattern.

It is important to note that not only the pattern of retained feathers is useful for ageing but also wear. We found that primaries have the same colour and pattern in adults and juveniles but the amount of wear can be used as an aid for ageing during spring and summer (compare plate 106-107). Juvenile feathers in general, but especially juvenile flight-feathers, are more prone to abrasion because they are more loosely textured (Jenni & Winkler 1994), so they become more strongly worn during the same period of use than the feathers of adults.

When ageing a single bird, all known criteria must be used carefully to reach the correct conclusion as to the age of the individual as there is always the possibility of exceptions to the rule. The amount of wear between different birds, even from the same age group, can differ strongly. An adult bird can have very worn flight-feathers (eg, after the breeding season), whereas a juvenile bird may have less worn flight-feathers than expected. Therefore, it is necessary to use not a single ageing feature but a combination of criteria. In some cases, birds that have lost single feathers due to accidents can be recognized by comparing both wings to verify the symmetry of the moult strategy.

In addition, the primary coverts are a good indication of the age of the bird. It is, however, not always easy to notice the difference between the pointed and rounded shape of the feathers of juveniles and adults, respectively, but with practice, one knows what to look for.

Use of the moult limit in the greater coverts for ageing a bird as a first calendar-year (or second calendar-year next spring/summer) is only reliable if the pattern and the larger amount of wear of the retained feathers are obvious. We consider the alula feathers to be the most reliable criterion. All first calendar-year individuals retain the second and third alula feathers from the juvenile plumage. It is easy to recognize the older alula feathers by their brownish centre and rufous edges, especially if the first alula feather has been replaced and the moult limit can be seen.

Our study on how to age Syrian Serin is not only of importance for understanding the moult

strategies between the age groups but also because of its conservation implications in the near future. In Israel, Syrian Serin breeds only on mount Hermon and increased development activities here have led to exploitation of natural resources for human consumption (eg, overgrazing and extracting fresh water; Evans 1994). Environmental changes and human pressures combined have the potential to alter the breeding habitat, and exercise ecological pressures on Syrian Serin and other alpine species that (in Israel) breed almost exclusively on mount Hermon, such as Western Rock Nuthatch *Sitta neumayer* and Asian Crimson-winged Finch *Rhodopechys sanguineus*. Our study on the identification of age groups can assist the monitoring and conservation of populations of Syrian Serin as it enables the calculation of population dynamics and breeding success.

Samenvatting

LEEFTIJDSBEPALING BIJ SYRISCHE KANARIE OP BASIS VAN RUI EN VLEUGELVEREN In juli en augustus in 2007 en 2008 werden 147 Syrische Kanaries *Serinus syriacus* (waarvan de leeftijd bekend was doordat ze het jaar daarvoor als juveniel of als adult werden geringd) op de berg Hermon, Noord-Israël, gevangen en onderzocht om criteria vast te stellen voor de leeftijdsbepaling. Hiervoor zijn rui en sleet van het verenkleed belangrijk. In het late voorjaar en zomer, voordat de najaarsrui is voltooid in juli-augustus, kunnen drie leeftijdsklassen worden onderscheiden: juveniele vogels van het lopende jaar, tweede kalenderjaarvogels (eerste-zomer) en adulte vogels (derde kalenderjaar of ouder). De recent uitgevlogen juveniele hebben een vers kleed en zijn gemakkelijk herkenbaar aan de brede rossige randen aan de grote dekveren en onderste schouderveren. Tweede-kalenderjaarvogels zijn herkenbaar aan oude, niet geruide veren van het juveniele kleed (deze worden niet geruid tijdens de post-juveniele rui een jaar eerder; zie figuur 1): alle slag- en staartpennen; de buitenste grote dekveren (50% van alle tweede-kalenderjaarvogels had een ruigrens in de grote dekveren); de buitenste (grootste) twee duimvleugelveren (een klein aantal vogels had de binnenste duimvleugelveer geruid); en alle handpendekveren. Bij adulte vogels zijn al deze veerpartijen van dezelfde generatie (alle werden een jaar eerder geruid). De veren zijn minder sterk gesleten (bij tweede-kalenderjaars sterk gesleten) en er zijn geen ruicontrasten zichtbaar.

Het rui- en slijtagepatroon van de duimvleugel (alula) en handpendekveren vormen het meest betrouwbare kenmerk bij het onderscheiden van adulte en tweede-kalenderjaarvogels. Bij de laatste zijn de handpendekveren sterker gesleten, smal en puntig, en hebben een bruin centrum en bleke groengele randen (bij adulte breed en afgerond, met een donker zwartbruin centrum, helder groengele randen en opvallende grijze top). Bij tweede-kalenderjaarvogels die bij de post-juveniele rui de binnenste duimvleugelveer hebben geruid, is de ruigrens tussen de

111 Syrian Serin / Syrische Kanarie *Serinus syriacus*, adult male, mount Hermon, Israel 29 June 2008 *(Lior Kislev)*. Note dark centre with broad yellow edges of alula feathers and primary coverts, latter also neatly tipped grey.

112 Syrian Serin / Syrische Kanarie *Serinus syriacus*, male, Bloudan, Syria, 30 April 2006 *(Aurélien Audevard)*. Age of this bird cannot be determined for certain since alula feathers and primary coverts are invisible. Note that tertials of left wing have been moulted, obviously as a result of some accident.

binnenste en de twee buitenste oude duimvleugelveren zeer opvallend; indien geen enkele duimvleugelveer is geruid (en er dus geen contrast zichtbaar is), zijn alle drie duimvleugelveren sterk gesleten en hebben een bruin centrum (duimvleugelveren van adulte zijn duidelijk minder gesleten en met een zwarter centrum).

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Gemengd broedgeval van Citroenkwikstaart en Gele Kwikstaart bij Zeewolde in 2011

Luuk Draaijer & Roy Slaterus

Op 12 juli 2011 ontdekte Luuk Draaijer 's ochtends tijdens een broedvogeltelling in het kader van het Meetnet Agrarische Soorten (MAS) een mannetje Citroenkwikstaart *Motacilla citreola* in het uitgestrekte akkergebied nabij Zeewolde, Flevoland. De vogel foerageerde op een met kroos bedekte sloot en liet zich daarbij goed observeren. Ook 's middags trof LD hem hier aan. De vogel vloog regelmatig naar een zelfde plek in een suikerbietenperceel, waardoor het vermoeden rees dat er sprake was van een broedgeval.

LD informeerde aanvankelijk alleen zijn vogelmaat Ed Veling en Roy Slaterus, die de MAS-telling namens SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland coördineerde. Samen spraken ze af om de locatie op 15 juli nogmaals te bezoeken, in de hoop de vogel terug te vinden en te fotograferen. Dat ze hem vervolgens binnen 10 seconden na aankomst al zouden zien, hadden ze uiteraard niet verwacht!

Terwijl EV en RS de eerste foto's en geluidsopnames maakten, viel het op dat de Citroenkwikstaart zeer frequent voedselvluchten maakte. Hij foerageerde vooral op een mesthoop en het verzamelde voedsel bracht hij steevast naar een plek op c 250-300 m afstand midden in het suikerbietenperceel. Het vermoeden werd daarmee bevestigd dat zich daar een nest met jongen bevond. Dat maakte de waarneming nog spannender dan hij al

113 Nestlocatie van gemengd broedpaar van Citroenkwikstaart *Motacilla citreola* en Gele Kwikstaart *M flava* / breeding site of mixed breeding pair Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* and Blue-headed Wagtail *M flava*, Zeewolde, Flevoland, 16 juli 2011 *(Roy Slaterus)*

114-115 Citroenkwikstaart / Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, eerste-zomer mannetje, Zeewolde, Flevoland, 16 juli 2011 *(Arnoud B van den Berg/The Sound Approach)*

116 Citroenkwikstaart / Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, eerste-zomer mannetje, Zeewolde, Flevoland, 17 juli 2011 *(André van den Berg)*

117 Gele Kwikstaart / Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava*, vrouwtje, Zeewolde, Flevoland, 21 juli 2011 *(Roy Slaterus)*. Vrouwtje van gemengd broedpaar.

was: niet alleen ging het om het c 33e geval van Citroenkwikstaart (28 gevallen tot en met 2010) maar bovendien om het eerste broedgeval. In de daaropvolgende dagen werd vastgesteld dat de vogel gepaard was met een vrouwtje Gele Kwikstaart *M flava* en dat ze samen ten minste drie jongen grootbrachten. De plek was niet vrij toegankelijk en daarom werd besloten om het nieuws niet uitgebreid te verspreiden. In dit artikel worden de determinatie van de Citroenkwikstaart en het gemengde broedgeval besproken.

Beschrijving

De beschrijving is voornamelijk gebaseerd op foto's en geluidsopnames die gedurende het verblijf van de vogel werden gemaakt.

GROOTTE & BOUW In alle opzichten lijkend op Gele Kwikstaart.
KOP & HALS Voorhoofd, oorstreek, kin en keel citroengeel. Achterhoofd en kruin iets lichter geel; kruin met grijs waas. Achter- en zijhals zwart, opvallende band vormend tot aan zijborst.
BOVENDELEN Mantel, rug, schouder en stuit grijs met op sommige plekken bruin waas. Bovenstaartdekveren donkergrijs.
ONDERDELEN Borst en buik licht citroengeel. Zijborst en flanken witachtig met grijs waas. Onderstaartdekveren vuilwit.
VLEUGEL Hand- en armpennen donkerbruin. Tertials donkergrijs met brede witte zomen, in zit groot deel van hand- en armpennen bedekkend. Grote handdekveren grijs met bruin waas. Duimvleugel donkergrijs met smalle lichte zomen. Grote dekveren met donkergrijs centrum, lichte zoom en brede witte top, duidelijke vleugelstreep vormend; buitenste vier (nog ongeruide) grote dekveren met bruin waas en smallere vuilwitte top. Middelste dekveren met donkergrijs centrum en brede witte top, duidelijke vleugelstreep vormend. Kleine dekveren grijs met bruin waas.
STAART Bovenstaart donkergrijs tot zwart met witte buitenste staartpennen. Onderstaart grotendeels wit (als gevolg van witte buitenste staartpennen).
NAAKTE DELEN Oog zwart. Poot donkergrijs. Snavel donkergrijs met iets lichtere basis.
GELUID In vlucht kenmerkend *tsie-rrp*, met vergeleken met vluchtroep van Gele Kwikstaart raspende klank. Deze roep, alsmede korte tsjirpende zangelementen, soms ook op grond ten gehore brengend.
RUI & SLEET Hand- en armpennen gesleten. Veel lichaamsveren sterk gesleten, met name op kop en borst. Oorstreek en keel donkere plekken vertonend door sterk gesleten of ontbrekende veren. Opvallende ruigrens in grote dekveren (buitenste vier ongeruid).

Determinatie

Het uiterlijk en geluid van de vogel wezen op een mannetje Citroenkwikstaart. Gele kwikstaarten *Motacilla* waren eenvoudig uit te sluiten door de combinatie van brede witte vleugelstrepen, witachtige onderstaartdekveren, overwegend grijze bovendelen en opvallende zwarte nekband. Enkele donkere plekken op de kop bleken na nauwkeurige observatie het gevolg te zijn van sterk gesleten of ontbrekende veren.

Lastiger waren het bepalen van de leeftijd en de ondersoort. Voor eerste-zomer mannetje pleitten de bruine, gesleten handpennen, grote handdekveren en buitenste grote dekveren; adulte mannetjes kunnen echter ook een ruicontrast in de grote dekveren vertonen. Ook de tamelijk fletse citroengele onderdelen en het grijs waas op de

kruin pasten beter op eerste-zomer dan op adult mannetje (Alström et al 2003). Afgaande op de brede zwarte nekband, die tot aan de zijborst reikte en verbreedde op de achterhals, behoorde de vogel vermoedelijk tot de nominaat *M c citreola*. Bij de ondersoort *M c werae* is de nekband doorgaans smaller of zelfs nagenoeg afwezig. Ook heeft deze ondersoort vaak een blauw in plaats van bruin waas op de bovendelen. De verschillen tussen beide ondersoorten zijn echter subtiel en bij eerste-zomer mannetjes lastig te bepalen (Alström et al 2003).

Broedgeval

Toen duidelijk was geworden dat er sprake was van een broedgeval werden afspraken gemaakt voor het verrichten van vervolgwaarnemingen en het documenteren van de bevindingen. De terreineigenaar verleende toestemming voor het betreden van het kavelpad; het betreden van de aangrenzende akkers was niet toegestaan. Behalve door LD, RS en EV werden waarnemingen verricht door André van den Berg, Arnoud van den Berg en Merijn van Leeuwen. Via e-mail hielden zij elkaar vrijwel dagelijks op de hoogte. Ook werden Ruud van Beusekom en Gerald Oreel ingelicht.

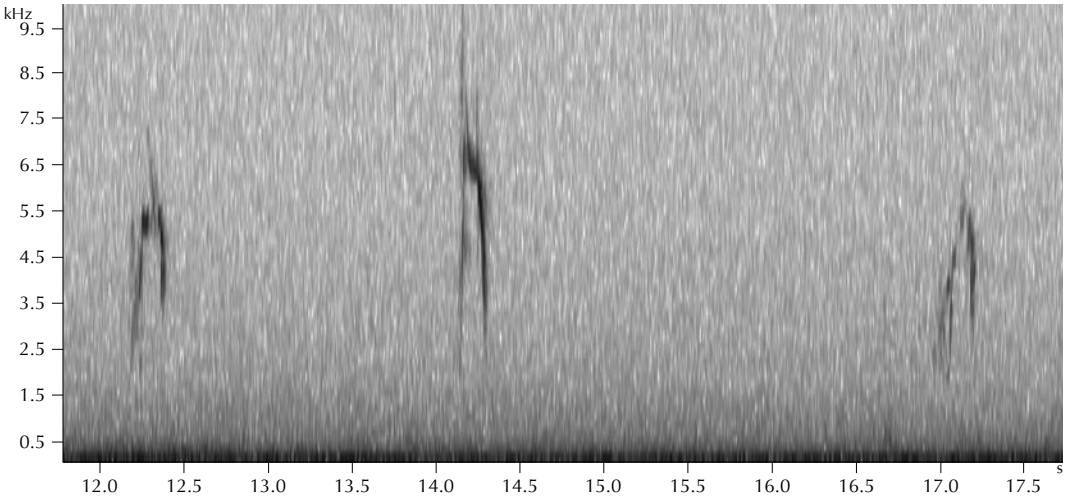
Toen op 15 juli werd ontdekt dat het mannetje Citroenkwikstaart gepaard was met een vrouwtje Gele Kwikstaart, werd ook gezien dat het zeer frequent voedselvluchten uitvoerde en vaak foerageerde op en rond een mesthoop en een sloot langs het kavelpad en op een aangrenzend perceel met nog niet hoog opgegroeide wortelen. Het vrouwtje vertoonde zich opmerkelijk genoeg geen enkele keer in de nabijheid van het kavelpad. Zij was derhalve veel lastiger te volgen. Hoewel duidelijk was dat beide vogels voedsel voor een of meer jongen verzamelden, bleef het op dat moment onzeker of deze het nest al hadden verlaten. Beide vogels verdwenen telkens op ongeveer dezelfde plek in het suikerbietenperceel op een afstand van 250-300 m van het kavelpad. Een telling in de ochtend van 17 juli leverde in twee uur tijd 11 voedselvluchten van het mannetje op. Een kortstondige telling op 20 juli leverde in een half uur tijd zelfs zes voedselvluchten op.

118 Hybride Citroenkwikstaart x Gele Kwikstaart / hybrid Citrine x Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla citreola x flava*, juveniel, Zeewolde, Flevoland, 16 juli 2011 *(Roy Slaterus)*

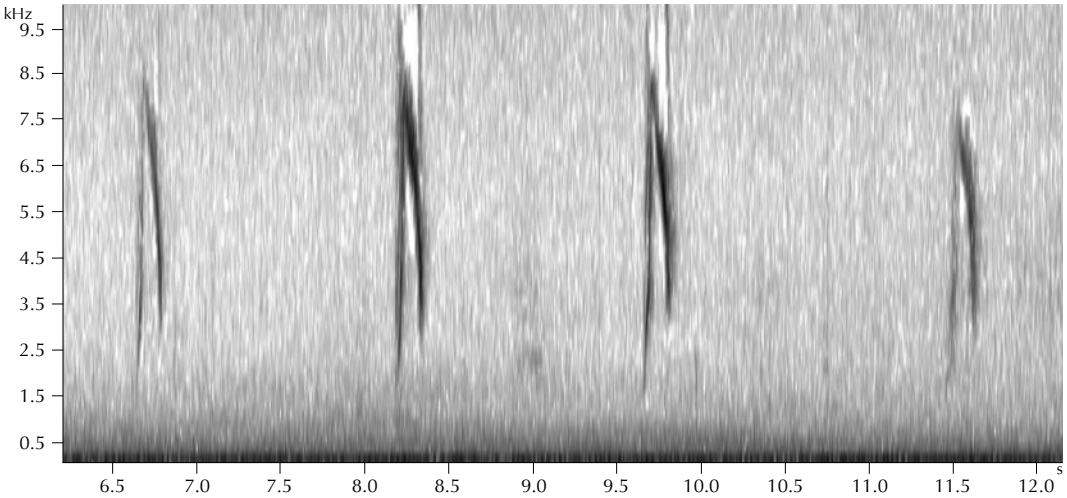
Op 17 juli werd tussen 15:00 en 17:15 waargenomen dat het mannetje op en bij de mesthoop behalve muggen en vliegen tevens een emelt en een kever ving. Na iedere c één minuut durende 'oogst' was de afwezigheid van het mannetje gemiddeld vier minuten, met weinig variatie. Op andere momenten foerageerde de vogel ook veelvuldig op het kroos in de kavelsloot waarbij waarschijnlijk poelslakjes *Lymnaea* de prooi vormden. Meermalen werd waargenomen dat de vogel in plasjes bij de mesthoop met zeer snelle bewegingen kleine organismen (waarschijnlijk muggen) oppikte waarbij de indruk bestond dat het om eigen voedselvoorziening ging.

