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Large-scale breeding of Thick-billed Lark, Dunn's Lark and Pale Rockfinch in southern Israel in spring 2010

Yoav Perlman & Yosef Kiat

In desert ecosystems, the amount and distribution of rainfall greatly impact bird populations through plant and insect populations. Typically, mean annual rainfall in desert regions is low (normally regarded below 100 mm) and highly unpredictable. The southern deserts of Israel, the Negev and Arava, are among the world's driest deserts, with a mean annual rainfall of 30-40 mm (Jaffe 1988). Organisms dwelling in such arid ecosystems have two main strategies to deal with the lack and unpredictability of resources: ***1*** to withstand the harsh conditions by behavioural and physiological adaptations; and ***2*** to migrate from resource-poor regions to resource-rich regions (Dean 2004). Birds, with their exceptional mobility, are well known for the use of the latter strategy.

In most birds, timing of breeding is strongly linked to photoperiods and food availability (eg, Dawson et al 2001). Few birds are known to use other clues for timing of breeding, such as rain rather than photoperiod. An example is Rufous-winged Sparrow *Aimophila carpalis* of the Sonoran Desert, Mexico, which times its breeding according to irregular monsoon rains (Small et al 2007). The relationship between opportunistic utilization of resources for feeding, associated with desert rainfall, and flexibility in timing of breeding is not fully understood.

The winter of 2009/10 received exceptional rainfall in southern Israel, with several major rain events affecting the Negev and Arava. Exceptionally heavy rainfall on 18 January 2010 caused most desert wadis to flood, and supplied huge amounts of water to the arid ecosystems. Some parts of the Arava and southern Negev experienced 180 mm of rain within 24 hours! This resulted in massive germination of annuals and bloom of perennials that are dominant in arid ecosystems of southern Israel such as *Ratamus* and *Atriplex* bushes. In turn, this led to massive recruitment of various insect species that produced a huge biomass of caterpillars providing protein to breeding birds (pers obs).

In southern Israel, several nomadic species breed only occasionally and in low numbers. Thick-billed Lark *Ramphocoris clotbey*, Dunn's

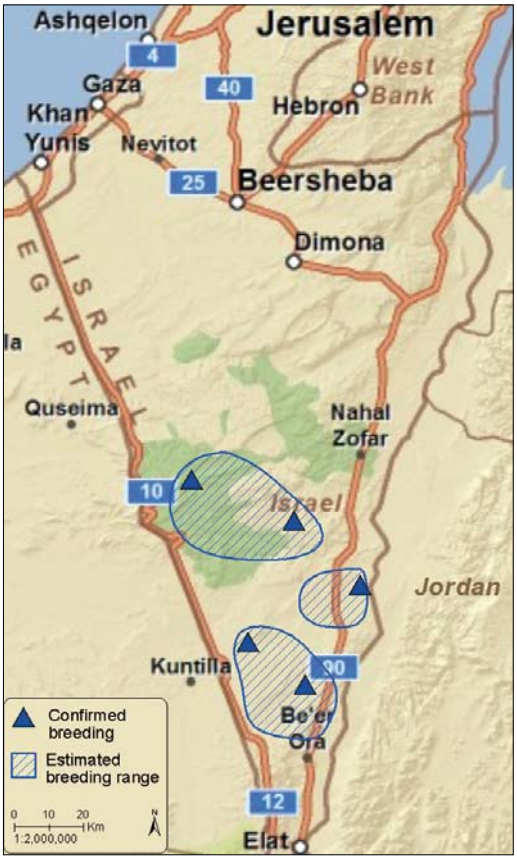
1 Thick-billed Larks / Diksnavelleeuweriken *Ramphocoris clotbey*, Negev, Israel, 5 March 2011 *(Barak Granit)*. Part of flock of c 300 individuals.

Lark *Eremalauda dunni* and Pale Rockfinch *Carpospiza brachydactyla* are among the rarest and less regular (Shirihai 1996). In spring 2010, these species showed dramatic responses to the productivity boom, and bred in relatively large numbers. This phenomenon, of multiple rare species showing opportunistic breeding activity simultaneously, has not been described previously in Israel.

Methods

To understand the spatial distribution of breeding species in Israel's southern deserts, we conducted a large scale grid census. During 2009-11, the Israeli Ornithological Center launched a breeding bird atlas survey in three main regions: Arava valley, Nizzana and southern Negev. We used 1/32° (c 3 x 3 km^2) blocks. Each block was visited up to three times during the breeding season (March-May), and breeding activity received special attention. To date, two annual atlas reports have been produced (Shochat et al 2010, Perlman et al 2011).

FIGURE 1 Breeding range of Thick-billed Lark *Ramphocoris clotbey* in Israel in spring 2010



We carried out two mistnetting operations to specifically study individuals and populations of key species more thoroughly. Thick-billed Larks were trapped and ringed on 14 February 2011 at Hameyshar plains in the southern Negev (30°27′ N, 34°56′ E), 373 m above sea level. This is a large plateau covered with hammada (blackstone), that has a few small wadis running into it. On 9 and 22 June 2010, Pale Rockfinches were trapped and ringed at a small drinking spot in the High Negev mountains in the central Negev (30°35′ N, 34°42′ E), 812 m above sea level.

Thick-billed Lark

Thick-billed Lark is a monotypic, rather poorly known lark, breeding in the deserts of North Africa and the Middle East (del Hoyo et al 2004). It is a large lark with an exceptionally heavy bill and is known to be partially nomadic across parts of its range. In Israel, it is rare, typically visiting remote desert regions that experience local exceptional rainfall and thus have high plant and insect productivity (Shirihai 1996). Until 1996, it had been recorded only 17 times in Israel (Shirihai 1996). However, since 1999 when it was first found breeding in Israel (Granit 1999), several breeding events occurred in southern Israel during additional high-precipitation years. It is possible that the species had bred regularly in Israel before, following rainy winters before 1999 but that they were not found in this underwatched region (Granit 1999).

During the exceptionally wet winter of 2009/10, an unprecedented invasion occurred, involving 100s of pairs breeding in the Negev and Arava, with some of them completing at least two breeding cycles (Perlman et al 2011, see figure 1). These birds appeared to be exploiting the abundant caterpillars to feed their young (see plate 3).

Following the successful breeding season, 1000s of birds were recruited into the ecosystems of southern Israel, and many remained in the region in autumn 2010 and winter 2010/11. By late spring 2011, most had dispersed and only few birds were still being seen at various sites in southern Israel. In our field season of 2011, we found no definite indications of breeding in southern Israel. The highest concentration was noted in a remote wadi in the southern Negev on 5 March 2011, with up to 600 individuals, in tight flocks of up to 300 consisting mainly of males (Shachar

2 Thick-billed Larks / Diksnavelleeuweriken *Ramphocoris clotbey*, male and female in courtship display, Negev, Israel, 31 March 2010 *(Thomas Krumenacker)* **3** Thick-billed Lark / Diksnavelleeuwerik *Ramphocoris clotbey*, male with food for nestlings, Arava valley, Israel, 18 April 2010 *(Yoav Perlman)* **4** Nest of Thick-billed Lark / Diksnavelleeuwerik *Ramphocoris clotbey* after breeding, Arava valley, Israel, 10 May 2010 *(Yoav Perlman)*

Alterman & Barak Granit pers comm; plate 1). Such tight flocks of males have not been documented before. Another impressive concentration during this period occurred at Hameyshar plains with up to 250 birds in February 2011. This site had received large amounts of rain during the previous winter, and as a result large amounts of seeds remained on the ground and probably helped to support this large population.

On 14 February 2011, we trapped and ringed 17 individuals at Hameyshar plains. This was the first time this species could be ringed in Israel. All individuals were measured and photographed, and the data were used to sex the birds. General differences between males and females were noted by several authors (eg, Svensson et al 2009), but to date there is no documentation of birds in the hand in winter plumage. For each individual, photographs and measurements were taken.

TABLE 1 Biometrics (range and average, in mm) of Thick-billed Larks *Ramphocoris clotbey* trapped at Negev, Israel, in February 2011

	wing	**tail**	**bill (to feathers)**	**tarsus**
male (n=7)	128-133 (130.6)	60-65 (62.4)	17.7-19.4 (18.7)	22.8-24.9 (23.9)
female (n=9)	124-128 (125.7)	57-66 (60.8)	16.6-19.4 (18.1)	22.9-27.9 (24.1)

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5 & 7 Thick-billed Lark / Diksnavelleeuwerik *Ramphocoris clotbey*, male, Negev, Israel, 14 February 2011 *(Yoav Perlman)* **9** Thick-billed Lark / Diksnavelleeuwerik *Ramphocoris clotbey*, male, Negev, Israel, 14 February 2011 *(Yosef Kiat)* **6, 8 & 10** Thick-billed Lark / Diksnavelleeuwerik *Ramphocoris clotbey*, female, Negev, Israel, 14 February 2011 *(Yosef Kiat)*

11 Thick-billed Lark / Diksnavelleeuwerik *Ramphocoris clotbey*, male, Negev, Israel, 14 February 2011
(Yosef Kiat)

12 Thick-billed Lark / Diksnavelleeuwerik *Ramphocoris clotbey*, female, Negev, Israel, 14 February 2011
(Yosef Kiat)

Biometrics
Sexes were determined by combining wing measurements and coloration patterns. Wing length was significantly longer in males compared with females (table 1). We found no significant differences in other measurements, including bill dimensions and tarsus length. Out of the 17 trapped individuals, seven were identified as male, nine as female and one individual was released at the net and was not sexed.

Morphology
Males were generally larger and darker, with more contrasting patterns on face and breast. The eyestripe was blacker and the ear-coverts were noticeably darker and blacker with fewer pale fringes than in females. The breast streaking was darker and more contrasting in appearance, as well as the primary coverts and median coverts. The upperparts were greyer. Females were smaller and paler sandy above, with face and breast patterns paler and less contrasting. The primary and median coverts were paler and sandier. Males had darker and greyer bills than females, which showed a paler, yellowish bill. See table 1 for biometrics.

None of the birds showed any moult contrast, exceptional wear or any other indications for differences in moult strategies between different ages or sexes. Apparently, both adults and juveniles perform a complete post-breeding moult, as in many other larks (Svensson 1992).

Dunn's Lark
Dunn's Lark is a poorly known nomadic lark breeding locally and discontinuously in remote parts of Central and North Africa and the southern Middle East (del Hoyo et al 2004). Two taxa are recognized: African Dunn's Lark *E d dunni* in Africa and Arabian Dunn's Lark *E d eremodites* in the Middle East. It has been suggested that these two may actually represent two species, based on distinctive morphometric differences; further studies into vocalizations and genetic differences are currently being undertaken and the results will be available soon (Hadoram Shirihai pers comm). All Israeli records refer to *eremodites*. Dunn's Lark is extremely rare in Israel, first recorded in the 1970s (ter Haar 1981, Shirihai 1996). In 1989, it bred in Israel for the first time, in the central Arava valley. This was a major breeding event that involved probably some 10s or 100s of pairs (Shirihai

13 Arabian Dunn's Lark / Arabische Dunns Leeuwerik *Eremalauda dunni eremodites*, Arava valley, Israel, 14 April 2010 *(Hadoram Shirihai)*

14 Arabian Dunn's Lark / Arabische Dunns Leeuwerik *Eremalauda dunni eremodites*, recently fledged juvenile, Arava valley, Israel, 23 May 2010 *(Yoav Perlman)*

1991). Since then, it probably also bred in 2003 (James Smith pers comm) but in very small numbers. Both breeding events were linked to local rainfall and floods that produced 'green patches' in the desert.

In spring 2010, another major breeding event occurred for this species. At least 20 pairs were found breeding in a remote wadi in the central Arava, deep inside a military firing zone (figure 2). The first territorial males were noted in April and in late May recently fledged juveniles were seen. This is possibly the first time this plumage has been documented (plate 14). By summer 2010, most birds were gone from the breeding area. In spring 2011, again one or two pairs returned to breed at the same site, and another five to six pairs were found breeding in the southern Negev (Shachar Alterman & Barak Granit pers comm).

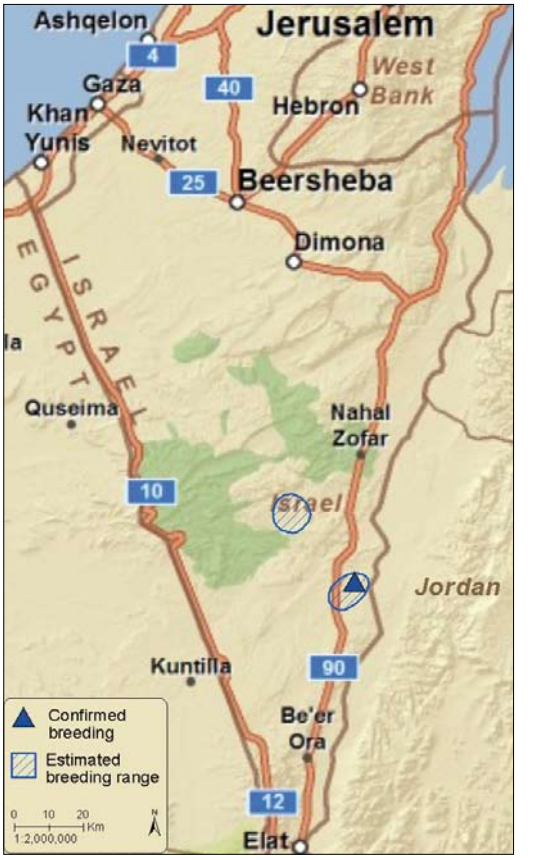

FIGURE 2 Breeding range of Dunn's Lark *Eremalauda dunni* in Israel in spring 2010

Pale Rockfinch

Pale Rockfinch breeds in open, barren habitats from south-eastern Turkey, Syria and Lebanon, eastwards through Armenia to Afghanistan (Clement et al 1993). In Israel, it is a local breeder with small numbers on Mount Hermon. In the rest of Israel it is a scarce passage migrant and a nomadic or opportunistic breeder (Shirihai 1996). It was first recorded breeding in Israel away from Mount Hermon in 2000 (Griffin et al 2001), and has since been confirmed as breeding in three more years: 2006, 2009 and 2010. All events coincided with local, exceptional rainfall in arid or semi-arid parts of the country: Judean Desert plateau, Arad hills, central Negev highlands, southern Negev highlands, and Samaria hills. However, it is possible that small numbers breed regularly in semi-arid habitats along the eastern slopes of the Judean and Samaria hills (Barak Granit pers comm).

The breeding event of 2010 was exceptional because of its wide range and higher number of breeding pairs than previously recorded. Furthermore, breeding success also appeared to be extraordinary, compared to previous breeding events where no multiple breeding cycles were noted. See figure 3. Singing males started arriving in late April 2010. In the high Negev mountains alone, the population probably included many 100s of pairs. Nationwide, the total numbers were probably much higher, estimated by several 1000s of pairs. Breeding of this species is rapid (Shirihai 1996) and many pairs completed two breeding cycles. Exceptional breeding was noted in 2010 also in similar semi-arid habitats in Jordan (Khoury & Janaydeh 2011).

FIGURE 3 Breeding range of Pale Rockfinch *Carpospiza brachydactyla* in Israel in spring 2010

Post-breeding birds concentrated at drinking spots in the high Negev mountains, where 100s were noted in June-July 2010. Ringing efforts here produced 73 ringed birds (60 juveniles and 13 adults). All adults showed a similar pattern of arrested moult, with one to three moulted primaries, and none to two moulted secondaries (plate 17).

Conclusions

Our results from winter 2009/10 and the following spring further support the current knowledge that exceptional rainfall acts as a major trigger for nomadism in birds through plant and insect productivity. Furthermore, the invasion that took place in winter and spring 2009/10 led in turn to large-scale breeding events of the three discussed species. This may indicate plasticity and opportunism of breeding in these little-known species in response to unique weather conditions rather than to fixed seasons. It is important to continue monitoring the breeding of these species in Israel to determine the possible long-term changes to the Israeli desert avifauna.

All three species bred in especially valuable and sensitive habitats (steppes, plains and vegetated wadis; Perlman 2011). These habitats are under threat in Israel, like in many other places in the world, by habitat destruction, overgrazing and other anthropogenic land uses. Better understanding of the ecological requirements of these desert breeding species should help promote better conservation of these habitats.

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Samenvatting

Grootschalig broeden van Diksnavellleeuwerik, Dunns Leeuwerik en Bleke Rotmus in zuidelijk Israël in voorjaar 2010 In zuidelijk Israël werd de winter van 2009/10 gekenmerkt door exceptionele regens, met name in de Negevwoestijn en Aravavallei. Op 19 januari 2010 bijvoorbeeld deed zware regen vele wadi's overstromen, waardoor enorme hoeveelheden water in het droge woestijnecosysteem terecht kwamen. Sommige delen van de Arava ontvingen toen 180 mm in 24 uur tijd. Dit resulteerde in massale bloei van planten, wat op zijn beurt weer grote aantallen insecten aantrok. Dat zorgde weer voor een overvloed aan voedsel voor broedvogels.

Drie vooral nomadische (en in Israël zeldzame) woestijnbroedvogels deden dat voorjaar in opvallende aantallen van zich spreken: Diksnavellleeuwerik *Ramphocoris clotbey*, Dunns Leeuwerik *Eremalauda dunni* en Bleke Rotmus *Carpospiza brachydactyla*. Deze soorten reageerden massaal op het voedselaanbod en kwamen in relatief grote aantallen tot broeden. Dit fenomeen (verschillende zeldzame soorten die tegelijkertijd opportunistisch broedgedrag vertonen), was nog niet eerder beschreven voor Israël. Dit artikel beschrijft de gebeurtenissen van het voorjaar van 2010. Daarnaast worden van Diksnavelleeuwerik enkele morfologische eigenschappen besproken die nog niet eerder zijn beschreven.

De resultaten van 2009/10 en het daaropvolgende voorjaar onderschrijven bestaande kennis dat exceptio-

15 Pale Rockfinch / Bleke Rotsmus *Carpospiza brachydactyla*, singing male, Negev, Israel, 25 April 2010
(Yoav Perlman)

16 Pale Rockfinch / Bleke Rotsmus *Carpospiza brachydactyla*, juvenile, Negev, Israel, 9 June 2010
(Yoav Perlman)

17 Pale Rockfinch / Bleke Rotsmus *Carpospiza brachydactyla*, adult, Negev, Israel, 9 June 2010 *(Yoav Perlman)*. Note arrested wing moult.

nele regenval de katalysator kan zijn voor nomadisme in woestijnvogels, via de productiviteit van planten en insecten. Deze vorm van opportunisme als het gaat om broeden als reactie op unieke weersomstandigheden wijkt af van gebruikelijke strategieën die zijn gebaseerd op seizoenen. In het licht van de bedreigingen waar de Israëlische woestijnen aan bloot staan, is het begrip van de mechanismen rond het broeden van deze soorten erg belangrijk. De drie soorten broedden namelijk in waardevolle en kwetsbare habitats die zwaar onder druk staan door menselijk handelen.

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Unusual Richard's Pipit in Galicia, Spain, in January 2010, and separation from Blyth's Pipit

Daniel López-Velasco, José Luis Copete, David R Vieites, Marcos Suárez & Antonio Sandoval

On 10 January 2010, a pipit *Anthus* was found and photographed at Ría de O Burgo, A Coruña, Galicia, Spain. It was first wrongly identified as Blyth's Pipit *A godlewskii*, which is an extreme rarity in Spain (De Juana 2006, Dies et al 2007). However, when additional photographs and video images were obtained and posted on www.surfbirds.com (http://surfbirds.com/video2 (search for 'pipit sp') and http://avesdelariadoburgo.blogspot.com/search?q=richard), it became obvious to everyone, including those who first considered Blyth's, that it was in fact a Richard's Pipit *A richardi,* albeit a small one.

Some suggested that the initial confusion derived from the bird possibly being one of Richard's Pipit's subspecies smaller than nominate *A r richardi* (hereafter nominate *richardi*). Therefore, a comparison of the available images with skin material from several museums was made, ie, apart from nominate *richardi*, also *A r centralasiae*, *A r dauricus*, *A r sinensis* and *A r ussuriensis*. It should be noted though that differences between (presumed) subspecies may be small and/or clinal since Alström et al (2003) prefer to treat Richard's as monotypic.

The Galician bird underscores that not all Richard's Pipits and Blyth's Pipits are as straightforward to identify as often thought when the call has not been heard and recorded (cf Moorhouse 1989, Bradshaw 1994, Page 1997, Copete & Armada 2001, Constantine & The Sound Approach 2006, Dupriez & Millington 2010). Similarly, debated birds in Britain, for example, included one at Portland Bill, Dorset, England, in 1989 (Grant 1989, Millington 1989) and on North Ronaldsay, Orkney, Scotland, in 2008. The latter was first thought to be probably a Blyth's but after examination in the hand it turned out to be a Richard's (see http://northronbirdobs.blogspot.com/2008_11_01_archive.html). Also, the first putative Richard's for Palau islands, in the western Pacific Ocean, photographed on 23 and 28 April 2005, was recently re-identified as the first Blyth's for Micronesia and the easternmost record of this species to date (Lees & VanderWerf 2011). This paper summarizes the most important characters to separate both species and highlights the pitfall of 'small' (and silent) Richard's.

Description of Galician bird

SIZE & STRUCTURE Noticeably smaller, shorter tailed and shorter necked than typical Richard's Pipit usually seen in Spain and other European countries. Compared with nearby Meadow Pipits *A pratensis*, seeming barely any larger. On ground, tail looking relatively short, giving rather compact Blyth's Pipit-like look, although at least 10% longer than exposed tertials. In flight, however, tail looking proportionally quite long, compared with body, or at least relatively longer looking than when seen on ground (plate 22). Due to relatively short legs and neck, not looking as 'tall' as usual Richard's, and only rarely adopting typical upright stance. Bill quite short; culmen rather thick overall and curved towards tip. Based on photographs, hind claw very long and relatively straight (plate 24-25).

HEAD Crown pattern looking different depending on photographs and postures but showing hint of dark upper border to supercilium, creating dark lateral crown-stripe, contrasting with less streaked upper crown. However, especially during rain, when bird wet, lateral crown-stripe 'gone', bird then showing more homogeneously streaked crown pattern. Also showing very contrasting and well defined supercilium, extending well behind eye.

UPPERPARTS Mantle seeming more 'spotted' than cleanly striped, and with rather evenly pale fringes on mantle-feathers.

UNDERPARTS Belly, especially when seen head-on, noticeably white, contrasting strongly with brownish breast and flank. Breast-band finely streaked. Some thin and diffuse streaks on rear flank.

WING Obvious pale wing-bars but difficult to determine exact pattern of moulted central median coverts of left wing (due to asymmetrical moult, with all median coverts juvenile on right wing, and couple of replaced ones on left wing). Second outermost median covert of left wing with square and clear-cut dark centre, showing obvious and wide pale tip, but third outermost median covert showing triangular-shaped dark centre. Juvenile greater coverts with rather pointed tip to dark centre.

TAIL Inner web of second outermost tail-feather (t5) showing very long white tongue, well visible in flight photographs.

18 Richard's Pipit / Grote Pieper *Anthus richardi*, first-winter, A Coruña, Galicia, Spain, 12 January 2010 *(Daniel López-Velasco)*. Head pattern and bill size recalling those of Blyth's Pipit *A godlewskii*, with fairly homogeneously streaked crown pattern, lacking typical lateral crown stripe of Richard's Pipit, giving dark-capped appearance. Bill looking fairly short and stubby but note that culmen curves noticeably towards tip. **19** Richard's Pipit / Grote Pieper *Anthus richardi*, first-winter, A Coruña, Galicia, Spain, 11 January 2010 *(Pablo Gutiérrez)*. Mantle looking strongly patterned but, on closer inspection, clearly more spotted than neatly striped, thus more similar to Richard's than to Blyth's Pipit *A godlewskii*. Note dark lateral crown-stripe. **20** Richard's Pipit / Grote Pieper *Anthus richardi*, first-winter, A Coruña, Galicia, Spain, 11 January 2010 *(Pablo Gutiérrez)*. Note second outermost median covert of left wing, showing square and clear cut dark centre and wide pale tip, very similar to Blyth's Pipit *A godlewskii*, although third outermost median covert, obscured here by second, has typical triangular-shaped dark centre of Richard's. **21** Richard's Pipit / Grote Pieper *Anthus richardi*, first-winter, A Coruña, Galicia, Spain, 11 January 2010 *(Pablo Gutiérrez)*. Note moulted innermost median covert and that all greater coverts still juvenile on right wing. Whitish belly contrasting well with buffy flank and breast. Looking particularly short legged compared with average Richard's.

VOICE Atypical. Mostly silent, even when flushed. Sometimes calling like fairly typical Richard's, explosive, quite harsh *shreep*, vaguely similar to call of distant House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*.

