# DUTCH BIRDING

VOLUME 36 • NO 4 • 2014

# Dutch Birding

*Internationaal tijdschrift over Palearctische vogels*

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

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

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

**www.dutchbirding.nl**
webredactie@dutchbirding.nl

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

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

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

**Inspreeklijn**
010-4281212

**Internet**
www.dutchbirding.nl

## Dutch Birding

**Hoofdredacteur** Arnoud van den Berg (023-5378024, arnoud.van.den.berg@dutchbirding.nl)

**Adjunct hoofdredacteur** Enno Ebels (030-2961335, enno.ebels@dutchbirding.nl)

**Uitvoerend redacteur** André van Loon (020-6997585, andre.van.loon@dutchbirding.nl)

**Fotografisch redacteur** René Pop (0222-316801, rene.pop@dutchbirding.nl)

**Redactieraad** Peter Adriaens, Sander Bot, Ferdy Hieselaar, Gert Ottens, Roy Slaterus, Roland van der Vliet en Rik Winters

**Redactie-adviesraad** Peter Barthel, Mark Constantine, Andrea Corso, Dick Forsman, Ricard Gutiérrez, Killian Mullarney, Klaus Malling Olsen, Magnus Robb, Hadoram Shirihai en Lars Svensson

**Redactiemedewerkers** Max Berlijn, Harvey van Diek, Nils van Duivendijk, Steve Geelhoed, Marcel Haas, Jan van der Laan, Hans van der Meulen, Martijn Renders, Kees Roselaar, Vincent van der Spek, Jan Hein van Steenis, Pieter van Veelen en Peter de Vries

**Lay-out** André van Loon

**Productie** André van Loon en René Pop

**Advertenties** Debby Doodeman, p/a Dutch Birding, Postbus 75611, 1070 AP Amsterdam
advertising@dutchbirding.nl

**Abonnementen** De abonnementsprijs voor 2014 bedraagt: EUR 39.50 (Nederland en België), EUR 40.00 (rest van Europa) en EUR 43.00 (landen buiten Europa). Abonnees in Nederland ontvangen ook de dvd-compilatie over zeldzame soorten in Nederland.
U kunt zich abonneren door het overmaken van de abonnementsprijs op bankrekening (IBAN): NL95 INGB 0000 1506 97; BIC: INGBNL2A ten name van Dutch Birding Association te Amsterdam, ovv 'abonnement Dutch Birding' en uw postadres. Het abonnement loopt per kalenderjaar. Na ontvangst van de betaling worden reeds verschenen nummers van de lopende jaargang nagezonden.

Dutch Birding is een tweemaandelijks tijdschrift. Het publiceert originele artikelen en mededelingen over morfologie, systematiek, voorkomen en verspreiding van vogels in de Benelux, Europa en elders in het Palearctische gebied. Het publiceert tevens bijdragen over vogels in het Aziatisch-Pacifische gebied en andere gebieden.

Voor taxonomie, volgorde en naamgeving van vogels in Dutch Birding worden de volgende overzichten aangehouden: *Dutch Birding-vogelnamen* door A B van den Berg (2008, Amsterdam; online update 2014, www.dutchbirding.nl/page.php?page_id=228) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke, Nederlandse en Engelse namen van West-Palearctische vogels); *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world* (derde editie, door E C Dickinson (redactie) 2003; vierde editie, deel 1, door E C Dickinson & J V Remsen Jr (redactie) 2013) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke namen van overige vogels van de wereld); en *IOC world bird names 4.1* door F Gill & D Donsker (2014, www.worldbirdnames.org) (Engelse en Nederlandse namen van overige vogels in de wereld; Nederlandse namen door P Vercruijsse en A J van Loon).

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

## www.dutchbirding.nl

**Webredactie** Garry Bakker, Gijsbert van der Bent, Wietze Janse en Ben Wielstra. **Fotoredactie** Herman Bouman, Jaap Denee en Menno van Duijn. **Geluidenredactie** Kasper Hendriks **Webmasters** Albert van den Ende en Jeroen van Vianen (DBAlerts).

## Dutch Birding Association

**Bestuur** Arjan van Egmond (voorzitter, 071-4010656; 06-21585788), Rob Gordijn, Thierry Jansen, Toy Janssen, Marten Miske (secretaris), Kees de Vries (penningmeester) en Han Zevenhuizen; tevens is de redactie van Dutch Birding met een zetel vertegenwoordigd. **Bestuursmedewerkers** Jurriën van Deijk, Debby Doodeman, Maartje Doorn, Thomas van der Es, Wietze Janse (Dutch Bird Alerts), Arnold Meijer, Marc Plomp, Henk van Rijswijk, Pieter van Veelen, Jeroen van Vianen, Ruben Vlot en Steven Wytema.

## Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA)

**Leden** Rob van Bemmelen, Sander Bot, Nils van Duivendijk (voorzitter), Arjan Ovaa, Willem van Rijswijk, Roy Slaterus, Arend Wassink en Rik Winters. **Medewerker** Marcel Haas (archivaris). De CDNA is een commissie van de Dutch Birding Association en de Nederlandse Ornithologische Unie.

## Commissie Systematiek Nederlandse Avifauna (CSNA)

**Leden** Arnoud van den Berg, André van Loon, Kees Roselaar en George Sangster (secretaris). De CSNA is een commissie van de Dutch Birding Association en de Nederlandse Ornithologische Unie.

© 2014 Stichting Dutch Birding Association. Het copyright van de foto's en tekeningen blijft bij de fotografen en tekenaars. ISSN 0167-2878.