Op 16 juli werden voor het eerst jongen gezien, onwennig rondfladderend boven het suikerbietenperceel en soms landend boven in het gewas. De vogels bleven op geruime afstand van het kavelpad en waren telkens slechts kortstondig te bekijken. Eenmaal werden tegelijkertijd drie jongen geteld. Beide ouders verzamelden voedsel, waarbij opnieuw alleen het mannetje bij de mesthoop verscheen. Observaties op 17 juli leverden een vergelijkbaar beeld op, al vertoonden de jongen zich minder vaak boven het gewas. Dit was mogelijk het gevolg van slechte weersomstandigheden.

Ook van 19 tot 22 juli verzamelden beide ouders voedsel voor de jongen maar de frequentie van de voedselvluchten lag aanzienlijk lager dan in de voorgaande dagen. Opvallend was dat het mannetje meerdere pogingen deed om overvliegende Torenvalken *Falco tinnunculus* te verjagen en daarin soms werd bijgestaan door Gele Kwikstaarten die in de nabijheid nestelden. Ook werd waargenomen hoe het mannetje kortstondig boven de bietenplanten een luchtgevecht aanging met een mannetje Gele Kwikstaart. De jongen verbleven nog steeds hoofdzakelijk op de grond en lieten zich nauwelijks bekijken. De ouders zaten langdurig boven in het gewas om pas na veelvuldige verplaatsingen met het verzamelde voedsel naar de grond te vliegen om daar, buiten beeld, de jongen te voeren.



FIGUUR 1 Citroenkwikstaart / Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, eerste-zomer mannetje, Zeewolde, Flevoland, 19 juli 2011 *(Roy Slaterus)*. Vluchtroep (midden) en twee eenvoudige zangelementen / flight call (centre) and two simple song elements.



FIGUUR 2 Citroenkwikstaart / Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, eerste-zomer mannetje, Zeewolde, Flevoland, 16 juli 2011 *(Arnoud B van den Berg/The Sound Approach)*. Vluchtroepen / flight calls.

Na 22 juli werd het mannetje niet meer aangetroffen en was het – door de aanwezigheid van andere Gele Kwikstaarten – lastig om zekerheid te verkrijgen over de aanwezigheid van het vrouwtje en de jongen. De laatste waarneming van waarschijnlijk het vrouwtje met twee jongen dateert van 27 juli.

Discussie

Het broedgeval werd pas in een laat stadium ontdekt. Het duurde dan ook tot niet lang na de ontdekking dat de jongen uitvlogen. Ondanks meerdere pogingen lukte het niet om goede foto's van de jongen te maken. Zij vertoonden zich doorgaans slechts kortstondig en altijd op geruime afstand van het kavelpad. Het uiterlijk van de jon-

gen kon ook niet uitvoerig worden bestudeerd; zij leken sterk op juveniele Gele Kwikstaarten maar waren opvallend grijs van kleur, ogenschijnlijk zonder gele en bruine tinten, en toonden een markante koptekening met een donkere zijkruin. Ongeveer een week na het uitvliegen van de jongen werd het mannetje voor het laatst gezien. Het vermoeden bestaat dat kort daarna ook de jongen het territorium hebben verlaten.

Het eerste geval van Citroenkwikstaart voor Nederland betrof een eerstejaars van 24 augustus tot 8 september 1984 bij Castricum, Noord-Holland (Moerbeek et al 1984). Het tweede geval volgde op 29 april 1991 bij Breskens, Zeeland (Meininger et al 1991). Daarna is de soort vrijwel jaarlijks vastgesteld, zowel in het voor- (april tot juni) als najaar (augustus tot november). Vooral sinds 2006 is het aantal gevallen sterk toegenomen (Ovaa et al 2011).

Het (gemengde) broedgeval bij Zeewolde in 2011 betekende een primeur voor Nederland. In de meeste omringende landen zijn reeds eerder broedgevallen van Citroenkwikstaarten vastgesteld. In Finland, de Baltische landen en Polen is inmiddels sprake van een broedpopulatie van enkele 10-tallen en er zijn zuivere en gemengde broedgevallen bekend voor bijvoorbeeld Duitsland, Slowakije, Tsjechië en Zwitserland en alleen gemengde broedgevallen voor Engeland, Frankrijk en Zweden (Cox & Inskipp 1978, Snow & Perrins 1998, cf Randler 2002, McCarthy 2006, Laur-Fournié & Paris 2011). Voor Wit-Rusland en Oekraïne geeft BirdLife International (2004) aantallen broedparen van respectievelijk 1000-2000 en 8300-13 800.

In het West-Palaearctische gebied worden drie ondersoorten van Citroenkwikstaart onderscheiden, namelijk *M c citreola* in Noord-Rusland van het Kanin-schiereiland tot Centraal-Siberië, *M c werae* van Centraal-Rusland tot Mantsjoerije en *M c calcarata* uit Centraal-Azië (Snow & Perrins 1998, Hagemeijer & Blair 1997). De populaties van *M c citreola* en *M c werae* vertonen een westwaartse uitbreiding (Wilson 1979, 1984, Breek 1983, Snow & Perrins 1998).

Bij nagenoeg alle taxa van gele kwikstaarten met aan elkaar grenzende verspreidingsgebieden is hybridisatie vastgesteld (Slaterus 2009). Ook bij Citroenkwikstaarten komt hybridisatie voor (Snow & Perrins 1998, McCarthy 2006). Voorbeelden daarvan werden onder meer beschreven door Lehto (1990), Shirihai (1990), Lehto & Lehto (1997) en Wassink (2009). Het gemengde broedgeval bij Zeewolde was in dat opzicht dus niet echt uitzonderlijk.

Dankzegging

Provincie Flevoland maakte de tellingen mogelijk en de eigenaar verleende toestemming voor het betreden van zijn terrein. André van den Berg, Arnoud van den Berg, Ruud van Beusekom, Merijn van Leeuwen, Gerald Oreel en Ed Veling droegen eveneens bij aan de totstandkoming van dit artikel. Zij worden daarvoor bedankt.

Summary

Mixed breeding record of Citrine Wagtail and Blue-headed Wagtail at Zeewolde in 2011 On 12 July 2011, a first-summer male Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* was found during a survey of farmland birds near Zeewolde, Flevoland, the Netherlands. When the site was visited again three days later, it became clear that it was paired with a female Blue-headed Wagtail *M flava* and feeding young. On 16 July, three young were seen making their first flights. Over the next days, the family was observed by a total of six birdwatchers; unfortunately the site was not open for public. Although the male and female came very close to the observers, the young always kept well hidden between the sugar beet crops. The male was last seen on 22 July and the female with two young probably on 27 July.

Up to 2010, 28 records of Citrine Wagtail have been accepted by the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA), the first dating back to 1984. Especially since 2006 the number of sightings has increased. This record constituted the first (mixed) breeding of Citrine Wagtail for the Netherlands. In the last decades, the species is expanding its range westwards; it is now breeding regularly in Finland, the Baltic states and Poland. Other cases of mixed breeding have already occurred as far west as England, France and Sweden.

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Identification headaches: presumed hybrids Pale-bellied x Dark-bellied Brent Goose in the Netherlands

During the weekend of 21-22 February 2009, at least three presumed hybrids Pale-bellied x Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta hrota x bernicla* were observed in the Netherlands. On 21 February, Rik Winters noticed one bird in a flock of Dark-bellied Brent Geese and Barnacle Geese *B leucopsis* with one Red-breasted Goose *B ruficollis* at Lauwersmeer, Friesland. On 22 February, Dirk Vogt photographed a similar bird on Texel, Noord-Holland, and Bob Woets photographed one (wearing a metal ring on the right leg) at Wieringen, Noord-Holland. All three birds were adults. Later, it turned out the Texel bird had been present since at least December 2008, and that most probably the same Lauwersmeer bird had been photographed already on 4 February

119 Presumed hybrid Pale-bellied x Dark-bellied Brent Goose / vermoedelijke hybride Witbuikrotgans x Rotgans *Branta hrota x bernicla*, adult (centre), with Dark-bellied Brent Geese / Rotganzen *B bernicla* and Pale-bellied Brent Goose / Witbuikrotgans *B hrota* (left), Wieringen, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 22 February 2009 *(Bob Woets)*

120-121 Presumed hybrid Pale-bellied x Dark-bellied Brent Goose / vermoedelijke hybride Witbuikrotgans x Rotgans *Branta hrota x bernicla*, adult, Bantpolder, Lauwersmeer, Friesland, Netherlands, 21 February 2009 *(Rik Winters)*
122-123 Presumed hybrid Pale-bellied x Dark-bellied Brent Goose / vermoedelijke hybride Witbuikrotgans x Rotgans *Branta hrota x bernicla*, adult, Smerp, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 28 December 2009 *(Fred Visscher)*. Different birds.

2009 near Ezumazijl, Friesland. Based on the intermediate appearance, the three birds were presumed to be hybrids Pale-bellied x Dark-bellied Brent Goose, although this is probably not more than a best guess. In all cases, also the possibility of 'Gray-bellied Brant' (cf Garner & Millington 2001, Garner & friends 2008; see also below) was suggested, and the birds were judged by some birders who were asked to comment to be pale Dark-bellied Brent Geese, or dark Pale-bellied Brent Geese (with last two options remarkably depending strongly on the species being most frequent in the commentators' country of residence...).

At Wieringen, mixed pairs with young have been observed on several occasions since January 2006 (see table 1). On 28 December 2009, Fred Visscher photographed two presumed hybrids here, one with a metal ring on the right leg, presumably the same bird as the one photographed in the same area on 22 February 2009, 28 December 2009 and 16 March 2011. Both birds foraged together and were assumed to be brother (the larger, ringed bird) and sister (Fred Visscher in litt), although, in theory, they may have been a pair.

In late December 2003 and January 2004, a family with three hybrid young was observed and photographed on Texel (Jansen & Ebels 2004). In this case, with birds foraging in a family group, the identification of the hybrid young can be considered beyond reasonable doubt.

More sightings have occurred in the Netherlands (see table 1 for all reports) but most observers

124 Presumed hybrid Pale-bellied x Dark-bellied Brent Goose / vermoedelijke hybride Witbuikrotgans x Rotgans *Branta hrota x bernicla*, adult (left), with Dark-bellied Brent Geese / Rotganzen *B bernicla*, Texel, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 22 February 2009 *(Dirk Vogt)*

probably leave 'difficult' brent geese unidentified and/or are reluctant to report hybrids. Older reports are perhaps hard to trace anyway because, in those days, all brent geese taxa were treated as subspecies and 'intermediate' birds were considered to be of very limited interest. Therefore, the reports in table 1 are probably not complete but give an idea of the minimum numbers involved.

After the first winter, when birds have left the family group and the parents are not easily detectable, there are no easy ways to identify (unringed) birds as a hybrid with certainty, and a hybrid origin can only be suspected on plumage features.

Characters and identification

The general appearance of the presumed hybrids strongly depended on light and viewing angle, either looking similar to a darkish Pale-bellied Brent Goose, or more like a pale Dark-bellied Brent Goose. The three birds photographed in February 2009 showed extensive white on the flanks, a grey brown central belly that extended up the flanks near the breast and upperpart coloration that differed from the accompanying Dark-bellied in being slightly paler. The pale flanks were less contrasting than in typical Pale-bellied but much more obvious than in Dark-bellied. The dark central belly was visible beyond the legs but extended not as far as in Dark-bellied and was paler; this character excludes pure Pale-bellied, especially in adult plumage (cf Ebels 1997). The described belly pattern was similar to the hybrid juveniles observed on Texel in winter 2003/04 (Jansen & Ebels 2004). Furthermore, the central belly looked finely barred, less solidly dark than on Dark-bellied. The neck-band was broken both at the front and on the rear. The upperparts seemed to differ somewhat in colour and tone from Dark-bellied, appearing slightly less grey and a bit more brown but this feature proved very hard to assess accurately.

When discussing the identification of 'Gray-bellied Brant', the formally still undescribed taxon from Ellesmere Island, Canada, Garner & Millington (2001) already mentioned hybrid Pale-bellied x Dark-bellied Brent Goose as a possible pitfall without, however, providing details on the appearance of such hybrids. The three birds described above show a high degree of similarity to at least paler variants of 'Gray-bellied' as described in the literature; darker variants more resemble a cross between Black Brant *B nigricans* and Pale-bellied (cf Garner & Millington 2001, Buckley & Mitra 2002, Wilson 2003, Garner & friends 2008). The current state of knowledge may not be sufficient to safely discriminate between a hybrid Pale-bellied x Dark-bellied and a genuine 'Gray-bellied'.

More brent geese identification headaches

The presumed hybrids described complicate the options already available when studying brent geese in the Netherlands and further challenge the identification of non-typical individuals. Dark-bellied Brent Goose is a numerous wintering bird here (many 10 000s) and both Pale-bellied Brent Goose and Black Brant are always present during winter in low numbers. The latter two species usually total a few 10s each winter but, in some winters, up to several 100s or even more than 1000

125 Presumed hybrid Pale-bellied x Dark-bellied Brent / vermoedelijke hybride Witbuikrotgans x Rotgans *Branta hrota x bernicla* (left), with Dark-bellied Brent Goose / Rotgans *B bernicla*, Ezumazijl, Friesland, Netherlands, 4 February 2009 *(Roef Mulder)*. Presumed to be same bird as in plate 120-121.

Pale-bellied may occur. Hybrids between Dark-bellied and Black have been documented (Berrevoets & Erkman 1993, Bakker & Ebels 2002) and are reported each winter.

McCarthy (2006) does not make specific distinction between the three brent geese taxa; he mentions: 'Where *bernicla* and *hrota* meet, there is a large hybrid population in Canada (Melville and Prince Patrick Islands). The other two contact zones are less well studied, but regular sightings of intermediates in Europe indicate ongoing hybridization'.

Although hard to prove, some birds observed recently also suggest the presence of further-generation hybrids ('backcrosses'), or perhaps hybrids between Pale-bellied Brent Goose and Black Brant, adding to the identification headaches as backcrosses will resemble the hybrid's partner even more and are probably often indistinguishable from the 'real thing'.

Acknowledgements
The findings described above result from Dirk Vogt and Bob Woets bringing their birds to the attention of the general public, and the discussion that followed, in which also Theo Bakker, Arnoud van den Berg, Enno Ebels, Martin Garner, Anthony McGeehan and Roef Mulder generously expressed their views.