BEHAVIOUR Mostly walking horizontally, only rarely adopting obvious upright stance. Bobbing tail constantly, like *Motacilla* wagtail.

Identification of Galician bird

After field views, previous experience with both species, research and consultation of several identification experts, the Galician bird was identified as Richard's Pipit, based mainly on the following characters: ***1*** very long and rather straight hind-claw; ***2*** fairly decurved culmen; ***3*** presence of diffuse streaking on hind flanks; ***4*** very long white

22 Richard's Pipit / Grote Pieper *Anthus richardi*, first-winter, A Coruña, Galicia, Spain, 11 January 2010 *(Pablo Gutiérrez)*. Note very long white tongue on inner web of second outermost tail-feather (t5), extending far towards base of feather. Note also long-tailed appearance. **23** Richard's Pipit / Grote Pieper *Anthus richardi*, first-winter, A Coruña, Galicia, Spain, 11 January 2010 *(Pablo Gutiérrez)*. Note triangular shape of black centre of third innermost median covert, almost reaching tip of feather, typical of Richard's. Pattern of two adjoining median coverts, however, more like Blyth's Pipit *A godlewskii*, with squarer and more clear-cut black centre, creating wide pale tip. **24-25** Richard's Pipit / Grote Pieper *Anthus richardi*, first-winter, A Coruña, Galicia, Spain, 11 January 2010 *(Pablo Gutiérrez)*. Note long and relatively straight hind claw.

tongue on inner web of t5; ***5*** mantle pattern more spotted than striped; ***6*** head pattern with dark lateral crown-stripe and prominent supercilium; and ***7*** call (which, however, was not recorded). The pattern of the median coverts was not conclusive, with some feathers showing a pattern as in Richard's and some as in Blyth's Pipit (cf plate 20 and 23). However, the most centrally placed moulted one, which are said to be the most important, fit Richard's better (see below).

Identification characters of Richard's Pipit and Blyth's Pipit

When faced with a relatively small, pale and silent Richard's Pipit resembling Blyth's Pipit, such as the Galician bird, or the opposite, when faced with a presumed Blyth's, all features should be fully checked. The pattern of the moulted adult-type central median coverts, length and shape of the hindclaw, and the calls (especially with experience), are the best characters for separating the two species. Tail pattern can be useful, especially when showing the most classic pat-

tern, as an additional character but, as shown here, there is much overlap in this feature between both species. The pattern of the median coverts is best studied in photographs, and the call is best compared by using sound-recordings. The summary below is mainly based on Svensson (1992), Alström et al (2003) and van Duivendijk (2010).

Vocalizations

The most often heard flight call of Richard's Pipit away from the breeding sites resembles that of a hoarse House Sparrow and is quite loud, explosive and harsh; sometimes, however, when the call is more buzzing and sibilant than usual, it can be quite similar (to the unexperienced ear) to one of the Blyth's Pipit calls (eg, van den Berg et al 2003, Jännes 2003). However, the Richard's-like call of Blyth's is usually still softer and less harsh, more sneezing, vaguely suggesting the anxiety call of Pechora Pipit *A gustavi* as much as Richard's (Nial Moores pers comm), and readily separated from Richard's, especially when heard together. The other call of Blyth's, a short *chip-chup*, which can be combined with the Richard's-like call and is delivered in short series, is quite different from anything uttered by Richard's, albeit similar to one of the less frequent calls of Tawny Pipit *A campestris*. However, it must be stressed that some Richard's, especially when several are flying together, can produce shorter versions of their typical call, repeated several times, with a very short interval between them, and could, to the inexperienced ear, resemble the typical Blyth's *chip-chup* call.

Size and structure

Richard's Pipit is on average larger, heavier, longer tailed and longer legged and with a more powerful bill than Blyth's Pipit. Some of these features, such as tail length relative to the body, are better judged in flight when, because of its shorter tail, Blyth's can recall one of the smaller pipits. Richard's tends to adopt a more upright posture than Blyth's, similar to a small thrush. On the other hand, Blyth's usually looks smaller, lighter, shorter tailed, more compact and better proportioned, and does not usually adopt the upright stance as frequently as Richard's. It is important to note that some Blyth's can occasionally show a very erect, upright posture, too, as in Richard's (plate 26-27).

26-27 Blyth's Pipit / Mongoolse Pieper *Anthus godlewskii*, first-winter, Ouessant, Finistère, France, 14 October 2005 *(Aurélien Audevard)*. Note upright stance.

The Galician bird walked 'horizontally' most of the time, like Blyth's Pipit usually does, hardly ever adopting the most extreme upright stance typical of Richard's Pipit, and proved quite skulking. This shows that behaviour alone cannot be used for a confident identification of both species.

Structurally, Richard's Pipit tends to have a longer tail than Blyth's, especially evident in flight, when compared proportionally with body/wings, and measuring 10% longer than tertials, which can be useful when assessing short-tailed looking birds on the ground.

Hind claw

This is one of the most important features to distinguish both species, which can be easily evaluated on photographs or if the bird is trapped. Richard's Pipit tends to have longer and straighter hind claws than Blyth's Pipit in which the hind claws are consistently shorter and more curved. The measurements provided by Alström et al (2003) are in the order of 11.2-23.9 mm for Richard's and 8.8-15.4 mm for Blyth's. Svensson (1992) states that the hind claw in Richard's is usually >13 mm. Therefore, despite a tiny overlap in the lower values, normally Richard's hind claw is longer, constituting one of the diagnostic characters to separate it from Blyth's.

Bill

Richard's Pipit generally has a larger, longer and heavier bill than Blyth's Pipit, with a more decurved upper mandible; the bill of Blyth's is usually smaller, shorter, finer and with the upper mandible less decurved. The lower mandible is straighter in Blyth's, giving the whole bill a 'spikier' look compared with the more conical looking bill of Richard's. As can be seen in the Galician bird, some Richard's can have quite small bills, so it is more important to concentrate on the exact shape of the bill rather than on its size when identifying difficult birds. Also note that the bill base can be quite broad in Blyth's, creating the effect of a rather strong, thrush-like bill reminiscent of Richard's from some angles (eg, cf www.birdimages.be/images/Z_20051119_01.jpg).

Head pattern

Differences in head pattern between both species, including the lateral crown-stripe and well-defined and broad supercilium of Richard's Pipit and 'dark-capped' look and warm brown ear-coverts of Blyth's Pipit, are slight and variable, and should therefore be used with caution.

The streaks on the crown of Richard's Pipit are said to be usually not as dark, sharp, or as fine as in Blyth's Pipit, although the differences between both species are very slight. Richard's usually has broader streaks on the sides of the crown, over the supercilium, creating a well-defined lateral crown-stripe contrasting with a relatively pale, diffusely streaked crown. The crown in Blyth's is usually homogeneously streaked, giving it a more uniform 'dark-capped' look. These features are variable, with some Richard's lacking the lateral crown-stripe and some Blyth's showing one, and this should be borne in mind when using this feature.

Blyth's Pipit is supposed to have warmer brown ear-coverts than nominate Richard's Pipit. This is quite variable, and some Richard's can show similar patterns, especially birds from the subspecies *A r sinensis*. For example, on certain photographs the Spanish bird showed relatively warm brown ear-coverts.

The supercilium of Richard's Pipit tends to be better defined and broader overall – especially towards the rear – than in Blyth's Pipit, which can also look bigger eyed than Richard's, presumably due to the more diffuse supercilium. The Galician bird showed a very contrasting and well-defined supercilium, extending well past the eye, as in typical Richard's (Small 1997). However, the shape of the supercilium can also vary depending on the position of the head and a fair percentage of Blyth's can show supercilium patterns very similar to Richard's.

Both Richard's Pipit and Blyth's Pipit show pale lores, unlike Tawny Pipit, but it is important to note that, depending on the angle of the head, the lores can appear dark.

Upperparts

Richard's Pipit usually has browner upperparts than Blyth's Pipit, which can look more greyish, but there is a certain degree of variation between Richard's subspecies. When worn, both species can be nearly identical. The mantle of nominate *richardi* tends to be less heavily streaked than in Blyth's, which usually has darker and cleaner streaks than Richard's, enhanced by paler stripes between dark ones. This contrast tends to be less marked in nominate *richardi* as the streaks are paler and the stripes less contrasting pale. There is, as with many of the other features, much variation, both age and subspecies dependant, with some Richard's having particularly well-marked streaks and stripes on the mantle, as the Galician bird.

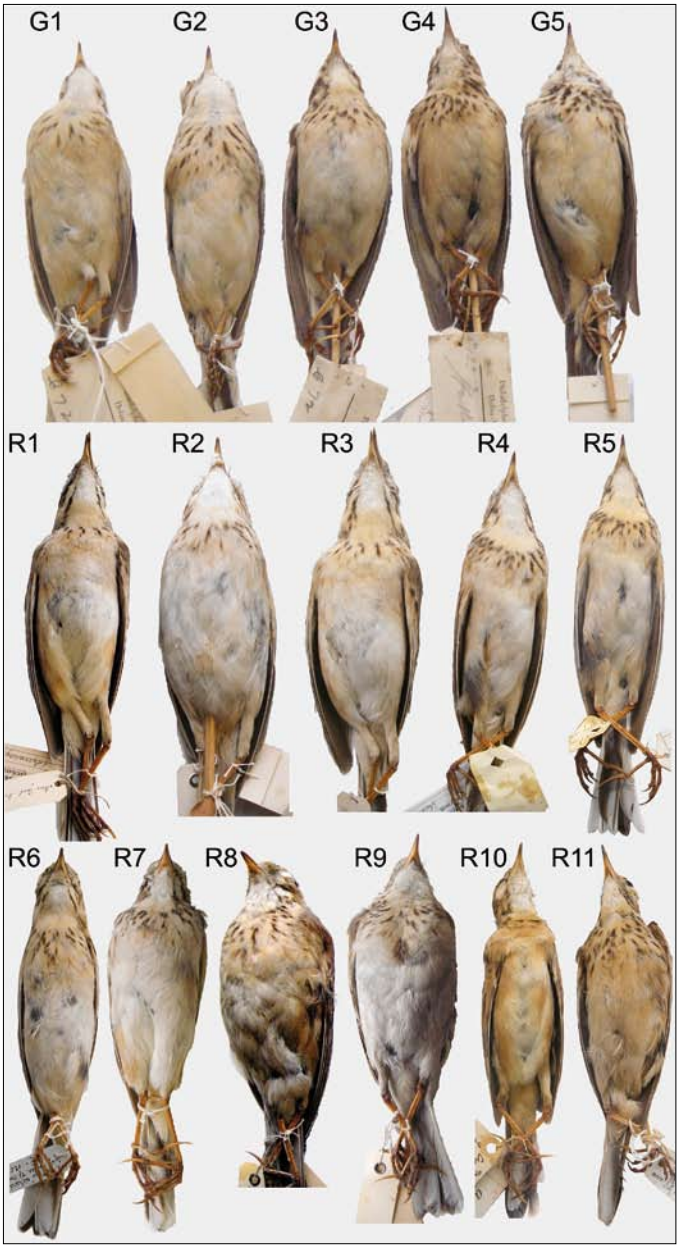

FIGURE 1 Examples showing the most typical variation in underparts in Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* (R) and Blyth's Pipit *A godlewskii* (G) *(David R Vieites)*. **G1-G5** *A godlewskii* showing gradual variation in breast streaking, overall underpart coloration and chin coloration. **R1-R3** *A r centralasiae*. **R4-R5** *A r richardi*; note slight differences in breast pattern and whiter underparts in *centralasiae*. **R6-R7** *A r dauricus*. **R8-R9** *A r ussuriensis*; note overall grey coloration and variable buff coloration on flank. **R10-R11** *A r sinensis*; note variation from few streaks to heavily streaked breast, and overall buff-cinnamon coloration.

Underparts (cf figure 1)

The underparts of Richard's Pipit usually show some contrast between breast, flank and belly, especially when seen head-on, but there is much variation among subspecies and ages. On the other hand, the underparts of Blyth's Pipit tend to be more uniform buff (especially compared with nominate *richardi*), with the belly usually contrasting hardly with breast and flank, although, in certain views, some contrast can be noticeable. The amount of streaks on the breast is variable, from few to dense, but most birds show clear streaks on the breast, which are usually thinner than in Richard's. However, as with upperpart pattern, there is much individual variation.

Wing pattern

The pattern and shape of the moulted adult-type median and greater coverts, especially of the central feathers of these feather tracts, form, together with call and shape and length of the hind claw, one of the most useful features for separating silent Richard's Pipit and Blyth's Pipit. The dark centre of the moulted median coverts in Richard's is more triangular, less square and less clear-cut compared with Blyth's, and the pale edges of each feather are browner and more diffuse. These differences can also be applied to the moulted greater coverts but they are usually not as obvious as in the median coverts. These patterns create less obvious wing-bars (less clear cut, thinner and darker) in Richard's than in Blyth's. It is important to note that both the outermost and innermost coverts can show atypical patterns, especially in Richard's, which can show Blyth's-like median coverts (see Alström et al 2003). So, for judging the described typical pattern, observers should concentrate on the central feathers and,

even on those, bear in mind that some variation is found amongst both species. However, judging the exact pattern of these feathers on a moving bird in the field, especially if the feathers are worn or if some adjoining coverts overlap, as already discussed by Bradshaw (1994), can be very difficult and good quality photographs are often essential.

Alström (1988), Svensson (1992) and Bradshaw (1994) state that the patterns of the juvenile median coverts and greater coverts of both species are identical. Van Duivendijk (2010), however, suggests that the juvenile greater coverts of Blyth's Pipit, especially the innermost, have blunt tips to the dark centre, similar to the (well-known) adult-type median coverts of Blyth's. In Richard's Pipit, these tips are rather pointed, and this pattern is clearly shown by the second innermost (juvenile) greater covert of the Galician bird (Nils van Duivendijk in litt). This feature needs to be properly confirmed as a consistent character but it looks like the differences in shape of the dark feather centre between Richard's and Blyth's are already present, in an attenuated form, in some juvenile greater coverts.

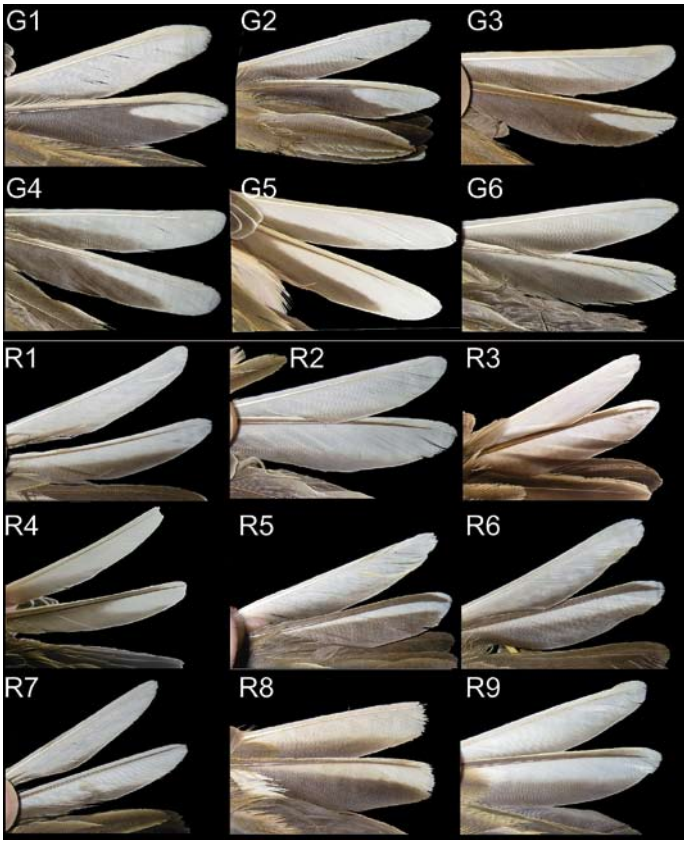

FIGURE 2 Variation in outermost tail-feathers of Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* (R) and Blyth's Pipit *A godlewskii* (G) *(David Vieites)*. **G1-6** *A godlewskii*. **R1-4** *A r richardi*. **R5-6** atypical *A r centralasiae*. **R7** *A r ussuriensis*. **R8-9** *A r sinensis*. G1-4 show typical pattern of t5-6 in Blyth's, with some specimens having more white on t5 (G5-G6). R8-9 examples of Richard's where pattern and amount of white resemble atypical Blyth's of G5-6.

Tail pattern (cf figure 2)

Tail pattern is a supporting feature for separating Richard's Pipit and Blyth's Pipit but it should be used with care as there is a certain degree of overlap (Svensson 1992, cf van den Berg et al 1993). The pattern of the outer tail-feather (t6) and the outer web of the second outermost tail-feather (t5) in both species are similar, being mostly white, but with some birds showing a variable degree of brown. Figure 2 shows examples of the variation in t5-6 in both species from a large series of skins at Natural History Museum in Tring, England, and Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany. In Blyth's, the white on the inner web of t5 never extends to the base of the feather, unlike the most common pattern in Richard's. The variation on t5 and t6 in Richard's is substantial; t5 and t6 usually have much white, with a typical pattern on the inner web of t5 with white reaching more than half the shaft, sometimes almost to the base of the feather, and some degree of variation in the amount of brown colour. There are several alternative patterns, with a small white tongue on the inner web of t5, strongly resembling the pattern of Blyth's but with a less triangular shape (see also Svensson 1992). Sometimes the white forms a narrow line towards the base of the feather.

Geographic variation in Richard's Pipit

General characters

There is a cline in size and coloration in northern subspecies, with *dauricus* very similar to nominate *richardi* but slightly darker, and *centralasiae* much paler than other subspecies but being also

the largest. However, there is an overlap in all measurements between nominate *richardi* and *centralasiae* (Alström et al 2003; Kees Roselaar pers comm), and the variation between them is mainly clinal.

Upperparts
There are clines that vary from pale buff-brown or sandy-brown with thin streaks, as in *centralasiae*, to olive-grey with broad dark streaks in *ussuriensis* or even darker and more streaked as in *sinensis*. *Sinensis* shows darker upperparts that are very distinctive. *Ussuriensis* also has darker upperparts with less warm brown coloration than typical nominate *richardi* (Alström et al 2003; skins examined by the authors).

Underparts (cf figure 1)
Nominate *richardi*, *centralasiae* and *dauricus* usually show a faint brownish breast with a rather variable number of dark streaks, and a contrast with the white throat and belly. In some specimens, the buff coloration of the breast extends to the lower part of the throat and onto the flank but not onto the belly. Other subspecies, such as *ussuriensis*, have an overall greyer appearance with a greyer belly, less contrasting with the washed cinnamon breast, and their throats are not pure white. In *sinensis*, the overall appearance of the underparts is more uniform buff, with little contrast between breast and belly, therefore recalling Blyth's Pipit (Alström et al 2003; skins examined by the authors, figure 1).

Tail pattern (cf figure 2)
In *ussuriensis*, the white on the tail-feathers is not pure white but more greyish (see figure 2, R7). In other subspecies, the white on the tail-feathers is pure white. (Alström et al 2003; skins examined by the authors).

Conclusions
There is much variation in colour, size and structure in Richard's Pipit, which can make the identification and separation from Blyth's Pipit quite problematic in some birds. The small size of the Galician bird, together with its pale plumage, raised the question if it could belong to another subspecies than nominate *richardi*, which is the only subspecies recorded in Europe so far. However, after examination of museum skins of all Richard's subspecies, it was concluded that it better fitted a nominate *richardi* after all. As the bird was not trapped or sound-recorded, there are no measurements or sonagrams but its pale appearance fits nominate *richardi* and *centralasiae*, as a *sinensis* should have shown darker upperparts and buffier underparts, and its small size suggests an atypical nominate *richardi*, rather than *centralasiae* (which, although the palest one, is also the largest one, unlike the small Spanish bird) as the most likely option, although we cannot rule out *centralasiae* or *dauricus*. More research should be made in order to clarify the precise identification and taxonomy of all Richard's subspecies.

When faced with a possible Blyth's Pipit, extreme caution to identify the bird is needed. We suggest to study any odd Richard's Pipit as well as any vagrant Blyth's with extreme care, and to obtain sound-recordings whenever possible.

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Samenvatting
Ongewone Grote Pieper in Galicië, Spanje, in januari 2010 en verschillen met Mongoolse Pieper Op 10 januari 2010 werd in A Coruña, Galicië, Noordwest-Spanje, een pieper *Anthus* gezien en gefotografeerd die aanvankelijk werd gedetermineerd als Mongoolse Pieper *A godlewskii*. Er ontstond, ook internationaal, discussie over de determinatie en pas nadat beschrijvingen van de roep, meer foto's en videobeelden beschikbaar kwamen werd de vogel gedetermineerd als een – enigszins ongewone – Grote Pieper *A richardi*. Later werd het beschikbare documentatiemateriaal van de vogel vergeleken met museummateriaal van beide soorten. Dit artikel behandelt beknopt de belangrijkste kenmerken voor het

onderscheiden van beide soorten, met nadruk op het probleem van een kleine en 'stille' Grote Pieper, en gaat in op de geografische variatie binnen Grote Pieper.

De kenmerken die voor verwarring zorgden waren: ***1*** kleiner formaat dan gebruikelijk voor Grote Pieper: leek op de grond een korte staart te hebben, maar in vlucht juist een langere; relatief korte poten en hals, en slechts zelden de voor Grote typische rechtopstaande houding aannemend; snavel relatief kort; ***2*** kop met donkere zijkruinstreep, die echter bij nat verenkleed (regen) onzichtbaar was, en duidelijke wenkbrauwstreep tot achter oog; ***3*** patroon van middelste dekveren niet eenduidig, sommige veren met patroon van Grote, andere van Mongoolse Pieper; tweede middelste dekveer op linkervleugel (van buiten naar binnen geteld) met recht en scherp afgesneden donker centrum en duidelijke, brede lichte top, maar derde middelste dekveer met driehoekig donker centrum; juveniele grote dekveren met tamelijk puntig donker centrum; ***4*** overwegend zwijgzaam, ook bij opvliegen.

De uiteindelijke determinatie als Grote Pieper is gebaseerd op: ***1*** achternagel zeer lang en relatief recht; ***2*** tamelijk omlaaggebogen culmen; ***3*** diffuse streping op achterflank; ***4*** zeer lange witte tong op binnenvlag van op een na buitenste staartpen (t5); ***5*** patroon op mantel meer gevlekt dan gestreept; ***6*** kop met donkere zijkruinstreep en duidelijke wenkbrauwstreep; ***7*** roep (helaas zijn geen opnames beschikbaar); een explosief en rauw *sjriep*, vagelijk herinnerend aan roep van verre Huismus *Passer domesticus*.

Op grond van het tamelijk lichte kleed betrof het waarschijnlijk de ondersoort *A r richardi* (*A r sinensis* is donkerder op bovendelen en meer zeemkleurig op onderdelen; *A r centralasiae* is weliswaar bleek maar tevens de grootste ondersoort).

De hier behandelde vogel geeft aan dat het onderscheid tussen Grote Pieper en Mongoolse Pieper in bepaalde gevallen zeer lastig kan zijn en dat het risico aanwezig is dat een kleine en zwijgzame Grote ten onrechte wordt gedetermineerd als Mongoolse. Goede geluidsopnamen en gedetailleerde foto's of videobeelden zijn van grote waarde voor het met zekerheid determineren van zulke 'probleemvogels'. Naast geluid zijn voor de determinatie het patroon van de geruide adulttype centrale middelste dekveren en de lengte en vorm van de achterteennagel het meest belangrijk. Andere kenmerken, zoals het patroon op de buitente staartveren, snavelvorm en tekening op kop en mantel zijn relevant maar vertonen veel variatie en overlap.

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New longevity records of Black-headed Gull, with comments on wear and loss of aluminium rings

Klaas van Dijk, René Oosterhuis, Benny Middendorp & Frank Majoor

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus* (formerly *Larus*) *ridibundus* is a common and widespread breeding bird in the Palearctic. Well over 2 million individuals have been ringed in the last 100 years and this has led to several longevity records (Černý 1939, Perdeck & Speek 1963, Rydzewski 1978, Staav 1998, Fransson et al 2010). We obtained three new longevity records not listed in Fransson et al (2010), of which details are presented in this paper. Consequences of the use of poor quality metal rings in assessing longevity records are discussed as well. They confirm findings of an earlier study (Majoor 1995) that aluminium rings should no longer be used to ring Black-headed Gulls.