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

# Dutch Birding

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

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

**Executive editor** André van Loon (+31-206997585, andre.van.loon@dutchbirding.nl)

**Photographic editor** René Pop (+31-222316801, rene.pop@dutchbirding.nl)

**Editorial board** Peter Adriaens, Sander Bot, Ferdy Hieselaar, Gert Ottens, Roy Slaterus, Roland van der Vliet and Rik Winters

**Editorial advisory board** Peter Barthel, Mark Constantine, Andrea Corso, Dick Forsman, Ricard Gutiérrez, Killian Mullarney, Klaus Malling Olsen, Magnus Robb, Hadoram Shirihai and Lars Svensson

**Editorial assistants** Max Berlijn, Harvey van Diek, Nils van Duivendijk, Steve Geelhoed, Marcel Haas, Jan van der Laan, Hans van der Meulen, Martijn Renders, Kees Roselaar, Vincent van der Spek, Jan Hein van Steenis, Pieter van Veelen and Peter de Vries

**Lay-out** André van Loon

**Production** André van Loon and René Pop

**Advertising** Debby Doodeman, c/o Dutch Birding, Postbus 75611, 1070 AP Amsterdam
advertising@dutchbirding.nl


**Subscriptions** The subscription rate for 2014 is: EUR 39.50 (Netherlands and Belgium), EUR 40.00 (Europe) and EUR 43.00 (countries outside Europe). Subscribers in the Netherlands also receive the DVD compilation of rare birds in the Netherlands.
Subscribers in European countries are kindly requested to pay the subscription fee to Dutch Birding Association, Amsterdam, on bank account (IBAN): NL95 INGB 0000 1506 97; BIC: INGBNL2A; please mention 'subscription Dutch Birding' and your full address. If this is not an option, payment by credit card is possible (see for details below).
British subscribers are requested to pay preferably by bank transfer too, although payment by Sterling cheque remains possible. Cheques should be sent to Dutch Birding, Postbus 75611, 1070 AP Amsterdam, Netherlands.
Subscribers in countries outside Europe can make their payment by credit card (Access, Eurocard, MasterCard or Visa). Please send your credit card details (card type, card number, expiry date, security code) and full address to our postal address (see above; please append signature) or by e-mail to circulation@dutchbirding.nl. Subscription is per calendar-year. After receipt of payment, already published issues of the running volume will be sent.

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

For taxonomy, sequence and nomenclature of birds in Dutch Birding the following lists are used: *Dutch Birding bird names* by A B van den Berg (2008, Amsterdam; online update 2014, www.dutchbirding.nl/page.php?page_id=229) (taxonomy and scientific, Dutch and English names of Western Palearctic birds); *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world* (third edition, by E C Dickinson (editor) 2003; fourth edition, volume 1, by E C Dickinson & J V Remsen Jr (editors) 2013) (taxonomy and scientific names of remaining birds of the world); and *IOC world bird names 4.1* by F Gill & D Donsker (2014, www.worldbirdnames.org) (English and Dutch names of remaining birds of the world; Dutch names by P Vercruijsse and A J van Loon).

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


## www.dutchbirding.nl

**Web editors** Garry Bakker, Gijsbert van der Bent, Wietze Janse and Ben Wielstra. **Photographic editors** Herman Bouman, Jaap Denee and Menno van Duijn. **Sounds editor** Kasper Hendriks **Webmasters** Albert van den Ende and Jeroen van Vianen (DBAlerts).

## Dutch Birding Association

**Board** Arjan van Egmond (president, +31-714010656; +31-621585788), Rob Gordijn, Thierry Jansen, Toy Janssen, Marten Miske (secretary), Kees de Vries (treasurer) and Han Zevenhuizen; the editors of Dutch Birding also have one seat in the board. **Board assistants** Jurriën van Deijk, Debby Doodeman, Maartje Doorn, Thomas van der Es, Wietze Janse (Dutch Bird Alerts), Arnold Meijer, Marc Plomp, Henk van Rijswijk, Pieter van Veelen, Jeroen van Vianen, Ruben Vlot and Steven Wytema.

## Dutch rarities committee (CDNA)

**Members** Rob van Bemmelen, Sander Bot, Nils van Duivendijk (president), Arjan Ovaa, Willem van Rijswijk, Roy Slaterus, Arend Wassink and Rik Winters. **Assistant** Marcel Haas (archivist). The CDNA is a committee of the Dutch Birding Association and the Netherlands Ornithologists' Union.

## Dutch committee for avian systematics (CSNA)

**Members** Arnoud van den Berg, André van Loon, Kees Roselaar and George Sangster (secretary). The CSNA is a committee of the Dutch Birding Association and the Netherlands Ornithologists' Union.


© 2014 Stichting Dutch Birding Association. The copyright of the photographs and drawings remains with the photographers and artists. ISSN 0167-2878.

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

# Dutch Birding

*International journal on Palearctic birds*


**Editors**
Dutch Birding
Duinlustparkweg 98A
2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid
Netherlands
editors@dutchbirding.nl

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

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

**www.dutchbirding.nl**
webredactie@dutchbirding.nl

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

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

**Dutch committee for avian systematics**
CSNA, c/o George Sangster
csna@dutchbirding.nl

**Internet**
www.dutchbirding.nl

**Dutch Birding**

JAARGANG 36 NUMMER 4 2014 *VOLUME 36 NUMBER 4 2014*

**Artikelen / papers**

221 Identification of Northern Eider *Alexander Hellquist*
232 Black-browed Albatross in Denmark and Germany in May-July 2014 *Gotthard Krug, Roef Mulder, Marcel Haas & Enno B Ebels*

242 Melanistic Greater Flamingo at Eilat, Israel, in October 2012-March 2014 *Gert Ottens & Itai Shanni*
244 Least Bittern, Wilson's Phalarope and Merlin with Sora as prey on Aruba in October 2013 *Emile M E Dirks*
246 Kumliens Meeuw bij Scheveningen in december 2013 *Vincent van der Spek*
249 Black-headed Gull of 33 years and re-appeal to stop using aluminium rings to mark gulls *Klaas van Dijk, Date Lutterop, Rob Voesten & Frank Majoor*
252 Clamorous Reed Warblers breeding in Nile valley, Sudan, in April 2013 *Jens Hering*