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TABLE 1 Reports of presumed hybrids Pale-bellied x Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta hrota x bernicla* in the Netherlands (source: www.waarneming.nl); all reports on Wieringen may refer to the same returning birds and also birds from other nearby locations (eg, Texel) may have involved these same individuals

21 April 2000, Paesens, Friesland
6 January 2002, Den Helder, Noord-Holland
27 December 2003 into January 2004, Texel, Noord-Holland (three juveniles with mixed parent pair; Jansen & Ebels 2004)
2 January to 3 May 2006, Wieringen, Noord-Holland (maximum of three, at least two adults)
30 January to 25 March 2007, Wieringen (first-winter with mixed parent pair)
30 April 2007, Texel
31 December 2007 to 16 February 2008, Wieringen (maximum of two)
21 March 2008, Peazemerlannen, Friesland
18 October 2008 to 29 March 2009, Wieringen (maximum of two, one wearing metal ring on right leg)
27 December 2008 and 4 January, 22 February and 11 April 2009, Texel
22 February and 26 May 2009, Ameland, Friesland (maximum of two)
4 February to 1 March 2009, Ezumazijl and Bantpolder, Friesland
28 December 2009 and 5 March 2010, Wieringen, Noord-Holland (maximum of two, one wearing metal ring)
28 January 2010, Sint Pieterspolder, Yerseke, Zeeland
10 October 2010, Banckspolder, Schiermonnikoog, Friesland
16 March 2011, Westerlandkoog, Wieringen (wearing metal ring on right leg)
3 and 24 December 2011, Noorderbuurt, Wieringen
18 February 2012, Wieringen

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African Crake at Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania, in November 2011

In November 2011, Jelle Loonstra and I (Jeroen Reneerkens) visited the intertidal mudflat area Banc d'Arguin in Mauritania for a long-term study on the survival and ecology of Sanderling *Calidris alba*. We were part of a team of researchers of the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) and the University of Groningen (RuG). In the Imraguen village of Iwik (19°52'39"N, 16°18'18"W), I annually catch and colour-ring Sanderlings and observe the colour-ringed birds when they continue foraging on fish waste during high tide (Reneerkens et al 2009). On 29 November, JL alerted me to a rail-like bird on the shoreline running between the traditional sailing boats of the Imraguen in Iwik. My first thought was that this was just one of the local chickens but a view through my binoculars immediately taught me that it was a crake, and a species unknown to me. It resembled Corn Crake *Crex crex* in shape but clearly had a different plumage. Without directly being able to identify it, I realised that this probably was a rare species for the Banc d'Arguin and possibly for the country, so I made a basic description in my notebook. The bird appeared healthy and vivid. For no apparent reason, it made short flights (c 20 m distance) over sea and returned to the shoreline. During flight, its legs dangled below the body and the fairly long, rounded wings were visible. The bird could be approached closely up to 20 m but kept running away from us. At some point, it disappeared behind one of the sailing boats on the shoreline. JL and I both carefully walked around the boat, each from a different side, expecting to get a very close view of the bird. However, without having seen the bird fly away, it had vanished when we approached the other side of the boat. We assumed that it had hidden itself somewhere in the boat but despite checking several possible locations on board, we did not find it again. Several hours later, I returned to Iwik and surroundings, this time with my camera, during a waterbird count. However, the bird was never seen again, also not on following days by eight Dutch birders staying in the area until 1 December.

Description and identification

My notes on this bird were: '*Crex* species, white belly with black horizontal stripes, grey breast, dark eye with orange eye-ring, pinkish strong legs, chocolate brown back with black feather centres, pink base of dark bill'. Not written down but additionally observed were a grey upperhead and

white supercilium. The identification as African Crake *C egregia* was straightforward. Several other rail and crake species have black-and-white bars on the flanks, undertail and belly in combination with a grey breast. However, none have such underparts in combination with a white supercilium and a dark bill with red base. Ash-throated Crake *Porzana albicollis* from South America resembles African Crake to some extent because of similar blackish-brown upperparts and black-and-white flanks and vent but this species can be excluded because of its white throat, yellow bill and lack of a supercilium (Taylor & van Perlo 1998). There are only two *Crex* species, of which African Crake differs clearly from Corn Crake in several of the observed characters, such as the clear black and white barring on the underparts and the red-based dark bill (Taylor & van Perlo 1998, Borrow & Demey 2001). The grey breast and pinkish legs indicate that the bird was an adult (Taylor & van Perlo 1998).

Distribution and WP records

African Crake is a widespread and locally common species of moist to dry grasslands in Africa south of the Sahara, except for the arid regions in the south and south-west of Africa (Taylor & van Perlo 1998). It is a rare resident and intra-African migrant in West Africa, except for the arid north and forests (Borrow & Demey 2001). It seasonally migrates away from the equator in northerly and southerly directions to breed during wet periods (Taylor & van Perlo 1998).

The observation in November 2011 is the fourth or fifth record for Mauritania. It is the first or second for Banc d'Arguin, where an exhausted individual was reported in late January 2007 but without any documentation. Three other reports from Mauritania are all from the southernmost Sahelian part of the country, in October, November and January (Isenmann et al 2010; Paul Isenmann in litt); this part of the country is outside the Western Palearctic, by any definition (Cramp & Simmons 1977, Roselaar 2006, van den Berg 2008). The observation represents the seventh or eighth record for the Western Palearctic (WP) as defined by Roselaar (2006), who includes only northern Mauritania. Cramp & Simmons (1977) include Banc d'Arguin in the WP but not mainland Mauritania (the coastline being the border), which makes the November 2011 record truly a borderline case; however, the brief flights over water would justify inclusion on the WP list (although purists may want to discuss if the WP border is related to high, low or neap tide...).

There are four records in the Canary Islands (three in November, one in January), all coinciding with depressions coming from Mauritania and all concerning weakened or dead birds (Chevalier & Bergier 2011). Another one was found dead in the Cape Verde Islands in February 2004 (Hazevoet 2010, Haas 2012). The most recent WP observation comes from southern Morocco, where a bird stayed near Dakhla, Oued Ad-Deheb, for a week in December 2009 (photograph in Chevalier & Bergier 2011). From Senegal, two observations north of 14°N are known (Morel & Morel 1990). Including the record from November 2011, there are currently equal numbers of observations of African Crake and Corn Crake at Banc d'Arguin (Isenmann et al 2010).

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Additional comments on Rock Partridge morphology: *Alectoris graeca orlandoi*

In my recent paper dealing with the identification and taxonomy of Sicilian Partridge *Alectoris whitakeri* (Corso 2010), I also discussed the taxon *A graeca orlandoi* (Italian Rock Partridge), which occurs (only) in the Apennines, Italy. Although the description in the paper is detailed and the taxon is well illustrated in the accompanying plates by Lorenzo Starnini, only a single photograph of *orlandoi* was published (plate 102), showing only the uppertail. To my knowledge, no photographs are available in other publications. It is therefore interesting to present a series of photographs of an *orlandoi* skin (photographs of live birds in the field prove to be really hard to obtain) for comparison with *whitakeri* and the other Rock Partridge taxa. The photographs show an *orlandoi* specimen collected at Molise, Apennines, central Italy, within the core breeding area of *orlandoi*, and preserved at Università di Scienze Naturali del Molise, Pesche, Campobasso, Italy. The accompanying plates make it possible to check the characters of *orlandoi* mentioned in Corso (2010) and to compare these with skins of *whitakeri* and Alpine Rock Partridge *A g saxatilis*. These *orlandoi* characters

126 Italian Rock Partridge / Italiaanse Steenpatrijs *Alectoris graeca orlandoi*, adult (collected at Molise, Apennines, Italy, November 2007), Università di Scienze Naturali del Molise, Pesche, Campobasso, Italy *(Andrea Corso)*. Same bird as in plate 129 and 131-133. Note pale upperparts, being most azure-cerulean grey of all Rock Partridge taxa. Also note brownish-vinaceous tinge on scapulars only. Rump and uppertail-coverts concolourous with upperparts. **127** Alpine Rock Partridge / Alpensteenpatrijs *Alectoris graeca saxatilis* (collected at Piemonte Alps, Italy, 30 December 1928), Museo Civico di Zoologia di Roma, Italy *(Andrea Corso)*. Note darker, more saturated upperparts than *orlandoi*, with conspicuously more extensive vinaceous and olive tinge and therefore visible contrast between rump and uppertail-coverts and mantle.

128 Sicilian Partridge / Siciliaanse Steenpatrijs *Alectoris whitakeri* (collected in Sicily, Italy, November 2006) *(Andrea Corso)*. Note richer coloured underparts, more saturated, with warmer and richer belly/vent area and darker, more colourful undertail-coverts, typical of *whitakeri*. **129** Italian Rock Partridge / Italiaanse Steenpatrijs *Alectoris graeca orlandoi*, adult (collected at Molise, Apennines, Italy, November 2007), Università di Scienze Naturali del Molise, Pesche, Campobasso, Italy *(Andrea Corso)*. Same bird as in plate 126 and 131-133. Note very pale uppertail-coverts and rump, bluish-cerulean grey, with no vermiculations and no vermiculations on tail-feathers (vermiculated only in few birds). **130** Alpine Rock Partridge / Alpensteenpatrijs *Alectoris graeca saxatilis* (collected in Italian Alps, Italy, December 2008), Museo Civico di Zoologia di Roma, Italy *(Andrea Corso)*. Typical *saxatilis*; note bold and broad black neck collar, far warmer and richer neck and breast side (same as on scapulars and mantle) than typical *orlandoi*, with more vinaceous tinge, and more contrasting face pattern. Black collar pattern and colour of scapulars and mantle can be highly variable within the same Rock Partridge populations but typical birds are distinctive enough.

are: ***1*** very pale, pure bluish-grey upperparts with almost no contrast and without strong olive-brownish hue, differing from *saxatilis* and even more from darkest *whitakeri*; ***2*** very pale upper-tail-coverts, rump and tail, differing from darker and fully vermiculated pattern typical for *whitakeri*; ***3*** quite pale underparts, with also quite pale undertail-coverts, differing from richer, deeper

131-132 Italian Rock Partridge / Italiaanse Steenpatrijs *Alectoris graeca orlandoi*, adult (collected at Molise, Apennines, Italy, November 2007), Università di Scienze Naturali del Molise, Pesche, Campobasso, Italy *(Andrea Corso)*. Same bird as in plate 126, 129 and 133. Note very pale underparts, typical of most birds (but few of the southernmost part of the range in Calabria), with almost apricot-tinged belly/vent, as well as quite pale, almost apricot undertail-coverts. **133** Italian Rock Partridge / Italiaanse Steenpatrijs *Alectoris graeca orlandoi*, adult (collected at Molise, Appenines, Italy, November 2007), Università di Scienze Naturali del Molise, Pesche, Campobasso, Italy *(Andrea Corso)*. Same bird as in plate 126, 129 and 131-132. Close-up of head and throat. Note quite clean off-white throat patch, surrounded by black collar which is broader than in Sicilian Partridge *A whitakeri* but less irregular and ragged than in Alpine Rock Partridge *A g saxatilis*. Note almost invisible drab eye-line over black eye-stripe, differing from *whitakeri*. Note also well-defined and quite wide white line between crown and dark eye-stripe and lore.

colour in *whitakeri* (chiefly on undertail), as well as from darker *saxatilis*; and ***4*** very clean and off-white throat surrounded by well-marked black collar, often narrower than in *saxatilis* but broader than in *whitakeri*. More details are given in the captions. I hope this note and these photographs will help taxonomists to further define the phenotypic appearance of *orlandoi*.

I wish to thank Lorenzo De Lisio for helping me to find the discussed specimen and Anna Loy of the Università di Scienze Naturali del Molise for the permission to handle the specimen and take photographs.

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White-tailed Tropicbird on Flores and Corvo, Azores, in October 2011

Following the large number of (extreme) rarities found in recent years, Corvo and Flores, the two westernmost islands in the Azores, have now earned a reputation as one of the best autumnal destinations in the Western Palearctic (WP). Since at least 2005, birders turn up each autumn on both islands in an attempt to find their own rare birds, especially Nearctic passerines (cf Alfrey et al 2010). With 40-50 visiting birders between late September and early November, autumn 2011 exceeded expectations with an unprecedented haul of 'megas' (cf van den Berg & Haas 2011). The pinnacle of this was the stunning discovery of an adult White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus* on 14 October by two Finnish birders, Janne Aalto and Mika Bruun. It was first seen flying above the coastal village of Fajãzinha on the west coast of Flores in the late afternoon by JA, who immediately realized he was looking at a tropicbird with a 'yellow' bill. MB almost instantly obtained good photographs, with the bird's plumage pattern (and bill colour) confirming JA's initial thoughts: an adult White-tailed Tropicbird! The news was immediately released by walkie-talkie and telephone to the other birders present on the island – all surprisingly being very close by – so within less than 30 min at least eight birders were enjoying good views of the bird. It was not only circling over the village but also landed on the ground once, and then on the roofs of different houses and the village church. This behaviour was rather surprising for most birders present, and at first it was assumed that the bird was searching for a place to roost. However, at c 17:00, less than an hour after the initial discovery, the bird flew out to sea and did not reappear prior to dusk.

That evening, JA contacted his Finnish friend Markku Santamaa, staying on Corvo with 25 other birders. Needless to say this news went down like a 'thunderstorm' with Corvo's birding community. Plans were hastily made to hire a boat the next morning to reach Flores and spend a few hours around Fajãzinha hoping that the bird might return. After a tantalizing and frustrating wait the next day, the White-tailed Tropicbird fortunately reappeared at c 15:40, spending an hour or so around the village, before disappearing to sea again. It then returned fairly regularly to the same area until at least 21 October, providing delightful views and great photographic opportunities. Following a deep Atlantic low the next day, there

134 Fajãzinha, Flores, Azores, 24 October 2011 *(Richard Bonser)*

135 White-tailed Tropicbird / Witstaartkeerkringvogel *Phaethon lepturus*, adult, Fajãzinha, Flores, Azores, 15 October 2011 *(Vincent Legrand)*

136 White-tailed Tropicbird / Witstaartkeerkringvogel *Phaethon lepturus*, adult, Fajãzinha, Flores, Azores, 15 October 2011 *(David Monticelli)*

137 White-tailed Tropicbird / Witstaartkeerkringvogel *Phaethon lepturus*, adult, Fajãzinha, Flores, Azores, 16 October 2011 *(Daniele Occhiato)* **138** White-tailed Tropicbird / Witstaartkeerkringvogel *Phaethon lepturus*, adult, Fajãzinha, Flores, Azores, 17 October 2011 *(Kris De Rouck)* **139** White-tailed Tropicbird / Witstaartkeerkringvogel *Phaethon lepturus*, adult, Fajãzinha, Flores, Azores, 15 October 2011 *(Vincent Legrand)*

TABLE 1 Records of White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus* in the Western Palearctic (cf Haas 2012)

20 February 1999, Ilheu de Curral velho, Boavista, Cape Verde Islands, adult (Dufourny 1999)	plate 240, 2011)
3 May 2011, off Praia Harbour, Santiago, Cape Verde Islands, adult, photographed (Dutch Birding 33: 206,	14-21 and 27 October 2011, Fajãzinha, Flores, and 25 October 2011, Vila Nova, Corvo, Azores, adult, photographed (this paper)

was no sign of the bird at Fajãzinha over the following three days, but through a remarkable twist of fate, Richard Bonser (who had been looking for it unsuccessfully on Flores the previous two days), located it flying in from the south over Vila Nova village, Corvo, on 25 October (30 km north-east of Fajãzinha). Conforming to its behaviour on Flores, it attempted to land on houses in the old village, before doing a number of circuits over the area and flying off west along the airstrip. The bird was again reported on Fajãzinha on 27 October (Jan Kåre Ness in litt), but not thereafter.

Identification, ageing and behaviour

The shape and plumage details of the bird are clearly illustrated in the accompanying plates. The combination of tern-like size and mainly white plumage with very long golden-toned tail-streamers, distinctive black pattern on upperwing (with the outer primaries almost completely black and black median-covert bar), dark eye-stripe and golden-buff tones to most of the body and wings only fits White-tailed Tropicbird (cf Harrison 1985). The identification as an adult is rather straightforward based on the following characters: ***1*** upperwing pattern mainly white but with diagnostic wide black median-covert bar reaching the innermost tertials; ***2*** outer primaries (p7-10) almost completely black with white tips; ***3*** innermost primaries mainly white with black shafts; ***4*** long yellowish ('golden') tail-streamers; and ***5*** yellow bill. The 'golden' tail-streamers, combined with the obvious golden tone visible over the entire body and wings, suggest that it is a 'golden' morph. Other types of coloration exist (see Le Corre & Jouventin 1999), including completely white individuals ('white morph'), intermediate individuals with white body and golden-toned streamers, and apricot-toned individuals (in *P l fulvus* only). Experienced observers also noted in the field the slightly smaller size of this species (wing span 90-95 cm) compared with both Red-billed Tropicbird *P aethereus* and Red-tailed Tropicbird *P rubricauda* (wing span 99-106 cm and 113 cm, respectively; Schreiber & Burger 2001).

Like its congeners, White-tailed Tropicbird is a highly pelagic species, spending most of its life at sea. Adults only come to land to breed, and since they are asynchronous breeders, this can be at any time of the year (Ramos et al 2005). The nest is usually located in a crevice or a natural hole (eg, on cliff faces), although in some places it can simply nest on the ground under a tree or bush (Shreiber & Burger 2001). It seems plausible to extrapolate from this that the Azorean bird was prospecting for a nest site and a mate. It returned for short periods of time each day (generally in the late afternoon) to the same area, in an attempt to find a suitable cavity, either on the precipitous nearby cliffs of Fajã Grande or on the roofs of habitation. In particular, the church of Fajãzinha seemed very attractive with numerous attempts on several days to enter a rain gutter in the vicinity of the church's bell-tower.

Local villagers indicated that the tropicbird had already been seen at Fajãzinha a few days before the initial discovery by JA and MB, showing similar prospecting behaviour.

Distribution and systematics

White-tailed Tropicbird is a pantropical species. There are currently six subspecies recognized, on the basis of geographical variation in measurements and coloration among populations (see Le Corre & Jouventin 1999). Three occur in the Indian Ocean (*europae*, *fulvus* and nominate *lepturus*), two in the Atlantic Ocean (*ascensionis* and *catesbyi*), and one in the Pacific Ocean (*dorotheae*). Further genetic research is ongoing to clarify the systematic position of each subspecies (Matthieu Le Corre pers comm).