Arnhem 3.275.396

On 25 June 1978, Fred Koning was ringing birds at Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen (AWD) near Zandvoort, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands. Arnhem 3.275.396 was one of the 80 chicks ringed that day. In the 1970s, several breeding colonies were situated at AWD with in total c 8000 pairs, but almost no gulls have bred there after 1985 (Vader 2009). On 11 April 2009, Benny Middendorp made one of his regular ring reading visits to the Benthuizerplas colony, Zoetermeer, Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands. This colony with c 400 pairs is located on a few islets in a suburban area. The visits are part of a 'Retrapping Adults for Survival' (RAS) study and the gulls are lured with

28 Black-headed Gull / Kokmeeuw *Chroicocephalus ridibundus,* Benthuizerplas, Zoetermeer, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 21 March 2011 *(Benny Middendorp)*. The world's oldest Black-headed Gull (ringed as chick on 25 June 1978), here almost 33 years old. Same bird as in plate 30 and 31.

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29 Black-headed Gulls / Kokmeeuwen *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, Zoetermeer, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 20 May 2009 *(Benny Middendorp)*. Birds of nearby Benthuizerplas breeding colony after being lured by food. World's oldest Black-headed Gull (plate 28) often recorded at this site.

food to an open area near the colony; see Middendorp (2009) for details. On that day, BM saw a ringed adult with an unfamiliar ring number and he could read the inscription (Arnhem 3.275.396) with his telescope. BM observed the bird at Benthuizerplas on 11 other days in 2009, two days in April, five in May, and four in June, with 22 June as the last day. The bird behaved like other local breeding birds but it attained no full adult summer plumage. Observations were not carried out inside the breeding colony, so it is unknown if it held a breeding territory or if it had a nest. The bird returned to Benthuizerplas on five days between 16 March and 8 April 2010, and again on 21 March 2011 (plate 28). Other sightings are lacking, despite extensive visits (at least twice a week by a few people) in the period March-July in 2010 and 2011, and there are no other records of this individual. BM was able to obtain several photographs and video images.

The incomplete summer plumage in 2009 (plate 30) indicates that its physical condition was in decline. Its short stay at the colony in 2010 and in 2011, just prior to the main period of egg-laying, are other indications that it suffered senescense (senility, Reed et al 2008). The bird was ringed as a chick that was still unable to fly, so it must have hatched in June 1978. The time between ringing and the last sighting was 32 years, 8 months and 24 days (distance 30 km, direction south). Currently, this individual is the world's oldest Black-headed Gull.

Arnhem 3.129.942 (white LCA)

On 11 May 1972, researchers of the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) trapped c 135 Black-headed Gulls near a breeding colony on Vlieland, Friesland, the Netherlands, by luring them to a canon-net with small pieces of fish. All adults trapped that day were probably local breeding birds although they were not trapped on the nest as stated in Majoor (2002). Two of them were recovered in a later breeding season on the small island of Griend, Friesland (distance 18 km, direction east). The first, Arnhem 3.129.855, was found dead in the breeding colony on 29 June 1982 (Baas & Bakker 1982). The second, Arnhem 3.129.942, was recorded for the first time on 28 April 2000. It was intentionally trapped with a clap-net by René Oosterhuis and the following

30 Black-headed Gull / Kokmeeuw *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, Benthuizerplas, Zoetermeer, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 8 May 2009 *(Benny Middendorp)*. Same bird as in plate 28 and 31. Note incomplete summer plumage.

31 Black-headed Gull / Kokmeeuw *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, Benthuizerplas, Zoetermeer, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 16 March 2010 *(Benny Middendorp)*. Same bird as in plate 28 and 30. Note strong similarity in pattern of hood in the three different years.

measurements were taken: weight 294 g, wing length 306 mm, total head-and-bill length 82.7 mm, tarsus length 44.9 mm, and bill depth at gonys 8.8 mm. The bird was in full adult summer plumage and based on its measurements it was a male (Palomares et al 1997). The aluminium ring (figure 1) was replaced by a stainless steel ring (Arnhem 3.557.150) and the bird was released with a colour-ring 'white LCA' on the left tarsus. This colour-ring enabled Klaas van Dijk and RO to identify LCA on 12 other days between 5 and 29 May 2000, and again on 10 days between 8 May and 5 June 2001. In 2001, this bird was also in full adult summer plumage. Most observations were carried out when it was sitting on the beacon of Griend, in the centre of the breeding colony (plate 32), but we did not try to locate its nest exactly. However, it was seen landing near the beacon, and it showed territorial behaviour on the landing site as well. We therefore assume that, in both years, it held a breeding territory on Griend. Despite prolonged efforts in 2002 and later on, LCA has not been observed on Griend anymore (Date Lutterop pers comm).

FIGURE 1 Aluminium ring Arnhem 3.129.942 (record 2 in table 1) of second oldest Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, 27 years and 11 months after ringing on tibia

On 5 May 2002, Bob Loos saw a colour-ringed Black-headed Gull foraging on a grassy verge along a road in Den Helder, Noord-Holland. BL noted that it was an adult with a white colour-ring on the left leg and a metal ring on the right leg and he read the inscription of the colour-ring (LCA) with his binoculars. BL did not note anything unusual in the bird's physical condition or behaviour. To our knowledge, breeding birds from Griend do not make foraging flights to Den Helder, 46 km from Griend. We interprete the observation in Den Helder as an indication that LCA was not breeding anymore on Griend in 2002, underscored by the lack of further records from Griend.

This bird was aged as after second calendar-year in May 1972, so it was born in 1970 or earlier. The time between ringing and the last sighting was 29 years, 11 months and 24 days. It was at least almost 32 years old when seen for the last time (31 years and 11 months, given that most chicks born in the Wadden Sea hatch in late May) and possibly one or more years older. This individual is currently the second oldest Black-headed Gull.

Arnhem 3.148.964

On 26 June 1971, the late Ulbe Rijpma ringed this bird as a chick on the salt marshes east of Zwarte

Haan, Friesland; on 10 June 2002, it was found dead by Anne Rutten as washed ashore at Mokbaai, Texel, Noord-Holland. It was in full adult summer plumage and the cause of death was unknown. The aluminium ring on the tibia was very thin and scalloped along both edges but the ring number was still easy to read. The bird was estimated to have been dead for at least a few weeks but not longer than two months. There are no other observations of this individual. The time between ringing and finding was 30 years, 11 months and 15 days (distance 71 km, direction west-south-west). Both the precise date of hatching and of death are unknown but it is likely that the bird was just less than 31 years old when it died.

Other longevity reports

An overview of longevity reports in Black-headed Gull is presented in table 1. A strong increase in ring reading activities by birdwatchers since the early 1980s explains why seven out of 10 longevity records concern ring readings of healthy birds, and that just three of them concern birds found dead. Not all ringing schemes keep good records of their longevity records so we can not exclude that there are more individuals with an age of c 30 years. Futhermore, not all re-ringed birds continue to be identifiable throughout the rest of their life, as ringing schemes not always link the original ring number with the number of the replaced ring.

Cramp & Simmons (1983) mention a longevity record of 32 years and 1 month but this record is currently considered as insufficiently documented, although it is still quoted by sources like del Hoyo et al (1996) and Maumary et al (2007). Cramp & Simmons (1983) mention Rydzewski (1978) as source, and the record is also listed in Rydzewski (1973). It concerns Helgoland 7180847, ringed on 14 May 1922, age unknown, and recovered in June 1954. The precise date of recovery is unknown and details on the recovery circumstances are not given either. Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer (1982) do not mention this record and it is also not mentioned by Staav (1998, 2001). Besides that, Helgoland 7180847 is not listed in the overviews with all known ring-recoveries of Black-headed Gulls ringed in Austria and Germany (Krauß 1959, Zink 1959abc, 1960).

32 View over Griend, Friesland, Netherlands, 26 May 2011 *(Date Lutterop)*. This small island holds largest breeding colony of Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* in north-western Europe. Arnhem 3.129.942 (LCA, the second oldest, table 1) had a breeding territory close to the beacon in 2000 and 2001.

TABLE 1 List with 10 oldest Black-headed Gulls *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, in order of reached age. Hatching date fixed at end of May in each year. Sources: Perdeck & Speek (1963) (**5**); Fransson et al (2010) (**4, 9**); FMNH (2011) (**4**); Gibson (2011) (**8, 9**); Robinson & Clark (2011) (**8**); sightings by Tseard Hiemstra (**10**) and Hans van Muiswinkel (**7**).

	Ring number	Ringing date Recovery date	Ringing details Finding details
1	Arnhem 3.275.396	25 June 1978 21 March 2011	Zandvoort, Noord-Holland, Netherlands; chick; aluminium ring on tibia Zoetermeer, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands; last sight record; 32 years, 10 months
2	Arnhem 3.129.942, resp 3.557.150 (+ white LCA)	11 May 1972 5 May 2002	Vlieland, Friesland, Netherlands; after second calendar-year; aluminium ring on tibia Den Helder, Noord-Holland, Netherlands; last sight record; at least 31 years, 11 months
3	Arnhem 3.148.964	26 June 1971 10 June 2002	Zwarte Haan, Friesland, Netherlands; chick; aluminium ring on tibia Texel, Noord-Holland, Netherlands; found dead; 31 years
4	Helsinki S-049023	17 June 1968 17 February 1999	Sääksmäki, Tampere, Finland; chick; steel ring on tarsus Monster, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands; found dead; 30 years, 9 months
5	Leiden 119358	23 June 1932 5 October 1962	Vlieland, Friesland, Netherlands; chick; aluminium ring on tibia Vlieland, Friesland, Netherlands; found exhausted, soon died; 30 years, 4 months
6	Arnhem 3.230.965	22 June 1979 30 June 2009	Lauwersmeer, Groningen, Netherlands; chick; aluminium ring on tibia Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands; last sight record; 30 years, 1 month
7	Bruxelles 3T15071, resp Arnhem 3.555.578	13 January 1980 14 March 2009	Turnhout, Antwerpen, Belgium; first-winter; aluminium ring on tibia Huizen, Noord-Holland, Netherlands; last sight record; 29 years, 10 months
8	London EH56982	13 November 1980 2 March 2010	London, England; first-winter; incoloy ring on tarsus London, England; last sight record; 29 years, 9 months
9	London EH42857	6 March 1979 23 January 2007	London, England; after first-winter; incoloy ring on tarsus London, England; last sight record; at least 29 years, 8 months
10	Moskwa E321231	5 June 1958 15 January 1988	Lake Babite, Riga, Latvia; chick; aluminium ring on tibia Leeuwarden, Friesland, Netherlands; last sight record; 29 years, 8 months

Boekema (1987) mentions Stavanger 608652, ringed as chick in Norway on 25 June 1955, and claimed to be last seen in Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands, on 13 February 1986 (30 years and 8 months). However, these observations relate to a bird wearing a ring of Ås, another Norwegian ringing scheme. Ås 608652 had been ringed on 8 April 1976 as after first-winter in Oslo, and was therefore only at least almost 12 years old when last seen in Groningen. Bakken et al (2003) do not mention the record in Boekema (1987) and list a longevity record of 26 years and 8 months.

Wear and loss of metal rings

Above, we have listed several records of individuals wearing an aluminium ring for c 30 years or more, and one might therefore conclude that there are no serious problems when using aluminium rings to mark Black-headed Gulls. However, we strongly disagree with this, and we will make our case below. The aluminium alloyed rings (hereafter aluminium rings) currently used in, eg, the Netherlands, by Vogelwarte Helgoland in Germany and formerly in Belgium have a composition of 96.5% aluminium, 3.1% magnesium, 0.25% manganese and 0.15% chromium. All examples presented below refer to Black-headed Gull.

Unequal rate of ring loss

A metal ring is often the only way to identify individuals. Therefore, ring loss will almost always mean that it is unknown if a particular bird is dead, or that it has lost its ring. Table 2 gives an overview of reports of ring loss. One bird lost the metal ring just six years after ringing, some after c 15 years, and one bird after 22 years. There is a huge variation in the length of time before the aluminium ring fell off but all lost it long before the currently known maximum life span of almost 33 years. Plate 33 depicts record 2, at that time it had lost its aluminium ring at least five years earlier.

Perdeck & Speek (1963) mentioned that the return address of Leiden 119358, 30 years and 3

TABLE 2 Reports of ring loss of aluminium rings on Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*. Time elapsed is number of years and months between date of ringing and first date of observation without ring (gulls were still identifiable through other markings). Date of hatching fixed on end of May. Sexing according to Palomares et al (1997). **1** and **3** from Hein (2009), **2** depicted on plate 33.

	1	**2**	**3**
ring number	Kaunas 352858	Matsalu U-492415	Helgoland 5269922
position of metal ring	tarsus	tibia	tarsus
sex	unknown	male	unknown
year of birth	1989	1991	1983
date of ringing	20 June 1989	14 June 1991	30 October 1983
last date with metal ring	15 October 1994	25 February 2003	15 February 1998
first date without metal ring	autumn 1995	13 March 2006	2 September 1998
time elapsed	**6 years, 3 months**	**14 years, 9 months**	**14 years, 10 months**
last observation	3 March 2005	13 April 2011	22 February 1999
age at last observation	15 years, 9 months	19 years, 10 months	15 years, 9 months
	4	**5**	**6**
ring number	Arnhem 3.225.936	Arnhem 3.352.441	Arnhem 3.212.175
position of metal ring	tarsus	tarsus	tarsus
sex	female	male	unknown
year of birth	1975	1981	≤1977
date of ringing	1 February 1976	20 December 1981	30 December 1978
last date with metal ring	14 December 1991	15 March 1999	12 February 1999
first date without metal ring	28 December 1991	11 February 2000	22 December 2000
time elapsed	**15 years, 11 months**	**18 years, 2 months**	**22 years, 0 months**
last observation	23 March 1998	27 September 2002	17 December 2004
age at last observation	22 years, 10 months	21 years, 4 months	≥27 years, 7 months

33 Black-headed Gull / Kokmeeuw *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, adult winter, Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 2 March 2011 *(Ruud G M Altenburg)*. Ringed as chick in Estonia in June 1991 (aluminium; record 2 in table 2), incoloy (nickel-iron-chromium alloy) ring added in Poland in March 1995, colour ring added in Amsterdam in March 2006 (on latter date, its original Estonian aluminium ring was already lost); afterwards seen in five different countries (Britain, Estonia, France, Latvia and Netherlands). **34** Black-headed Gull / Kokmeeuw *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands, 27 June 2009 *(Klaas van Dijk)*. Bird of 30 years old in full summer plumage (record 6 in table 1). Note aluminium ring on left tibia (upside down).

FIGURE 2 Aluminium ring Arnhem 3.275.396 on tibia of world's oldest Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, Zoetermeer, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 16 March 2010 (far left) and 21 March 2011 (other three) *(Benny Middendorp)*. Note almost absence of wear after more than 32½ years.

months after ringing (record 5 in table 1 and at that time the longevity record), was totally unreadable, and that only three of the six digits could be read easily. On three different places, the ring was only 2 mm high. It could only be identified as a Leiden ring after an exhaustive comparison with many different types of metal rings from various ringing schemes used for Black-headed Gull in those days. Additionally, the ringer reported that all chicks on Vlieland in 1932 had been ringed on the tibia, in agreement with the details supplied by the finder. On 31 March 1939, Černý (1939) trapped a Black-headed Gull in Prague, Czech Republic, ringed 24 years and 10 months before and at that time the longevity record. The ring was extremely thin, 'as thin as a piece of paper', and it was strongly scalloped along both edges. The return address, Lotos Austria, was still readable but the last digit of the number, 41235 or 41233, was partly illegible. In contrast, the aluminium ring Arnhem 3.275.396 was still easy to read when it was already almost 33 years on the tibia (figure 2) and the same was the case with Arnhem 3.230.965, on the tibia for just over 30 years (record 6 in table 1, plate 34). All digits of Arnhem 3.129.942 were still well readable, 28 years after ringing (figure 1) but the ring was thin and easy to remove. So, some gulls definitely can keep an aluminium ring for a very long period, whereas others loose the ring much earlier.

Tarsus or tibia?

It is noteworthy that all individuals wearing an aluminium ring for around 30 years or more and listed in table 1 had been ringed on the tibia. One might therefore conclude that aluminium rings should be placed on the tibia, following the recommendation in Perdeck & Wassenaar (1981). Rings on the tarsus often suffer from irregular wear of the lower edge, especially where the ring rests against the tarsus. This means that the lower edge becomes irregularly scalloped. Eventually, this will cause loss of part of the inscription (figure 3). Aluminium rings on the tarsus are also sensitive to gaping (plate 35-36) and such rings get lost quite easily. Hein (2009) concluded that aluminium rings of Vogelwarte Helgoland on the tarsus fell off after 15-25 years, and five out of the six examples which suffered ring loss had been ringed on the tarsus (table 2). This all means that aluminium rings on the tarsus get lost easier and earlier than similar rings on the tibia.

FIGURE 3 Aluminium ring Arnhem 3.323.861 from Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus,* 18 years and 7 months after ringing on tarsus. Ringed as chick near Oostzaan, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, in June 1980, last observation in Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, on 1 January 2006.

35 Aluminium ring Arnhem 3.431.752 on tarsus of Black-headed Gull / Kokmeeuw *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, 23 years and 5 months after ringing, Leiden, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 13 November 2011 *(Maarten van Kleinwee)*. Same bird as in plate 36.

However, the process of wear and loss does not only affect rings on the tarsus. Gaping does not occur frequently on rings on the tibia and the wear is often quite uniform. This type of abrasion is caused by the continuous rubbing of the belly feathers against the ring. As a consequence, aluminium rings on the tibia have a greater chance of becoming illegible, and the general public will less likely report an illegible ring to the national ringing scheme. In 1993, Frank Majoor obtained a special permit to retrap Black-headed Gulls with worn aluminium rings in and around Hilversum, Noord-Holland. Over 15 000 individuals had been ringed in this area in 1977-85, and seven examples of tibia rings removed from these gulls are presented in figure 4. The images clearly reveal that some rings showed such a rapid wear that the return address and one or more digits were already illegible after c 10 years. We have several more records of birds with a similar rapid wear of aluminium rings on the tibia, and eventually such individuals will fly around with a blank metal ring. There are, however, also examples of birds with an aluminium ring on the tibia from the same series as the ones shown in figure 4 that are still well readable, eg, Arnhem 3.355.513 (ringed as first-winter on 24 November 1982, last seen on 18 March 2010; 27 years and 4 months) and Arnhem 3.383.964 (ringed as first-winter on 11 December 1984, last seen on 5 January 2009; 24 years and 1 month).

Thus, putting an aluminium ring on the tibia is no good long-term alternative to solve the problem of wear and loss. Perdeck & Wassenaar (1981) based their recommendation on a 12-year study but this time span is definitely too short, as many individuals live much longer.

Some examples from Griend

We illustrate the process of wear with four examples of aluminium rings removed from breeding birds on Griend (figure 5); see van Dijk & Oosterhuis (2010) for details of the research carried out on Griend. ***1*** Bruxelles 2T83383 (tarsus) was trapped on the nest on 22 May 2000 and the last digit of the number was only readable after

36 Black-headed Gull / Kokmeeuw *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, male, adult winter, Leiden, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 4 January 2011 *(Maarten van Kleinwee)*. Arnhem 3.431.752, 22 years and 7 months old, ringed as chick at Delfzijl, Groningen, Netherlands, on 11 June 1988. Note gaping and strong wear of aluminium ring on tarsus (upside down). Ring had moved down to below hind toe on 13 November 2011 (see plate 35). Retrapped in Leiden on 25 December 2011: white colour-ring E0TU added, aluminium ring replaced by stainless steel ring Arnhem 3.729.911.

FIGURE 4 Aluminium rings of Vogeltrekstation Arnhem removed from tibia of eight Black-headed Gulls *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*; 1-7 wintering at Hilversum, Noord-Holland, Netherlands (intentionally trapped, re-ringed with stainless steel ring), 8 found dead; see table 3 for details.

TABLE 3 Details of aluminium rings of Vogeltrekstation Arnhem on tibia of eight Black-headed Gulls *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* and depicted in figure 4. Time elapsed is number of years and months between date of ringing and date of removal (**8** found dead). Date of hatching fixed on end of May. Sexing according to Palomares et al (1997).

	1	**2**	**3**	**4**
ring number	3.355.423	3.355.515	3.355.568	3.383.368
sex	male	male	male	male
year of birth	1982	1982	1982	1983
date of ringing	17 August 1982	24 November 1982	11 January 1983	31 March 1984
ring removed	9 November 1993	26 August 1994	11 December 1993	19 October 1994
time elapsed	**11 years, 3 months**	**11 years, 9 month**	**10 years, 11 months**	**10 years, 7 months**
last observation	21 February 1994	11 February 2000	17 December 2004	8 March 2004
age at last observation	11 years, 9 months	17 years, 8 months	22 years, 7 months	20 years, 9 months

	5	**6**	**7**	**8**
ring number	3.383.461	3.383.782	3.393.639	3.348.481
sex	male	male	female	unknown
year of birth	1983	≤1982	≤1983	≤1980
date of ringing	16 April 1984	29 May 1984	6 January 1985	8 January 1982
ring removed	10 December 2002	10 December 1995	21 December 1995	18 June 1985
time elapsed	**18 years, 8 months**	**11 years, 6 months**	**10 year, 11 months**	**3 years, 5 months**
last observation	18 February 2003	10 December 1995	12 March 1996	–
age at last observation	19 years, 9 months	≥13 years, 6 months	≥12 years, 9 months	–

etching with 30% hydrochloric acid by Eddie Fritze in Denmark (see also Fritze 2007). This male had been ringed as after first-winter on 10 January 1986 at Esen, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. So the ring was already illegible after a time span of 14 years and 4 months, less than half the current longevity record. ***2*** Bruxelles 3T74457 (tarsus) was also strongly worn when the bird was trapped on the nest on 21 May 2001. This female had been ringed on 26 January 1987 as after first-winter at Kuurne, West-Vlaanderen (time span 14 years and 4 months). ***3*** Arnhem 3.357.667 (tarsus; upside down), was ringed as a chick on the salt marshes near Holwerd, Friesland, on 18 June 1984. This male was trapped on the nest on 24 May 2000, 15 years and 11 months after it had been ringed. The ring was already quite thin and irregularly abraded and showed the characteristic beginning of scalloping of the lower edge. For sure, the second digit would become illegible in due time. ***4*** Arnhem 3.407.490 (tibia) was ringed as a breeding bird on the nest on 10 May 1986, also near Holwerd. We retrapped this female on the nest on 24 May 2000. The upper part of the return address of the ring had become partly illegible after only 14 years. This bird is the only confirmed record of breeding dispersal from elsewhere towards Griend (distance 47 km, direction west-south-west).

FIGURE 5 Aluminium rings removed from four Black-headed Gulls *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* breeding on Griend, Friesland, Netherlands (upper three on tarsus, lower on tibia). All trapped on nest and ring replaced by stainless steel ring, Arnhem 3.357.667 upside down; see text for details. Note irregular scalloping of lower edge.

Discussion

The results clearly underline the conclusions of Majoor (1995) that when Black-headed Gulls continue to be ringed with aluminium rings – on the tarsus as well as on the tibia – long-term studies (including assessing longevity records) are strongly hindered by ring loss and illegible rings. Our findings are in agreement with the results of many other studies on wear and loss of metal rings on gulls, terns and other long-lived seabirds (eg, Coulson 1976, Harris 1980, Hatch & Nisbet 1983, Ludwig et al 1995, Stienen & Brenninkmeijer 1995). Black-headed Gull is a long-lived species as well, with an annual survival of adults of 90% (Prévot-Julliard et al 1998). During a long-term study in London, England, Gibson (2011) saw 30 individuals of over 20 years old, and 28 breeding birds out of 109 ringed birds (26%) on Griend reached an age of at least 15 years. Most had been ringed as adult, so their real age might even be (much) higher. We have not investigated sex-biased wear and loss of rings but we do not rule out that this also occurs (see Coulson (1976) for

FIGURE 6 Stainless steel ring Helsinki S-049023 of Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus,* 30 years and 8 months after ringing on tarsus *(Benny Middendorp)*. Found dead near Monster, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands (record 4 in table 1), collection J van Kruijssen.

female-biased rate of weight loss of metal rings in Herring Gull *L argentatus* and see Mills (1972) for female-biased loss of metal rings in Red-billed Gull *L scopulinus*).

Only hard metal rings can solve the problem of wear and loss. Many ringing schemes already issue hard metal rings to mark Black-headed Gulls. Birds in Britain and Ireland get incoloy rings, a nickel-iron-chromium alloy, and to date no examples of excessive wear of these type of rings are known to us. Many other ringing schemes issue rings of stainless steel, an iron alloyed ring with currently 17.2% chromium, 12.6% nickel, 2.6% molybdenum and 1.7% manganese. Stainless steel rings are currently used in, eg, Finland (since 1960s), Sweden (since late 1970s), Belgium (since late 1980s), the Netherlands (since 1995), Lithuania (since 2003) and Denmark. To date, we have no knowledge of excessive wear of stainless steel rings as well. As an example, a stainless steel ring, on the tarsus for 30 years and 8 months, is depicted in figure 6. However, some ringing schemes still only issue rings of an inferior durability and other ringing schemes, including Vogeltrekstation Arnhem, have not yet put a ban on using aluminium rings to mark gulls. We urge all ringing schemes to stop issuing low-quality metal rings for gulls, and we urge ringers to use only rings of stainless steel or incoloy. The future will tell if the current extensive use of hard metal rings will lead to new longevity records.