**Varia**

256 On display: Guianan Cock-of-the-rock and Andean Cock-of-the-rock *Enno B Ebels, Dušan M Brinkhuizen & Roland Wantia*

**Corrigenda**

263

**WP reports**

263 June-July 2014 *Arnoud B van den Berg & Marcel Haas*

**Recente meldingen / recent reports**

276 Mei-juni 2014 *Roy Slaterus, Vincent van der Spek & Martijn Renders*

**DBActueel**

292 Influx van zingende Struikrietzangers in Nederland [BLYTH'S REED WARBLERS]

**Voorplaat / front cover**

Rosse Franjepoot / Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*, vrouwtje, Adventdalen, Spitsbergen, 10 juni 2013 *(Karel A Mauer)*

# Identification of Northern Eider

*Alexander Hellquist*

In this paper, the separation of Northern Eider *Somateria mollissima borealis* (hereafter *borealis*) from Common Eiders *S m mollissima* (hereafter *mollissima*) and *S m faeroeensis* (hereafter *faeroeensis*) is discussed, mainly focusing on males. The text is based on a literature review, field studies in Iceland, the Faeroes and Sweden, studies of photographs published on the internet and studies of specimens in the collections at American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA (AMNH), Natural History Museum, Tring, England (NHM), Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint Petersburg, Russia (ZIN), and Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, Sweden (NRM). This publication is an updated version of a previous paper published in Swedish (Hellquist 2013).

**Distribution and taxonomy of Common Eiders**

*Mollissima* breeds along the shores of the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Wadden Sea, on the British Isles and along the Russian Arctic Sea coast east to the Kara Sea, including the Yamal peninsula and Novaya Zemlya (Cramp & Simmons 1977, museum specimens). There is also a small recently established population in Ukraine along the Black Sea coast (Ardamatskaya 2001) and a few birds breed in northern Italy. *Mollissima* breeding in the Baltic Sea, Denmark, western Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands belong to the same 'flyway population' based on common wintering grounds in the southern Baltic Sea, inner Danish waters and the Wadden Sea (Swennen 1990, Noer 1991). Eiders nesting in Denmark, western Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands are resident or partly migratory, whereas in southern Norway, eastern Sweden, Finland and the Baltic countries they are completely migratory (Cramps & Simmons 1977, Noer 1991). *Mollissima* in this flyway population rarely mix with *mollissima* originating from the British Isles and other North Atlantic populations, of which many are strictly resident (Kear 2005, Christensen 2008). Birds along the Norwegian coasts have been considered a separate subspecies, *S m 'norwegica'* (Brehm 1831, Schiøler 1914). Although they are now usually included in *mollissima*, they have interesting characteristics (that they share with British birds, see further below).

*Faeroeensis* (plate 290) breeds on the Faeroes. Populations in Orkney and Shetland, Scotland, possibly belong to this subspecies as well (Furness et al 2010) but they could also represent intergradation of *faeroeensis* with *mollissima* (eg, Cramp & Simmons 1977). *Faeroeensis* seems to be mainly sedentary.

*Borealis* was originally described from Green-

**288** Northern Eider / Noordelijke Eider *Somateria mollissima borealis*, Raudfjorden, Svalbard, 7 July 2012 *(Henrik Kisbye)*. Typical bird, with prominent sails, well-marked forehead and bright bill colour.

**289** Northern Eider / Noordelijke Eider *Somateria mollissima borealis*, Iceland, 28 April 2007 *(Alexander Hellquist)*. Occasionally, shape of lower scapulars can be assessed in the field. In this bird, outer webs show pointed tip.

land (Brehm 1824) and it is sometimes considered to be restricted to north-eastern Canada and north-western Greenland (eg, Schiøler 1926). Populations breeding in southern and eastern Greenland, Iceland, Svalbard and Franz Josef Land are often included in *borealis* (eg, Vaurie 1965) although they have also been described as a separate subspecies, *S m 'islandica'* (eg, Schiøler 1926) or considered intermediate between *mollissima* and *borealis*. The broad 'definition' of *borealis* is used in this paper (see Discussion). The most westerly *borealis* populations winter primarily off south-eastern Canada and south of Greenland. Icelandic birds are sedentary, whereas the populations from Svalbard winter off Iceland and northern Norway.

There are three more subspecies of Common Eider: *S m dresseri* (Dresser's Eider; hereafter *dresseri*) and *S m sedentaria* (American Eider; hereafter *sedentaria*) in north-eastern North America and *S m v-nigrum* (Pacific Eider; hereafter *v-nigrum*) in north-western North America and eastern Siberia. For their identification, see, eg, Mendall (1980), Knapton (1997), Ogilvie & Young (1998) and Pyle (2008). Both *dresseri* and *v-nigrum* have been reported as vagrant in the Western Palearctic: *dresseri* in Donegal, Ireland, from January 2010 intermittently to at least June 2011 (Farrelly & Charles 2010; www.irbc.ie/reports/irbr/2010_IRBR.pdf) and *v-nigrum* in Finnmark, Norway, in February-April 2014 (http://birdingfrontiers.com/2014/02/19; Dutch Birding 36: 195, 199, plate 245, 2014).

**Genetic relationships**

The phylogenetic relationships of the various subspecies of Common Eider, including *borealis*, have been investigated by various researchers (eg, Baker 1997, Sonsthagen et al 2011). The results do not provide a coherent picture. The patterns found do not correspond entirely with the currently accepted subspecies limits but are weakly supported. For example, it seems that the mtDNA of *mollissima* from northern Norway matches *dresseri* in south-eastern Canada better than Baltic *mollissima* from Finland (Sonsthagen et al 2011). The current situation is most likely the result of recolonisations after glaciations, similar to that of various other northern species (cf, eg, Ploeger 1968, Petersen 1976, Tiedeman et al 2004).