Without feather or blood samples of the Fajãzinha bird for DNA analysis, it is impossible to trace the origin of this individual. Also, 'golden' morphs are known to occur in all six subspecies (Le Corre & Jouventin 1999). It seems, however, more likely that it originated from one of the (sub) tropical Atlantic colonies, rather than from either the Pacific Ocean or Indian Ocean. The nearest breeding grounds from the Azores (c 2000 nautical miles) are the Bermudas, Bahamas, Caribbean and Antilles in the western Atlantic (*catesbyi*), while more distant populations are also found in the eastern Atlantic on São Tomé and islets in the Gulf of Guinea (c 3600 nautical miles from the

Azores) and on Ascension Island (c 3400 nautical miles from the Azores) in the central Atlantic Ocean (*ascensionis*).

Azores and WP records
There have been three previous records of White-tailed Tropicbird in waters west off Flores, including juveniles/immatures photographed from a boat on 18 and 20 October 2007 (303 and 200 nautical miles west of Flores, respectively), and on 15 August 2008 (340 nautical miles west of Flores). However, only one of these (20 October 2007) has been accepted by the Portuguese rarities committee (Jara et al 2010). This is explained by the fact that the boundary of Portuguese waters coincides with the Portuguese exclusive economic zone (EEZ), which extends to a maximum range of 200 nautical miles around the islands. Thus, any record further west than 200 nautical miles from the coast of Flores or Corvo falls outside the Azores/Portuguese border. Furthermore, WP waters (sensu Cramp 1985) do not overlap with the westernmost limit of the Portuguese EEZ, but lie at c 32°W, which is only c 40 nautical miles west of Flores. Consequently, none of the observations detailed above fall within these WP boundaries. The bird in October 2011, therefore, represents the second record for 'Portugal' but only the third record for the WP, following two records in the Cape Verde Islands (table 1). All three WP records concern adult birds.

Acknowledgements
We are indebted to Peter Alfrey, Richard Bonser, Pierre-André Crochet, Matthieu Le Corre and Joaquim Muchaxo for their valuable advice for this note.

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Two Mourning Collared Doves at Abu Simbel, Egypt, from December 2010

During the Christmas holiday of December 2010, we (Dirk Colin and Kris De Rouck) went for a short birding trip to southern Egypt, mainly to see the Three-banded Plovers *Charadrius tricollaris* that are present at Aswan (cf Haas et al 2010). After observing two adult Three-banded on 27 December, we decided to take the convoy to Abu Simbel next day to try and see African Skimmers *Rynchops flavirostris* and perhaps some other African specialties. We intended to spend some extra time birding as this area does not seem to be regularly visited by birders during winter. On 28 December, we checked the bays around Abu Simbel and in the evening, we visited the Water Research Center where we watched a Pharaoh Eagle Owl *Bubo ascalaphus* and two Egyptian Nightjars *Caprimulgus aegyptius*. On 29 December, we once again checked the shores of lake Nasser but, because no new birds were found, we decided to check the old neighbourhood with some nice gardens near Abu Simbel temple. While walking through one of the narrow streets, an unknown call was repeatedly heard from a tree close by. When the unknown call

140-141 Mourning Collared Dove / Treurtortel *Streptopelia decipiens*, Abu Simbel, Egypt, 29 December 2010 *(Kris De Rouck)*

sounded again, a 'collared dove' performed a display flight which was repeated after c 10 min. At that moment, we heard another individual making the same sound and soon both doves were clearly visible and KDR managed to obtain some photographs. We noted that both birds were unringed.

Because we did not have a field guide for Africa with us, we thought the birds were probably African Collared Doves *Streptopelia roseogrisea* which is regular at Abu Simbel in very low numbers. However, there was something 'not right' about the birds. After returning home, KDR checked his photographs and became certain that the birds were not African Collared but most likely Mourning Collared Doves (also known as African Mourning Dove) *S decipiens*. After consulting the internet bird sound database of Xeno-Canto (www.xeno-canto.org) and Sinclair & Ryan (2003), it was obvious that the song belonged to Mourning Collared.

The birds remained in the area during 2011 and into 2012. They were reported on 21 March 2011 (Andy Clifton), 5-8 May 2011 (Pierre-André Crochet, Eric Didner), 20 September 2011 (Bill Bailey, Richard Rafe, Bob Swann, Steven Vaughan Ashby), 23 December 2011 (Lee Victor Gregory), 9 January 2012 (Vincent Legrand, David Monticelli), 14 January 2012 (Markku Santamaa) and 4 February 2012 (Bosse Carlsson, Ingvar Torsson; cf www.netfugl.dk/ranking.php).

Description

The description is based on notes by KDR and DC and photographs by KDR (cf De Rouck 2011; Dutch Birding 33: 55, plate 62, 2011).

HEAD Crown, forehead and ear-coverts pale grey. Chin and throat pale grey as well but fading into pinkish hue on neck and neck-sides. Rather broad black half-collar at lower part of hind-neck, bordered above by thin white line. Half-collar becoming somewhat wider on neck-sides.

UPPERPARTS Mantle and back grey brown, darker than in Eurasian Collared Dove *S decaocto*. Uppertail-coverts grey with thin pale edges.

UNDERPARTS Breast, flank and belly isabelline. Vent and undertail-coverts off-white.

WING Upperwing darker grey brown than in Eurasian Collared Dove. Primaries dark grey. Outer wing-coverts grey. Underwing mostly grey with thin white edge along wingtips.

TAIL Outer tail-feathers mainly whitish, contrasting with darker central tail-feathers. Rest of uppertail dark greyish (darker than mantle and back).

BARE PARTS Bill dark grey-black. Iris yellow. Orbital skin dark greyish on both birds, on close view, in at least one bird, with orangey spots. Leg vinaceous, nails blackish.

SOUND No sound-recordings made. First bird found on call, noticeably loud *krrree-oorrrr*, repeated at regular intervals. Second call disyllabic, starting with *oo* and followed by softer trill, *oorrr*. While displaying, third call (possibly song) noted, consisting of three elements: first, short *oo-oo*, followed by softer *hoo*.

BEHAVIOUR Spending most of time hidden in tree tops. Display flight ascending with 'beating' wing beats followed by descending glide. Both birds rather shy. Nothing in behaviour pointing towards birds having escaped from captivity.

Identification

The combination of plumage characters and sounds only fits Mourning Collared Dove. African Collared Dove can be eliminated by its smaller size, slighter built, lack of grey on the head, red iris and thinner half-collar. Eurasian Collared Dove resembles African Collared closely and can

142 Mourning Collared Dove / Treurtortel *Streptopelia decipiens* (left), with European Turtle Dove / Zomertortel *S turtur*, Abu Simbel, Egypt, 7 May 2011 *(Eric Didner)*

143 Mourning Collared Dove / Treurtortel *Streptopelia decipiens*, Abu Simbel, Egypt, 9 January 2012 *(Vincent Legrand)*

be eliminated by the same characters, although it is darker overall and has a dark iris. In addition, the sounds noted in the two birds at Abu Simbel do not fit these two species. On geographical grounds, another confusion species is Red-eyed Dove *S semitorquata* but this species can be eliminated by (among others) its chocolate-brown upperparts, dark iris and absence of white in the tail. The superficially similar Vinaceous Dove *S vinacea*, which could theoretically also occur in Egypt, can be excluded by its dark loral stripe and dark iris, as well as darker uppertail sides. Ring-necked Dove *S capicola* has a narrower neck-band and a dark iris, with inconspicuous orbital ring (del Hoyo et al 1997, Gibbs et al 2001).

Six subspecies of Mourning Collared Dove are currently recognized (del Hoyo et al 1997), of which the nominate *S d decipiens* occurs from North Sudan and northern and central Ethiopia to north-western Somalia, and is the subspecies most likely involved on geographical grounds. Geographic variation within the species mainly relates to differences in underparts coloration and iris colour. On account of the greyish tone to the underparts (lacking the white belly of some subspecies), the birds at Abu Simbel most probably belong to the nominate subspecies.

Mourning Collared Dove normally shows a reddish orbital ring, whereas the birds at Abu Simbel showed a mostly greyish orbital ring (cf plate 143). In addition, according to (Gibbs et al 2001), the four northern subspecies, occurring from Senegal east through Chad and Sudan and south to southern Ethiopia, appear to have red or orange-red irides, whereas the two southernmost subspecies, *S d ambigua* from Angola and southern Zaire to Zambia, and *S d perspicillata* from Somalia south to Mozambique, have yellow irides. Possibly, this reflects a lack of understanding in the variability of bare parts coloration in the northern subspecies and should not discredit the Abu Simbel birds as genuine vagrants. Checking photographs on internet, KDR found that birds from, eg, Eritrea and Sudan (may) show a greyish orbital ring; see, for instance, a bird photographed at Fenti golf course in Khartoum, North Sudan, in late January 2011, which shows a grey orbital ring, as well as a yellowish iris (cf http://birdingsudan.blogspot.com, see report of 1 February 2011), closely matching the Abu Simbel birds in appearance. According to Frederic Jiquet of the Egyptian Ornithological Rarities Committee (EORC) 'it is easy to find on the internet pictures of Senegalese birds with a yellow iris ... so there is definitely a lack of appreciation in geographic variation of the iris colour'.

Distribution

The record has been accepted by the EORC (Frédéric Jiguet in litt; www.chn-france.org/upload_content/eorc_boe_2011.pdf). It constitutes the first record of Mourning Collared Dove for Egypt and the Western Palearctic (WP). Mourning Collared is a mainly sedentary species that occurs widely in sub-Saharan Africa, where it is quite common in arid habitats with water close by. It is also found in urban parks and gardens. Like some other *Streptopelia* doves, such as African Collared Dove, this species has recently expanded its range northwards and now occurs in northernmost North Sudan, along the Nile (Nikolaus 1987, Gibbs et al 2001). As in African Collared, a further range expansion along the Nile (and perhaps Red Sea coast) seems quite likely. Another example of Afrotropical Columbidae reaching the WP, possibly aided by expanding modern irrigation methods creating suitable habitat, occurred in January 2011 when a Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia* was photographed at Luxor, Egypt (van der Veen 2011; Dutch Birding 33: 54, plate 59, 2011), constituting another first record for Egypt and the WP.

Acknowledgements

We thank Eric Didner, Frédéric Jiguet (EORC) and Vincent Legrand for their help.

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Presumed hybrid Black-headed x Black-backed Citrine Wagtail in Bulgaria in April 2011

On 3 April 2011, I observed and photographed a male wagtail *Motacilla* showing characters of both Black-headed Wagtail *M feldegg* (hereafter *feldegg*) and Citrine Wagtail *M citreola* (hereafter *citreola*) at the Nikolaevo fish ponds, Stara Zagora district, in eastern Bulgaria (42°37′26.96′′N, 25°50′3.63′′E). The bird was feeding on a wheat field in a group of c 40 wagtails (including males *feldegg* and a few Blue-headed Wagtails *M flava*). It could be observed at a distance of 25-30 m for c 20 min.

The wagtail had a completely black head, like male *feldegg*, and a black-to-greyish-black mantle, like male Black-backed Citrine Wagtail *M c calcarata* (hereafter *calcarata*), showing very little contrast between head and mantle. The greater and median wing-coverts and tertials were brownish-black and showed wide clear-white tips, like in *citreola*. In *feldegg*, these tips are generally much narrower and more greyish-white; in *calcarata*, the white wing-bar is typically wider than in the studied wagtail. Its underparts were bright-yellow. In addition, it had no white or yellow supercilium and no white chin, thus differing from *feldegg* of the form '*melanogrisea*' and from hybrids involving other yellow wagtail taxa.

Taking into account the wagtail's plumage (no sound was recorded), it was presumably a male hybrid between *feldegg* and *calcarata*. Because of the brownish flight-feathers, it was most likely in first-summer plumage.

As their breeding distributions overlap extensively in Central Asia and western China (cf Alström & Mild 2003), it is surprising that this was probably the first (published) record of a hybrid between *feldegg* and *calcarata* (cf McCarthy 2006). Several hybrids between *feldegg* or other yellow wagtail taxa and *citreola* have been recorded (or suspected) (eg, Cox & Inskipp 1978, Shirihai 1990, Lehto & Lehto 1997).

The unexpected occurrence of a hybrid between *feldegg* and *calcarata* in Bulgaria may be explained by assuming the hybrid bird mixed with yellow wagtails during winter or migration. In Bulgaria, migrant flocks involving different yellow wagtail taxa are common in both spring and autumn. Especially, along the Black Sea coast, these flocks may also include *citreola* (Pavel Simeonov pers comm). After the first Bulgarian record by Nyagolov (1990), *citreola* has become more regular, especially in spring, but there are no records of *calcarata*, either in Bulgaria or elsewhere in Europe.

The most westerly and only Western Palearctic record to date of *calcarata* concerns a first-summer male photographed at Van marshes, Eastern Anatolia, Turkey, on 17-18 May 2011 (Occhiato 2011; Dutch Birding 33: 264, plate 328, 2011).

According to Cracraft (1983, 1989), *calcarata* should be treated as a separate species, *Motacilla calcarata* ('Black-backed Citrine Wagtail'). A phylogenetic tree based on mitochondrial DNA showed that *calcarata* is much closer to *feldegg* and a number of other yellow wagtail taxa than to *citreola* (Ödeen & Alström 2001, Alström & Ödeen 2002). However, these results are contradicted by a study of nuclear DNA (cf Alström & Mild 2003),

144-145 Presumed hybrid Black-headed x Black-backed Citrine Wagtail / waarschijnlijke hybride Balkankwikstaart x Zwartrugcitroenkwikstaart *Motacilla feldegg* x *citreola calcarata*, male, Nikolaevo fish ponds, Bulgaria, 3 April 2011 *(Peter S Shurulinkov)*

showing that *calcarata* and *citreola* are each other's closest relatives, as is supported by morphological characters (Ödeen & Alström 2001, Alström & Ödeen 2002). Alström et al (2003) explain this discrepancy as an effect of (ancient) hybridization with yellow wagtail taxa affecting the mitochondrial DNA. They acknowledge that under the Phylogenetic Species Concept (PSC), *calcarata* and *citreola* could be considered separate species, based on the consistent differences in male plumages.

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Brieven

Photographs of Mugimaki Flycatcher collected at Treviso, Italy, in October 1957

Barezzani & Ebels (2012) published a paper about the first-year male Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki* ringed near Bagolino in Brescia, Italy, on 6 October 2011. In the paper, they listed the other records in Europe, including the first (although not (yet) admitted to Category A), a bird collected at San Vendemiano, Treviso, Italy, on 29 October 1957. The mounted specimen of this bird, a first-year female, is in the collection of Museum Brandolini Giol at Oderzo, Treviso. A black-and-white photograph of the specimen was published in Giol (1959). In January 2012, I visited the museum to check the specimen and to take new photographs. Two of these photographs are

146 Mugimaki Flycatcher / Mugimakivliegenvanger *Ficedula mugimaki*, first-winter female (collected at San Vendemiano, Treviso, Italy, on 29 October 1957), Museum Brandolini Giol, Oderzo, Treviso, January 2012 *(Giancarlo Fracasso)*

147 Mugimaki Flycatcher / Mugimakivliegenvanger *Ficedula mugimaki*, first-winter female (collected at San Vendemiano, Treviso, Italy, on 29 October 1957), Museum Brandolini Giol, Oderzo, Treviso, January 2012 *(Giancarlo Fracasso)*

presented here and represent the first colour photographs of this individual to be published. The all-dark tail clearly indicates this is a female (lacking the white patches on the outer tail shown by males), as do the pale yellowish underparts (deeper orange in male). The pale tips to the median and greater coverts indicate that it is a first-year bird. The good condition of the specimen (in particular wing- and tail-feathers and bare parts) visible in plate 146-147 was noted by Giol (1959) as an indication of a presumed wild origin.

I thank Giovanni Timossi, curator of Museum Brandolini Giol, for providing access to the Giol collection and Marcel Haas for his help and useful additions to the text.

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CDNA-mededelingen

Recente CDNA-besluiten Op de wintervergadering van 25 februari 2012 te Santpoort-Zuid, Noord-Holland, zijn de volgende punten aan de orde gekomen en besluiten genomen. Frank Neijts moet zijn lidmaatschap helaas vanwege gezondheidsredenen vroegtijdig beëindigen. Zijn opvolger wordt Nils van Duivendijk, die daarmee een 'comeback' in de commissie maakt. De termijn van Max Berlijn als archivaris verloopt in 2013. De overgang naar het digitale roulatiesysteem is een geschikt moment om het stokje over te geven. Marcel Haas is bereid gevonden om de taken van Max reeds in de loop van 2012 over te nemen. Jeroen van Vianen en Steven Wytema lichtten op de vergadering de stand van zaken toe met betrekking tot de Digitale Avifauna. Alle

gevallen tot en met 2010 zijn inmiddels ingevoerd; aan de gevallen van 2011 wordt ook gewerkt (omdat die nog niet in een jaarverslag zijn gepubliceerd krijgen ze een aparte status). Voor de digitale roulatie is ondertussen een protocol geschreven en naar verwachting is in mei-juni de testversie gereed; het systeem wordt vervolgens tot eind 2012 getest en geoptimaliseerd zodat er vanaf 1 januari 2013 volledig digitaal kan worden gewerkt.