Acknowledgements
We like to thank all the persons who helped in gathering the data for this paper and Natuurmonumenten for allowing us to work on Griend. Vogeltrekstation Arnhem is acknowledged for the ringing permits and for the access to their database with recoveries. I Ö Mekaniska AB kindly provided details on the composition of metal rings.

Samenvatting
Nieuwe leeftijdsrecords bij Kokmeeuw en opmerkingen over ringslijtage en ringverlies Dit artikel documenteert drie nieuwe leeftijdsrecords bij Kokmeeuw *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*. De oudste vogel werd op 25 juni 1978 als nestjong geringd bij Zandvoort, Noord-Holland, en voor het laatst gezien op 21 maart 2011 bij Zoetermeer, Zuid-Holland, 32 jaar, 8 maanden en 24 dagen na het ringen. De vogel was hier tijdens het broedseizoen van 2009 en op vijf dagen tussen 16 maart en 8 april 2010 ook al gezien. De op één na oudste vogel werd op 11 mei 1972 als adult (na tweede kalenderjaar) geringd bij een broedkolonie op Vlieland, Friesland, en werd op 28 april 2000 teruggevangen op Griend, Friesland. De vogel had in 2000 en in 2001 een broedterritorium op Griend en werd op 5 mei 2002 voor het laatst gezien in Den Helder, Noord-Holland. De vogel was in 1970 of eerder geboren en was in mei 2002 dus ten minste bijna 32 jaar oud. Het derde nieuwe leeftijdsrecord is een vogel die op 26 juni 1971 als nestjong bij Zwarte Haan, Friesland, werd geringd en die op 10 juni 2002 dood werd gevonden op Texel, Noord-Holland. Een overzicht van andere gevallen wordt gegeven (tabel 1) waarbij wordt opgemerkt dat de vermelding in Cramp & Simmons (1983) en in del Hoyo et al (1996) van een Kokmeeuw van 32 jaar en 1 maand vanwege gebrek aan documentatie niet langer als leeftijdsrecord kan worden beschouwd.

Voor wetenschappelijk onderzoek moet een metalen ring langer meegaan dan de maximale levensduur van de vogel. Dit is het geval bij de roestvrijstalen (rvs) ringen die momenteel in toenemende mate worden gebruikt. Ook de incoloy ringen (een legering van nikkel, ijzer en chroom) van de British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) hebben een levensduur van enkele 10-tallen jaren. In diverse landen krijgen Kokmeeuwen echter nog steeds een aluminium ring, tegenwoordig een legering met een klein percentage magnesium, mangaan en chroom. Een overzicht van ringslijtage en ringverlies bij Kokmeeuwen met aluminium ringen (in de meeste gevallen aan de tarsus) wordt gegeven met de conclusie dat er sprake is van sterke individuele variatie in de snelheid van ringslijtage en ringverlies. Bij sommige vogels valt de ring al na minder dan 10 jaar af, bij andere kan de ring meer dan 30 jaar blijven zitten. Het ringen aan de tibia is geen duurzaam alternatief, vooral omdat de kans aanzienlijk is dat de ring uiteindelijk onleesbaar wordt. De conclusie is dat de kans klein is dat een aluminium ring 33 jaar of langer om de poot van een Kokmeeuw blijft zitten. Er wordt daarom gepleit voor een verplichting om deze soort te voorzien van ringen van hard metaal (rvs of incoloy).

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Witkeelkwikstaart bij Makkum in mei 2004

Sander Bot, Dick Groenendijk, Eddy Nieuwstraten, Ferry Ossendorp & Mark Zekhuis

Op zondag 2 mei 2004 waren Eddy Nieuwstraten en Mark Zekhuis aan het vogels kijken in de Makkumerzuidwaard, nabij Makkum, Friesland. EN zag en hoorde hier een kwikstaart *Motacilla* met een afwijkende roep opvliegen. Omdat de roep leek op die van Citroenkwikstaart *M citreola* zette hij hoopvol de telescoop op de inmiddels weer gelande vogel. Het bleek geen Citroenkwikstaart te zijn maar de vogel zag er ook niet uit als een gewoon mannetje Gele Kwikstaart *M flava*. De oorstreek en teugel waren bijna zwart en de kruin donkergrijs, de vogel toonde een wit wenkbrauwstreepje achter het oog en de keel was scherp wit begrensd. EN riep MZ erbij en ook hij bevestigde het beeld van een afwijkende kwikstaart. EN opperde dat het een Italiaanse Kwikstaart *M cinereocapilla cinereocapilla* zou kunnen zijn en er werd besloten om bij de auto literatuur te raadplegen. De boeken leken hun vermoeden te bevestigen en dus moest de vogel beter gedocumenteerd worden. Het lukte MZ om enkele goede videobeelden te maken. De documentatie was nu geslaagd en daarom werd besloten eerst een verloren gewaande mobiele telefoon te gaan zoeken op de Afsluitdijk. Hier troffen ze geen telefoon maar wel Ferry Ossendorp aan die de opnames met veel belangstelling en enthousiasme bekeek. Besloten werd om de vogel voor een derde keer te bezoeken, wederom met succes. Na het telefonisch overleg met andere vogelaars werd de vogel eerst als 'mogelijke' en later als 'vrij zekere' Italiaanse Kwikstaart doorgegeven via het semafoonsysteem. De vogel gedroeg zich territoriaal en werd tot 20 mei vrijwel dagelijks gezien in zijn favoriete rietveld (Nieuwstraten 2004).

Na uitvoerige bestudering van de documentatie en langdurige discussie bleek Iberische Kwikstaart *M c iberiae* niet te kunnen worden uitgesloten. Aangezien tot 2012 Italiaanse Kwikstaart en Iberische als aparte soorten werden behandeld, is de vogel destijds uiteindelijk door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) aanvaard als eerste 'Witkeelkwikstaart *M cinereocapilla/iberiae*' voor Nederland (Ovaa et al 2008). Met ingang van 2012 heeft de Commissie Systematiek Nederlandse Avifauna (CSNA) de taxa *cinereocapilla* en *iberiae* samengevoegd tot Witkeelkwikstaart *M cinereocapilla* met als ondersoorten Italiaanse Kwikstaart *M c cinereocapilla*, Iberische Kwikstaart *M c iberiae* en Egyptische Kwikstaart *M c pygmaea* (Redactie Dutch Birding 2012). Met terugwerkende kracht en op basis van de huidige inzichten betrof deze waarneming dus niet een nieuwe soortgroep, maar een nieuwe soort voor Nederland. In dit artikel worden de achtergronden van de CDNA- en CSNA-beslissingen geschetst en de documentatie van dit geval samengevat.

Beschrijving

De beschrijving is gebaseerd op veldnotities en op foto's van Bas van den Boogaard (cf Dutch Birding 26: 221, plaat 303-304, 2004; hier herhaald als plaat 37-38) en Leo Boon (plaat 39-40) en videobeelden van MZ.

GROOTTE & BOUW Niet afwijkend van Gele Kwikstaart.
KOP Voorhoofd, kruin, achterhoofd en achterste deel oorstreek donker blauwgrijs. Teugel zwartachtig, overgaand in donker blauwgrijs boven teugel en op voorste deel van oorstreek. Oogring geheel donkergrijs. Wenkbrauwstreep direct achter oog met kleine witte vlek van c 5-7 mm. Vorm en lengte van witte vlek afhankelijk van positie van kop. Rechter wenkbrauwstreep kort onderbroken door grijze veren en daarna verder gaand in korte vage witte veeg (op sommige foto's zichtbaar). Kin en keel wit met scherpe begrenzing.
BOVENDELEN Mantel, rug en schouder donker olijfgroen. Bovenstaartdekveren meer geelgroen. Kleurverschil achterhoofd en mantel vrij scherp begrensd.
VLEUGEL Grote en middelste dekveren bruinzwart met brede geelwitte top. Top van buitenste grote dekveren smaller. Tertials bruinzwart met vuilwitte rand. Handpennen zwartachtig met smalle witte rand.
ONDERDELEN Borst, buik en anaalstreek uniform heldergeel. Flank met donkere bruingroene vlekken, sterkst gevlekt op voorflank en vandaar doorlopend tot op borst. Overgang van gele onderdelen naar witte keel scherp en in horizontale lijn.
STAART Zwart; twee buitenste staartpennen grotendeels wit.
NAAKTE DELEN Oog, snavel en poot zwart.
GELUID Vluchtroep met goed hoorbare r-klank, klinkend als scherp en hard *srriee*. Zelfde roep gebruikt in zit (bijvoorbeeld vanaf rietstengel), maar dan iets minder scherp en rauw klinkend maar nog steeds met duidelijke r-klank. Zang niet gehoord.

[*Dutch Birding 34: 32-37, 2012*]

37-38 Witkeelkwikstaart / White-throated Wagtail *Motacilla cinereocapilla*, mannetje, Makkum, Friesland, 5 mei 2004 *(Bas van den Boogaard)*

39-40 Witkeelkwikstaart / White-throated Wagtail *Motacilla cinereocapilla*, mannetje, Makkum, Friesland, 3 mei 2004 *(Leo J R Boon/Cursorius)*

GEDRAG Langdurig verblijvend in en nabij kort gemaaid vochtig rietmoeras. Tekenen van territoriaal gedrag tonend, waarbij steeds op vaste delen van rietveld hoge rietstengels bezettend, waar vanaf met geregelde tussenpozen roepend. Tijdens gehele verblijf erg plaatstrouw. Interactie met andere kwikstaarten of baltsgedrag richting vrouwtje niet vastgesteld.

Determinatie

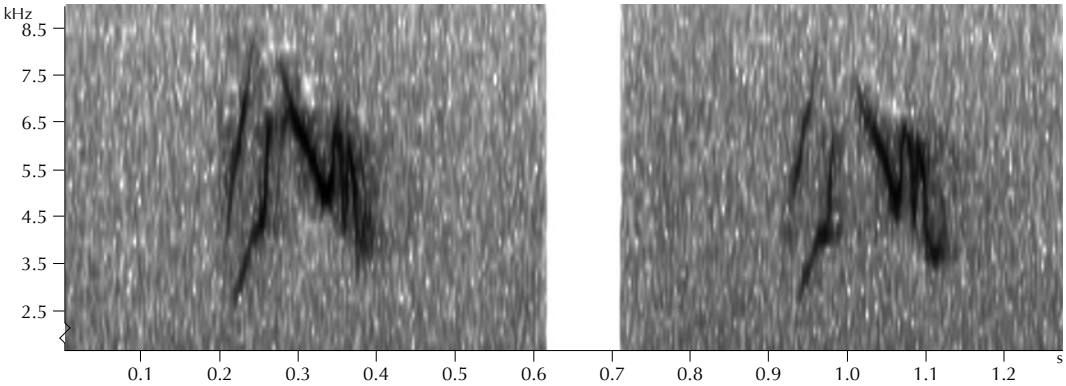
Bij de huidige kennis geldt voor de meeste soorten uit het gele kwikstaart-complex dat morfologisch alleen adulte mannetjes in zomerkleed met zekerheid zijn te herkennen, aan hun koppatroon, maar zelfs dan is voorzichtigheid geboden (Alström et al 2003). Voor sommige taxa is bovendien de vluchtroep kenmerkend. Morfologische variatie binnen taxa en hybridisatie met andere gele kwikstaarten kan de determinatie bemoeilijken (Winters 2006). Achtereenvolgens worden hieronder leeftijd en geluid van de vogel en mogelijke hybridisatie besproken.

Leeftijd

Het op leeftijd brengen van 'gele kwikstaarten' in het voorjaar is moeilijk en volgens Alström et al (2003) in de meeste gevallen alleen mogelijk in de hand. Vogels van alle leeftijden ondergaan namelijk een partiële voorjaarsrui. Zowel eerste-zomer als adulte exemplaren vertonen dan een ruigrens in de grote dekveren en soms in de tertials waarbij de binnenste veren vers en de buitenste oud zijn. Een zichtbare ruigrens in tertials of grote dekveren in het voorjaar is op zich dus onvoldoende om een uitspraak over de leeftijd te doen. Alleen een zeer duidelijke ruigrens, door sterke sleet van behouden juveniele en verse tweedegeneratie veren, en een duidelijk lengteverschil tussen beide type veren zijn belangrijke aanwijzingen voor eerste zomerkleed. Ook de aanwezigheid van meer bruin dan zwart gekleurde handpennen duidt op een eerste zomerkleed. Bij de vogel van Makkum leek een ruigrens in de grote dekveren aanwezig, waarbij een lengteverschil tussen verse (binnenste met brede witte toppen) en gesleten (buitenste met smalle witte toppen) grote dekveren zichtbaar was. Er leek geen ruigrens aanwezig in de tertials en de handpennen zijn op de beschikbare foto's behoorlijk zwart wat een aanwijzing was dat ze nogal vers waren. Waarschijnlijk was de vogel dus in adult zomerkleed, maar een minder gesleten eerste zomerkleed is niet uit te sluiten. Een zekere leeftijdsbepaling op basis van verenkleed is dus niet mogelijk.

Geluid

Naast het verenkleed is bij de determinatie van 'gele kwikstaarten' de roep erg belangrijk. De vogel van Makkum is tijdens zijn verblijf op 14 mei onder gunstige omstandigheden langdurig opgenomen. Een deel van de opgenomen roepjes is opgenomen in vlucht toen de vogel van de ene locatie naar de andere vloog. Een ander deel van de roepjes is opgenomen in zit toen de vogel vanaf een hoge positie de roep liet horen. Uiteindelijk werden meer dan 50 roepjes opgenomen. Een sonagram van twee van deze roepjes is weergegeven in figuur 1. Het neergaande deel in het sonagram is door modulatie duidelijk 'gezaagd' van vorm en dit resulteert in de duidelijk hoorbare r-klank. Het opgaande deel heeft rond 4.5 kHz een duidelijk knikje. Er is relatief weinig variatie in de 50 opgenomen roepjes. Alle opgenomen roepjes



FIGUUR 1 Witkeelkwikstaart / White-throated Wagtail *Motacilla cinereocapilla*, mannetje, Makkum, Friesland, 14 mei 2004 *(Dick Groenendijk)*. Twee voorbeelden van vluchtroep; witte onderbreking geeft aan waar opname is ingekort / Two examples of flight call; white space indicates where recording was shortened.

laten het gezaagde neergaande deel zien en vrijwel alle ook het knikje in het opgaande deel.

De voor Engelse *M flavissima*, Gele en Noordse Kwikstaart *M thunbergi* vergelijkbare vluchtroep is hoorbaar anders. Bij deze taxa is het neergaande deel van de roep niet gezaagd, wat in het veld hoorbaar is door het ontbreken van een duidelijke r-klank. De roep klinkt daardoor wat slepend en minder rauw. Bovendien is er op een sonagram meestal geen knikje zichtbaar in het opgaande deel. De kwikstaart van Makkum is op basis van de vluchtroep te determineren als een van de zuidelijke taxa en Engelse, Gele en Noordse kunnen op basis van de vluchtroep worden uitgesloten. Men dient zich er overigens van bewust te zijn dat de zang van alle taxa binnen het complex van 'gele kwikstaarten' eenvoudig van structuur is en kan lijken op de vluchtroep. Voor de verschillen tussen zang en vluchtroep bij 'gele kwikstaarten' wordt verwezen naar Groenendijk & van Saane (2008).

Hybridisatie

Omdat de taxa uit het gele kwikstaart-complex een recente evolutionaire oorsprong hebben (Ödeen & Björklund 2003, Pavlova et al 2003) komt hybridisatie regelmatig voor, en Witkeelkwikstaart is hierop geen uitzondering. Witkeelkwikstaart hybridiseert in onder andere Frankrijk (Dubois 2001), Oostenrijk en Zwitserland met Gele Kwikstaart. In Zwitserland is zelfs sprake van een hybridepopulatie met slechts een klein aantal vogels zonder hybride kenmerken (Schweizer 2005). Binnen Witkeelkwikstaart vindt hybridisatie plaats tussen de ondersoorten *cinereocapilla* (Italiaanse) en *iberiae* (Iberische). Er loopt een contactzone langs de Middellandse Zeekust van Frankrijk zuidwestelijk tot aan de kust van Noordoost-Spanje. Mogelijk vindt hybridisatie ook plaats op Corsica en in Tunesië, Algerije en Marokko (Alström et al 2003, van den Berg 2011a).

Kwikstaart van Makkum

De vogel van Makkum was een mannetje, vertoonde een scherp afgetekende witte keel en een korte witte wenkbrauwstreep achter het oog en had een raspende roep. Deze combinatie van kenmerken past alleen op Witkeelkwikstaart. Ook Noordse Kwikstaart kan in eerste zomerkleed een witte keel hebben (Alström et al 2003) maar de raspende roep sluit dit taxon uit en de witte keel is bij de meeste van dit type vogels minder scherp afgesneden dan bij de vogel van Makkum. Bovendien is een wit wenkbrauwstreepje voor een eerste-zomer Noordse ongebruikelijk.

Het tot op ondersoort determineren van de vogel van Makkum bleek niet gemakkelijk. Typische mannetjes Italiaanse Kwikstaart en Iberische Kwikstaart verschillen in wenkbrauwstreep. Bij een typisch mannetje Iberische is de witte wenkbrauwstreep goed ontwikkeld en aanwezig zowel voor als achter het oog (meestal iets breder achter het oog dan ervoor). Een typisch mannetje Italiaanse heeft geen wenkbrauwstreep of slechts een zeer vaag grijswit 'veegje' achter het oog. Bij beide ondersoorten is echter relatief veel variatie; vooral bij Italiaanse is dat een voor vogelaars bekend fenomeen. Zo kunnen mannetjes Italiaanse een kleine en witte wenkbrauwstreep achter of boven en soms zelfs voor het oog hebben en de variatie van deze wenkbrauwstrepen is dus rela-

tief groot. Dit bleek ook uit een beknopt onderzoek door FO naar mannetjes Italiaanse in de collecties van het Zoölogisch Museum Amsterdam en het Nederlands Centrum voor Biodiversiteit Naturalis, Leiden. Van de onderzochte 44 mannetjes Italiaanse in zomerkleed uit de broedgebieden van Italiaanse vertoonde ongeveer 20% een meer of minder duidelijke wenkbrauwstreep achter het oog. Minder goed bekend is dat Iberische ook variatie in het koppatroon vertoont. De wenkbrauwstreep bij dit taxon kan minder duidelijk zijn en gereduceerd zijn tot slechts een kleine witte wenkbrauwstreep achter het oog (Alström et al 2003). Een foto van een dergelijke vogel gedetermineerd als Iberische is afgedrukt in Delin & Svensson (1988) en dergelijke foto's zijn ook te vinden op internet (bijvoorbeeld www.limosaholidays.co.uk/gallery-detail.cfm?TourID=419&ImageID=102). In de museumcollecties konden overigens geen duidelijke voorbeelden worden gevonden van mannetjes Iberische met gereduceerde wenkbrauwstreep maar de onderzochte steekproef (zeven mannetjes in zomerkleed uit het broedgebied) was daarvoor wellicht te klein.

De vogel van Makkum vertoonde duidelijk een kleine zuiver witte wenkbrauwstreep direct achter het oog. Dit past dus zowel op Italiaanse als Iberische Kwikstaart of een vogel uit de hybridepopulaties en zodoende is het onmogelijk om voor dit exemplaar een uitspraak te doen tot welke ondersoort deze behoorde. Wel kan Egyptische Kwikstaart worden uitgesloten omdat deze kleiner is dan beide West-Mediterrane ondersoorten en bovendien niet als dwaalgast in Europa te verwachten. De documentatie is dus voldoende om aan te tonen dat het een Witkeelkwikstaart (*M c cinereocapilla/iberiae*) betrof.

De biotoopkeuze van de vogel van Makkum is opvallend: de vogel hield territorium in een kortgemaaid vochtig rietmoeras. Gele Kwikstaart in Nederland broedt doorgaans in droger habitat, voornamelijk in open akkergebieden (SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland 2002), terwijl van Italiaanse Kwikstaart bekend is dat deze in vochtige biotopen broedt, zoals moerassen (Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer 1985).

Verspreiding en voorkomen

Witkeelkwikstaart kent drie ondersoorten. Nominaat *cinereocapilla* (Italiaanse Kwikstaart) broedt op het vasteland van Italië, Sardinië en Sicilië, in Zuidwest-Slovenië en in Noordwest-Kroatië. Recent is aangetoond dat vogels met het uiterlijk van Italiaanse ook broeden in Marokko, waarvan werd verondersteld dat er alleen *iberiae* (Iberische Kwikstaart) zou broeden (van den Berg 2011a). Nominaat *cinereocapilla* overwintert voornamelijk in westelijk Centraal-Afrika (Alström et al 2003). *Iberiae* komt als broedvogel voor in het grootste deel van het Iberisch Schiereiland, op de Balearen en langs de Middellandse Zee-kust van Tunesië zuidelijk tot in het noordwesten van de Westelijke Sahara, Marokko, en overwintert voornamelijk in westelijk Afrika (Bergier & Barreau 1981, Alström et al 2003). *Pygmaea* (Egyptische Kwikstaart) is standvogel in Egypte.

Sinds 2004 kwamen er tot 2011 nog twee aanvaarde gevallen van Witkeelkwikstaart waarvan vluchtroepen werden opgenomen: op 16 april 2006 bij Camperduin, Noord-Holland, en op 22 april 2006 bij de Flevocentrale, Lelystad, Flevoland (van den Berg et al 2006, Groenendijk & Saane 2008). Deze vogels hadden geen wenkbrauwstreep, waardoor beide met zekerheid als nominaat *cinereocapilla* (Italiaanse Kwikstaart) konden worden gedetermineerd.

Discussie

De taxonomie van het gele kwikstaarten-complex is verre van eenvoudig en eenduidig. Alström et al (2003) behandelen het complex als één soort maar de CSNA onderscheidt alleen al in het West-Palearctische gebied acht soorten (van den Berg 2011b). Het verschil wordt verklaard doordat Alström et al (2003) het monofyletisch soortbegrip hanteren en de CSNA het fylogenetische soortbegrip (Sangster et al 1999). Bij het fylogenetische soortbegrip wordt een soort gekarakteriseerd door unieke kenmerken of een unieke combinatie van kenmerken, en op basis daarvan is het gele kwikstaarten-complex gesplitst, inclusief Italiaanse Kwikstaart en Iberische Kwikstaart als aparte soorten (Sangster et al 1999). Echter, ook bij het toepassen van het fylogenetische soortbegrip is het niet onomstreden om Italiaanse en Iberische als aparte soorten te beschouwen: Alström et al (2003) stellen voor bij hantering van het fylogenetische soortbegrip Italiaanse en Iberische samen te voegen omdat er geen diagnostische verschillen zijn. Het enige verschil tussen beide soorten is de koptekening waarbij het punt van discussie is of dit een uniek kenmerk is gezien de grote variatie binnen beide soorten, al dan niet veroorzaakt door hybridisatie, zodat alleen typische vormen zijn te determineren. Omdat Italiaanse ook een broedvogel blijkt te zijn in Marokko, binnen het broedgebied van Iberische (van den Berg 2011a), ver van de oorspronkelijke broedgebieden, lijkt ook van geografische differentiatie geen sprake

(meer). Daarom heeft de CSNA haar beslissing om Italiaanse en Iberische als afzonderlijke soorten te beschouwen herzien en ze samengevoegd onder de soortnaam Witkeelkwikstaart.

Summary

White-throated Wagtail at Makkum in May 2004 On 2-20 May 2004, a territorial male White-throated Wagtail *Motacilla cinereocapilla* was present at Makkum, Friesland, the Netherlands. The bird could not be identified to subspecies level since it showed a head pattern intermediate between nominate Ashy-headed Wagtail *M c cinereocapilla* and Spanish Wagtail *M c iberiae*. Compared with Blue-headed Wagtail *M flava*, it showed a largely dark blue head with only a small white supercilium just behind the eye and a sharply defined white chin. The call, produced both perched and in flight, was a loud and sharp *srree*.