Furness et al (2010) found a close relationship between populations in Shetland, the Faeroes and southern Iceland while birds from northern Iceland resembled *mollissima*, and suggested that the former three populations all belong to *faeroeensis*. The genetic pattern revealed indicates that recolo-

**290** Common Eider / Eider *Somateria mollissima faeroeensis*, male, Faeroes, 10 April 2006 *(Silas K K Olofson)*. *Faeroeensis* combines features of *S m mollissima* and *S m borealis*. They seldomly erect sails and have muted bare part coloration but show marked forehead and rather distal position of nostril. *Faeroeensis* is also characterized by small size and dark colour in females.

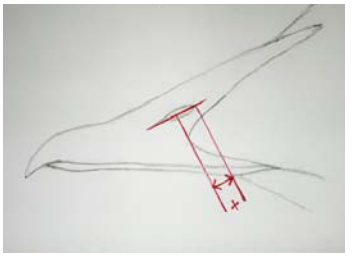


TABLE 1 Overlap between nostril and bill base feathering in different populations of Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* (males and females combined as average difference between sexes is only 0.19 mm in *borealis* and 0.02 mm in *mollissima*). Measurements taken from rear corner of nostril along line going through distal corner (see figure). Difference between all *S m mollissima* populations (excluding Scotland) and all *S m borealis* populations is strongly significant (p<0.001; one-tailed t-test). Only two presumed *mollissima* with shorter measure than 3.5 mm were found, both from Norway. They may represent extreme variants of nominate *mollissima* or vagrant *borealis*.

| | average (mm) | range (mm) | n |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***S m borealis*** | | | |
| Canada (June-August) | 1.9 | 0-3.5 | 7 |
| Greenland (June-November) | 2.7 | 0-6 | 18 |
| Iceland (June-September) | 2.8 | 0-4 | 6 |
| Jan Mayen (June-August) | 3 | 2-4 | 8 |
| Svalbard (May-August) | 2.7 | 1-5 | 29 |
| Frans Jozef Land (May) | 3.5 | 2.5-4.5 | 4 |
| **all *borealis*** | **2.7** | **0-6** | **72** |
| ***S m faeroeensis*** | | | |
| Faroes (summer) | **3** | **–** | **1** |
| ***S m mollissima/faeroeensis*** | | | |
| Shetland and Orkney (August-October) | 2.9 | 1-4 | 9 |
| Scotland including Hebrides (August-May) | 4.1 | 2-7 | 14 |
| ***S m mollissima*** | | | |
| England (August-March) | 5.4 | 4-7 | 10 |
| Netherlands (November-February) | 6.1 | 3.5-9 | 23 |
| Denmark (December-February) | 5.6 | 3.5-7.5 | 6 |
| Sweden (Baltic coast, January-October) | 5.9 | 4-9 | 47 |
| Norway (all year) | 5.3 | 2-8 | 43 |
| Kola peninsula, White Sea, Yamal peninsula (May-October) | 5.4 | 3.5-8 | 25 |
| Novaya Zemlya (May-October) | 5.0 | 3.5-7 | 10 |
| **all *mollissima* (excluding Scotland)** | **5.6** | **2-9** | **164** |

nisation of Iceland might have taken place from two directions after the last glacial period.

## Identification criteria

*Position of nostril*

In typical birds, the position of the nostril is useful for separation of *mollissima* and *borealis* but good views are required; the head must be seen in profile. Table 1 presents my measurements on specimens. As measurements of males and females in both subspecies hardly differ, results for sexes were combined. In *mollissima*, the nostril is positioned further up above the feathering at the bill base than in *borealis* (Schiøler 1926, Vaurie 1965). The measurement produces a significant average difference between *borealis* on one hand and *mollissima* from Denmark, England, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia and Sweden on the other hand. Typical birds may be identified (cf plate 291) because 21% of *mollissima* fall outside the variation in *borealis*, whereas 19% of *borealis* fall outside the variation in *mollissima* (table 1). A slightly different measurement taken by Schiøler (1926) as well as photographs suggest that *faeroeensis* has a more distal nostril on average than *mollissima*. Beware that *mollissima* in transition between breeding and eclipse plumage sometimes show a dark tip of the bill base feathering, creating a false impression that there is less overlap between the nostril and the feathering.

The within-subspecies geographical variation is rather small. In *borealis*, the average in Canadian birds is lower than in other populations, although much larger sample sizes are needed for safe conclusions. No difference between birds from western and eastern Greenland could be found.

The measurements of *mollissima* get slightly smaller in Norway and Arctic Russia. This likely reflects geographical variation, although inclusion of a few wintering *borealis* in the Norwegian sample cannot be ruled out.

**291** Common Eiders / Eiders *Somateria mollissima*, males *(Alexander Hellquist/© NRM, Stockholm)*. Top: *S m borealis*, collected in Svalbard; bottom: *S m mollissima*, collected in Sweden. Upper specimen has 2 mm overlap between nostril and bill base feathering. Any bird showing less overlap is outside range of nominate *mollissima* in samples studied and likely to be *borealis*. Lower specimen has 7 mm overlap. Any bird with same or larger overlap is outside range of *borealis* in samples studied and most likely to be nominate *mollissima*. **292** Common Eiders / Eiders *Somateria mollissima mollissima*, first calendar-year male (left) and older male, southern Sweden, 24 December 2012 *(Alexander Hellquist)*. Note small sails in first calendar-year male. Older male still shows traces of eclipse plumage.

Birds from mainland Scotland and Hebrides have slightly smaller measurements than other *mollissima*, and in Orkney and Shetland the measurement is clearly smaller. The pattern can be interpreted as gradual introgression between *mollissima* and *faeroeensis*, given also that birds from Shetland and Orkney are intermediate in size (see below). It is, however, conceivable that the shorter measurements in birds from mainland Scotland and the Hebrides are caused by the presence of pure *faeroeensis* (or *borealis*) specimens in the sample, or (perhaps less likely) geographical variation in British *mollissima*. Larger samples would be needed for safe conclusions.