De volgende soorten zijn bekrachtigd als nieuwe soort voor Nederland: Kokardezaagbek *Lophodytes cucullatus* (Biddinghuizen, Flevoland, 27 november 2007 tot 10 februari 2008; andere waarnemingen van deze soort zijn (nog) niet aanvaard) en Langstaartklauwier *Lanius schach* (Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 31 oktober 2011). Van het eerste-kalenderjaar mannetje Kokardezaagbek waren veel foto's beschikbaar, waaruit bleek dat hij ongeringd was. De vogel vertoonde ook geen andere tekenen van een voormalig verblijf in gevangenschap. De soort heeft door meer dan 20 (als wild aanvaarde) gevallen ver buiten zijn Noord-Amerikaanse broedgebieden bewezen een voldoende mate van 'vagrancy potential' te hebben (er zijn onder meer gevallen op de Azoren, in Brittannië, op de Canarische Eilanden, op Hawaï, in Ierland en in IJsland). Hoewel de soort veelvuldig in gevangenschap wordt gehouden en daaruit ook regelmatig ontsnapt (getuige de vele bewezen geringde vogels in Nederland) en zelfs al broedend zou zijn aangetroffen (nabij Mijdrecht, Zuid-Holland, in 2008), is de CDNA van oordeel dat er bij dit exemplaar geen harde bewijzen voor een verleden in een waterwildcollectie aanwezig waren. Conform het beleid van de CDNA is deze waarneming daarom aanvaard als eerste geval. Nieuwe waarnemingen van deze soort zullen steeds op basis van strenge criteria met betrekking tot ongeringdheid en tekenen van gevangenschap worden beoordeeld.

Voor Bulwers Stormvogel *Bulweria bulwerii* (Westplaat, Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, 21 augustus 1995) geldt de omgekeerde route: deze soort is na bijna 17 bewogen jaren op de Nederlandse lijst met verschillende herbeoordelingen afgevoerd. Op grond van nieuwe informatie over de determinatie van stormvogeltjes (inclusief Bulwers Stormvogel) beschikbaar gesteld door Bob Flood en inmiddels gepubliceerd (Br Birds 100: 407-442, 2007, Limicola 22: 81-124, 2008), werd het enige geval opnieuw door de CDNA beoordeeld. Al het beschikbare diamateriaal is kritisch geanalyseerd en vergeleken met de vele nieuwe foto's die de laatste 15 jaar beschikbaar zijn gekomen, aangevuld met meningen van buitenlandse experts over de herkenning. Hierbij werd met name aandacht besteed aan het uitsluiten van Chinees Stormvogeltje *O monorhis*. Na drie intensieve discussierondes is de CDNA van oordeel dat Chinees niet afdoende kan worden uitgesloten en dat het geval daardoor niet aanvaardbaar is.

De volgende soorten zijn afgevoerd van de beoordeellijst: Slangenarend *Circaetus gallicus*, Steppekiekendief *Circus macrourus*, Noordse Nachtegaal *Luscinia luscinia* en Bruine Boszanger *Phylloscopus fuscatus*. Voor deze soorten geldt dat er in de afgelopen 30 jaar gemiddeld twee of meer exemplaren per jaar zijn vastgesteld en daarmee voldoen ze niet meer aan de criteria om beoordeeld te worden. Voor een aantal soorten waarvan het aantal exemplaren de grens van twee per jaar overstijgt maar het aantal gevallen niet (bijvoorbeeld Vale Gier *Gyps fulvus*) blijft de beoordeelstatus gehandhaafd.

Ten aanzien van meldingen van overvliegende vogels die alleen werden gehoord en waarvan alleen een geluidsopname beschikbaar is, staat te lezen in het Handboek CDNA (zie www.dutchbirding.nl): 'Een geval waarbij de documentatie enkel bestaat uit een geluidsopname bij een slechts overvliegende vogel komt in principe niet voor aanvaarding in aanmerking. In gevallen van roepende overvliegende vogels dient de vogel in kwestie zodanig beschreven of gefotografeerd te zijn dat dit de determinatie ondersteunt waarbij de geluidsopname als doorslaggevend kan worden gezien'. Er is besloten om deze regel te versoepelen en uit het handboek te verwijderen. Dit betekent dat vogels waarvan alleen een geluidsopname is gemaakt (zonder dat de vogel zelf is gezien) voor aanvaarding in aanmerking kunnen komen. Wel geldt dat er sprake moet zijn van een duidelijke opname met een diagnostische roep en dat het zeker moet zijn dat het geluid niet afkomstig is van een geluidsdrager. Dit zal uiteraard van geval tot geval kritisch beoordeeld worden.

De herroulaties van Bronskopeend *Anas falcata*, Jufferkraanvogel *Grus virgo*, Roodsterblauwborst *L svecica svecica* en bergfluiter *P bonelli/orientalis* (exemplaren waarvan de zang is opgenomen) zijn nog gaande. De afgelopen winter met veel Kleine Burgemeesters *Larus glaucoides* heeft veel kennis opgeleverd over de kleedvariatie bij nominaat Kleine *L g glaucoides*. Omdat gebleken is dat vooral tweede-winter exemplaren zeer variabel en behoorlijk donker kunnen zijn, is het uitsluiten van Kumliens Meeuw *L g kumlieni* complexer dan misschien voorheen werd gedacht. Gedetailleerde beschrijvingen en foto's of videobeelden van de tekening van de buitenste handpennen zijn daarbij cruciaal. Op basis van deze kennis is besloten om te onderzoeken of herroulatie van de eerste Kumliens (Terschelling, Friesland, 30 januari 2005; cf Dutch Birding 31: 17-19, 2009) gewenst is. Naar aanleiding van het artikel over criteria voor veldherkenning van tweede-kalenderjaar Baltische Mantelmeeuw *L graellsii fuscus* (Dutch Birding 33: 304-311, 2011) is afgesproken de aanbevelingen op de volgende vergadering te behandelen. Indien de CDNA accoord gaat, zal een aantal oude waarnemingen van vogels zonder (kleur)ring alsnog of opnieuw beoordeeld worden en zouden in de toekomst ook waarnemingen van ongeringde vogels kans op aanvaarding maken. Dick Groenendijk, Arjan Ovaa & Willem van Rijswijk

WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic mainly from **mid-January to early March 2012**. The reports are largely unchecked and their publication here does not imply future acceptance by a rarities committee. Observers are requested to submit their records to each country's rarities committee. Corrections are welcome and will be published.

SWANS TO DUCKS The number of **Bewick's Swans** *Cygnus bewickii* in the Netherlands this winter reached an all-time low of 2400 (there were still 15 000 six years ago, cf Dutch Birding 34:49, 2012). The flock of nine **Whooper Swans** *C cygnus* in the Hula valley from 4 December 2011, constituting the fifth record for Israel, remained until at least 9 February. In Spain, **Tundra Bean Goose** *Anser serrirostris* has become a rarity with only three birds in Zamora and at La Nava lagoon, Palencia, on 11-21 February; formerly it was a regular winterer in this region. A **Lesser White-fronted Goose** *A erythropus* was seen in the La Nava area from 11 January to at least 21 February. In the Netherlands, the number at Camperduin, Noord-Holland, reached an all-time high of 116 in one group on 25 January. In the Azores, the male **Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa* at Lagoa Lomba, Flores, from 5 October 2011 was still present on 20 January, while another male stayed at Paul da Praia, Terceira, from 19 January to at least 10 March. In the Netherlands, the first-winter female **White-headed Duck** *Oxyura leucocephala* at Reeuwijkse Plassen, Gouda, Zuid-Holland, from 16 December 2011 stayed until 24 February; from 12 March, this bird or another was present near Chaam, Noord-Brabant. There was also one, likewise joined by Ruddy Ducks *O jamaicensis*, at Juvigné, Mayenne, France, from 4 March. On 12-16 February, one was swimming at Konstanzer Trichter, Bodensee, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. In Morocco, more than 60 were counted at Sidi Bou Rhaba, Kenitra; the first successful breeding here occurred in summer 2009 (the species had been considered as extinct in Morocco in the previous c 60 years). The first two **Steller's Eiders** *Polysticta stelleri* for Poland in six years concerned singles in the Vistula river mouth on 11 February and 4 March. In Denmark, male **American Scoters** *Melanitta americana* were seen at Blåvands Huk, Syddanmark, on 10 January, at Rømø Vesterstrand, Syddanmark, on 14 January and at Ordrup Næs, Sjælland, on 23 January. The first **American White-winged Scoter** *M d deglandi* for Japan was an adult male in eastern Hokkaido on 26 February which was found dead the next day; the second was discovered (by one of the editors of Dutch Birding) at Hasaki harbour, Choshi, Kyushu, on 14 March. Winter surveys of **Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis* in the Baltic Sea in 1992-93 and 2007-09 show a decline of 65% over 16 years, and this appears ongoing as Swedish surveys in 2011 indicated a decline of 80%. The adult male **Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola* remained at Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands, for its eighth winter. The female/juvenile at Helston Loe Pool, Cornwall, England, from 26 October 2011 remained into March. The third for Iceland was an adult male at Dynjandi, Nes, from 27 December 2011 into March; it is considered the same individual as the one present here in February-April 2009. A first-winter female **Hooded Merganser** *Lophodytes cucullatus* at Whetsted, Kent, England, on 10 and 26 February appears to be a good candidate to be accepted as the ninth for Britain and Ireland (Birdwatch 238: 68-69, 2012). In Norway, the adult male **American Black Duck** *Anas rubripes* returned to Rosanes, Vestfold, in November 2011 and was still present on at least 11 January. In Spain, a male stayed at Cospeito, Lugo, Galícia, from 20 December 2011 to 6 February. The wintering male on Achill Island, Mayo, Ireland, returned on 13 February. A flock of six **Marbled Ducks** *Marmaronetta angustirostris* was seen off Ghajn Tuffieha, Malta, on 17 March.

SEABIRDS If accepted, a **Black-throated Loon** *Gavia arctica* at Grundarfjörður on 24 February will be the first for Iceland. The **Yellow-billed Loon** *G adamsii* at Fáskrúðsfjörður, Iceland, from late December 2011 stayed into March. On 7-10 February, a first-winter was seen at Carmignano sul Brenta, Padova, Italy. The fifth for Switzerland was a second-year photographed at Bodensee between Uttwil and Guttingen, Thurgau, on 12-25 February and was also seen in the German part of the lake on 28 February. Also in Germany, birds turned up at Ladenburg, Baden-Württemberg, on 21 January and at Oderbank, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, on 15 March. On 29 February, an immature **Black-browed Albatross** *Thalassarche melanophris* was photographed c 184 nautical miles south-west of Mizen Head, Cork, Ireland. A **Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris borealis* photographed in a flock of Scopoli's Shearwaters *C diomedea* off Ahrax on 4-5 March was the first for Malta. **Bryan's Shearwater** *Puffinus bryani* had not been recorded other than in 1963, when one specimen first misidentified as a Little Shearwater *P assimilis* was collected on Midway Atoll, Hawaii, USA, and described as a new species in 2011 (Condor 113: 518-527, 2011, Dutch Birding 33: 330-331, 2011, 34: 74, 2012). It led to renewed interest in sightings around the Ogasawara islands, Japan, c 1000 km south of Tokyo, where unidentified birds resembling Bryan's were collected in 1997, 2005, 2006 (three) and 2011. The DNA taken from these six specimens recently demonstrated that they are indeed Bryan's. It is believed that several 100s breed in the islands which, allegedly, are hard to visit in winter, the species' supposed breeding season, due to rough seas. On 28 January, the sixth **Great Shearwater** *P gravis* for Israel was seen off Haifa. If accepted, a **Sooty Shearwater** *P griseus* at Stegna, Gdańsk bay, on 14 January will be the fourth for Poland. The one at Katy Rybackie, Vistula Spit, on 23 October 2011 was the third for Poland, not the fifth (cf Dutch Birding 33: 398, 2011; the first was found dead at Jastar-

148 Pygmy Cormorant / Dwergaalscholver *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, Uzava floodplains, Ventspils, Latvia, 1 February 2012 *(Kärlis Millers)* **149** Black Heron / Zwarte Reiger *Egretta ardesiaca*, adult, Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, Cape Verde Islands, 28 February 2012 *(Vincent Legrand)* **150** Intermediate Egret / Middelste Zilverreiger *Mesophoyx intermedia*, Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, Cape Verde Islands, 27 February 2012 *(Vincent Legrand)*

151-152 Black-browed Albatross / Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris*, at sea, c 184 nautical miles south-west of Mizen Head, Cork, Ireland, 29 February 2012 *(Conor Ryan/Irish Whale and Dolphin Group – Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology)* **153** Kumlien's Gull / Kumliens Meeuw *Larus glaucoides kumlieni*, Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, 16 January 2012 *(Filip De Ruwe)*

154 Ross's Gull / Ross' Meeuw *Rhodostethia rosea*, adult, Ardglass, Down, Ireland, 24 January 2012 *(Paul & Andrea Kelly/irishbirdimages.com)*

155 Glaucous-winged Gull / Beringmeeuw *Larus glaucescens*, adult, Århus, Nordjylland, Denmark, 3 February 2012 *(Martin Gottschling)*

nia, Hel peninsula, on 1 April 1990 and the second photographed at Hel, Hel peninsula, on 14 October 2010).

CORMORANTS TO GREBES The first **Pygmy Cormorant** *Phalocrocorax pygmeus* for Latvia was photographed at Uzava river floodplain, Ventspils, from 29 January to 2 February. In France, the individuals at Pont-de-l'Isère and Canet-en-Roussillon, Pyrénées-Orientales, stayed through February-March. From 27 February, one was present at Grossmehring, Bayern, Germany. The adult female **Eurasian Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*, 'Elly', satellite-tagged on 17 June 2010 at her nest at Ilperveld, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, which migrated south via France, Morocco and Mauritania to arrive in The Gambia on 5 November 2010, spent the summer of 2011 in Normandy, France. In autumn, she travelled south to Morocco again where she was first reported on 31 October 2011 and remained in the Merja Zerga and Oued Loukkos areas of northern Morocco until at least 11 January (see www.roerdomp.info; Dutch Birding 32: 409, 2010). From 23 February into March, an **American Bittern** *B lentiginosus* was seen at Paul da Praia, Terceira. On Santiago, Cape Verde Islands, up to two **Black Herons** *Egretta ardesiaca* (adult and first-winter) and **Intermediate Egrets** *Mesophoyx intermedia* were still present at Barragem de Poilão on 1 March. The **Western Reef Heron** *E gularis* at Essaouira, Morocco, first found on 18 April 2009 was again seen on 23 February. On 1 February, during two weeks of severe winter weather in the Netherlands, a record 917 **Western Great Egrets** *Casmerodius albus* were counted at a single roost at Brabantse Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant. A census of **Northern Bald Ibis** *Geronticus eremita* in Morocco in 2011 resulted in 511 individuals, all in the coastal region north and south of Agadir. The first **Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena* for the Azores was photographed at Horta, Faial, between 21 January and at least 24 February.