Ageing wagtails in the field is notoriously difficult, and although the bird seemed to show a moult pattern fitting an adult, the age could not be determined with certainty. The call of the Makkum bird was typical for the yellow wagtail complex of the Mediterranean and excluded northern species (Yellow Wagtail *M flavissima*, Blue-headed Wagtail and Grey-headed Wagtail *M thunbergi*). The combination of the head pattern and call only fits White-throated Wagtail. Until recently, the Dutch committee for avian systematics (CSNA) treated Ashy-headed Wagtail and Spanish Wagtail as different species but now Spanish is part of White-throated Wagtail *M cinereocapilla* (which also includes Egyptian Wagtail *M c pygmaea*). The reason for lumping the two taxa is that the head pattern of Ashy-headed and Spanish are not diagnostically different from each other, since both show great variation in head pattern. Moreover, it has recently been shown that Ashy-headed breeds in Morocco, where only Iberian was known to breed, invalidating the assumption that they represent geographically separated populations.

This record was accepted by the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA) as the first White-throated Wagtail for the Netherlands. Two other records have been accepted since, both in April 2006 and both accepted to subspecies level as nominate *cinereocapilla*.

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Three White-eyed Vireos on Corvo, Azores, in 2005-09

Peter Alfrey, Pierre-André Crochet & Darryl Spittle

In October 2005, the first White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* for the Azores and the Western Palearctic was discovered on Corvo, Azores. In October 2008 and October 2009, the second and third were observed, also on Corvo. This paper documents these three records. All three records have been accepted by the Portuguese rarities committee (secretary CPR pers comm), which assesses rare bird records from the Azores, and will be published in the forthcoming annual report (Anuário Ornitológico 8).

Ribeira de Cancelas, 22-23 October, and Ribeira da Ponte, 23 November 2005

On 22 October 2005, Peter Alfrey was making his way down the edge of Ribeira de Cancelas, Corvo (for a map showing the position of the ribeira's mentioned in this paper, see Alfrey et al 2010). An Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* was feeding in the adjacent grass field. The sun was shining, so he decided to sit near a clearing in the laurel valley to see if anything should pass by. As usual, there were groups of Azores Chaffinches *Fringilla coelebs moreletti*, Eurasian Blackcaps *Sylvia atricapilla gularis* and Atlantic Canaries *Serinus canaria*. After c 2 h, PA was thinking of moving on when he saw a movement in the trees on the other side of the stream. He raised his binoculars in time to see a bird with two white wing bars flit into cover. PA assumed it was an American warbler but after a short anxious wait it reappeared in a laurel only a few metres away. After a while of being perplexed as he tried in vain to turn it into an American warbler it suddenly dawned – it was a vireo, with a yellow supraloral stripe, yellow spectacles and a dark eye! PA foolishly thought it was a Yellow-throated Vireo *V flavifrons* and was thrilled with excitement. The only camera he had on him was a Nikon Coolpix 995 and he managed to obtain one hand-held record shot.

When PA got back to the guesthouse and checked Sibley (2000), he was stunned to discover that it looked nothing like a Yellow-throated Vireo. Flicking through the vireo plates it was soon floutingly staring at him with its dark eye – a first-winter White-eyed Vireo (cf Alfrey 2005).

PA returned the next morning and the bird was still present but he was unable to acquire a decent record shot. Despite staying on Corvo until early November in 2005, PA did not see the bird again. However, Staffan Rodebrand relocated what was probably the same bird at Ribeira da Ponte on 23 November.

Description

HEAD Blue-greyish head, nape and ear-coverts, with paler chin and throat. Most striking feature bright lemon yellow supraloral stripe connecting to yellow 'spectacle'. Dark lore combined with yellow supraloral and spectacle creating distinct and striking facial pattern.

UPPERPARTS Mantle and scapulars greenish.

UNDERPARTS Subdued yellow on sides of breast and flank, extending on vent and undertail-coverts, isolating pale belly and central breast area.

WING Remiges darker green than upperparts, with greater coverts and greater primary coverts being darkest area. Very strong double wing-bar comprising of white tips to median and greater coverts and offset by strongly contrasting greater coverts. Tertials dark with white markings on fringe of outer tertials.

BARE PARTS Bill dark. Eye dark with no contrast discernible between pupil and iris. Leg greyish blue.

BEHAVIOUR Originally low in laurels but later engaged in chasing Azores Chaffinches in top of cedars.

Identification

When identified as a vireo, White-eyed Vireo is a simple bird to recognize in any age class. It is the only North American vireo with dark lores and a yellow supraloral stripe that links with yellow spectacles combined with a greyish head, green upperparts, double pale wing bar, yellowish-green flanks, vent and undertail-coverts, and white belly extending variably to the throat (cf Sibley 2000). The white iris is unique for a vireo but is a feature only associated with adult plumage. The iris of first-year birds ranges from dark grey to medium grey, becoming paler during winter (some first calendar-year birds retain a greyish iris through spring; Sibley 2000).

Ribeira da Lapa, 24 October 2008

During the morning of 24 October 2008, Darryl Spittle and PA had 'birded' their way up just north-

[*Dutch Birding 34: 38-41, 2012*]

41 White-eyed Vireo / Witoogvireo *Vireo griseus*, first-year, Ribeira de Cancelas, Corvo, Azores, 22 October 2005 *(Peter Alfrey)*

42 White-eyed Vireo / Witoogvireo *Vireo griseus*, first-year, Ribeira da Lapa, Corvo, Azores, 24 October 2008 *(Vincent Legrand)*

west of the 'high fields' on Corvo's sloping eastern flank. Ribeira da Lapa is a small and relatively open valley (compared with other ribeiras on Corvo), the vegetation being dominated by laurel and hydrangea scrub and small cedars. Unfortunately, despite finding a Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* alongside the pools in the lower part of the valley, they had not detected any interesting passerines and, about halfway up the valley, PA headed south to work his way back through the fields as DS pushed on up the ribeira. Dropping back into the valley bottom, DS was struck by the increased amount of bird activity in this section and, after briefly stopping to take a photograph, settled down in a shady spot overlooking an area of scrub on the opposite side. After a short period scanning, a small, grey-headed passerine with double wing-bars and yellow underparts suddenly appeared amongst the laurel before, almost instantly, disappearing again.

Utter panic descended, made all the worse as, in a repeat of PA's initial mistake when confronted with the 2005 bird, DS was racking his brains to fit the features he had noticed to a member of the American warblers. Luckily, the bird reappeared, he obtained better views and, on calming down a little, realised that he had stumbled onto a White-eyed Vireo. However, he still had not managed to photograph the bird and, whilst leaving answer phone messages for the other birders on the island, an Atlantic Canary chased it off down the valley. Despite the small size of the valley and the relatively limited areas of cover, it was another two hours before the vireo was relocated, photographed (cf Dutch Birding 32: 312: plate 430, 2010) and seen by all 14 birders present. The bird was not seen on subsequent dates despite efforts to relocate it.

The description matches that of the 2005 bird and the identification was based on the same features.

Pico, 18 October 2009

Next to Ribeira da Ponte on the east coast of Corvo lies Pico, a large (huge when it comes to finding lost passerines...) wooded area. Pierre-André Crochet had never visited it, probably discouraged by the daunting surface of cover and height of the canopy, until the afternoon of 18 October 2009. He had only entered the wood a short moment when he made a halt near the edge of a small clearing where the tree tops were relatively close to the ground (c 4-5 m). He sat there quietly for a while, scanning the trees above him, before starting pishing strongly. The success of pishing is very variable on Corvo but one usually manages to attract some of the local Eurasian Blackcaps and Azores Chaffinches. This time, he quickly had a few Blackcaps over his head. When he raised his binoculars to check a movement among the foliage, a small passerine was staring at him, nearly straight above, its head popping out of the laurel leaves. PAC knew what he had found as soon as he had the bird in view: the combination of small size, short and stubby bill, grey head, yellow spectacles and pale iris (surprisingly more obvious in the field than in the accompanying photograph) could only belong to a White-eyed Vireo, a species he had first seen on Corvo the year before (see above). The bird changed perch once or twice

43 White-eyed Vireo / Witoogvireo *Vireo griseus*, first-year, Ribeira da Ponte, Corvo, Azores, 18 October 2009 *(Edward Vercruysse)*

44 White-eyed Vireo / Witoogvireo *Vireo griseus*, first-year, Ribeira da Ponte, Corvo, Azores, 18 October 2009 *(Kris De Rouck)*

before flying away and vanishing into the dense laurel wood. The observation had only lasted for 10-20 sec and PAC knew he had little chance to see the bird again soon.

As PAC was birding alone that day, he had no-one to shout at. He first tried to call someone on the radio but he was apparently alone in the area. He thus left the spot to reach an area with telephone signal only 100 m away, knowing that most of Corvo's birders were supposed to take a boat to Flores for a Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* twitch. Fortunately, the group was still in the harbour when PAC got Eric Didner on the telephone. Several of the Corvo regulars had seen the Lapa bird the year before but many other birders had to make a choice. PAC left them pondering and returned to the spot where he had seen the bird. Only a handful of birders opted for the rarer of the two species on offer. René-Marie Lafontaine was the first to show up, soon followed by Kris De Rouck and Hugues Dufourny. PAC explained where he had seen the bird, and they all spread out to try and relocate it. Having already spent quite some time on the spot, PAC moved on, not too optimistic about the likelihood of rediscovery, given how hard it had been to refind the Ribeira da Lapa bird in a narrow, thinly vegetated valley (see above). He was thus relieved and delighted when he heard, upon his return to the guesthouse that evening, that the bird had not only been refound but seen by everyone who had come over and even photographed on the edge of the open area adjacent to the original spot. Unfortunately for those who had gambled on the chance that it would remain for another day, the bird was not seen after 18 October, despite a lot of searching in the area.

The description matches that of the 2005 and 2008 birds, apart from the paler iris, and the identification was based on the same features. The iris colour was consistent with a first-year bird (the iris of adults is much whiter).

Distribution

White-eyed Vireos breed from southern Ontario, Canada, and the eastern United States to northern Mexico. Most populations are relatively short-distance migrants, largely wintering in Mexico, Belize and the Caribbean. The species can be found all-year in Florida, US (cf Sibley 2000). It is a rare to casual visitor along the American west coast (cf Patten & Marantz 1996).

Samenvatting

Drie Witoogvireo's op Corvo, Azoren, in 2005-09 Op 22-23 oktober (Ribeira de Cancelas) en 23 november 2005 (Ribeira da Ponte) werd een Witoogvireo *Vireo griseus* waargenomen op Corvo, Azoren. Beide waarnemingen hadden waarschijnijk betrekking op hetzelfde exemplaar. Er kon één bewijsfoto worden gemaakt. Dit betrof het eerste geval voor de Azoren en het West-Palearctische gebied (WP). Het tweede en derde geval werden eveneens vastgesteld op Corvo, respectievelijk op 24 oktober 2008 (Ribeira da Lapa) en 18 oktober 2009 (Pico); ook deze gevallen werden fotografisch gedocumenteerd. De determinatie was eenvoudig (toen eenmaal duidelijk was dat het om een vireo ging); de combinatie van een opvallende koptekening met donkere teugel en gele boventeugelstreep verbonden met gele 'bril', grijzige kop, groene bovendelen, dubbele witte vleugelstreep, gele onderstaartdekveren, onderbuik en flank en witte buik en keel past alleen op deze

soort. De voor een vireo unieke witte iris is een kenmerk van adulte vogels; bij eerstejaars is de iris donkergrijs tot grijs. Dit zijn tot op heden de enige gevallen in de WP van deze broedvogel van zuid-oostelijk Noord-Amerika die overwintert in het uiterste zuidoosten van de Verenigde Staten, het noordelijke deel van Midden-Amerika en het Caribische gebied.

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Mugimaki Flycatcher in Brescia, Italy, in October 2011

Roberto Barezzani & Enno B Ebels

The ringing station at Passo della Berga (Berga pass) near Bagolino in Brescia, northern Italy, is situated along the road from Anfo rising to the Maniva pass, close to Lago d'Idro (45°47'55,00" N 10°25'13,27" E), at c 1500 m above sea level. This is the highest military road dating from World War I that is still accessible; the area around Lago d'Idro is a popular holiday destination. During a ringing session on 6 October 2011 at c 10:00, Roberto Barezzani and other ringers trapped and ringed (X93889) a small passerine superficially resembling a Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*, because of the orange underparts and greyish upperparts. The ringers realized that it was not this species but they did not have direct access to electricity and internet (due to the remote position in the mountains) and, therefore, it took some time before the correct identification was established. RB sent some photographs to Ottavio Janni, who helped to identify the bird as a first-year male Mugimaki Flycatcher *F mugimaki*.

45-46 Mugimaki Flycatcher / Mugimakivliegenvanger *Ficedula mugimaki*, first-year male, Passo della Berga, Brescia, Italy, 6 October 2011 *(Roberto Barezzani)*

47-48 Mugimaki Flycatcher / Mugimakivliegenvanger *Ficedula mugimaki*, first-year male, Passo della Berga, Brescia, Italy, 6 October 2011 *(Roberto Barezzani)*

Description

The description is based on four photographs by RB (plate 45-48) and measurements taken by RB.

SIZE & POSTURE Like Red-breasted Flycatcher. Eye relatively large. Bill short and pointed. Tail clearly notched. Tail-feathers with pointed tip.

HEAD Slate-grey with olive flecking on stern and crown. Few pale spots behind eye. Indistinct pale eye-ring, most prominent around lower half of eye. Black moustachial stripe. Chin and throat bright orange.

UPPERPARTS Grey with prominent olive tinge, olive tinge becoming more prominent towards rump.

UNDERPARTS Breast and belly bright orange as throat, fading to white on lower belly. Orange tinge on flank. Undertail-coverts white.

WING Grey with white tips to median and greater coverts, producing two wing-bars, most prominent on greater coverts. Greater coverts and secondaries with greenish edges. Tertials grey with sharp whitish edge to tip and outer web.

TAIL Uppertail-coverts dark grey. Rest of tail grey with conspicuous white on upper half of outer tail-feathers, producing Red-breasted Flycatcher-like pattern but with less extensive white. Growth bar visible in tail-feathers.

BARE PARTS Bill dark-grey. Gape dull yellowish. Iris dark. Leg not visible in photographs. Toes dark grey.

MOULT Moult limit visible between outer six unmoulted greater coverts (retained from juvenile plumage) and moulted inner; also some juvenile median coverts retained. Primary coverts, alula, primaries, secondaries, tertials and tail-feathers retained.

MEASUREMENTS Weight 11.7 g. Wing 76.0 mm (maximum chord). Tail 53.5 mm (central tail-feathers), 49.0 mm (outer tail-feathers). Tarsus 16.6 mm. Wing formula (mm; primaries and secondaries numbered from outside, tips measured from tip of p1): p2 52, p3 59, p4 (wing-tip) 60, p5 59.5, p6 55.5, p7 50.5, p8 49.5, p9 48, p10 47; s1-6 47.0 to 40.5.

Identification, sexing and ageing

The combination of bright orange underparts, olive-grey upperparts, white wing-bars, and white tail-feather bases only fits Mugimaki Flycatcher. The bright orange underparts exclude a female, which shows paler orange-yellow underparts and, in addition, is browner grey above and lacks the white tail pattern. Because of the retained juvenile outer greater coverts and some median coverts it can be aged as a first-year. An adult male would also be much darker, almost black, on head, upperparts and wing and would show a large white wing patch (largely white greater coverts) and prominent white 'flash' behind the eye (cf Harrap 1993, del Hoyo et al 2006, Brazil 2009). Adults have a complete moult after breeding (and no pre-

breeding moult), whereas first-year birds have an incomplete moult (Svensson 1992). A second-calendar-year male would be expected to be much more advanced in plumage at this time of year than the Brescia bird and would show a darker tail and more rounded tips to the tail-feathers.

Male Red-breasted Flycatcher shows more restricted breast coloration and more white in the tail-sides, reaching further towards the tail-tip and lacks white wing-bars (cf Svensson 1992). Male Taiga Flycatcher *F albicilla* shows more restricted orange on the throat and breast, and the same tail pattern as Red-breasted (note that Taiga, unlike Red-breasted, moults the orange-throated summer plumage to a completely or nearly female-like plumage in autumn, often without any orange; Lars Svensson in litt). Immature male Narcissus Flycatcher *F narcissina* from East Asia would show a more prominent supercilium, unmarked tertials and a pale orange-yellow rump. Adult male Slaty-backed Flycatcher *F hodgsoni* from the Himalayas to north-eastern China is complete dull slaty-blue from head to tail and lacks any pale markings on head, wing and tail. The only true confusion species may be Kashmir Flycatcher *F subrubra* of the Indian Subcontinent (even if a natural occurrence in Europe would be most exceptional), which combines the orange underparts of Mugimaki with the tail pattern of Red-breasted and Taiga. Kashmir, however, shows no pale wing-bars or pale tertial edges, lacks the indication of a post-ocular supercilium and has a dark moustachial stripe that extends and broadens up to the breast-sides (Harrap 1993, Rasmussen & Anderton 2005, del Hoyo et al 2006, Brazil 2009).

Distribution and status in the Western Palearctic

Mugimaki Flycatcher breeds in Asia, in southern Siberia, Russia, northern Mongolia, north-eastern China, northern Korea and Sakhalin, Russia. It is a medium- to long-distance migrant and winters in south-eastern China, south-eastern Asia, the Greater Sundas, the Philippines and Sulawesi, Indonesia (del Hoyo et al 2006).

The species has a rather troubled history regarding the Western Palearctic (WP) list, with the first two records never fully admitted to this list. The record of an adult male at Neftekamsk, Bashkortostan, European Russia, on 2 August 2007 (Fominykh 2007) finally placed the species in 'category A' of the WP list. Two older records were placed into the so-called 'category D', mainly because of a presumed high escape risk. The first was a female collected in Treviso, Italy, on 29 October 1957 (Giol 1959, Martelli 1960). A short description with some measurements and a black-and-white photograph of the mounted specimen was published in Giol (1959). The bird was killed in San Vendemiano; at first, the resemblance to Red-breasted Flycatcher was noted but later it was tentatively identified by Edgardo Moltoni as Mugimaki Flycatcher. Since there was a lack of reference material in Italy, the specimen was sent to the British Museum, where the identification was confirmed by Richard Sims. It is interesting to note that Giol (1959) stated: '…it is absolutely safe to exclude the possibility that it could concern a bird escaped from captivity, because at the time of the collection, it showed not the least trace of having been in confinement'. The second was a first-winter male at Stone Creek, East Yorkshire (then Humberside), England, on 16-17 November 1991 (Parrish 1991, British Ornithologists' Union 1994, 2010, Evans 1994, Parkin & Shaw 1994, Rogers & Rarities Committee 1994, Palmer 2000). The decision on the British bird from 1991 was revised in 2009 but the record was retained in 'category D', the main argument being that 'The Committee was unable to find compelling evidence of long-distance westward vagrancy by this species' (British Ornithologists' Union 2010).

If accepted, the record at Brescia becomes the second for Europe and the WP. A (re-)revision of the status of the two older European records seems advisable, because there appears to be no strong objection against the possibility of natural vagrancy in this species (cf Evans 1994; Ottavio Janni in litt).

Origin

The possibility of a wild origin or escape risk for this bird was widely debated on several bird forums on the internet (eg, www.surfbirds.com/forum). Fulvio Fraticelli, director of Bioparco Zoo in Rome, Italy, made preliminary investigations on the status of Mugimaki Flycatcher in captivity. The official records of zoological gardens throughout the world (members of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) and of national and regional associations) and the ISIS database (www.isis.org) indicate that no birds have been held in captivity in recent years. CITES officials from Italy informed FF that they were not aware of recent legal or illegal imports of passerines from Asia to Italy; however, the possibility that the bird may have been illegally imported into another European country and escaped must be taken into consideration. A juvenile Mugimaki would be highly unlikely to be imported into Europe as early as early October, even illegally (Andrea Corso

in litt). Although additional investigations will need to be carried out in order to exclude a captive origin, the evidence gathered so far suggests that the likelihood of a natural origin is high; however, the final decision will have to be made by the Italian rarities committee (COI).

Acknowledgements
We thank Andrea Corso, Ottavio Janni and Lars Svensson for their comments on the draft of this paper and OJ for being the first to correctly identify the bird. Giancarlo Fracasso scanned the paper by Giol (1959). Fulvio Fraticelli provided information about the worldwide status in captivity. MH provided information about the status in Europe and provided references. Hester Fidder helped to translate Italian parts of the original text and Giol's (1959) paper.

Samenvatting
MUGIMAKIVLIEGENVANGER IN BRESCIA, ITALIË, IN OKTOBER 2011 Op 6 oktober 2011 werd een vliegenvanger *Ficedula* geringd op het ringstation bij Bagolino bij de Passo della Berga in Brescia, Noord-Italië (45°47'55,00" N 10°25'13,27" O; 1500 m boven zeeniveau). Het leek in eerste instantie om een Kleine Vliegenvanger *F parva* te gaan maar met hulp van derden werd de vogel op basis van de foto's gedetermineerd als eerstejaars mannetje Mugimakivliegenvanger *F mugimaki*. Deze determinatie was met name gebaseerd op de opvallende oranje onderdelen (overgaand in wit op de onderbuik), de grijze bovendelen met duidelijke olijfkleurige tint, vooral op de stuit, de twee witte vleugelstrepen en de witte tekening op de zijden van de bovenstaart (herinnerend aan het patroon bij Kleine Vliegenvanger). Achter het oog waren een paar vage lichte vlekjes aanwezig, als aanzet voor de 'halve wenkbrauw' die adulte mannetjes tonen. Adulte mannetjes zijn veel zwarter op de bovendelen en staart en hebben een groot wit vleugelveld. Vrouwtjes zijn bleker, met meer oranjegele onderdelen, en bruiner op de bovendelen en missen het wit in de staart. Een aantal Palearctische vliegenvangersoorten vertoont vergelijkbare oranje onderdelen en/of een vergelijkbaar staartpatroon maar geen van deze soorten toont bovengenoemde combinatie van kenmerken.

Eerdere gevallen van deze soort in Europa en het West-Palearctische gebied betreffen een vrouwtje verzameld bij San Vendemiano, Treviso, Italië, op 29 oktober 1957, een eerstejaars mannetje bij Stone Creek, East Yorkshire (toen Humberside), Engeland, op 16-17 november 1991 en een mannetje bij Neftekamsk, Bashkortostan, Europees Rusland, op 2 augustus 2007. De plaatsing op de West-Palearctische lijst is op dit moment uitsluitend gebaseerd op het Russische geval. De beide andere gevallen zijn (nog) niet als wilde vogels aanvaard. De Engelse vogel is recent (2009) nog herzien door de British Ornithological Union (BOU) maar opnieuw in 'categorie D' geplaatst, met als belangrijkste reden dat 'De commissie geen overtuigend bewijs kon vinden voor westwaartse lange-afstandsverplaatsingen bij deze soort'. De vangst van 2011 zou daar een nieuw licht op kunnen doen schijnen en herbeoordeling van de gevallen van 1957 en 1991 verdient daarom overweging.

Navraag bij diverse instanties gaf aan dat de soort niet of nauwelijks in (legale) gevangenschap voorkomt. Een herkomst uit illegale gevangenschap is niet met zekerheid uit te sluiten maar de omstandigheden rond deze vangst (datum, leeftijd, staat van verenkleed en naakte delen) lijken een wilde herkomst te ondersteunen. Het finale oordeel zal echter door de Italiaanse dwaalgastencommissie moeten worden gegeven.

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Citrine Wagtail on Madeira in September 2011

On 10 September 2011 around 11:45, I (Joost Simons) found a grey-and-white wagtail *Motacilla* at Lugar de Baixo, a small and muddy freshwater pool lined with reed, squeezed in between the ER101 road and the coastline along the southern shore of Madeira, just east of Punta del Sol. I identified it as a first-year Citrine Wagtail *M citreola* and took several photographs. It was observed for half an hour (after which I left the area) and, during that period, it was constantly foraging on the mud. After checking the photographs, I notified Catarina Fagundes and Hugo Romano (Madeira Wind Birds) by SMS but they were staying on another island, unable to come and see the bird.

The diagnostic features are visible in the accompanying photographs, including ***1*** clean grey upperparts (without olive tones); ***2*** almost unmarked breast with only some limited pale grey flecking on the upper breast-side; ***3*** conspicuous white wing bar formed by the broad white tips of the median coverts; ***4*** 'hollow' ear-coverts, completely surrounded by the pale line connecting the supercilium with the chin; ***5*** buffish tinge to the supercilium in front of the eye; and ***6*** completely white underparts, including undertail-coverts. This combination of features rules out White Wagtail *M alba*, Pied Wagtail *M yarrellii* and any of the 'yellow wagtails' (Alström et al 2003, van Duivendijk 2011).

This is the first record for Madeira (cf www.madeirabirds.com/september_2011_bird_observations). Citrine Wagtails have been recorded as far west in the Atlantic Ocean as the Azores (Corvo, 14 September 2009; www.birdingazores.com), Canary Islands (four records: Tenerife, 10 November 2000; and Lanzarote, 20 November 2005 to 18 January 2006; 19 March 2008; and 12 April 2008; Clarke 2006; www.surfbirds.com/blog/birdinglanzarote/6521 and 6831), Faroes, Iceland (10 records up to 2011, all from early September to early November; https://notendur.hi.is/yannk/status_motcit.html) and Ireland. The occurrence on Madeira is, therefore, not unexpected. The date fits neatly within the pattern of occurrences in western Europe, with a peak in mid-September.