Interestingly, there is a difference also between the Arctic subspecies *v-nigrum* and *sedentaria* on the one hand and the more southerly *dresseri* on the other, with the nostril in the latter being positioned higher up above feathering at the bill base (Snyder 1941, Mendall 1980, Hellquist 2013).

*Bill and leg colour*

In all Common Eider subspecies, bill and leg colour in males varies individually as well as with age and season. The colour is usually brighter during the pairing and breeding season and generally brighter in older birds. Bill and leg colours covary; birds with yellow bills tend to have yellow legs etc.

*Mollissima* shows bill and leg colours across the whole spectra from dull greenish grey via greenish to mustard yellow hues but only exceptionally bright yellow and perhaps never with an obvious orange cast. Yellow hues are most prominent on the inner part of the bill; the nail is pale grey. *Faeroeensis* is similar to *mollissima*, with generally rather dull bill colours. Perhaps it is more prone to show colder grey rather than greenish hues. However, the bill is yellow during breeding in many birds. Using a broad definition of *borealis*, its variation is as wide as in *mollissima* but the average bird is more likely to show a clean yellow bill. The variation ranges from blue-grey and green-grey (occurring at least in Iceland and Svalbard) to orangey yellow. In Greenland and Iceland, most birds show saturated yellow hues. Already in second calendar-year birds in spring, *borealis* normally shows a bright yellow bill, which is rare (but possible) in *mollissima*. As in *mollissima*, the colour is brightest in the inner part of the bill.

*Bill and head shape*

The bill processes that protrude from the upper mandible towards the eyes are rather similar in shape in *borealis, faeroeensis* and *mollissima*. In adult males, they become broader to a varying degree during the pairing and breeding season and then shrink again. The bill processes are slightly shorter on average in *borealis* and *faeroeensis* compared with *mollissima* but the difference is obscured by individual variation and usually too small to be useful in the field.

During the breeding season, *mollissima* males in the Baltic and along the Swedish west coast often show a bill and head shape that is different from that of typical *borealis* and *faeroeensis*. They normally have an 'aristocratic' profile – the line between the crown and the bill tip is essentially straight. Photographs indicate that this is true for the entire Baltic/Wadden Sea flyway population. Although partly masked by individual variation, *borealis* and *faeroeensis* generally show a less clean profile – the bill looks slightly shorter and the division between bill and head is not as smooth with a more marked forehead (figure 1-2). The difference is emphasized by the straighter demarcation between the black cap and white face in *borealis* (Garner & friends 2008), although the impression varies a lot with the posture of the bird.

The size of the salt glands located above the eyes in eiders and other marine birds can explain, at least partly, that the forehead in *borealis* and *faeroeensis* is more marked on average compared with *mollissima* belonging to the Baltic/Wadden Sea flyway population. The glands enable intake of ocean water and disposal of excess salt through head shakes. The water of the Baltic is brackish, and Kattegat and Skagerrak as well as the Wadden Sea are less saline than the North Sea. Schiøler (1914) noted that the more prominent forehead in Norwegian birds compared with Danish and

FIGURE 1 Common Eiders / Eiders *Somateria mollissima*, males. **A** *S m borealis*, Ellesmere Island, Canada, 24 May 2007 *(Mark Mallory)*; **B** *S m mollissima*, east coast of Sweden, 5 May 2013 *(Alexander Hellquist)*; **C** *S m mollissima*, Northumberland, England, 3 June 2011 *(Richard Greenwood)*. Typical representatives of three populations. Note positions of nostrils, sails, bill colour and head shape. While Baltic nominate *mollissima* in breeding plumage often have straight line between bill tip and crown, British birds show more marked forehead on average, just like many *borealis*.

FIGURE 2 Common Eiders / Eiders *Somateria mollissima*, males. **A** *S m borealis*, Iceland, 29 April 2007 *(Alexander Hellquist)*; **B** *S m mollissima*, Gotland, Sweden, 14 April 2012 *(Alexander Hellquist)*; **C** presumed *S m mollissima*, Skåne, Sweden, 11 August 2007 *(Alexander Hellquist)*. Note slightly more marked forehead in *borealis*. Bill colour of 2A and 2B is typical, whereas bird in 2C is on extreme yellow end for nominate *mollissima*.

Swedish birds could be explained by the fact that the former live in saltier water and therefore have larger salt glands – a difference that he could see also when studying skulls. The different forehead shape was a main reason why Brehm (1831) defined the Norwegian population as '*norwegica*'. Based on photographs, Norwegian birds from the Oslo Fiord in the south, where the salinity is low, show a head shape similar to that of Baltic and Danish birds but, northwards along the North Sea coast, the forehead becomes increasingly prominent. British birds seem to be similar to birds of northern Norway but there is considerable individual variation and similar-looking birds occur in all populations.

*Borealis* and *faeroeensis* live in the salty waters of the North Sea and the Arctic Ocean, and often show well-marked foreheads. The jizz of typical birds from Greenland, Iceland, Jan Mayen and Svalbard is quite different from Baltic *mollissima* but less evident individuals are not uncommon. The difference is, however, smaller and often difficult to discern with Norwegian or British *mollissima*. After breeding, the bill processes shrink, making the forehead more marked in all populations and differences less noticeable. Females have smaller bill processes and more marked foreheads and are therefore more similar across populations, although there is a tendency towards the same pattern as in males. Adaptation to different levels of salinity as revealed by head shape could be of significance as an isolating mechanism between populations.

*Presence of sails*

All Common Eider subspecies have lower scapulars with a broad outer web that can be erected to form 'sails' on the back in resting birds. The sails are generally more prominent in males than in females, and also more in older than in younger birds (cf, eg, Pyle 2008). In the field, it is often difficult to assess the exact shape of the sails, due to the viewing angle and wind conditions.

The outer web of the scapulars that form sails in males *borealis* are c 1 mm broader on average compared with *mollissima* males, with extensive overlap (cf table 2). In females, the average difference between the two subspecies is a trifle larger than in males but still the overlap is almost complete. The size of the sails is thus not a useful feature.