RAPTORS For the first time since 2008, the Dutch rarities committee dropped species from the list of species that are considered as, by 1 January 2012, the number of individuals accepted for **Short-toed Snake Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*, **Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus*, **Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus* and **Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia* had increased above the average of two per year for the past 30 years; the committee makes an exception for certain species, such as **Griffon Vulture** *Gyps fulvus*, where the average number of records is less than two per year but the total over the past 30 years has exceeded 60 individuals. An RSPB Bird Crime report reveals that illegal poisoning of raptors in Britain remains a major problem with 20 **Red Kites** *Milvus milvus*, one **White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla*, two **Northern Goshawks** *Accipiter gentilis*, one **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *A nisus*, 30 **Common Buzzards** *Buteo buteo*, five **Golden Eagles** *Aquila chrysaetos* and eight **Peregrine Falcons** *Falco peregrinus* found dead as a result of poisoning in 2010 alone, this number of documented incidents no

156 Little Bustard / Kleine Trap *Tetrax tetrax*, Stalhille, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, 4 March 2012
(Filip De Ruwe)

157 Hybrid Pallid x Hen Harrier / hybride Steppekiekendief x Blauwe Kiekendief *Circus macrourus x cyaneus*, second calendar-year female, Villers-le-Gambon, Namur, Belgium, 1 February 2012 *(Alain de Broyer)*

158 Pallid Harrier / Steppekiekendief *Circus macrourus*, second calendar-year male, Finsterhennen, Bern, Switzerland, 18 January 2012 *(Beat Rüegger)*

159 Black-throated Accentor / Zwartkeelheggenmus *Prunella atrogularis*, Gingen, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, 20 January 2012 *(Wilhelm Lang)* **160** Wallcreeper / Rotskruiper *Tichodroma muraria*, Sint Pietersberg, Maastricht, Limburg, Netherlands, 6 March 2012 *(Nico Rensen)* **161** Pine Bunting / Witkopgors *Emberiza leucocephalos*, male, with Yellowhammer / Geelgors *E citrinella*, Gattererberg, Zillertal, Tirol, Austria, 9 March 2012 *(Maarten Hotting)* **162** African Dunn's Lark / Afrikaanse Dunns Leeuwerik *Eremalauda dunni dunni*, Oued Jenna, Aousserd, Western Sahara, Morocco, 10 January 2012 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)* **163** Citrine Wagtail / Citroenkwikstaart *Motacilla citreola*, Aswan, Egypt, 5 February 2012 *(Dick Hoek)* **164** American Coot / Amerikaanse Meerkoet *Fulica americana*, Lugar de Baixo, Madeira, 20 January 2012 *(Hugo Romano/ Madeira Wind Birds)*

doubt being much less than the actual number of birds involved. In addition, there were, for instance, 227 reports of shooting and destruction of raptors and 40 egg-collecting incidents. In Ireland, a juvenile **Pallid Harrier** came to roost at Lough Corrib, Galway, until at least 3 March. The first-ever in winter in Sardinia concerned a male at Campidano on at least 14 January. One or two also wintered in south-eastern France. In Switzerland, a juvenile wintered at Finsterhennen, Bern, during at least January. In southern Spain, at least three were wintering in February while six were reported for January. In Belgium, a first-winter female hybrid **Hen x Pallid Harrier** *C cyaneus x macrourus* was photographed at Philippeville, Namur, on 31 January and remained into February. Another presumed juvenile hybrid remained at Ouse Fen, Cambridgeshire, England, from October 2011 through February (Birding World 25: 68-75, 2012). On 29 January, a second-year **Saker Falcon** *F cherrug* turned up at Llobregat delta, Barcelona, Catalunya, Spain. The juvenile **Gyrfalcon** *F rusticolus* on both sides of the Belgian-Dutch border of Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, the Netherlands, from late October 2011 through December was seen almost daily between Sas van Gent and Sluiskil, Zeeland, from 6 January through mid-March.

RAILS TO BUSTARDS The second **Spotted Crake** *Porzana porzana* for Cape Verde Islands was photographed on Santiago on 4 March. A **Sora** *P carolina* was reported at Ebro delta, Tarragona, Spain, on 18 February. In the Canary Islands, the adult **Allen's Gallinule** *Porphyrio alleni* at Tías golf course, Lanzarote, from 22 December 2011 stayed until 9 January. On 25 January, a second-year was photographed at Motril, Granada, Andalucía, Spain. The first **American Coot** *Fulica americana* for Madeira was photographed at Lugar de Baixo on 20 January. In the Azores, one was present at Lagoa das Furnas, São Miguel, from 19 February into March. In Portugal, up to 10 (with a record group of five or six) **Red-knobbed Coots** *F cristata* stayed at up to five sites between in January-February. The first **Sandhill Crane** *Grus canadensis* for Spain in Badejoz on 4 November 2011 was seen again on 2 January. The first **Siberian Crane** *G leucogeranus* for the Kanto area of central Japan stayed near Imba-numa lake in northern Chiba prefecture from mid-December to at least mid-January. On 4-9 March, a **Little Bustard** *Tetrax tetrax* was seen near Brugge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium; it may concern the same individual seen at Verdronken Land van Saeftinghe, Zeeland, on 15 January.

WADERS Information on an undated museum specimen of **Cream-colored Courser** *Cursorius cursor* in the collection of the Amsterdam zoological museum has been traced recently; it appears to have been shot at 's-Graveland, Noord-Holland, in the third week of October 1844 and, as a result, it is likely to be accepted as the first for the Netherlands and the fourth in total (all between 3 October and 20 November). On 1 March, a **Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus* turned up at Mindelo, São Vicente, Cape Verde Islands. A pair of **Killdeers** *C vociferus* remained at the airport of Santa Maria, Azores, where the species bred and raised two young both in 2010 and 2011. A **Sociable Lapwing** *Vanellus gregarius* at Pals, Girona, on 9 January was last seen on 12 January. A **White-tailed Lapwing** *V leucurus* was found at Ashkelon, Israel, on 17 February. The first-year **Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* at Cley, Norfolk, England, from 28 November 2011 stayed until 31 January. The first-winter **Long-toed Stint** *C subminuta* at La Turballe, Loire-Atlantique, France, from 6 November 2011 to 20 December, was seen again on 25-26 January. A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis* photographed in Madayipara, Kannur, Kerala, between 30 October 2011 and 3 November concerned (already) the third for India (Indian Birds 7: 143-144, 2012). A first-winter **Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago delicata* on St Mary's, Scilly, England, from early October 2011 to 24 December re-appeared on 25 February. In western India, an **Asian Dowitcher** *Limnodromus semipalmatus* was photographed at Jamnagar on 7 January; if accepted it will be the first for Gujerat. In the Azores, two **Hudsonian Whimbrels** *Numenius hudsonicus* were present on Santa Maria (until at least 15 February) and on Terceira (until at least 10 March). In the Netherlands, the **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* first seen as a first-winter on 17 October 2010 remained at Colijnsplaat, Noord-Beveland, Zeeland, through mid-March; interestingly, though, it was not reported during a severe cold period from 30 January to 17 February. The first-winter first seen in Northumberland, England, from 12 November to 10 December and rediscovered 320 km to the north-west at Loch Fleet, Highland, Scotland, on 15 December was seen again in Highland on 20 February.

SKUAS TO GULLS If accepted, a **South Polar Skua** *Stercorarius maccormicki* reported at Jaffa on 15 January may be the third for Israel. Two **Slender-billed Gulls** *Chroicocephalus genei* were found at Frazergunge beach, West Bengal, India, on 19 February. The **Bonaparte's Gull** *C philadelphia* at Cambrils, Tarragona, Spain, from 20 December 2011 stayed until 16 January. On 20 January, one was photographed at Oualidia, Morocco. In Glamorgan, Wales, the occurrence of up to two together at Cardiff Bay in late February was noteworthy; it concerned an adult seen here from 22 January onwards that may have turned up in most winters since 2004 and a first-winter from 17 February onwards. There were also four at three sites in Ireland and two at two sites in Scotland during January-February. An adult **Ross's Gull** *Rhodostethia rosea* was seen at Ardglass, Down, Northern Ireland, on at least 18-25 January. The third for Italy was a first-winter photographed at Molfetta, Puglia, on 23 February. A first-winter **Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla* was seen at Ave river mouth, Portugal, on 25 January. In France, an adult **Franklin's Gull** *L pipixcan* turned up at Etangs de Saclay, Essonne, on 16 February. An adult **Ring-billed Gull** *L delawarensis* ringed (red PAA3) at Szczecin-Klucz, Zachodniopomorskie, Poland, on 23 December 2005 (after it had been photographed on 21-22 December), and subsequently seen elsewhere in Poland on 7 March 2007, 7-9 December 2007, 4 May 2008, 20 August 2008 and 16 November 2011, was

165 Paddyfield Warbler / Veldrietzanger *Acrocephalus agricola*, Pagham Harbour, West Sussex, England, 26 February 2012 *(Dave Barnes)* **166** Western Pale Crag Martin / Westelijke Vale Rotszwaluw *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta presaharica*, Oued Jenna, Aousserd, Western Sahara, Morocco, 10 January 2012 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)* **167** Pine Bunting / Witkopgors *Emberiza leucocephalos*, female, Kalanji, Tukums, Latvia, 29 January 2012 *(Sandris Rabkevics)*

168 Common Yellowthroat / Gewone Maskerzanger *Geothlypis trichas*, second calendar-year male, Rhiwderyn, Gwent, Wales, 25 February 2012 *(Richard Stonier)*

169 Eastern Black Redstart / Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides*, male, Rålehamn, Tjällran, Skåne, Sweden, 24 January 2012 *(Mikael Nord)*

170 Glaucous Gull / Grote Burgemeester *Larus hyperboreus*, first-winter, with Yellow-legged Gull / Geelpootmeeuw *L michahellis*, first-winter, Lagune de Khnifiss, Western Sahara, Morocco, 15 January 2012 *(Arnoud B van den Berg/The Sound Approach)* **171** Ross's Gull / Ross' Meeuw *Rhodostethia rosea*, first-winter, Molfetta, Puglia, Italy, 23 February 2012 *(Angelo Nitti)* **172** Isabelline Wheatear / Izabeltapuit *Oenanthe isabellina*, Âït-Labbès, Eastern High Atlas, Morocco, 13 March 2012 *(Arnoud B van den Berg/The Sound Approach)* **173** Moussier's Redstart / Diadeemroodstaart *Phoenicurus moussieri*, male, Tarifa, Cádiz, Spain, 17 March 2012 *(Javier Elorriaga)*

discovered at Maasbracht, Limburg, the Netherlands, on 23 February and seen across the Belgian-Dutch border at, eg, Kessenich and Maaseik, Limburg, Belgium, from 28 February into March (and again occasionally on the Dutch side of the border from 7 March). During the International Gull Meeting at Zagreb, Croatia, on 16-19 February, a possible **Heuglin's Gull** *L heuglini* and three **Great Black-backed Gulls** *L marinus* (only seven previous records) were found at the Jakuševec dump. The identification of a third-winter '**herring gull**' at Den Oever, Noord-Holland, from 22 January into March was much debated, as its characters did not exclude Smithsonian Gull *L smithsonianus*; analysis of DNA taken from its droppings, however, indicated it concerned a Herring Gull *L argentatus* (Peter de Knijff in litt). In Spain, the adult **Smithsonian Gull** at Lires, Fisterra, A Coruña, from 28 December 2011 was still present on 22 February. From 25 January to 11 February, the adult **Glaucous-winged Gull** *L glaucescens* was back at Århus, Østjylland, where it was found as a first for Denmark on 27 November 2009. Presumed **Thayer's Gulls** *L thayeri* were reported at Höfn, Iceland, on 18 January; at Runavík, Eysturoy, Faeroes, on 20-21 January; at Enniskillen Dump, Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, from early January to 6 February; and at Garður, Iceland, on 17 February. This winter, record numbers of **Iceland Gull** *L glaucoides*, with quite a few **Kumlien's Gulls** *L g kumlieni* (perhaps up to 4%), were seen in north-western Europe; for instance, a British site-record of no less than 79 Iceland was established at Stornoway Harbour on Lewis on 27 February and, in Poland, no less than nine were found between 17 January and 11 February. The third-winter Kumlien's at Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, from 16 January was last seen on 2 February. Generally, numbers of **Glaucous**

Gull *L hyperboreus* were not much higher than usual. A first-winter at Lagune de Khnifiss on 14-15 January was the first for Western Sahara and the southernmost for the African mainland. A second-winter in the centre of Prague from 24 January onwards initiated a twitching event for the Czech Republic as it was the first since 2002. On 17-18 February, an adult **Cape Gull** *L dominicanus vetula* was photographed at Akhfennir, Morocco, but none was found in January-February at nearby Lagune de Khnifiss, where up to 10 **Great Black-backed** were counted.

TERNS TO KINGFISHERS From 6 November 2011 to at least 27 February, the adult **Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri* was seen in Galway, Ireland, where this or another one wintered for the first time in 1995/96. Seven of the eight **African Skimmers** *Rynchops flavirostris* photographed on 28 December 2011 south of Kom Ombo, Egypt, were seen on 10 January and two on 25 February (cf Dutch Birding 34: 55, 59, plate 64, 2012). During the third week of January, a group of nine was present at Daraw, also along the Nile between Luxor and Aswan. A **Thick-billed Murre** *Uria lomvia* was photographed at Burghead Harbour, Moray, Scotland, on 17 November 2011. On 18 January, a **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles exustus* was photographed at Abdaly farms, Kuwait. **Oriental Turtle Doves** *Streptopelia orientalis* stayed at Ørin, Nord-Trøndelag, Norway, from 17 January to 5 February (**Rufous Turtle Dove** *S o meena*), on Frøya, Sør-Trøndelag, Norway, in late January and early February, and at Haga, Umeå, Sweden, from 23 January to 17 February. The sixth for France was a **Rufous Turtle** at Monflanquin, Lot-et-Garonne, from 19 February into March. In February, an immature male **Snowy Owl** *Bubo scandiacus* was seen in Derry and the adult female remained at Ballycastle, Mayo. In northern Belarus, one was discovered at Elnia on 1 March. In North America, a major influx occurred this winter with birds reaching south to Colorado and New Mexico, and one even turning up in Hawaii (where it was shot). In Denmark, a total of 11 **Eurasian Pygmy Owls** *Glaucidium passerinum* remained through February in north-eastern Sjælland. At Lajes do Pico, Pico, Azores, a **Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon* was present from 30 December 2011 to at least 27 February.

ORIOLES TO WALLCREEPER A first-winter **Black-naped Oriole** *Oriolus chinensis* at Safa Park, Dubai, on 18-25 February was the first for UAE (and the second for the Arabian peninsula after an adult female at Thumrait, Oman, on 7 December 2011). The second **Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus* for UAE occurred at Al Barsha Pond Park from 18 January to 1 February and the fifth **Ashy Drongo** *D leucophaeus* at Ain al-Fayda on 18-28 February. In Morocco, the **Pied Crows** *Corvus albus* which bred at Oued Kraa, Western Sahara, in 2010 (Dutch Birding 32: 329-332, 2010) could not be found in January and, apparently, the species had not been reported since 24 April 2011 (Patrick Bergier in litt). In the southern Western Sahara, no more than a single and two **African Dunn's Larks** *Eremalauda dunni dunni* were reported in January-February, including two west of Oued Jenna, with a flock of 30 **Black-crowned Sparrow-Larks** *Eremopterix nigriceps* a few kilometres beyond, on 10 January. In the same area, at least one but possibly up to eight **Western Pale Crag Martins** *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta presaharica* were photographed at Oued Jenna and Aousserd on 10-12 January; it is a rarity in Morocco and often hard to distinguish from Eurasian Crag Martin *P rupestris* (cf Dutch Birding 28: 47, plate 56, 2006). A **Pallas's Leaf Warbler** *P proregulus* at Treviso, Veneto, from 20 January onwards was the first twitchable for Italy. More than 10 **Yellow-browed Warblers** *P inornatus* were found in southern and south-western England during January-February. In the Canary Islands, one was wintering at Costa Calma, Fuerteventura, from December 2011 until at least 17 February and another spent the first half of February at Gibraltar. The third **Hume's Leaf Warbler** *P humei* for Spain occurred at Os Galos, Ribadeo, Lugo, from 13 January to 4 February. In the Netherlands, the one wintering at Katwijk, Zuid-Holland, from 9 December 2011 survived the freezing February weather and was still present in mid-March, when it had started singing; the bird at Schiedam, Zuid-Holland, last reported on 12 December 2011 was still (or again) present from 15 March. The one at Nederhorst den Berg, Noord-Holland, from 12 January was last reported on 29 January. At Wyke Regis, Dorset, England, an individual last seen in mid-February surprisingly reappeared on 11 March. An unexpected pattern of migration has been revealed in the **Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans* complex by mitochondrial DNA analyses (Brambilla et al 2012 in Ibis, doi: 10.1111/j.1474-919X.2012.01224.x); it appears that Western Subalpine *S c cantillans/inornata*, Eastern Subalpine *S c albistriata* and Moltoni's Warbler *S subalpina* all migrate through the central-western Mediterranean from Africa. The second **African Desert Warbler** *Sylvia deserti* for Cape Verde Islands was photographed on Raso on 28 February. In Lithuania, an adult male **Sardinian Warbler** *S melanocephala* ringed at Ventes Ragas on 17 July 2011 was photographed here again on 10 January. In England, a wintering **Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola* stayed at Pagham, West Sussex, from 30 January through mid-March. In the Netherlands, a **Wallcreeper** *Tichodroma muraria* was seen (only) on 6 March at the same Eurasian Eagle-Owl *B bubo* nesting site at Sint Pietersberg, Maastricht, Limburg, as where one was present from 22 November to 11 December 2010; as this quarry is extensive and difficult to survey, the record may relate to one bird wintering for the second consecutive winter. Like last year, individuals were also wintering at Santa Luzia dam, Portugal, and at Le Mans, Sarthe, France.