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49-50 Citrine Wagtail / Citroenkwikstaart *Motacilla citreola*, first-year, Lugar de Baixo, Madeira, 10 September 2011 *(Joost Simons)*

Redactiemededelingen

Naamgeving van taxa in Dutch Birding

Voor taxonomie, naamgeving en volgorde van in Nederland waargenomen taxa houdt Dutch Birding zich aan de beslissingen van de Commissie Systematiek Nederlandse Avifauna (CSNA) (Sangster et al 1999, 2003, 2009). Dit is een gevolg van afspraken tussen Dutch Birding Association (DBA), Nederlandse Ornithologische Unie (NOU) en Sovon Vogelonderzoek Nederland die werden gemaakt in het kader van de publicatie van *Avifauna van Nederland* (van den Berg & Bosman 1999, 2001, Bijlsma et al 2001). Voor taxonomie van niet in Nederland vastgestelde taxa wordt de derde editie van 'Howard and Moore' (Dickinson 2003) gevolgd behoudens aanvullingen en wijzigingen gepresenteerd in redactiemededelingen in de eerste nummers van Dutch Birding-jaargangen. In de in 2008 door DBA gepubliceerde lijst van vogelnamen (van den Berg 2008) zijn alle redactiemededelingen van Dutch Birding jaargang 19-30 (1997-2008) verwerkt en in de digitale versie tevens die van 2009-11 (Redactie Dutch Birding 2009, 2010, 2011) en 2012 (www.dutchbirding.nl/page.php?page_id=228).

In tabel 1 staan nieuwe wijzigingen in de naamgeving van West-Palearctische taxa vermeld die per 1 januari 2012 in Dutch Birding worden doorgevoerd. De door Sangster et al (2010b) gepresenteerde taxonomische volgorde van zangvogels (passerines) wordt reeds vanaf 1 januari 2010 door Dutch Birding toegepast (Redactie Dutch Birding 2010).

Aan de lijst van vogelsoorten binnen het door van den Berg (2008) gedefinieerde WP-gebied (Europa met inbegrip van Macaronesië plus alle landen die grenzen aan de Dode, Middellandse of Zwarte Zee) kan een aantal worden toegevoegd: Zwartbuikstormvogeltje / Black-bellied Storm Petrel *Fregetta tropica* (Madeira), Indische Klifzwaluw / Streak-throated Swallow *Petrochelidon fluvicola* (Egypte) en Grote Textorwever / Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* (Egypte) en vooruitlopend op beslissingen van buitenlandse commissies ook Witruggier / White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* (Portugal, Spanje), Jacobijnkoekoek / Jacobin Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus* (Finland), Oostelijke Gele Kwikstaart / Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* (Brittannië) en Blauwe Bisschop / Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* (Noorwegen, Azoren). Zie Redactie Dutch Birding (2009, 2010, 2011) voor andere recentelijk toegevoegde soorten.

Voor Engelse vogelnamen volgt Dutch Birding sinds 1 januari 2008 de aanbevelingen van het Internationaal Ornithologisch Congres (IOC) (Gill & Wright 2006, Gill & Donsker 2011), met enkele uitzonderingen (Olson & Banks 2007, Redactie Dutch Birding 2009, 2010, 2011). Aanvullingen en wijzigingen worden door het IOC op internet gepubliceerd en deze veranderingen in Engelse namen worden overgenomen door Dutch Birding, zoals sinds 1 januari 2012: Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* (in plaats van Grey-hooded Gull), Greater Crested Tern *Sterna bergii* (in plaats van Swift Tern), Rock Dove *Columba livia* (in plaats van Common Pigeon), Rufous Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis meena* (in plaats van Western Oriental Turtle Dove), Diederik Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius* (in plaats van Dideric Cuckoo), Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus* (in plaats van Fork-tailed Swift), Streaked Scrub Warbler *Scotocerca inquieta* (in plaats van Scrub Warbler), Cricket Warbler *Spiloptila clamans* (in plaats van Cricket Longtail), Grey Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus* (in plaats van Hypocolius), Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* (in plaats van European Blue Tit), Common Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* (in plaats van Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush) en Kurdish Wheatear *Oenanthe xanthoprymna* (in plaats van Kurdistan Wheatear).

Een gewijzigde Nederlandse ondersoortnaam is Meenatortel *Streptopelia orientalis meena* (in plaats van Westelijke Oosterse Tortel).

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Summary

Taxa names in Dutch Birding From 1 January 2012, Dutch Birding will use revised names or new taxonomic treatments for several taxa (see table 1). For English vernacular names, updates by the International Ornithological Congress are followed. New species documented for a WP region defined as Europe with Macaronesia and all countries bordering the Black, Dead or Mediterranean Sea are, eg, Black-bellied Storm Petrel *Fregetta tropica* (Madeira), Streak-throated Swallow *Petrochelidon fluvicola* (Egypt) and Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* (Egypt).

Verwijzingen

Alström, P, Mild, K & Zetterström, B 2003. Pipits & wag-

TABEL 1 Vanaf 1 januari 2012 door Dutch Birding gebruikte gewijzigde wetenschappelijke namen van West-Palearctische (WP) taxa / Revised scientific names for Western Palearctic (WP) taxa used in Dutch Birding from 1 January 2012

Afrikaanse Maraboe / Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer* (was *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*) (David & Gosselin 2011)

Amerikaanse Blauwe Kiekendief / Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius* (was *Circus cyaneus hudsonius)* (Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2005, Dobson & Clarke 2011, Mullarney & Forsman 2011)

Amerikaans Purperhoen / Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus* (was *Porphyrio martinica)* (David & Gosselin 2011)

Tibetaanse Plevier / Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius atrifrons* (was *Charadrius mongolus atrifrons*) (Hirschfeld et al 2000, Livezey 2010)

De soort omvat drie ondersoorten, nominaat *atrifrons, pamirensis* en *schaeferi*, waarvan de beide eerstgenoemde in de WP ('sensu DB') zijn vastgesteld. De nominaat van Mongoolse Plevier *Charadrius mongolus* (waartoe ook *stegmanni* behoort) is eveneens in de WP vastgesteld.

There are three subspecies, nominate *atrifrons*, *pamirensis* and *schaeferi*, of which the first two have been recorded in the WP ('as defined by DB'). The nominate subspecies of Mongolian Plover *Charadrius mongolus* (which also includes *stegmanni*) has also been recorded in the WP.

Lilfords Witrugspecht / Lilford's Woodpecker *Dendrocopos lilfordi* (was *Dendrocopos leucotos lilfordi)* (Matveyev 1985, Perušek 1991, Grange & Vuilleumier 2009)

Maghrebekster / Maghreb Magpie *Pica mauritanica* (was *Pica mauretanica)* (cf Howard & Moore Corrigenda 2.1, http://handmbirds.myspecies.info/sites/handmbirds.myspecies.info/files/HM%20Corrigenda%208%20oct%202008.pdf)

Witbrauwzwaluw / Banded Martin *Neophedina cincta* (was *Riparia cincta)* (cf Sheldon et al 2005, cf Pavlova et al 2008)

Snornachtegaal / Siberian Blue Robin *Larvivora cyane* (was *Luscinia cyane*) (Sangster et al 2010a, Sangster et al 2011)

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

Roodkeelnachtegaal / Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope* (was *Luscinia calliope*) (Sangster et al 2010a, 2011)

Rüppells Grasmus / Rüppell's Warbler *Sylvia ruppeli* (was *Sylvia rueppelli*) (Howard & Moore Corrigenda 2.1, http://handmbirds.myspecies.info/sites/handmbirds.myspecies.info/files/HM%20Corrigenda%208%20oct%202008.pdf)

Iberische Kwikstaart / Spanish Wagtail *Motacilla cinereocapilla iberiae* (was *Motacilla iberiae*)

Nadat dit taxon soortstatus kreeg (Sangster et al 1998, 1999) is duidelijk geworden dat het niet diagnostisch verschilt van Italiaanse Kwikstaart *M c cinereocapilla* en Egyptische Kwikstaart *M c pygmaea* (zie bijvoorbeeld van den Berg 2011) waardoor de basis voor soortstatus wegvalt (George Sangster in litt). Conform het fylogenetische soortconcept (PSC) in Alström et al (2003) wordt Iberische Kwikstaart net als Italiaanse en Egyptische een ondersoort van **Witkeelkwikstaart** *M cinereocapilla*.

After this taxon was listed as specifically distinct (Sangster et al 1998, 1999), it became obvious that it did not differ diagnostically from Ashy-headed Wagtail *M c cinereocapilla* and Egyptian Wagtail *M c pygmaea* (George Sangster in litt; see, eg, van den Berg 2011). Therefore, Spanish Wagtail *Motacilla cinereocapilla iberiae* is now treated as a subspecies of **White-throated Wagtail** *M cinereocapilla* together with Ashy-headed Wagtail *M c cinereocapilla* and Egyptian Wagtail *M c pygmaea*, conform the list of taxa according to the Phylogenetic Species Concept in Alström et al (2003).

Sijs / Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus* (was *Carduelis spinus*) (Zuccon et al 2012)

Kneu / Common Linnet *Linaria cannabina* (was *Carduelis cannabina*) (Zuccon et al 2012)

Frater / Twite *Linaria flavirostris* (was *Carduelis flavirostris*) (Zuccon et al 2012)

Kleine Barmsijs / Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret* (was *Carduelis cabaret*) (Zuccon et al 2012)

Grote Barmsijs / Mealy Redpoll *Acanthis flammea* (was *Carduelis flammea*) (Zuccon et al 2012)

Witstuitbarmsijs / Arctic Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni* (was *Carduelis hornemanni*) (Zuccon et al 2012)

Langstaartroodmus / Long-tailed Rosefinch *Carpodacus sibiricus* (was *Uragus sibiricus*) (Zuccon et al 2012)

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WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic mainly from **mid-November 2011 to early January 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 In the Netherlands, a gradual decrease in the number of wintering **Bewick's Swans** *Cygnus bewickii* became more apparent in the winter of 2010/11 when not more than 9600 individuals were counted while there were 15 000 six years ago (presumably some 60% of the world population). A flock of nine **Whooper Swans** *C cygnus* at Hula valley from 4 December constituted the fifth record for Israel. In England, apart from three **Snow Geese** *Anser caerulescens* in Lancashire during December, also two **Ross's Geese** *A rossii* frequented several sites in Norfolk on 17-19 December. A declining breeding success was noted in two arctic goose species for which the Netherlands are important wintering grounds; although numbers of **Tundra Bean Geese** *A serrirostris* (266 000 in the winter of 2009/10) and **Greater White-fronted Geese** *A albifrons* (800 000) were still high, the percentage of young versus adults went down sharply from, for instance in White-fronted, an average of 31.7% in the 1980s to 16.7% in the 2000s. The number of **Lesser White-fronted Geese** *A erythropus* at Camperduin, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, reached an all-time high of 103 in one group on 14 January. Also in the Netherlands, a family flock of six **Red-breasted Geese** *Branta ruficollis* was seen at various sites in Friesland from 12 November into January while in the same period several 10s of singles and a few couples were reported from a variety of sites as well. Nine **Red-crested Pochards** *Netta rufina* at Jahra pools from 29 December constituted the first record for Kuwait. The male **Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa* at Lagoa Lomba, Flores, Azores, from 5 October was still present on 28 November; it probably concerned a returning individual from the previous autumn. From 16 December into January, a first-winter female **White-headed Duck** *Oxyura leucocephala* was present at Reeuwijkse Plassen, Gouda, Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands. The male in Ille-et-Vilaine, France, from 25 September was seen again in December. In Germany, a female-type was reported in southernmost Baden-Württemberg on 25 December. In Switzerland, a female-type was photographed at Münsterlingen, Bodensee, Thurgau, on 29 December. In Iceland, the long-staying adult female **Steller's Eider** *Polysticta stelleri* at Sigurðarstaðavík, Melrakkaslétta, was again reported on

51 Green Heron / Groene Reiger *Butorides virescens*, Iteuil, Vienne, France, 24 December 2011
(Aurélien Audevard)

1 January; it was first seen in April 2000. An adult male **Asian White-winged Scoter** *Melanitta deglandi stejnegeri* in Pontevedra, Galicia, from 23 December into January was the first for Spain. A surprising new breeding species for the Netherlands concerns **Smew** *Mergellus albellus* of which one pair and seven ducklings were seen on 4 June 2010 and no less than four pairs in 2011, all at the same undisclosed site in Friesland; the nearest breeding sites of this species are in the north of Finland and Sweden. The adult male **Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola* at Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland, remained into January for its eighth winter. The female/juvenile at Helston Loe Pool, Cornwall, England, from 26 October also remained into January. An adult male at Dynjandi, Nes, from 27 December into January is considered the same as one present here as the third for Iceland from February to April 2009 (the fourth was found in April 2011). A male **Goosander** *Mergus merganser* photographed at Kanlıköy pond north-west of Nicosia on 29 December was the fifth for Cyprus. In Norway, the **American Black Duck** *Anas rubripes* was back at Rosanes, Vestfold, from November into January. The first **Garganey** *A querquedula* for Australia turned up on Cocos Island in the first week of December. In the Netherlands, an unseasonal one was seen at Roermond, Limburg, on 2 January.

SEABIRDS TO GREBES A **Yellow-billed Loon** *Gavia adamsii* at Fáskrúðsfjörður from late December into January was (only) the second for Iceland, less than five months after the first. In Spain, an adult **Black-browed Albatross** *Thalassarche melanophris* off Gozón, Asturies, on 29 November was probably the same as one seen from Muxia, A Coruña, on 6 and 10 November (cf Dutch Birding 33: 398, 2011). On 29 November, a **Fea's Petrel** *Pterodroma feae* was reported past Kråkudden, Hönö, Sweden, while an even later *Pterodroma*, presumably also a Fea's, was recorded off Estaca de Bares, A Coruña, on 16 December. On 7 November, a record 23 100 **Great Shearwaters** *Puffinus gravis* flew past Cabo de Ajo, Cantabria, Spain. From 16 November into January, up to two **Pygmy Cormorants** *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* were present in Mauves and Canet-en-Roussilon, France. In the Netherlands, six pairs of **Atlantic Great Cormorants** *P carbo carbo* produced 10 young at Neeltje Jans, Zeeland, in 2011 (the species bred here for the first time in 2008); there is no information from other breeding sites where this taxon bred in recent years. In the Azores, an **American Bittern** *Botaurus lentiginosus* was found at Lagoa do Capitão, Pico, on 8 December. In the Netherlands, **Little Bitterns** *Ixobrychus minutus* appear to increase gradually and 25 to 50 pairs were present in 2011 (however, this is still nowhere near the 500 pairs of half a century ago). An adult **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea* at Angra do Heroismo, Terceira, Azores, on 8 December was most likely a returning bird last seen in April 2011. From 24 November into January, a confiding first-winter **Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* wintered inland at Iteuil, Vienne, France. On 30 December, at least one **Black Heron** *Egretta ardesiaca* was still present at Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, Cape Verde Islands (cf Dutch Birding 33: 201-202, plate 232, 2011). In the Azores, up to two **Great Blue Herons** *Ardea herodias* were present on Terceira from 31 October through December. In Tomsk, Siberia, a group of vagrant **Eurasian Flamingos** *Phoenicopterus roseus* was found at Krivosheinskiy district in late December; one or two immatures taken into care at the local zoo attracted quite some media attention (www.vesti.tvtomsk.ru/news_week-14829.html). An adult **Lesser Flamingo** *P minor* not wearing a ring was photographed at Giganta rice fields, Tagus estuary, Portugal, on 25 November and, at the same place, an 'escaped' adult with a Belgian ring was present on 14 December (in Spain, there were singles in Cádiz and in Málaga in December). Three **Pied-billed Grebes** *Podilymbus podiceps* remained in the Azores through December. An adult turning up at Little Island, Cork, Ireland, on 11 December was thought to be the same individual present from 11 December 2010 to February 2011.

RAPTORS The problem of **White-tailed Eagles** *Haliaeetus albicilla* and other birds being killed in high numbers by wind turbines along the Norwegian coasts has been addressed in Vår Fuglefauna 34: 116-125, 2011. In Limicola 25: 169-194, 2011, the individual and geographic variation in plumages of this species was dealt with in detail. For instance, it is shown that immature northern (Scandinavian) birds differ from southern (central European) ones in their first and second wing moult. On 21 December, the southernmost breeding pair of the Netherlands had built a nest at Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant; in recent years, wild-origin birds also started nesting at Oostvaardersplassen, Flevoland (since 2006); at Lauwersmeer, Friesland/Groningen; and at the mouth of the IJssel river, Flevoland/Overijssel. Also in the Netherlands, a gradual decrease in **Hen Harriers** *Circus cyaneus* resulted in no more than 25 breeding pairs in 2010 while **Western Marsh Harrier** *C aeruginosus* hardly showed any decrease, still numbering c 1200 pairs; in 2011, 63 pairs of **Montagu's Harrier** *C pygargus* in five provinces were counted. A juvenile **Pallid Harrier** *C macrourus* was roosting at Lough Corrib, Galway, Ireland, from early November to at least 11 December. In Switzerland, a juvenile remained at Krümmi, Fribourg, from 19 November into January. In Spain, a total of seven was seen during December. The third **Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni* for Britain this autumn turned up near Zennor, Cornwall, on 1 November. A first-year **Amur Falcon** *F amurensis* first identified as a Red-footed Falcon *F vespertinus* and photographed at Criação Velha, Pico, on 30 November constituted not only the first for the Azores but also the species' westernmost record. A dark-morph **Eleonora's Falcon** *F eleonorae* not far from the Dutch border at Wegberg, Kreis Heinsberg, Nordrhein-Westfalen, on 1 October was the ninth for Germany (two weeks earlier, a dark-morph was photographed in Flevoland, the Netherlands; cf Dutch Birding 33: 377-381, 2011). The juvenile **Gyr Falcon** *F rusticolus* on both sides of the Belgian-Dutch border near Philippine and Sas van Gent, Zeeland, was seen on quite a few days from late October into January. A juvenile **Tundra**

52 Black-winged Kites / Grijze Wouwen *Elanus caeruleus*, Agmon lake, Israel, 27 November 2011 *(Rony Livne)* cf Dutch Birding 33: 398, 2011 **53** Greater Yellowlegs / Grote Geelpootruiter *Tringa melanoleuca*, first-year, Hauxley, Northumberland, England, 18 November 2011 *(James A Hanlon)* **54** Gyr Falcon / Giervalk *Falco rusticolus*, first-year, Oostburg, Zeeland, Netherlands, 7 January 2012 *(Pieter Dhaluin)*

55 Allen's Gallinule / Afrikaans Purperhoen *Porphyrio alleni*, adult, Tías, Lanzarote, Canary Islands, 4 January 2012 *(Juan Sagardía Pradera)*

56 Allen's Gallinule / Afrikaans Purperhoen *Porphyrio alleni*, adult, Catalina Garcia, Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, 9 December 2011 *(David Monticelli)*

57 Little Bustard / Kleine Trap *Tetrax tetrax*, Verdronken Land van Saeftinghe, Zeeland, Netherlands, 15 January 2012 *(Peter L Meininger)*

58 Rufous Turtle Dove / Meenatortel *Streptopelia orientalis meena*, first-year, Pello Nivanpää, Finland, 14 November 2011 *(Micha Fager)*

59 Tundra Peregrine Falcon / Toendraslechtvalk *Falco peregrinus calidus*, juvenile, Alghero, Sassari, Sardinia, Italy, early December 2011 *(Riccardo Paddeu)*. Found injured and taken into care; ringed as pullus in Nenetskiy nature reserve, Nenets, Russia, on 3 August 2011. **60** Asian White-winged Scoter / Aziatische Grote Zee-eend *Melanitta deglandi stejnegeri*, Pontevedra, Galicia, Spain, 28 December 2011 *(Daniel López-Velasco)* **61** Bonaparte's Gull / Kleine Kokmeeuw *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*, first-winter (centre), Kumlien's Gull / Kumliens Meeuw *Larus glaucoides kumlieni* (right) and Common Gull / Stormmeeuw *L canus canus*, Sandágerði, Tórshavn, Faeroes, 11 January 2012 *(Silas K K Olofson)*

Peregrine Falcon *F peregrinus calidus* ringed at Nenetskiy nature reserve, Nenets, Russia, on 3 August 2011 and picked up injured at a distance of 4083 km at Alghero, Sassari, Sardinia, in early December concerned this taxon's first ringing recovery for Italy.

RAILS TO BUSTARDS An **African Crake** *Crex egregia* at Iwik, Banc d'Arguin, on 29 November was the seventh for the WP ('sensu BWP') and probably the fifth for Mauritania. If accepted, a **Lesser Moorhen** *Gallinula angulata* at Barr Al Hikman on 23 November will be the second for Oman. An **Allen's Gallinule** *Porphyrio alleni* was found dead at Palma airport, Mallorca, Balearic Islands, on 1 December. In the Canary Islands, an adult was present at Catalina Garcia, Fuerteventura, on 5-23 December. Another adult was seen at Tías golf course, Lanzarote, from 22 December into January. The third for Malta was an adult attacked by two cats and picked up alive on the coast at St Julians on 23 December (it died the next day). In the USA, an adult **Hooded Crane** *Grus monacha* accompanied a flock of Sandhill Cranes *G canadensis* at Hiwassee Wildlife Reserve, Meigs County, Tennessee, from 14 December onwards. A **Little Bustard** *Tetrax tetrax* at Sohar on 26 December was the second for Oman (the first was 47 years ago). In the Netherlands, one was present at Verdronken Land van Saeftinge, Zeeland, on 15 January; it was also see on Belgian territory.

WADERS At least 22 territoria of **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* in 2011 was the highest total for the Netherlands since 2001. In the Azores, two **Semipalmated Plovers** *Charadrius semipalmatus*, two **Killdeers** *C vociferus* and one **Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla* remained through December. On 22 December, at least one **Three-banded Plover** *C tricollaris* was still present at Aswan, Egypt (cf Dutch Birding

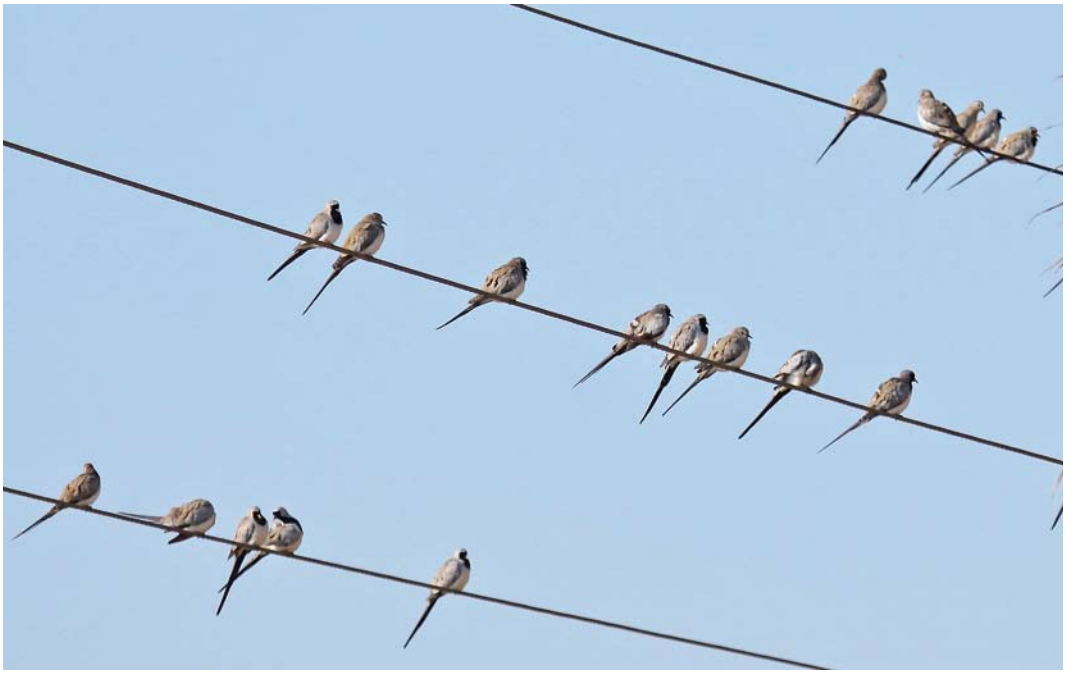
62 Allen's Gallinule / Afrikaans Purperhoen *Porphyrio alleni*, adult, St Julians, Malta, 24 December 2011 *(Raymond Galea)* **63** Western Sandpiper / Alaskastrandloper *Calidris mauri*, first-year, Cley, Norfolk, England, 28 December 2011 *(Rob Wilson)* **64** African Skimmers / Afrikaanse Schaarbekken *Rynchops flavirostris*, Kom Ombo, Egypt, 28 December 2011 *(Kris De Rouck)*

33: 203, 2011). A first-year **Western Sandpiper** *C mauri* remained at Cley, Norfolk, England, from 28 November into January. The first-winter **Long-toed Stint** *C subminuta* at La Turballe, Loire-Atlantique, France from 6 November stayed until 20 December. A first-year **Least Sandpiper** *C minutilla* was foraging at Black Rock Strand, Kerry, Ireland, from 29 November to 19 December. A first-year **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *C acuminata* was present at Chew Valley Lake, Somerset, England, from 18 November to 16 December. The **Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago delicata* on St Mary's, Scilly, England, since early October stayed into late December, while the 14th recorded in the Azores since the autumn was also found in December. The second **Pin-tailed Snipe** *G stenura* for Italy (and Europe) was present for a few days until at least 18 December near Siracusa, Sicily, and its identification could be confirmed by sonagrams. In the Azores, a **Hudsonian Whimbrel** *Numenius hudsonicus* was seen at Fajã dos Cubres, São Jorge, on 4 December. The last record of **Slender-billed Curlew** *N tenuirostris* for Poland on 7 October 1995 has been reconsidered and is now rejected (six records remain, concerning specimens in 1883 and 1915 and sightings in 1935, 1973, 1976 and 1978). In the Netherlands, the **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* at Colijnsplaat, Noord-Beveland, Zeeland, first seen as a first-winter on 17 October 2010, remained into January. The first-winter in Northumberland, England, from 12 November to 10 December was rediscovered 320 km to the north-west at Loch Fleet, Highland, Scotland, on 15 December and was still present in January. In France, a **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* at Ploumoquer near Brest, Bretagne, was last seen on 12 December. Three first-winters were discovered at widely separate locations in Ireland on 27 and 28 November, while in England, two first-winters and an adult were still present at three sites in early January. In Spain, a first-winter was wintering at Perán, Carreño, Asturies, from 27 October into January.