*Borealis* apparently more frequently shows a pointed tip of the outer web (cf figure 3, plate 289); 20% (n= 40) of the examined males (second calendar-year autumn and older) had a pointed

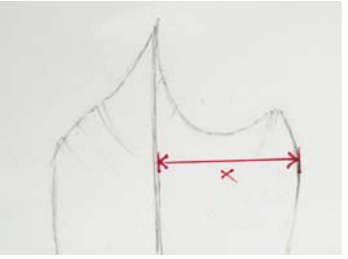


TABLE 2 Width of outer web of scapular sails (ie, inner feather in scapular pair that forms sails on each side of lower back) in two subspecies of Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* (ie, *S m mollissima* and *S m borealis*). Measurement taken where web is broadest. Difference between samples is not statistically significant in second-generation feathers in males (p=0.2; one-tailed t-test) but just so in older feathers generations in males (p=0.04) and clearly so in females (p=0.004). Birds from Scotland not included as *S m faeroeensis* might be involved.

| | | | average (mm) | range (mm) | n |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **males** | second-generation | *S m mollissima* | 19.7 | 16-24 | 23 |
| | feathers | *S m borealis* | 20.4 | 17-25 | 7 |
| **males** | third-generation | *S m mollissima* | 21.9 | 19-26 | 24 |
| | feathers and older | *S m borealis* | 22.9 | 20-29 | 31 |
| **females** | second-generation | *S m mollissima* | 17.5 | 12-22 | 21 |
| | feathers and older | *S m borealis* | 19.3 | 15-23 | 29 |

tip, as compared with 4% (n= 64) in *mollissima* from Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. In Scottish birds, 16% (n= 13) had a pointed tip, all from the Hebrides and Orkney in August-September. These birds possibly include *faeroeensis* or intergrades. The only examined *faeroeensis* from the Faeroes also had a pointed tip. The exact shape of the outer web is difficult to assess in the field.

The major difference between *borealis* and *mollissima* lies in behaviour rather than in appearance. *Borealis* is much more prone to erect its sails. In *mollissima*, the lower scapulars are regularly lifted slightly along the shafts but the outer webs are drooping, creating gently bulging humps on the lower back rather than sails. However, *mollissima* occasionally erects the outer webs and may then match the appearance of *borealis* (see

FIGURE 3 Lower scapulars that form sails in males Common Eider / Eider *Somateria mollissima*. Above: four adult (fourth calendar-year or older) and one third calendar-year (right) *S m mollissima*, Sweden, spring. Below from left to right: two adult *S m borealis* from Greenland, spring, two adult *borealis* from Svalbard, spring, and one second calendar-year from Iceland, September *(Alexander Hellquist/© NRM, Stockholm)*. In *borealis*, it is more common for tip of outer webs to be pointed, and webs are slightly broader on average but differences between subspecies are very small. Second generation of lower scapulars (in second calendar-year autumn to third calendar-year spring birds) have dark markings (if attained early they can be mostly dark).

FIGURE 4 Common Eiders / Eiders *Somateria mollissima*, males. **A** *S m borealis*, Iceland, 29 April 2007 *(Alexander Hellquist)*; **B-D** three different displaying *S m mollissima*, Gotland, Sweden, 17 April 2012 (**B**) and 28 April 2012 (**C-D**), respectively *(Alexander Hellquist)*. As birds in 4B and 4C show, sails of *mollissima* may be similar to those of *borealis*. However, normally they appear as subtle rounded protrusions, as in 4D. Note differences in head shape and straight demarcation between cap and face in *borealis*.

figure 4). Among Baltic birds, this mostly happens during display but sometimes also in other times of the year, perhaps with a slightly higher frequency in early autumn when the scapulars are newly moulted. *Borealis* normally show prominent sails throughout the whole year.

Similarly to *mollissima*, *faeroeensis* seems to show sails scarcely. However, there are reports of sailed birds from Scotland, including Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland (eg, Garner & Millington 2010), that possibly involve *faeroeensis*.

Also *borealis* females regularly erect their sails. This is rare in *mollissima* females but occasionally happens (cf figure 5). In all subspecies, the first (juvenile) generation of lower scapulars lack or have only a slightly expanded outer web but at least males may show small sails (cf plate 292). After the complete moult in the first summer, the scapulars attain essentially the same shape as in older birds, only slightly smaller on average and with dark markings.

*Size*

*Borealis* is smaller on average than *mollissima* but there is extensive overlap in most measurements. The within-subspecies variation is small. *Mollissima* tends to be slightly smaller in Britain and south-western Norway, and larger in northern Norway and Russia (Cramp & Simmons 1977). Icelandic birds are possibly slightly smaller on average than other *borealis* populations (Schiøler 1926, Vaurie 1965). *Faeroeensis* is smaller than both *borealis* and *mollissima*, with both sexes separately having only limited overlap in wing length. Birds from

Orkney and Shetland are intermediate in size between *faeroeensis* and *mollissima* (Schiøler 1926, Vaurie 1965, Furness et al 2010). For details, see also Baker (1993) and Pyle (2008).

*Timing of moult*

Because of later breeding, *borealis* males moult later into eclipse than *mollissima*, in Iceland and Svalbard often in mid-July or later. In the southern Baltic, *mollissima* often begin to moult into eclipse in early June, although the individual variation is considerable (odd birds in breeding plumage can be encountered throughout summer). In Britain and Norway, some birds start attaining eclipse plumage in early June as well but it seems that they are slightly later on average. In the Faeroes, *faeroeensis* is mainly in breeding plumage until late June.

Van Duivendijk (2011) suggests that *borealis* males may keep their eclipse plumage longer than *mollissima*, sometimes until late October. There might well be an average difference but again the variation within both subspecies is large. Most Baltic *mollissima* are in breeding plumage by early October but some birds show remaining traces of the eclipse plumage as late as mid-winter. More study of *borealis* is needed but at least in Iceland many birds are in breeding plumage by mid-October (Mats Waern pers comm). Moult timing is an uncertain feature to use on out-of-range individuals, as their schedules may have become disrupted.