THRUSHES TO ACCENTORS A first-winter male **Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus atrogularis* at Kerem Ben Zimra, Upper Galilee, on 26-29 January was (already) the 13th for Israel. Another at Mangerton Mountain, Kerry, on 1 February will be the first for Ireland, if accepted. The first **Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus* for Portugal was a first-year male found dead at Faro on 12 January; it had been ringed at Blekinge, Utklippan, Sweden, on

15 October 2011. In Sweden, a male **Eastern Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides* stayed at Rålehamn, Tjällran, Skåne, from 24 January to 17 February; it was trapped for DNA research on 4 February. On at least 15-25 January, a male **Moussier's Redstart** *P moussieri* was present on Mallorca, and a female remained at Mtahleb, Malta, from 27 December 2011 through February (there had been an additional five females in Malta in late autumn). On 16 March, a male was found at Tarifa, Cádiz; it was relocated and photographed the next day. The first **Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius* for Madeira was a female photographed at Ponto do Pargo on 10 March. A female **Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus* at South Slob, Wexford, from 5 March was the c eighth for Ireland. In southern Morocco, three **Isabelline Wheatears** *Oenanthe isabellina* were photographed between 39 and 20 km west of Tinerhir in Dadès-Draa and Tafilalt on 13-14 March and one near Âït-Labbès, Eastern High Atlas, on 13 March. By the use of geolocators, it has been shown that **Northern Wheatears** *O oenanthe* breeding in Alaska, USA, fly across northern Asia to their winter haunts in eastern sub-Saharan Africa (14 500 km each way) while, on the contrary, an individual breeding in eastern arctic Canada flew across the northern Atlantic Ocean (3500 km) to winter in western sub-Saharan Africa; these results were supported by stable hydrogen isotope analysis in winter-grown feathers of other New World individuals (Biology Letters rsbl20111223). The singing first-winter male **Pied Wheatear** *O pleschanka* at Strandby, Frederikshavn, Nordjylland, Denmark, from 28 November 2011 was present until at least 28 February, being fed by birders at times. The last of the autumn's **Desert Wheatears** *O deserti* were at Sastago, Zaragoza, Spain, until at least 2 March (from November 2011); Bempton, East Yorkshire, England, until 9 February (from 19 November 2011); and Cabo de Gata, Almeria, Andalucía, Spain, until 18 February (from 18 December 2011). A **Black-throated Accentor** *Prunella atrogularis* photographed near Gingen, Baden-Württemberg, on 17-21 January was the second for Germany.

SPARROWS TO AMERICAN WARBLERS In Hampshire, England, both the male **Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniolensis* at Calshot (from 11 December 2011) and the first-winter male **Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis* at Beaulieu (from 24 December 2011) remained into March. Two **Olive-backed Pipits** *Anthus hodgsoni* seen and sound-recorded in the pine woods at Imouzzer, Haha, in the mountains north of Agadir on 23 January were the second and third for Morocco and Africa; the first was one photographed in Agadir on 8-9 November 2007. On 5 February, a **Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola* was photographed at western Aswan, Egypt (less than 10 previous records). The second **Masked Wagtail** *M personata* for Kuwait was photographed at Wafra farms on 10-18 February; the first occurred at Jahra pool on 1 March 2011. In Denmark, a total of c 300 **Two-barred Crossbills** *Loxia leucoptera bifasciata* remained through February. In the very south of Portugal, two **Snow Buntings** *Plectrophenax nivalis* were seen at Vila Real de Santo Antonio, Algarve, through February. A Danish record of 450 **Lapland Longspurs** *Calcarius lapponicus* was established near Ribe, Vestjylland, on 7 February. Female **Pine Buntings** *Emberiza leucocephalos* were present at Hevonpää, Paimio, Finland, on 25 January; Kalnaji farm, Tukums, on 29-30 January (first for Latvia); Västervik, Småland, Sweden, from 26 January to 17 February (female); and Torp, Alingsås, Västergötland, Sweden, on 17 February. A male at Zillertal, Tirol, on 8-9 March was the 12th for Austria. In Belgium, a **Rock Bunting** *E cia* was photographed in Sibret, Luxembourg, on 4 March. In the Canary Islands, a **Little Bunting** *E pusilla* was photographed at Teguise, Lanzarote, on 8-9 January. The **Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis* on St Mary's, Scilly, England, from 16 September 2011 through mid-March was the longest-staying American warbler ever for Europe. A first-winter male **Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* at Rhiwderyn, Gwent, Wales, from 16 February through mid-March was the eighth for Britain and twitched by at least 400 birders on 17 February alone (Birding World 25: 58-59, 2012).

For a number of reports, Birding World, Birdwatch, Ornithos, www.birdguides.com, www.netfugl.dk, www.rarebirdalert.co.uk and www.trektellen.nl were consulted. We wish to thank Peter Alfrey, Brahim Bakass, Daniel Bastaja, Patrick Bergier, Max Berlijn, Jan Bisschop, Richard Bonser, Sander Bot, Rolf Christensen, David Cooper, Andrea Corso, Fred Cottaar, Pierre-André Crochet, Ron Demey, Hugues Dufourny, Enno Ebels, Thomas van der Es, Lee Evans, Tommy Frandsen, Raymond Galea, Steve Gantlett, Martin Garner, Andy Garnett, Beryl Garnett, Martin Gottschling, Barak Granit, Geert Groot Koerkamp, Marcello Grussu, Ricard Gutiérrez, Dick Hoek, Justin Jansen, João Jara (www.birds.pt), Frédéric Jiguet, Zbigniew Kajzer, Łukasz Ławicki (www.clanga.com), André van Loon, Karlis Millers (Latvia), Richard Millington, Dominic Mitchell, Geir Mobakken (Norway), Killian Mullarney, Taej Mundkur, Jeroen Nagtegaal, Gert Ottens, Yoav Perlman, Tommy Petersen, Geoff Phillipson, Kshounish Ray, Magnus Robb, Staffan Rodebrand (Azores), Luciano Ruggieri, Michael Sammut, Roy Slaterus, Vincent van der Spek, Benjamin Steffen, Gerard Steinhaus, Norman van Swelm, Hiraoka Takashi, Joost Valkenburg, Martin Vavrik, Dzmitry Vincheuski, Ruud Vlek, Rinse van der Vliet, Roland van der Vliet and John van der Woude 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 **januari-februari 2012**. De vermelde gevallen zijn merendeels niet geverifieerd en het overzicht is niet volledig. Alle vogelaars die de moeite namen om hun waarnemingen aan ons door te geven worden hartelijk bedankt. Waarnemers van soorten in Nederland die worden beoordeeld door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna wordt verzocht hun waarnemingen zo spoedig mogelijk toe te zenden aan: CDNA, p/a Duinlustparkweg 98A, 2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid, Nederland, e-mail cdna@dutchbirding.nl. Hiertoe gelieve men gebruik te maken van CDNA-waarnemingsformulieren die verkrijgbaar zijn via de website van de DBA op www.dutchbirding.nl of bovenstaand adres.

Van saaie wintermaanden was geen sprake. Grote aantallen zeevogels waren aan het begin van het jaar nog altijd aanwezig. Een periode met strenge vorst en wat sneeuw tussen eind januari en half februari zorgde voor de nodige vorsttrek van met name ganzen, eenden, steltlopers, leeuweriken en piepers en de gehele periode was er sprake van een invasie van Kleine Burgemeesters *Larus glaucoides* en Grote Burgemeesters *L hyperboreus*. Daarnaast verbleven de nodige, veelal twitchbare, zeldzaamheden in het land.

EENDEN TOT DUIKERS Op c 25 plekken verspreid over het land werden **Sneeuwganzen** *Anser caerulescens* gemeld, waaronder een langsvliegend exemplaar op 12 februari bij Huisduinen, Noord-Holland. Maximaal 49 **Taigarietganzen** *A fabalis* lokten van 8 tot 12 februari de nodige vogelaars naar Udenhout, Noord-Brabant. Ook op enkele andere plekken, hoofdzakelijk in het noordoosten, werd de soort gemeld maar nergens met dubbele cijfers. Het aantal **Dwergganzen** *A erythropus* op de traditionele overwinteringsplek bij Camperduin, Noord-Holland, nam geleidelijk toe tot een nooit eerder vertoonde piek van 116 op 25 januari. Er waren meldingen van c 15 andere plekken, waaronder een doortrekker op 21 januari over telpost IJmeerdijk bij Almere, Flevoland. Een adulte **Groenlandse Kolgans** *A albifrons flavirostris* werd op 29 januari gefotografeerd bij Ferwoude, Friesland. In alle provincies werden **Roodhalsganzen** *Branta ruficollis* opgemerkt. Een familiegroep van zes werd de gehele periode op verschillende plekken in het Waddengebied gezien. In februari liepen de aantallen **Witbuikrotganzen** *B hrota* in het Waddengebied en de Delta flink op. Het hoogste aantal bijeen bedroeg 135 op 18 februari bij Camperduin. Enkele **Zwarte Rotganzen** *B nigricans* verbleven op gebruikelijke plekken in het Waddengebied en de Delta. Het meest opmerkelijk waren de melding van maximaal zes exemplaren op 12 februari ten oosten van Paesens, Friesland, en van maximaal vier bij Cornwerd, Friesland, op 28 en 29 januari. Op c 10 plekken verspreid over het land werden **Witoogeenden** *Aythya nyroca* waargenomen. Een mannetje dat tot ten minste 12 februari op de Reeuwijkse Plassen bij Gouda, Zuid-Holland, verbleef, werd het vaakst gemeld. Een vrouwtje **Ringsnaveleend** *A collaris* vertoefde van 16 tot 31 januari in de Weerribben, Overijssel; waarschijnlijk ging het om hetzelfde exemplaar als in april 2011. De bekende hybride **Kuifeend x Ringsnaveleend** *A fuligula x collaris* werd op 5 en 7 februari weer eens opgemerkt bij Woerden, Zuid-Holland. Het eerste-winter vrouwtje **Witkopeend** *Oxyura leucocephala* verbleef tot 24 februari op de Reeuwijkse Plassen. Door trektellers in het noordwesten van het land werden in totaal 21 **IJseenden** *Clangula hyemalis* genoteerd. Veel bekeken exemplaren in het binnenland bevonden zich tot 26 januari op de Kraaijenbergse Plassen bij Gassel, Noord-Brabant, en van 6 tot 25 februari bij Roermond, Limburg. De vorst zorgde voor aardige verplaatsingen van zaagbekken. Er werden ruim 2100 langstrekkende **Nonnetjes** *Mergellus albellus* opgemerkt. Bijna een derde daarvan werd gezien rondom Den Haag, Zuid-Holland, maar het hoogste dagtotaal kwam van Noordwijk, Zuid-Holland, waar op 5 februari 216 exemplaren werden geteld. Ook ruim 4200 **Grote Zaagbekken** *Mergus merganser* verdwenen in boekjes van trektellers. Opvallende aantallen werden gezien op 5 februari waaronder 350 langs de Flevocentrale bij Lelystad, Flevoland, en op 7 februari, waaronder 510 langs Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland, en 405 langs Katwijk, Zuid-Holland. Het mannetje **Buffelkopeend** *Bucephala albeola* verbleef de gehele periode op of nabij de Gaatkensplas bij Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland. Een winters mannetje **Zomertaling** *Anas querquedula* zwom op 2 januari bij Roermond. Op c 10 plekken langs de kust werden **IJsduikers** *Gavia immer* gezien. Vooral de Brouwersdam, Zeeland/Zuid-Holland, en de Veerse Dam, Zeeland, leverden veel waarnemingen op. Van 8 tot 10 januari zwom een fotogeniek exemplaar op de Ringvaart van de Haarlemmermeerpolder in de omgeving van Cruquius, Noord-Holland. Waarschijnlijk dezelfde vogel verbleef van 15 tot 17 januari op de Kagerplassen, Zuid-Holland.

STORMVOGELS TOT IBISSEN **Noordse Stormvogels** *Fulmarus glacialis* bleven in opmerkelijk hoge aantallen voor de kust, met bijna 3500 langs diverse telposten. Daarvan werd meer dan 90% in de eerste decade van januari gezien. Een substantieel deel betrof donker gekleurde exemplaren. Koploper was Ameland, Friesland, met ruim 808 exemplaren op slechts drie dagen, met alleen al op 6 januari 771 (waarvan liefst 80% tot een donkere vorm behoorde). Ook Scheveningen deed het goed met een totaal van 731, waarvan 344 op 5 januari (36% donker). Ook werden in deze periode vele 10-tallen dode exemplaren gevonden. Op 4, 7 en 20 januari werden langsvliegende **Grauwe Pijlstormvogels** *Puffinus griseus* gemeld bij Camperduin. Bijzonder voor de tijd van het jaar waren **Noordse Pijlstormvogels** *P puffinus* op 5 januari langs Scheveningen en op 7 januari langs De

174 Giervalk / Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus*, eerstejaars, Hoek, Zeeland, 19 februari 2012 *(Garry Bakker)*

175 Giervalk / Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus*, eerstejaars, met Patrijs / Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*, Hoek, Zeeland, 24 februari 2012 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

176 Grote Zilverreigers / Western Great Egrets *Casmerodius albus*, Brabantse Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant, 1 februari 2012 *(Thomas van der Es)*. Deel van groep van 917.

177 IJsduiker / Great Northern Loon *Gavia immer*, adult, Hoofddorp, Noord-Holland, 9 januari 2012 *(Lars Buckx)*

178 Grote Burgemeester / Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*, tweede-winter, Den Oever, Noord-Holland, 11 februari 2012 *(Inge van der Wulp)*

179 Kleine Burgemeester / Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*, adult, Oudeschild, Texel, Noord-Holland, 31 januari 2012 *(René Pop)*

180 Grote Burgemeester / Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*, eerste-winter, paal 29, Texel, Noord-Holland, 6 maart 2012 *(René Pop)*

181 Grote Burgemeester / Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*, adult, Urk, Flevoland, 7 februari 2012 *(Edwin Winkel)*

Vulkaan bij Den Haag. Ook enkele **Vale Pijlstormvogels** *P mauretanicus* werden gemeld, namelijk op 6 januari langs Lauwersoog, Groningen; op 8 januari langs Scheveningen en Katwijk; op 10 januari langs Camperduin; en op 14 januari langs de Eemshaven, Groningen. Tussen 2 en 9 januari vlogen 10 **Vale Stormvogeltjes** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* langs telposten in alle vijf de kustprovincies: een hoog aantal voor deze maand. Bijzonder waren de exemplaren op 4 januari boven de Oolderplas bij Roermond en op 7 januari langs de Oostvaardersdijk ter hoogte van Almere. Op c 12 plekken langs de kust verbleven **Kuifaalscholvers** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Plekken die veel waarnemingen opleverden waren IJmuiden, Noord-Holland, de Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, en de Oosterscheldekering, Zeeland. Op 15 januari verbleef een exemplaar in de Eemshaven. Tot begin februari werden op drie plekken **Koereigers** *Bubulcus ibis* gemeld, waaronder een veel bekeken exemplaar bij Westdorpe, Zeeland. Spectaculair waren de recordaantallen **Grote Zilverreigers** *Casmerodius albus* die tijdens de vorstperiode op een slaapplaats in de Brabantse Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant, verschenen; op 1 februari werden liefst 917 exemplaren geteld. Een **Purperreiger** *Ardea purpurea* werd op 28 en 29 februari gemeld langs het Eemmeer bij Bunschoten, Utrecht. Op 14 januari vloog een **Zwarte Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* zuidwaarts over de Hilversumse Bovenmeent, Noord-Holland, en een dag later verplaatste mogelijk dezelfde vogel zich langs de Lek tussen Nieuwegein, Utrecht, en Culemborg, Gelderland.

SPERWERS TOT JAGERS In het gehele land overwinterden ouderwets veel **Ruigpootbuizerds** *Buteo lagopus*; vooral akkergebieden in Groningen en Drenthe en het Waddengebied waren favoriet maar tot in Zuid-Limburg werden exemplaren opgemerkt. De juveniele **Giervalk** *Falco rusticolus* die voor het eerst op 23 oktober net over de grens in België verscheen, verbleef tot in maart in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, Zeeland, en liet zich daar steeds vaker en beter zien. Een **Kleine Trap** *Tetrax tetrax* verbleef op 15 januari in het Verdronken Land van Saeftinge, Zeeland, waar hij door een klein aantal vogelaars kon worden bekeken; de vogel stak ook even de grens met België over en een dag later werd hij weer in België gemeld. Een winterse **Morinelplevier** *Charadrius morinellus* verbleef op 4 januari tussen Goudplevieren *Pluvialis apricaria* bij Camperduin; er zijn maar weinig eerdere waarnemingen uit december-maart bekend. Veel steltlopers zagen zich door vorst en sneeuw genoodzaakt te vertrekken. Trektellers noteerden c 20 **Bokjes** *Lymnocryptes minimus*, waarvan de helft tussen 4 en 6 februari langs De Vulkaan. Op diverse plekken waar nog open water te vinden was werden goed benaderbare exemplaren gefotografeerd. **Houtsnippen** *Scolopax rusticola* werden in soms spectaculaire aantallen gezien, zoals 49 op 8 februari in Noordwijkerhout, Zuid-Holland. In de eerste twee weken van februari werden in totaal bijna 2400 waarnemingen ingevoerd op Waarneming.nl, met de grootste concentraties langs de westkust. Een overwinterende **Regenwulp** *Numenius phaeopus* verbleef de gehele periode op Neeltje Jans langs de Oosterscheldekering. Tijdens de vorstperiode werden op telposten ruim 6200 langstrekkende **Wulpen** *N arquata* genoteerd, waarvan 1530 op 4 februari langs De Vulkaan. De bekende **Grote Geelpootruiter** *Tringa melanoleuca* bleef de gehele periode bij Colijnsplaat op Noord-Beveland, Zeeland, hoewel hij tijdens de kou van 30 januari tot 17 februari niet werd gemeld. Er werden door trektellers in januari nog c 10 langsvliegende **Rosse Franjepoten** *Phalaropus fulicaria* opgemerkt. Ook waren er enkele pleisteraars, hoofdzakelijk voor het invallen van de vorst. Op 19 februari werd een 'achterblijver' gezien in Den Oever, Noord-Holland. Er werden vanaf telposten nog ruim 500 langsvliegende **Middelste Jagers** *Stercorarius pomarinus* waargenomen, vrijwel allemaal in januari; Scheveningen was met 167 exemplaren de beste plek. Ook werden nog ruim 300 **Grote Jagers** *S skua* genoteerd, waaronder één op 6 januari langs de IJmeerdijk bij Almere.