GULLS TO SKIMMERS First-winter **Ivory Gulls** *Pagophila eburnea* were seen at Hults hamn, Värmland, Sweden, on 7 December and at Höfn, Iceland, from 13 December

65 Kumlien's Gull / Kumliens Meeuw *Larus glaucoides kumlieni*, Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, 16 January 2012 *(Filip De Ruwe)*

66 Bonaparte's Gull / Kleine Kokmeeuw *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*, Hirtshals, Nordjylland, Denmark, November 2011 *(Henrik Brandt)*



67 Namaqua Doves / Maskerduiven *Oena capensis*, Daraw, Aswan, Egypt, 27 November 2011
(Dick Hoek)

68 Ross's Gull / Ross' Meeuw *Rhodostethia rosea,* first-winter, Öckerö, Bohuslän, Sweden, 30 December 2011
(Ivan Sjögren)

into January. In Norway, an adult flew past Brentetangen, Østfold, on 27 December. A ringed adult **Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini* at Wien on 13-15 December was the fifth for Austria. **Bonaparte's Gulls** *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* occurred, eg, at Hirtshals harbour from 10 November to 3 December (adult; fourth for Denmark); at Blackdog, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, on 27 November; at Salzgitter, Niedersachsen, Germany, on 9 December; at Cambrils, Tarragona, Spain, on 20 December; and at Ballygally, Antrim, Northern Ireland, from 24 December into January (adult). A first-winter found at Sandágerði, Tórshavn, on 11 January was the first for the Faeroes. The adult **Ross's Gull** *Rhodostethia rosea* seen at many dates and localities in the Netherlands from 21 April onwards was last reported at Camperduin on 24 November. In Sweden, a first-winter stayed at Öckerö, Bohuslän, on 25 to at least 30 December; remarkably, an adult flew past here on 27 December. In Iceland, **Laughing Gulls** *Larus atricilla* were seen at Djúpivogur on 24-25 November (first-year), at Grindavík on 25-26 November (first-year) and at Höfn on 16 December. In Spain, one or two first-winters were present in Asturies from 3 December onwards. The adult **Ring-billed Gull** *L delawarensis* at Bergen, Norway, returned on 3 December for its 19th (!) winter and was still present in January. **Smithsonian Gulls** *L smithsonianus* were found on Tresco, Scilly, on 7 November (first-year), at Baltimore, Cork, Ireland, from 27 November to 10 December (first-year) and at Youghal, Cork, on 16 December (second-year). In Spain, an adult was photographed at Lires, Fisterra, A Coruña, on 28 December. The first and second **Kumlien's Gulls** *L glaucoides kumlieni* for Denmark, if accepted, were an adult at Blåvands Huk, Syddanmark, and a fourth calendar-year at Hanstholm, Thisted, Nordjylland, both found on 8 January. The second for Belgium was photographed at Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, from 16 January. The adult **Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri* in Galway, Ireland, remained into January. On 28 December, eight **African Skimmers** *Rynchops flavirostris* were seen just south of Kom Ombo, Egypt.

69 Eurasian Pygmy Owl / Dwerguil *Glaucidium passerinum*, Ullerup Skov, Nordsjælland, Denmark, December 2011 *(Johnny Salomonsson)*

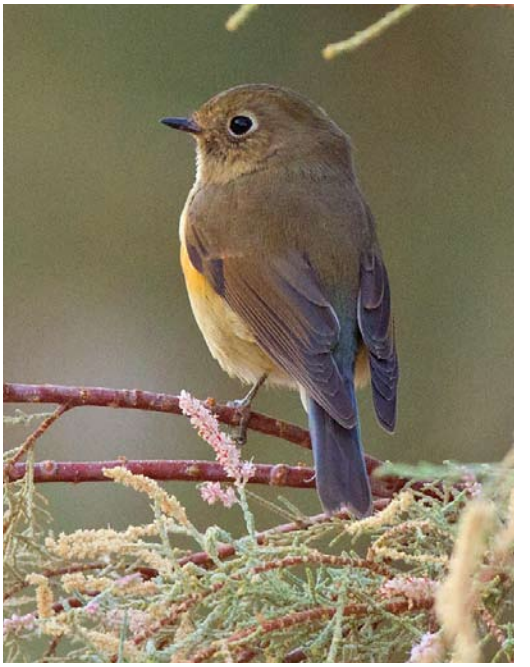
DOVES TO CROWS The two **Mourning Collared Doves** *Streptopelia decipiens* at Abu Simbel, Egypt, were still present on 9 January (cf Dutch Birding 33: 55-56, plate 62, 2011). In Sweden, an **Oriental Turtle Dove** *S orientalis* stayed at Munksund, Norrbotten, from 25 December. In Finland, the first-year at Kolari first seen on 30 October was last reported on 16 November and the first-year at Pello from c 5 November (identified as **Rufous Turtle Dove** *S o meena*) stayed until 14 November. In Egypt, a flock of 41 **Namaqua Doves** *Oena capensis* was found at the camel market of Daraw, between Aswan and Luxor, on 27 November (similar numbers were reported here since at least 2000, with more than 60 on 8 April 2010; Sandgrouse 33: 201, 2011). In Denmark, an additional 13 **Eurasian Pygmy Owls** *Glaudicium passerinum* in December raised the autumn's total to more than 45, including the first for Sønderjylland on 29-30 December which was thought to be more likely of German than of Scandinavian origin. In southern Norway, a few **Great Grey Owls** *Strix nebulosa* were wandering with one well south at Vesterøy, Østfold, from 28 November to 16 December, and also one at Gutterød, Vestfold, from 26th December. In the Azores, a **Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon* was reported from Lajes do Pico, Pico, on 30 December. In the Netherlands, the spectacular increase of **Middle Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos medius* continued from none in 1996 to 348 pairs in seven provinces in 2011 (with 125 in both Limburg and Twente, Overijssel); also, the number of breeding pairs of **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *D minor* doubled in the past 20 years. A **Black-naped Oriole** *Oriolus chinensis* photographed at Thumrait on 7 December was the first for Oman and the Middle East. An adult male **Daurian Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus* photographed at Hof, Öræfi, on 13 November was the first for Iceland. The **House Crow** *Corvus splendens* at Cobh, Cork, Ireland, stayed throughout the period.

WARBLERS TO WALLCREEPER One or two **Common Firecrests** *Regulus ignicapilla* at mount Bar'on, Golan Heights, from 17 December onwards were the first for Israel; at the same site, two **Radde's Accentors** *Prunella ocularis* were present from 11 December onwards. Coinciding with high winter temperatures in the Netherlands, a **Common Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis* survived at Kanaleneiland, Utrecht, from 23 November into January, a **House Martin** *Delichon urbicum* was photographed on 29 December on a building at Delfgauw, Zuid-Holland, and a **Eurasian Reed Warbler** *Acroce-*

phalus scirpaceus was trapped at Oud-Naarden, Noord-Holland, on 1 January (see http://tinyurl.com/6ncyzl7). By early January, **Hume's Warblers** *Phylloscopus humei* were (still) wintering at Hanko, Finland, at Katwijk, Zuid-Holland, and at Wyke Regis, Dorset, England, and one was at Nederhorst den Berg, Noord-Holland, from 12 January. (In Norway, a late one on Utsira, Rogaland, from 13 December was not reported after 24 December.) In the Netherlands, no less than 42 territoria of **Eurasian Penduline Tit** *Remiz pendulinus* were found in 2011 at the mouth of the IJssel river, Overijssel, alone. In Israel, an **Arabian Dunn's Lark** *Eremalauda dunni eremodites* and a **Arabian Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix nigriceps melanauchen* were seen in Uvda valley on 12 December and in Arava on 16 December, respectively. Up to four **Crested Larks** *Galerida cristata* were present during December at Hirtshals, the species' sole remaining breeding site in Denmark. A male **Grey Hypocolius** *Hypocolius ampelinus* was seen at Eilat, Israel, on 27-30 November. As in the previous winter, a **Wallcreeper** *Tichodroma muraria* turned up at Santa Luzia dam, Pampilhosa da Serra, Portugal, on 9 December.

THRUSHES A **White's Thrush** *Zoothera aurea* taken into care at Nesjahverfi on 26 November was the fifth for Iceland; it did not survive. In Scotland, a first-year **Veery** *Catharus fuscescens* stayed at Gallanach Farm, Muck, Highland, on 16-24 November. The first **Dusky Thrush** *Turdus eunomus* for Sweden at Säbyholms skola, Uppland, on 12 November was last seen on 17 November; remarkably, the second stayed at Bergkvara, Småland, from 6 January and the third was found at Nyköping, Södermanland, on 13 January. In north-eastern China, the breeding area of the poorly known **Blackthroat** *Calliope obscura* was rediscovered in June in the Qinling mountains, Shaanxi province, with seven singing males both in Foping and Changqing national nature reserves, most of them at 2400-2500 m elevation (there were less than 20 previous records). The first genetically confirmed female hybrid of **Thrush** x **Common Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia x megarhynchos* trapped in Czech Republic on 3 June 2009 was documented in J Ornithol 152: 1063-1068, 2011; several fertile hybrid males have been found in nature but the fact that this female did not show signs of reproductive activity, already being in moult a month earlier than usual, suggests that it was sterile. In Ornis Fenn 87: 168-179, 2010, it was shown that songs of **Red-spotted Bluethroat** *L svecica svecica* and **White-spotted Bluethroat** *L s cyanecula* differ in structure and certain characteristics. In J Orn 152: 975-982, 2011, some of the same authors comparing responses to both songs by males Red-Spotted in Abisko, Sweden, concluded that bluethroats clearly discriminate the two song types, responding more strongly to playback of their own subspecies. A **Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus* at Eilat on 19-20 November was the second for Israel. The second outside of Alaska for the USA was photographed on San Clemente Island, California, on 6 December before it was killed by a Loggerhead Shrike *L ludovicianus* (the first Lower-48 record was on 1 November 1989). An adult male **Western Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltariensis* at Jebel Dhanna west of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 27 December onwards concerned the first for the Arabian peninsula; possibly, it was seen at the same site last winter as well. In England, the **Eastern Black Redstart** *P o phoenicuroides* at Margate, Kent, from 11 November was last seen on 17 November and another stayed on Holy Island, Northumberland, on 16-21 November. Like last winter, several female **Moussier's Redstarts** *P moussieri* were present in Malta. On 15 January, one was found on Mallorca. The first **Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe pleschanka* for Belgium at Doornzele, Oost-Vlaanderen, on 5 November was last seen on 8 November; in addition to those mentioned in Dutch Birding 33: 406-407, 2011, others were found at Spurn, East Yorkshire, England, on 8-9 November; Rovaniemi, Finland, on 14-18 November; and Skrea, Halland, Sweden, on 16-27 November. The singing first-winter male at Strandby harbour, Nordjylland, Denmark, from 28 November remained into January, being fed mealworms. A **Desert Wheatear** *O deserti* at Ave river mouth, Vila do Conde, on 6 December was (only) the second for Portugal. By early January, at least two were still present in England and one on Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. In the first week of December, the first **Mugimaki Flycatcher** *Ficedula mugimaki* for Australia was discovered on Cocos Island (where a handful of **Eyebrowed Thrushes** *T obscurus* were also found). After being genotyped, a male flycatcher *Ficedula* identified in the field as a

70 Red-flanked Bluetail / Blauwstaart *Tarsiger cyanurus*, Eilat, Israel, 19 November 2011 *(Yoav Perlman)*



71 Eastern Black Redstart / Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides*, male, Gotland, Sweden, 10 November 2011 *(Christian Cederroth)*

72 Eastern Black Redstart / Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides*, first-year male, Margate, Kent, England, 15 November 2011 *(James A Hanlon)*

73 Dusky Thrush / Bruine Lijster *Turdus eunomus*, Säbyholm, Uppland, Sweden, 14 November 2011
(Johannes Rydström)

74 Veery / Veery *Catharus fuscescens*, Muck, Highland, Scotland, 18 November 2011
(Steve Nuttall)

75 Spanish Sparrow / Spaanse Mus *Passer hispaniolensis*, male, Calshot, Hampshire, England, 13 January 2012 *(Chris Thomas)*

76 Dark-eyed Junco / Grijze Junco *Junco hyemalis*, Hawkhill Inclosure, Beaulieu, Hampshire, England, 7 January 2012 *(Kris De Rouck)*

hybrid between **Collared** x **European Pied Flycatcher** *F albicollis x hypoleuca* based on a partial neck collar and other intermediate characters, turned out to be a pure European Pied; therefore, it is suggested that a neck collar may be a shared ancestral character of pied flycatcher species occasionally expressed in populations that normally lack it (J Ornithol 152: 1069-1073, 2011). This example shows that certain plumage features may not always be as diagnostic as assumed; for a few other examples of presumed atavism in WP birds see, eg, Dutch Birding 5: 26-27, 1983.

SPARROWS TO BUNTINGS The **Italian Sparrow** *Passer italiae* found as a first for Spain on Mallorca in May 2011 was relocated at Pla de l'Anzell on 23 December. A male **Spanish Sparrow** *P hispaniolensis* in Calshot, Hampshire, England, from 11 December into January had probably been around for a longer period since one or more hybrid sparrows were present as well. In France, a **Blyth's Pipit** *Anthus godlewskii* stayed with up to five Richard's Pipits *A richardi* and an **Olive-backed Pipit** *A hodgsoni* at Courtils, Manche, from 30 November into January. After several **American Buff-bellied Pipits** *A rubescens rubescens* in Ireland up to 5 November, another stayed at Clonea Strand, Waterford, from 22 November to at least 20 December. A **Water Pipit** *A spinoletta* of the nominate subspecies *A s spinoletta* along the Moskva river in Moscow on 10-11 January was the first for Russia (*A s coutellii* and *A s blakistoni* could apparently be excluded); in 2009 and 2010, the first and second Water Pipit for Belarus were recorded close to the Polish border. In Denmark, a total of 304 **Two-barred Crossbills** *Loxia leucoptera bifasciata* was reported during December. In Germany, a **Pine Grosbeak** *Pinicola enucleator* was noted at Baccumer Wald near Lingen, Emsland, Niedersachsen, on 30 December. A male **Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater* photographed at a feeder in Loiret in the first week of May 2010 has been accepted as the first for France (Ornithos 18: 320-321, 2011). The long-staying **Northern Waterthrush** *Parkesia noveboracensis* on St Mary's, Scilly, from 16 September was still present on 8 January and became the longest-staying Nearctic passerine ever in Britain. On 19 and 21 November, an elusive **Blackpoll Warbler** *Setophaga striata* was watched at Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England. A first-winter male **Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis* was seen west of Beaulieu, Hampshire, from 24 December into January. A **Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica* photographed at Santa Coloma de Gramenet, Barcelona, on 30 November was the second for Catalunya and the seventh for Spain.

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 Per Alström, Peter Alfrey, Patrick Bergier, Max Berlijn, Hans Bister, Richard Bonser, Sander Bot, Bosse Carlsson, Rolf Christensen, Andrea Corso, Pierre-André Crochet, Khalifa Al Dhaheri, Hugues Dufourny, Enno Ebels, Lee Evans, Frode Falkenberg, Tommy Frandsen, Raymond Galea, Steve Gantlett, Barak Granit, Geert Groot Koerkamp, Martin Gottschling, Marcello Grussu, Ricard Gutiérrez, Dick Hoek, Justin Jansen, João Jara (www.birds.pt), Frédéric Jiguet, Łukasz Ławicki (www.clanga.com), André van Loon, Karlis Millers (Latvia), Richard Millington, Dominic Mitchell, Geir Mobakken (Norway), Eckhard Möller, Harro H Müller, Killian Mullarney, Gert Ottens, Yoav Perlman, Tommy Petersen, Jeroen Reneerkens, Magnus Robb, Staffan Rodebrand (Azores), Luciano Ruggieri, Michael Sammut, Roy Slaterus, Vincent van der Spek, Benjamin Steffen, Norman van Swelm, Rinse van der Vliet, Roland van der Vliet, John van der Woude and Emin Yoğurtçuoğlu for their help in compiling this review.

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Recente meldingen

Dit overzicht van recente meldingen van zeldzame en interessante vogels in Nederland beslaat voornamelijk de periode **november-december 2011**. 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.

Voor de kust van Noord- en Zuid-Holland verbleven grote aantallen zeevogels, vermoedelijk als gevolg van een combinatie van gunstige wind en veel beschikbaar voedsel. Het ging wellicht vooral om lokale verplaatsingen maar de aantallen langsvliegende vogels die vrijwel dagelijks werden gezien, waren niettemin indrukwekkend. Dit fenomeen werd voor het eerst in de trektelgeschiedenis vastgesteld in de winters van 2004/05, 2005/06 en, in mindere mate, 2006/07. Winterweer was in deze periode ver te zoeken, met een aantal opvallende waarnemingen van zomergasten als gevolg.

EENDEN TOT DUIKERS Op c 15 plekken verspreid over het land werden **Sneeuwganzen** *Anser caerulescens* gezien maar of daar ook wilde bij zaten... Een goed gefotografeerde (en overtuigende) **Taigarietgans** *A fabalis* verbleef op 19 november in de Banckspolder op Schiermonnikoog, Friesland (waarschijnlijk de eerste goed gedocumenteerde voor het eiland). Op c 13 plekken werden **Dwergganzen** *A erythropus* aangetroffen, met 96 als hoogste aantal op 30 november bij Strijen, Zuid-Holland. Op c 35 plekken verspreid over het land werden **Roodhalsganzen** *Branta ruficollis* gezien, waaronder een familie van zes op 19 en 20 november op Schiermonnikoog en vervolgens tot in januari tussen Holwerd en Moddergat in Friesland. Het hoogste aantal **Witbuikrotganzen** *B hrota* bijeen bedroeg zeven op 17 december op Texel, Noord-Holland. Op diezelfde dag werd ook een exemplaar gefotografeerd bij Bemmel, Gelderland. **Zwarte Rotganzen** *B nigricans* werden zoals gebruikelijk in klein aantal waargenomen in het Waddengebied en de Delta. Een eerstejaars bevond zich vanaf 18 november tot in januari in gezelschap van Rotganzen *B bernicla* in de omgeving van Haamstede, Zeeland. Op 17 december

77 Giervalk / Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus*, eerstejaars, met Grauwe Gans / Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Oostburg, Zeeland, 7 januari 2012 *(Pieter Dhaluin)*

78 Ruigpootbuizerd / Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*, paal 12, Texel, Noord-Holland, 23 december 2011 *(René Pop)*

verbleef een adulte bij Westkapelle, Zeeland. Op c negen plekken werden **Witoogeenden** *Aythya nyroca* gemeld, waaronder een mannetje van 12 december tot in januari op de Reeuwijkse Plassen bij Gouda, Zuid-Holland. Een eerste-winter vrouwtje **Witkopeend** *Oxyura leucocephala* verbleef van 17 december tot in januari eveneens op de Reeuwijkse Plassen. **IJseenden** *Clangula hyemalis* deden het vrij aardig met exemplaren op c 20 plekken, waaronder één van 18 tot 25 december bij Roermond, Limburg, en het al jaren terugkerende mannetje bij Huizen, Noord-Holland. Tot 10 exemplaren hielden zich langere tijd op langs de Brouwersdam, Zeeland/Zuid-Holland. Het mannetje **Buffelkopeend** *Bucephala albeola* verbleef de gehele periode op de Gaatkensplas bij Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland. Een mannetje **Amerikaanse Smient** *Anas americana* verbleef van 18 oktober tot 13 november bij Middelburg, Zeeland; op 27 december werd hij hier opnieuw gemeld. Mannetjes **Amerikaanse Wintertaling** *A carolinensis* bevonden zich op 15 en 18 november bij Dussen, Noord-Brabant, en van 24 tot 27 november bij Dijkmanshuizen op Texel. Vooral eind november en begin december werden aardig wat **Roodkeelduikers** *Gavia stellata* gezien. In totaal werden door trektellers ruim 34 300 exemplaren geteld; bijna drie keer zoveel als in dezelfde periode vorig jaar. Daarnaast werden ook nog eens 141 **Parelduikers** *G arctica* genoteerd. Hoewel er ongetwijfeld enkele dubbeltellingen bij zaten, werden vanaf telposten langs de kust maar liefst 23 **IJsduikers** *G immer* gemeld. Langdurige pleisteraars waren er in deze periode niet.