**Discussion**

It is difficult to safely separate *borealis* from *mollissima*. Differences relate to, in *borealis*, a more marked forehead, more distal position of the nostril, greater proneness to erect the scapular sails, brighter bare part coloration and later moult into eclipse plumage in males. The problem is the overlap; *mollissima* may also show these features to a certain extent but less frequently and probably very rarely all in combination (cf figure 6). The position of the nostril can identify typical birds with a high degree of certainty; in the sample studied here, a fair share of *borealis* fall outside the variation in *mollissima* and vice versa. A bird with none or minimal overlap between the rear end of the nostril and the tip of the bill base feathering should be *borealis*, especially if typical also in other respects. However, this might not hold true within the range of *faeroeensis*, which complicates things from a British perspective.

The features that distinguish *borealis* in the field seem to be present to the same extent across the entire range (using the broad definition of the subspecies), and based on the traits studied here little has been found to justify a division into more subspecies. No differences in appearance between northern and southern Iceland have been detected in live birds, photographs and a few specimens checked but, in light of the genetic similarity between birds from Faeroes, southern Iceland and Shetland, variation within Iceland could still attract further study. The variation within *mollissima* as defined here is also slight. It is most pronounced

FIGURE 5 Common Eiders / Eiders *Somateria mollissima*, females. **A** *S m borealis*, Iceland, 27 July 2007 *(Alexander Hellquist)*; **B** presumed *S m mollissima*, west coast, Sweden, 21 September 2013 *(Joakim Karlsson)*. In *borealis*, females regularly show small sails, which seems to be very rare in nominate *mollissima*. But as bird in 5B shows, it occasionally happens. As in males, size of sails differs very little between subspecies. Also in females, there is a general difference in forehead shape.

FIGURE 6 Common Eiders / Eiders *Somateria mollissima*. **A** presumed *S m mollissima*, second calendar-year male, east coast, Sweden, 20 October 2009 *(Magnus Renmyr)*; **B** presumed *mollissima*, adult male, west coast, Sweden, 12 September 2013 *(Joakim Karlsson)*. Sails and to some extent bill colour bring *borealis* to mind but are within variation of *mollissima*. Position of nostril fits *mollissima* better, as does forehead shape. Bird in 6A is in eclipse plumage, not uncommon in males that linger along Swedish coasts in late October. Bird in 6B illustrates how challenging identification can be. It held its sails erect most of the time over period of several weeks. Furthermore, in some photographs, outer webs appear to have pointed tips.

when looking at forehead shape, with birds from the Baltic/Wadden Sea flyway population being most distinct from *borealis* in this respect. Depending on which features are more important as isolating factors, the definition of the subspecies might deserve further exploration, given also that the genetic relationships need clarification.

*Faeroeensis* combines features of *mollissima* and *borealis* (generally dull coloration to bare parts and not very prone to erect sails but marked forehead and probably a more distal position of the nostrils than in *mollissima*) and is characterized by its small size and the dark coloration in females and chicks (see, eg, Schiøler 1914). Given the subtleness of all these features, and possible introgression with *mollissima* in Scotland, it would still be very difficult to identify a vagrant *faeroeensis*.

**Acknowledgements**
I am grateful to Richard Greenwood, Joakim Karlsson, Henrik Kisbye, Mark Mallory, Silas Olofson and Magnus Renmyr for allowing me to use their photographs. Sincere thanks also go to Joakim Karlsson, Hampus Lejon and Mats Waern for valuable inputs, and to Peg Hart, Ulf Johansson, Vladimir Loskot and Robert Prŷs-Jones for giving me access to the collections of AMNH, NRM, ZIN and NHM, respectively.

**Samenvatting**
Herkenning van Noordelijke Eider Dit artikel bespreekt de bruikbaarheid van vijf kenmerken om enkele ondersoorten van Eider *Somateria mollissima* te onderscheiden: nominaat *S m mollissima*, Noordelijke Eider *S m borealis* en *S m faeroeensis*. Deze kenmerken zijn de positie van het neusgat, snavel- en pootkleur, kop- en snavelvorm, aanwezigheid van 'zeiltjes' (opgezette buitenvlag van onderste schouderveren) en grootte.

De positie van het neusgat kan gebruikt worden om typische individuen van *mollissima* te onderscheiden van *borealis*, aangezien ongeveer een vijfde van de bestudeerde *mollissima* buiten de variatie van *borealis* valt en omgekeerd. De positie van het neusgat bij *faeroeensis* lijkt op die van *borealis*.

De kleur van snavel en poten varieert in alle ondersoorten maar is bij *borealis* gemiddeld geler.

Aanpassing aan verschillende zoutgehaltes heeft geleid tot verschillen in kop- en snavelvorm tussen populaties, waarbij *borealis* en *faeroeensis* gemiddeld een opvallender voorhoofd vertonen vergeleken met *mollissima* van de Baltische/Waddenzee-trekbaanpopulatie; het verschil is minder duidelijk bij vergelijking met Britse en noord-Noorse *mollissima*.

*Borealis* lijkt vaker de zeiltjes op te zetten dan *mollissima* en *faeroeensis* maar *mollissima* benadert wat dit betreft regelmatig het uiterlijk van *borealis* waardoor de bruikbaarheid van dit kenmerk beperkt is.

Verschillen in grootte zijn van weinig nut bij het onderscheid tussen *borealis* en *mollissima* maar *faeroeensis* is duidelijk kleiner dan zowel *borealis* als *mollissima*.

De hier besproken kenmerken vertonen weinig variatie binnen het areaal van *borealis*, ook wanneer een brede definitie van deze ondersoort wordt gehanteerd. Variatie binnen *mollissima* is ook gering, nog het meest duidelijk in kopvorm.