MEEUWEN Trektellers langs de kust telden nog ruim 200 000 **Drieteenmeeuwen** *Rissa tridactyla*, waarvan het overgrote deel voor aanvang van de vorst. Uitschieters waren 6 en 7 januari, met respectievelijk 12 000 langs Ameland en 10 000 langs Camperduin. Er verschenen ook enkele exemplaren in het binnenland. Een gekleurringde **Ringsnavelmeeuw** *L delawarensis* (rood PAA3) werd op 23 februari door een vogelaar bij Maasbracht, Limburg, gefotografeerd tijdens het aflezen van geringde Kokmeeuwen *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* en Stormmeeuwen *L canus*. Het duurde tot 27 februari totdat de vogel werd teruggevonden, ditmaal net aan de Belgische zijde van de grens. Hij bleek in januari 2005 geringd in Szczecin Klucz, Polen. Er waren nadien zes terugmeldingen, waarvan dit de eerste buiten Polen was. Van 3 tot 5 januari bevond zich een adulte 'mantelmeeuw' op de Hoornse Plas, Groningen, die volgens sommige kenners best eens een **Heuglins Meeuw** *L heuglini* kon zijn. Een vermeende eerste-winter **Baltische Mantelmeeuw** *L f fuscus* die vanaf 29 december 2011 in Lauwersoog verbleef, werd nog tot 7 januari waargenomen. Een derde-winter **Zilvermeeuw** *L argentatus* die vanaf 22 januari tot ten minste 2 maart in Den Oever vertoefde, trok de nodige aandacht door in uiterlijk veel te lijken op een Amerikaanse Zilvermeeuw *L smithsonianus*. DNA-analyse, dankzij een op 16 februari verzameld poepmonster, ondersteunde echter de determinatie als Zilvermeeuw. Na een goede decembermaand tekende zich vanaf januari de grootste invasie ooit van **Kleine Burgemeesters** af. Er werden de gehele winter enkele 10-tallen individuen waargenomen; in totaal werden van december-februari ruim 2200 waarnemingen ingevoerd op Waarneming.nl (ter vergelijking: in dezelfde periode een jaar eerder werden slechts twee waarnemingen ingevoerd). Tot half maart kwamen meldingen uit liefst 10 provincies: alleen Limburg en Overijssel bleven van deze soort verstoken. De beste dagen waren 14 januari, met 14 exemplaren, en 21 januari met 15. Op 24 januari verbleven er alleen al bij Petten, Noord-Holland, vijf. Opvallend aan deze invasie was dat er ook veel vogels ouder dan een jaar werden gezien. Er verschenen half januari bijvoorbeeld liefst drie

182 Kleine Burgemeester / Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*, tweede-winter, paal 28, Texel, Noord-Holland, 5 februari 2012 *(René Pop)*

183 Kleine Burgemeester / Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*, tweede-winter, Den Oever, Noord-Holland, 22 januari 2012 *(Wiepko Lubbers)*

184 Oehoe / Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*, Winterswijk, Gelderland, 29 februari 2012 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)* **185** Kleine Karekiet / Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, Oud-Naarden, Naarden, Noord-Holland, 1 januari 2012 *(Rudy Schippers)* **186** Papegaaiduiker / Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland, 8 januari 2012 *(Rutger Wilschut)* **187** Ringsnavelmeeuw / Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*, adult (PAA3), Maasbracht, Limburg, 23 februari 2012 *(Jeroen Nagtegaal)* **188** Roodhalsganzen / Red-breasted Geese *Branta ruficollis*, Banckspolder, Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, 21 februari 2012 *(Enno B Ebels)*

adulte in de Eemshaven. Een langdurig verblijvende vierde-kalenderjaar in Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland, trok veel bekijks. De soort dook ook op in enkele steden, met bijvoorbeeld drie in Groningen, Groningen, en één in Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland. Enkele exemplaren hielden de gemoederen bezig omdat vermoed werd dat het om **Kumliens Meeuw** *L g kumlieni* kon gaan; de beste papieren lijkt een tweede-winter op 14 januari langs Wierum, Friesland, te hebben. Ook waren er opvallende aantallen **Grote Burgemeesters**; in totaal werden voor december-februari ruim 1800 waarnemingen ingevoerd op Waarneming.nl (in dezelfde periode een jaar eerder waren dat er slechts 13). Ook van deze soort werden relatief veel exemplaren ouder dan een jaar gezien, met name vogels in hun derde kalenderjaar, zoals een veel bekeken vogel in Den Oever. Adulte bevonden zich op 11 januari bij Zandvoort, Noord-Holland, en van 27 januari tot 21 februari in Urk, Flevoland, in het gezelschap van twee Kleine Burgemeesters.

STERNS TOT HOPPEN Het maximum aantal **Grote Sterns** *Sterna sandvicensis* dat langs de Brouwersdam werd gezien bedroeg 12. Ook op enkele andere plekken in de Delta werden exemplaren waargenomen. **Zeekoeten** *Uria aalge* en **Alken** *Alca torda* verbleven voornamelijk in januari nog in grote aantallen voor de kust. Bij elkaar opgeteld werden er door trektellers liefst meer dan 65 000 gemeld, met ruim 16 000 langs Scheveningen. Er werden ruim 1300 Alken gemeld, een stevig aantal, met onder andere 194 langs Scheveningen en 154 langs Vlieland, Friesland. Koploper was echter Ameland met 378, waarvan liefst 350 op 6 januari, de op één na beste dag ooit in Nederland. Het record blijft in handen van Scheveningen (366 op 19 januari 2006). Ook van deze soort werden vele 10-tallen dode exemplaren op stranden gevonden. Op 21 januari werd een olieslachtoffer met een Engelse ring geraapt op het strand van Den Haag. De vogel werd op 3 februari bij Hoek van Holland schoon weer losgelaten. Vanaf telposten werden nog 19 **Kleine Alken** *Alle alle* gezien, waarvan 15 in de eerste decade van januari. **Papegaaiduikers** *Fratercula arctica* verschenen in deze periode in relatief grote aantallen – jammer alleen dat de meeste al dood waren (of hard onderweg) toen ze ontdekt werden. Alleen trektellers zagen er al 43: 30 in Noord-Holland, acht in Zuid-Holland, drie in Zeeland en twee in Friesland. Op één na werden ze alle in januari waargenomen. Op 8 januari werd een verzwakte adulte op het strand van Scheveningen gevonden, die door een klein aantal vogelaars kon worden bekeken voordat hij naar een asiel werd gebracht, waar hij na twee dagen alsnog overleed. Er werden, vooral op de Waddeneilanden, enkele 10-tallen dode exemplaren gevonden. **Oehoes** *Bubo bubo* buiten de bekende plekken verbleven de gehele periode in Den Haag, op 23 januari in Alkmaar, Noord-Holland, en op 12 februari opnieuw in Safaripark Beekse Bergen bij Hilvarenbeek, Noord-Brabant. De gehele periode was er in Sittard, Limburg, een opmerkelijke slaapplaats van **Velduilen** *Asio flammeus*: tot maximaal 11 overnachtten in enkele coniferen in een achtertuin binnen de bebouwde kom. **Hoppen** *Upupa epops* werden gemeld op 1 januari bij Maarheeze, Noord-Brabant, op 8 januari bij Oosterhout, Gelderland, op 12 januari aan de overzijde van de Waal bij Weurt, Gelderland, en op 13 januari bij Biezelinge, Zeeland. Een exemplaar dat vanaf 20 november bij Edam, Noord-Holland, verbleef werd eind januari verzwakt opgeraapt en naar een asiel gebracht, waar hij enkele dagen later overleed.

KRAAIEN TOT GORZEN Vanaf 23 januari werden er in de duinen en landgoederenzone rondom Wassenaar, Zuid-Holland, minimaal twee **Raven** *Corvus corax* gemeld, een zeldzaamheid in deze provincie. Ook waren er waarnemingen op 28 januari bij Hoek van Holland, op 4 februari eerst over telpost Parnassia bij Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland, en later bij IJmuiden en van 26 februari tot 1 maart op Ameland. Vanaf begin januari tot in maart verbleef een groepje van maximaal zes **Buidelmezen** *Remiz pendulinus* bij Schiedam, Zuid-Holland, dat zelfs tijdens de vorstperiode bleef; één droeg een Franse ring. Twee **Kuifleeuweriken** *Galerida cristata* werden de gehele periode gezien bij Venlo, Limburg, en één werd op 20 februari gefotografeerd in Haverleij bij 's-Hertogenbosch, Noord-Brabant. In februari werden c 10 000 doortrekkende **Veldleeuweriken** *Alauda arvensis* genoteerd. Ook werden c 400 geringd op vier ringstations langs de westkust. Vooral op 4 februari – een dag nadat veel sneeuw was gevallen en 's nachts op veel plekken temperaturen van -20ºC of lager werden bereikt – sloegen veel exemplaren op de vlucht. **Pallas' Boszangers** *Phylloscopus proregulus* verbleven van 14 tot 17 januari bij Oostkapelle, Zeeland, en op 5 februari in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen bij Zandvoort. De overwinterende **Humes Bladkoning** *P humei* vanaf 9 december bij Katwijk aan Zee bleef tot in maart. Een andere bevond zich van 12 tot 29 januari bij Nederhorst den Berg, Noord-Holland. Ook was er een melding op 5 februari in Clingendael in Den Haag. **Siberische Tjiftjaffen** *P collybita tristis* verbleven nog tot 25 januari in Berkheide bij Katwijk en tot 24 januari in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen nabij De Zilk, Zuid-Holland. Van een vijftal andere plekken kwamen meldingen van meer of minder zekere 'sibtjiffen'. De overwinterende **Grasmus** *Sylvia communis* die vanaf 23 november in Kanaleneiland in Utrecht, Utrecht, verbleef werd nog tot 9 januari waargenomen. Een **Kleine Karekiet** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* werd op 1 januari geringd nabij Hilversum, Noord-Holland: een uitzonderlijke datum voor deze soort die voor zover bekend nooit eerder in januari werd waargenomen. Slechts op een 10-tal plekken werden **Pestvogels** *Bombycilla garrulus* opgemerkt. Een groepje van zeven van 8 januari tot 1 februari bij Oostvoorne, Zuid-Holland, trok het meeste bekijks. Half januari was er een gerucht over de terugkeer van de **Rotskruiper** *Tichodroma muraria* naar de Sint Pietersberg bij Maastricht, Limburg. Latere zoekacties leverden helaas niets op, maar op 6 maart volgde alsnog een verifieerbare waarneming. Vanaf 10 februari tot in maart hield een **Zwartbuikwaterspreeuw** *Cinclus cinclus cinclus* zich op bij Hengelo, Overijssel. Nog één **Roodbuikwaterspreeuw** *C c aquaticus* bleef tot ten minste 23 februari bij Valkenburg, Limburg. Van 16 tot 29 januari

189 Zwartbuikwaterspreeuw / Black-bellied Dipper *Cinclus cinclus cinclus*, Oosterveld, Hengelo, Overijssel, 28 februari 2012 *(Arjan Esschendal)*

verbleef een **Grote Pieper** *Anthus richardi* in Het Zwin, Zeeland. Een mooi aantal van 113 **Sneeuwgorzen** *Plectrophenax nivalis* trok op 24 februari langs telpost Noordkaap in Groningen. Het landelijke telpostrecord is in handen van dezelfde telpost en betrof 384 exemplaren op 26 februari 2011. **Grauwe Gorzen** *Emberiza calandra* werden op enkele plekken in Groningen, Zeeuws-Vlaanderen en Zuid-Limburg gezien; het hoogste aantal was 29 op 17 februari bij Sibbe, Limburg.

We bedanken Arnoud van den Berg, Enno Ebels, Michel de Lange, Jeroen Nagtegaal, August van Rijn en Rinse van der Vliet voor hun hulp bij het samenstellen van dit overzicht.

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DBA-nieuws

Versterking bestuur Het bestuur van de Dutch Birding Association is verheugd om te melden dat Rob Gordijn is toegetreden tot het bestuur. Rob is binnen het bestuur verantwoordelijk voor de organisatie en invulling van activiteiten als het Texelweekend (vrijdag 30 september tot en met maandag 3 oktober 2012) en de jaarlijkse DBA-vogeldag (eerste zaterdag van februari). Daarnaast is Rob een belangrijke schakel in de aansturing van het project Digitale Avifauna. Met de toetreding van Rob is het bestuur compleet. Daarnaast wordt Toy Janssen de komende maanden 'ingewerkt'. Hij heeft aangegeven de bestuurstaken betreffende automatisering en de website van Wietze Janse op termijn over te willen nemen.

Wij wensen hen veel succes met de invulling van deze voor de DBA belangrijke taken. Bestuur Dutch Birding Association

Dutch Birding-voorjaarsweekend op Texel Van vrijdag 4 mei tot en met zondag 6 mei 2012 organiseert Vogelinformatiecentrum Texel in samenwerking met Dutch Birding het eerste 'Dutch Birding-voorjaarsweekend' op Texel, Noord-Holland. Net als in het najaar is het de bedoeling om met zoveel mogelijk vogelaars een weekend op Texel te verblijven en zo veel mogelijk leuke en zeldzame vogels te vinden. Statistisch gezien is de kans om een zeldzaamheid te ontdekken in het voorjaar in

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het eerste weekend van mei het grootst.

Accommodatie moet u zelf regelen. Informatie kunt u onder meer vinden op www.texel.net (VVV Texel).

Het Dutch Birding-voorjaarsweekend wordt op zondag afgesloten met de Vogelkijkdag Texel. Dit evenement wordt georganiseerd door Vogelinformatiecentrum Texel, Staatsbosbeheer en Natuurmonumenten. Op deze dag zijn meer dan 25 standhouders vertegenwoordigd en is er een van de grootste verrekijker- en telescopenshows van Nederland. Ook voor service aan uw huidige kijker kunt u hier terecht. Swarovski Optik zal op deze dag de nieuwe Swarovision EL 32 presenteren die vanaf die dag ook leverbaar is. De Vogelkijkdag Texel wordt gehouden op het terrein van camping de Robbenjager op de noordpunt van het eiland. Ook zijn er de gehele dag excursies en kunnen er verschillende workshops worden gevolgd.

Op vrijdagavond zal er in het Eierlandse Huis een interessante vogellezing zijn. Voor zaterdag staat een heuse Big Day op het programma. Deze wordt georganiseerd door de Vogelwerkgroep Texel en iedereen die een fietsteam (2-4 personen) bijeen weet te krijgen kan meedoen. De Big Day wordt afgesloten in het Eierlandse Huis met een buffet waarvoor iedereen zich kan inschrijven. Ook op de zaterdagavond zal een interessante vogellezing worden gegeven. Aan de invulling van een aansprekend avondprogramma wordt druk gewerkt.

Voor de ontdekker van de zeldzaamste vogelsoort van het weekend stelt Vogelinformatiecentrum Texel een 10x42-verrekijker beschikbaar.

Meer informatie, over onder meer de lezingen en het aanmelden voor de Big Day, is binnenkort te vinden op www.dutchbirding.nl en op www.vogelinformatiecentrum.nl. Vogelinformatiecentrum Texel & bestuur Dutch Birding Association

Corrigenda

In de Redactiemededeling 'Naamgeving van taxa in Dutch Birding' (Dutch Birding 34: 46-48, 2012) werden in tabel 1 (p 47, linkerkolom) de Nederlandse namen van twee soorten omgewisseld en daardoor gecombineerd met de onjuiste Engelse en wetenschappelijke naam. De vermeldingen moeten luiden:

Blauwe Nachtegaal / Siberian Blue Robin *Larvivora cyane* (was *Luscinia cyane*) (Sangster et al 2010a, 2011)
Snornachtegaal / Rufous-tailed Robin *Larvivora sibilans* (was *Luscinia sibilans*) (Sangster et al 2010a, 2011)
Redactie