STORMVOGELS TOT VALKEN Door de aanhoudende westenwind nam aan het einde van deze periode het aantal **Noordse Stormvogels** *Fulmarus glacialis* gestaag toe, culminerend in c 3200 exemplaren op 30 december langs Ameland, Frieland. Naar schatting behoorde de helft van deze vogels tot een donkere kleurvorm. Het najaarstotaal (september-december) van trektellers kwam uit op bijna 3900, tegenover bijvoorbeeld 239 in 2010. In deze periode werden door trektellers ook nog 75 **Grauwe Pijlstormvogels** *Puffinus griseus* genoteerd, waarvan liefst 28 in december, een maand waarin de soort normaliter uitermate schaars is. Naast vier exemplaren in november waren er meldingen van **Noordse Pijlstormvogels** *P puffinus* op 7 december langs Katwijk, Zuid-Holland, en op 15 december langs Camperduin, Noord-Holland. Late **Vale Pijlstormvogels** *P mauretanicus* vlogen op 27 november langs Noordwijk, Zuid-Holland, en Westkapelle en op 18 december langs Rottumerplaat (derde voor Groningen). Ook werden nog 18 **Vale Stormvogeltjes** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* gemeld, waarvan liefst 13 in december. Een eerstejaars **Jan-van-gent** *Morus bassanus* vloog op 12 november over telpost de Brobbelbies bij Uden, Noord-Brabant. Op 5 december werd een adulte dood gevonden in 't Hilgelo bij Winterswijk, Gelderland. Op c 10 plekken langs de westkust verbleven **Kuifaalscholvers** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, waaronder minimaal 11 in december in de omgeving van Neeltje Jans, Zeeland. Op c 15 plekken verspreid over het land werden **Koereigers** *Bubulcus ibis* waargenomen, zoals een veel bezochte

79 Gestreepte Strandloper / Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*, juveniel, Schoorkuilen, Limburg, 4 november 2011 *(René Weenink)* **80** Oehoe / Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*, Heiloo, Noord-Holland, 24 december 2011 *(Eric Menkveld)* **81** Parelduiker / Black-throated Loon *Gavia arctica*, juveniel, Oudeschild, Texel, Noord-Holland, 26 december 2011 *(René Pop)*

82 Grote Burgemeester / Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*, eerstejaars, Hondsbossche Zeewering, Petten, Noord-Holland, 17 december 2011 *(Cock Reijnders)* **83** Kleine Burgemeester / Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*, eerstejaars, Hondsbossche Zeewering, Petten, Noord-Holland, 10 december 2011 *(Cock Reijnders)* **84** Grote Burgemeester / Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*, eerstejaars, De Cocksdorp, Texel, Noord-Holland, 23 december 2011 *(René Pop)*

85 Zwarte Zeekoet / Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*, eerstejaars, Brouwersdam, Zeeland, 27 november 2011 *(Geert Lamers)*

86 Zwarte Zeekoet / Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*, eerstejaars, Brouwersdam, Zeeland, 4 december 2011 *(Kris De Rouck)*

87 Zwarte Rotgans / Black Brant *Branta nigricans*, Brouwersdam, Zeeland, 30 november 2011 *(Thomas Luiten)* **88** Giervalk / Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus*, eerstejaars, Oostburg, Zeeland, 8 januari 2012 *(Alex Bos)* **89** Witkopeend / White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*, eerstejaars, Reeuwijkse Plassen, Zuid-Holland, 17 december 2011 *(Paul van der Werken)* **90** Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaart / Eastern Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides*, eerstejaars mannetje, Oosterend, Terschelling, Friesland, 13 november 2011 *(Harvey van Diek)*

vogel van 28 december tot 3 januari bij Oosterhout, Noord-Brabant. Een late onvolwassen **Zwarte Ooievaar** *Ciconia nigra* vloog op 5 november over zowel Nieuw-Lekkerland als Ridderkerk in Zuid-Holland. Een dag later verscheen er één op de Oosterse Bekade Gorzen bij Numansdorp, Zuid-Holland. Trektellers telden nog minimaal twee **Zeearenden** *Haliaeetus albicilla*, zes **Rode Wouwen** *Milvus milvus*, 412 **Blauwe Kiekendieven** *Circus cyaneus* (het totaal voor september-december kwam daarmee uit op ruim 2200), drie **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus*, 57 **Smellekens** *Falco columbarius* en 114 **Slechtvalken** *F peregrinus*. Tevens werd een totaal van 114 **Ruigpootbuizerds** *Buteo lagopus* genoteerd; het najaarstotaal (september-december) kwam daarmee uit op een uitzonderlijk hoge 700, tegenover bijvoorbeeld slechts vijf in dezelfde periode in 2009. Alleen al op Texel werden in deze periode vier exemplaren dood gevonden; ze bleken verhongerd. De juveniele **Giervalk** *F rusticolus* die voor het eerst op 23 oktober net over de grens in België verscheen bleef tot in januari en vertoonde zich op meerdere dagen ook in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, Zeeland. In deze periode konden alleen op 30 december veel vogelaars hem in Zeeland bewonderen bij Westdorpe.

RALLEN TOT STRANDLOPERS Door bezoekers van de Landelijke Dag van SOVON op 26 november in Nijmegen, Gelderland, werden verse plukresten van een **Kwartelkoning** *Crex crex* gevonden onder een verblijfplaats van een Slechtvalk. Van telposten werden nog een kleine 7000 **Kraanvogels** *Grus grus* gemeld, vrijwel allemaal in de eerste helft van november en – zoals gewoonlijk – voornamelijk in het zuidoosten. Een late **Morinelplevier** *Charadrius morinellus* verbleef op 14 november bij Westkapelle. Een **Steppekievit** *Vanellus gregarius* bevond zich van 21 september tot 3 novem-

ber bij Beesel, Limburg. De laatste **Gestreepte Strandloper** *Calidris melanotos* van het jaar werd van 2 tot 5 november gezien bij Nederweert, Limburg. Een **Grote Grijze Snip** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* verbleef van 19 oktober tot 6 november bij Breskens, Zeeland. De bekende **Grote Geelpootruiter** *Tringa melanoleuca* bleef nog tot in januari bij Colijnsplaat op Noord-Beveland, Zeeland. Het was een goed najaar voor **Rosse Franjepoten** *Phalaropus fulicaria*. In deze periode werden er vanaf telposten langs de kust bijvoorbeeld 81 gemeld, waarvan 22 bij Westkapelle. Ook waren er langs de gehele kust diverse twitchbare. Het hoogste aantal pleisteraars betrof vier op 9 december op de noordpunt van Texel.

JAGERS TOT ALKEN **Middelste Jager** *Stercorarius pomarinus* kende een topnajaar. Vanaf telposten werden er in deze periode ruim 2000 gemeld, wat het najaarstotaal (augustus-december) op ruim 2500 bracht. Een kwart van de vogels werd langs Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland, gezien. Hier passeerden er onder andere 88 op 27 november, 80 op 4 december en 71 op 5 december, vrijwel uitsluitend onvolwassen vogels. Er werden vanaf telposten ook nog eens 326 **Kleine Jagers** *S parasiticus* doorgegeven, waarvan 54 in december. Het najaarstotaal (augustus-december) kwam daarmee uit op ruim 3400. Ook werden er nog 316 **Grote Jagers** *S skua* geteld, wat het najaarstotaal (augustus-december) op ruim 2550 bracht. Er werden nog c 20 **Vorkstaartmeeuwen** *Xema sabini* gemeld, waarvan liefst 11 in december. Tijdens een pelagische tocht op 6 november liet een juveniele zich van nabij bewonderen voor de kust van Texel. Op Vlieland werd op 25 november een dode juveniele opgeraapt. Langs de kust werden grote aantallen **Drieteenmeeuwen** *Rissa tridactyla* waargenomen. Uitschieters waren 18 160 exemplaren op 29 november langs Noordwijk, 15 000 op 30 december langs Ameland en 14 948 op 4 december langs Egmond aan Zee, Noord-Holland. Het najaarstotaal (september-december) lag op bijna 430 800: dat is c 43 keer zoveel als gemiddeld in dezelfde periode in 2008-10. Opnieuw werd een adulte **Ross' Meeuw** *Rhodostethia rosea* opgemerkt in Noord-Holland en wel op 1 november bij Egmond aan Zee, op 3 november bij Camperduin, en op 24 november om 09:50 bij Egmond aan Zee, om 10:40 bij Camperduin en om 11:06 bij Petten. Slechts weinig vogelaars konden dit echter met eigen ogen bevestigen. Opvallend genoeg was er ook een melding van een eerste-winter op 12 november bij Huisduinen, Noord-Holland. Een gekleurringde **Baltische Mantelmeeuw** *Larus fuscus fuscus* (zwart J7PY) werd op 5 december gezien in Breda en later bij Lage Zwaluwe in Noord-Brabant; de vogel was op 31 juli 2011 als nestjong geringd te Nordfugløy, Karlsøy, Troms, in het noorden van Noorwegen. Er doken vanaf eind november heel wat burgemeesters op langs de kust. Op c 12 plekken verschenen **Kleine Burgemeesters** *L glaucoides* en op c 20 **Grote Burgemeesters** *L hyperboreus*; op drie plekken werden beide soorten zelfs naast elkaar gezien. Adulte Kleine werden gefotografeerd op 19 november bij Westerslag op Texel, op 4 december bij Westkapelle en op 9 december bij Katwijk. Een individueel herkenbare eerste-winter Grote met een opvallende staarttekening werd op meerdere plekken langs de Noord- en Zuid-Hollandse kust gefotografeerd, namelijk op 11 en 12 december bij Petten; van 14 tot 16 december bij Scheveningen; op 17 december opnieuw bij Petten; op 28 en 29 december opnieuw bij Scheveningen; op 1 en 4 januari bij Katwijk; op 10 januari bij IJmuiden, Nood-Holland; en op 12 januari bij Noordwijk. Langs de Brouwersdam verbleven eind december c 15 **Grote Sterns** *Sterna sandvicensis* en ook bij de Oosterscheldekering, Zeeland, waren er twee aanwezig. Door trektellers werden er in deze periode bovendien 19 gemeld, waarvan vier in december. Een erg late **Visdief** *S hirundo* vloog op 29 december langs Camperduin en mogelijk werd dezelfde vogel op 4 januari opgemerkt bij Katwijk en even later boven Meijendel, Zuid-Holland. Ook **Zeekoeten** *Uria aalge* en **Alken** *Alca torda* waren in imposante aantallen voor de kust aanwezig. Scheveningen sprong eruit, met in deze periode een totaal van ruim 38 000 langsvliegende ongedetermineerde Alken/Zeekoeten. Alleen al op 30 november passeerden er 11 154: de op één na beste dag ooit in Nederland. Het najaarstotaal (september-december) lag op bijna 166 700: dat is c 20 keer zoveel als gemiddeld in dezelfde periode in 2008-10. Van de op soort gedetermineerde vogels werden in deze periode landelijk ruim 200 Alken (vijfmaal zoveel als gemiddeld in november-december 2008-10) en 1700 Zeekoeten genoteerd. **Zwarte Zeekoeten** *Cepphus grylle* werden gemeld op 8 november bij IJmuiden; op 13 november bij Petten; op 24 november bij Camperduin; op 27 november bij Scheveningen; van 11 november tot 12 december langs de Brouwersdam; op 11 december bij Stellendam, Zuid-Holland; op 12 december op Vlieland; en op 25 december op Terschelling, Friesland. Dankzij de aanhoudende westenwind werden er met name vanaf eind november vanaf trektelposten 107 **Kleine Alken** *Alle alle* doorgegeven. Op 27 en 28 november zwom een exemplaar op de Amstel bij Ouderkerk aan den Amstel, Noord-Holland. Er werden c 26 **Papegaaiduikers** *Fratercula arctica* gemeld. Koplopers waren Camperduin (acht) en Texel (zes, waaronder een vondst). Op drie na werden alle vogels in Noord-Holland en Friesland gezien.

DUIVEN TOT ZWALUWEN Een late **Zomertortel** *Streptopelia turtur* bezocht op 11 december een voederplaats in een tuin in Noordwijk aan Zee. Buiten reguliere plekken werden **Oehoes** *Bubo bubo* gezien op 20 november in Safaripark Beekse Bergen bij Hilvarenbeek, Noord-Brabant; op 26 november bij Eys in Zuid-Limburg; van 2 tot 24 december in Heiloo, Noord-Holland; en eind december in Den Haag, Zuid-Holland. Van telposten werden nog 33 **Velduilen** *Asio flammeus* doorgegeven, wat het najaarstotaal (september-december) op maar liefst 168 bracht; in 2008, 2009 en 2010 bedroegen de najaarstotalen respectievelijk 35, 12 en 42. Tussen 27 oktober en 7 november werden op c 10 plekken late **Gierzwaluwen** *Apus apus* gemeld, waaronder één van 1 tot 5 november in Groningen, Groningen. Een **Hop** *Upupa epops* werd tussen 17 oktober en 26 december

91 Hop / Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*, Edam, Noord-Holland, 24 november 2011 *(Co van der Wardt)*

92 Roodbuikwaterspreeuw / Red-bellied Dipper *Cinclus cinclus aquaticus*, St Gerlach, Valkenburg, Limburg, 18 december 2011 *(Jos Keppens)*

93 Woestijntapuit / Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*, mannetje, Burghsluis, Zeeland, 12 november 2011 *(Corstiaan Beeke)*

94 Woestijntapuit / Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*, mannetje, Ouderkerk aan de IJssel, Zuid-Holland, 12 november 2011 *(Wietze Janse)*

95 Grasmus / Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*, Kanaleneiland, Utrecht, Utrecht, 19 december 2011 *(Herman Bouman)* **96** Humes Bladkoning / Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*, Schiedam, Zuid-Holland, 11 december 2011 *(Martin van der Schalk)* **97** Humes Bladkoning / Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*, Katwijk aan Zee, Zuid-Holland, 25 december 2011 *(Jurriën van Deijk)* **98** Pallas' Boszanger / Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*, Den Helder, Noord-Holland, 1 november 2011 *(Co van der Wardt)* **99** Bruine Boszanger / Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*, Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, 13 november 2011 *(Kees van Rij)* **100** Siberische Tjiftjaf / Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*, Berkheide, Wassenaar, Zuid-Holland, 22 december 2011 *(René van Rossum)*

nu en dan gezien op de Strabrechtse Heide, Noord-Brabant. Andere exemplaren verbleven van 20 november tot 10 december bij Edam, Noord-Holland, en op 28 en 29 november bij Weurt, Gelderland. Een onvolwassen **Daurische Klauwier** *Lanius isabellinus* bevond zich op 31 oktober en 1 november op Vlieland. Op 5 december werden twee **Huiskraaien** *Corvus splendens* gemeld in Vlaardingen, Zuid-Holland, op c 17 km van hun vaste plek in Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland. Ten minste vier **Buidelmezen** *Remiz pendulinus* die zich van 19 november tot 10 december bij Warmond, Zuid-Holland, ophielden, trokken veel bekijks. Op zeven andere plekken werd de soort eveneens gemeld. Ten minste drie **Kuifleeuweriken** *Galerida cristata* werden de gehele periode gezien bij Venlo, Limburg. Een overvliegend exemplaar werd op 12 november gemeld in Katwijk. Met slechts 40 doortrekkers langs telposten bleef **Strandleeuwerik** *Eremophila alpestris* vrij schaars dit najaar; het najaarstotaal (september-december) kwam uit op ruim 200, tegenover ruim 350 in 2010. Ook in het Waddengebied verbleven geen grote aantallen; het hoogste aantal bijeen bedroeg 60 op 23 november in de Slufter op Texel. Bijzonder was een **Huiszwaluw** *Delichon urbicum* die op 29 december werd gefotografeerd op een gebouw in Delfgauw, Zuid-Holland.

BOSZANGERS TOT GRASZANGERS Op 1 november arriveerde een **Pallas' Boszanger** *Phylloscopus proregulus* van zee op de kop van de Zuidpier van IJmuiden, waar hij enige tijd verbleef. Andere verschenen op 1 november bij Den Helder, Noord-Holland; op 7 november bij Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland; op 16 november in Assen (mogelijk pas de tweede voor Drenthe); en van 20 tot 23 november bij de Wassenaarseslag, Zuid-Holland. De laatste **Bladkoningen** *P inornatus* van het jaar werden gemeld op 17 november bij Domburg, Zeeland, en op 18 november bij Egmond, Noord-Holland. Op vijf plekken in Noord-Holland werden in de eerste decade van november nog zes exemplaren geringd. **Humes Bladkoningen** *P humei* verbleven van 3 tot 12 december in Schiedam, Zuid-Holland, van 9 december tot in januari in Katwijk aan Zee en op 10 december bij Haamstede. Na vijf **Bruine Boszangers** *P fuscatus* in oktober werden in november nog eens liefst negen exemplaren gemeld, namelijk op 3 november bij Domburg; van 2 tot 4 november bij Katwijk en in Rijswijk, Zuid-Holland; op 5 november bij Ouddorp; op 9 november in Meijendel; op 12 november opnieuw bij Ouddorp; op 12 november op Schiermonnikoog; op 13 november bij West-Terschelling, Friesland; en op 13 en 14 november op de Maavlakte, Zuid-Holland. **Siberische Tjiftjaffen** *P collybita tristis* werden gemeld op 1 november bij Lauwersoog, Groningen; op 5 november bij De Cocksdorp op Texel; van 11 tot 16 november bij Woerden, Utrecht; op 12 november op Vlieland; op 18 november bij Egmond aan Zee; op 19 november opnieuw bij De Cocksdorp; van 24 november tot 2 december in de Brabantse Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant; op 26 november opnieuw bij Egmond aan Zee; op 27 november in de Staatsbossen op Texel; op 30 november bij Egmond-Binnen; van 17 december tot in januari in Berkheide bij Katwijk; op

101 Buidelmees / Eurasian Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*, Klaas Hennepoelpolder, Warmond, Zuid-Holland, 29 november 2011 *(René van Rossum)*

24 december in Meijendel; en op 30 en 31 december in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen bij De Zilk, Zuid-Holland. Een late **Sperwergrasmus** *Sylvia nisoria* verbleef op 6 november in De Tuintjes bij De Cocksdorp. Een overwinterende **Grasmus** *S communis* verbleef van 23 november tot in januari in Utrecht, Utrecht. Opmerkelijk was ook een late **Kleine Karekiet** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* op 26 november op de noordpunt van Texel. De enige **Graszanger** *Cisticola juncidis* van deze periode werd op 14 november gemeld bij Nieuwvliet-Bad in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, Zeeland.

PESTVOGELS TOT GORZEN **Pestvogels** *Bombycilla garrulus* waren tamelijk dun gezaaid met waarnemingen op c 40 plekken. Het hoogste aantal bijeen bedroeg 14 op 12 november in West-Terschelling. Er waren nog twee meldingen van onvolwassen **Roze Spreeuwen** *Pastor roseus*, namelijk op 7 november in de Botlek, Zuid-Holland, en op 13 november bij Zoutkamp, Groningen. Van 4 december tot in januari verbleef een **Roodbuikwaterspreeuw** *Cinclus cinclus aquaticus* bij Valkenburg, Limburg. Vanaf 16 december werd deze soms vergezeld door een tweede. Late **Beflijsters** *Turdus torquatus* verschenen op 27 november bij Didam, Gelderland, en 10 december in Katwijk. Een mannetje **Oosterse Zwarte Roodstaart** *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides* werd op 13 november gefotografeerd bij Oosterend op Terschelling; de vogel was maar kort ter plaatse. Indien aan-

vaard betreft dit het tweede geval voor Nederland. Mannetjes **Woestijntapuit** *Oenanthe deserti* hielden zich op van 10 tot 16 november bij Burghsluis, Zeeland, en op 11 en 12 november bij Ouderkerk aan den IJssel, Zuid-Holland. Trektellers noteerden nog 21 **Grote Piepers** *Anthus richardi*. Twee pleisteraars genoten veel belangstelling van 31 oktober tot 3 november bij Ridderkerk, Zuid-Holland. De laatste twee exemplaren van het jaar verbleven op 10 december in Het Zwin bij Cadzand-Bad, Zeeland. Een **Siberische Boompieper** *A hodgsoni* werd op 10 november kortstondig gezien bij Katwijk. De laatste **Roodkeelpiepers** *A cervinus* van het jaar werden gemeld op 1 november bij Eibergen, Gelderland, en op 3 november bij Assen. In november werden door trektellers 10 **Europese Kanaries** *Serinus serinus* opgemerkt, waarmee het najaarstotaal (september-november) uitkwam op 85. Van telposten werden bovendien 319 **Fraters** *Carduelis flavirostris* gemeld, vrijwel allemaal in het uiterste noordoosten. Het najaarstotaal (september-december) kwam daarmee uit op ruim 470. Een mannetje **Witbandkruisbek** *Loxia leucoptera* werd op 1 november gefotografeerd in de Nieuwe Eendenkooi op Vlieland. Op 5 november werden twee overvliegende gemeld bij Leersum, Utrecht, en verbleef een mannetje kortstondig op de noordpunt van Texel. Er werden in deze periode door trektellers 412 **Sneeuwgorzen** *Plectrophenax nivalis* en 123 **IJsgorzen** *Calcarius lapponicus* genoteerd, waarmee de najaarstotalen (september-december) uitkwamen op respectievelijk bijna 500 en ruim 550. Een **Dwerggors** *Emberiza pusilla* werd op 1 november geringd op Schiermonnikoog. Een andere werd gemeld op 26 december bij Oldeberkoop, Friesland.

We bedanken Rob van Bemmelen, Max Berlijn, Roland-Jan Buijs, Kees Camphuysen, Harvey van Diek en Rinse van der Vliet voor hun hulp bij het samenstellen van dit overzicht.

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DB Actueel

New bird species described in 2011 In 2011, three new bird species have been formally described.

Bryan's Shearwater / Bryans Pijlstormvogel *Puffinus bryani* (Pyle, P, Welch, A J & Fleischer, R C 2011. A new species of shearwater (*Puffinus*) recorded from Midway Atoll, northwestern Hawaiian islands. Condor 113: 518-527). This new shearwater is based on a specimen collected on Sand, Midway Atoll, north-western Hawaii, USA, in February 1963. It was identified as Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis* but later affinities to the Audubon's Shearwater *P lherminieri* group have been suggested. Recently, the skin was studied again and extensive measurements revealed that this bird was smaller than any of the shearwaters of either group and its distinctness was confirmed by DNA-based phylogenetic analyses. Therefore, it has been described as a separate species. The 1963 specimen is the only one known for the moment and there is no further information yet on its distribution. Although the bird was collected in a burrow, the authors consider it unlikely that the species breeds on the north-western Hawaiian Islands, given that this region has been investigated thoroughly for breeding seabirds; they consider the bird as 'scouting the island from a breeding locality elsewhere in the Pacific'. The new shearwater is named after the late Edwin Horace Bryan Jr, author of many publications on Hawaiian birds and insects. The paper can be downloaded at www.birdpop.org/DownloadDocuments/Pyle-Welch-Fleischer-2011.pdf.

Tsingy Wood Rail / Tsingyral *Mentocrex beankaensis* (Goodman, S M, Raherilalao, M J & Block, N L 2011. Patterns of morphological and genetic variation in the *Mentocrex kioloides* complex (Aves: Gruiformes: Rallidae) from Madagascar, with the description of a new species. Zootaxa 2776: 49-60). This new rail, described in the genus *Mentocrex* endemic to Madagascar, is closely related to Madagascar Wood Rail *M kioloides*, occurring in humid central and eastern forests (nominate *kioloides*) and in humid to dry lowland deciduous forest in the north-west (*berliozi*). A third *Mentocrex* population was known to occur in dry limestone karst areas in central-western Madagascar but until recently no specimens were available. The new species is distinct in both measurements (larger than the other two taxa), plumage (head pattern) and genetics. It is named after the type locality, the Beanka forest in the Beanka massifs in the central-western karst zone. This area is characterized by rock pinnacles, called 'tsingy' in Malagasy. The full paper with images is available from www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2011/f/zt02776p060.pdf. At present, both species are now usually listed within the genus *Canirallus*, being closely related to Grey-throated Rail *C oculeus* from West Africa.

Varzea Thrush / Varzealijster *Turdus sanchezorum* (O'Neill, J P, Lane, D F & Naka, L N 2011. A cryptic new species of thrush (Turdidae: *Turdus*) from Western Amazonia. Condor 113: 869-880). Birds that have been known for a long time as the 'grey-tailed morph' of Hauxwell's Thrush *Turdus hauxwelli* – and obscuring the relationship between that species and Cocoa Thrush *T fumigatus* – are now described as a distinct species, based on (minor) plumage and bare parts differences

and, especially, voice and DNA data. Furthermore, the present analysis reveals that Varzea Thrush is not closely related to either Hauxwell's or Cocoa but that it is sister to Unicolored Thrush *T haplochrous*. The new species is known from several locations in western Amazonia, in Peru (type locality in north-eastern Peru), southern Colombia and Brazil. It is named after Manuel Sánchez S and Marta Chávez de Sánchez, who were involved in the scientific collection of numerous new species to science since the 1960s. The vernacular names refer to *várzea*, its preferred habitat of seasonally flooded river edge forest. The paper, including a colour painting, is available from http://cdc.lamolina.edu.pe/Noticias/Documentos/Condor2011_ONeill_etal.pdf. André J van Loon

DBA-nieuws

Videojaaroverzicht 2011 laat nog even op zich wachten Ook dit jaar ontvangen alle Nederlandse begunstigers de dvd met het Dutch Birding videojaaroverzicht, dit jaar met opnamen van aansprekende zeldzaamheden als Kaspische Plevier *Charadrius asiaticus*, Roodkeelstrandloper *Calidris ruficollis* en Langstaartklauwier *Lanius schach*. Op moment van schrijven wordt er nog hard gewerkt aan het inspreken van het commentaar bij de beelden van het jaaroverzicht 2011. Wij hebben gekozen om kwaliteit te laten te prefereren boven snelheid. Daarom zult u de dvd niet bij dit eerste nummer van 2012 maar bij het volgende nummer ontvangen. Dus graag nog even geduld. Bestuur Dutch Birding Association & Natuur Digitaal

Corrigenda

In het bijschrift bij plaat 283 (Dutch Birding 33: 229, 2011) werd niet de juiste fotograaf vermeld. De foto werd gemaakt door Vincent Legrand.

In het bijschrift bij plaat 530 (Dutch Birding 33: 404, 2011) werd niet de juiste fotograaf vermeld. De foto werd gemaakt door Gunnar Gundersen.

In het bijschrift bij plaat 557 (Dutch Birding 33: 418, 2011) werd een verkeerde leeftijdsaanduiding gebruikt. Beide Kleine Jagers *Stercorarius parasiticus* zijn juveniel. Redactie

In the caption of plate 283 (Dutch Birding 33: 229, 2011) the wrong photographer was mentioned. The photograph was taken by Vincent Legrand.

In the caption of plate 530 (Dutch Birding 33: 404, 2011) the wrong photographer was mentioned. The photograph was taken by Gunnar Gundersen.

In the caption of plate 557 (Dutch Birding 33: 418, 2011) a wrong age was mentioned. Both Parasitic Jaegers *Stercorarius parasiticus* are juvenile. Editors