De precieze begrenzing van *borealis* verdient nader onderzoek, mede in het licht van mogelijke introgressie tussen *mollissima* en *faeroeensis* in Schotland en omdat ook de genetische verwantschappen nog onduidelijk zijn.

**References**
Ardamatskaya, T B 2001. The expansion of the Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* at Ukrainian coast of the

Black Sea. Acta Ornithol 36: 53-54.
Baker, A J, Grapputo, A, Dickson, K, Wendt, S & Scribner, K 1997. Mitochondrial DNA control region sequence variation in Common Eiders reveals extensive mixing of subspecies. Abstract. First North American Duck Symposium and Workshop, Baton Rouge.
Baker, K 1993. Identification guide to European non-passerines. BTO Guide 24.
Brehm, C L 1831. Handbuch der Naturgeschichte aller Vögel Deutschland. Ilmenau.
Christensen, T K 2008. Factors affecting population size of Baltic Common Eiders *Somateria mollissima*. PhD thesis. Dept of Wildlife Ecology and Biodiversity, National Environmental Research Institute, University of Aarhus, Denmark.
Cramp, S & Simmons, K E L (editors) 1977. The birds of the Western Palearctic 1. Oxford.
Farrelly, W & Charles, D 2010. The Dresser's Eider in County Donegal – a new Western Palearctic bird. Birding World 23: 62-64.
Furness, R, Mable, B, Savory, F, Griffiths, K, Baillie, S & Heubeck, M 2010. Subspecies status of Common Eiders *Somateria mollissima* in Shetland based on morphology and DNA. Bird Study 57: 330-335.
Garner, M & friends 2008. Frontiers in birding. London.
Garner, M & Millington, R 2010. The forms of Common Eider: their identification, taxonomy and vagrancy. Birding World 23: 65-82.
Hellquist, A 2013. Rasbestämning av ejder. Vår Fågelvärld 72 (6): 36-45.
Kear, J 2005. Ducks, geese and swans. Oxford.
Knapton, R W 1997. Identification of female Common Eider subspecies in Canada. Birder's Journal 6: 134-136.
McKinney, F 1961. An analysis of the displays of the European eider *Somateria mollissima mollissima* (Linnaeus) and the Pacific eider *Somateria mollissima v. nigra* Bonaparte. Behaviour, Supplement 7.
Mendall, H L 1980. Intergradation of eastern American Common Eiders. Can Field Nat 94: 286-292.
Mendall, H L 1986. Identification of eastern races of the Common Eider. In: Reed, A (editor), Eider Ducks in Canada, Can Wildl Serv Rep Ser 47, p 82-88.
Noer, H 1991. Distribution and movements of Eiders *Somateria mollissima* populations wintering in Danish waters, analysed from ringing recoveries. Danish Rev Game Biol 14 (3): 1-32.
Petersen, A 1976. Size variation in Puffins *Fratercula arctica* from Iceland and bill features as criteria of age. Ornis Scand 7: 185-192.
Ploeger, P L 1968. Geographical differentiation in arctic Anatidae as a result of isolation during the last glacial. Leiden.
Pyle, P 2008. Identification guide to North American birds. Part II. Anatidae to Alcidae. Point Reyes Station.
Ogilvie, M & Young, S 1998. Photographic handbook of the wildfowl of the world. London.
Schiøler, E L 1907, 1914. Lidt om Ederfuglen, *Somateria mollissima* L. og nogle af dens Racer. Dansk Ornithol Foren Tidsskr 2: 109-149, 8: 233-276.
Schiøler, E L 1926. Danmarks Fugle II. København.
Snyder, L L 1941. On the Hudson Bay eider. Occasional papers of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology 6.
Sonsthagen, S, Talbot, L, Scribner, K & McCracken, K 2011. Multilocus phylogeography and population structure of common eiders breeding in North America and Scandinavia. J Biogeogr 38: 1368-1380.
Swennen, C 1990. Dispersal and migratory movements of Eiders *Somateria mollissima* breeding in The Netherlands. Ornis Scand 21: 17-27.
Tiedemann, R & Noer, H 1998. Geographic partitioning of mitochondrial DNA patterns in European Eider *Somateria mollissima*. Hereditas 128: 159-166.
Tiedemann, R, Paulus, K, Scheer, M, von Kistowski, K, Skirnisson, K, Bloch, D & Dam, M 2004. Mitochondrial DNA and microsatellite variation in the eider duck (*Somateria mollissima*) indicate stepwise postglacial colonization of Europe and limited current long distance dispersal. Mol Ecol 13: 1481-1494.
van Duivendijk, N 2011. Advanced bird ID handbook – the Western Palearctic. London.
Vaurie, C 1965. The birds of the Palearctic fauna. A systematic reference. Non-Passeriformes. London.

*Alexander Hellquist, Fatburs kvarngata 17, SE-118 64, Stockholm, Sweden*
*(alexhellquist@yahoo.com)*

# Black-browed Albatross in Denmark and Germany in May-July 2014

*Gotthard Krug, Roef Mulder, Marcel Haas & Enno B Ebels*

In May-July 2014, an adult Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris* was observed in Denmark (also reported off Sweden) and Germany. After a first sighting at Skagen, Nordjylland, Denmark, on 25-26 May, it was then seen on and around Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, from 28 May intermittently to 13 June. It reappeared at Skagen on 17 and 18 July. Comparison of photographs of the Skagen and Helgoland bird showed it to be the same individual. This paper documents its stay and discusses the identification and status of Black-browed Albatross in the Western Palearctic (WP).

**Skagen**

On 25 May from 19:18 to 19:22, Jimmy Skat Hansen observed an albatross (not identified to species) flying north-east c 400 m offshore past Højen, Skagen, Norjylland, Denmark; c 2-3 h later, the bird was reported by a birder from a boat c 60 km north-east off Bohuslän, Götaland, Sweden. On 26 May, it was rediscovered near Skagen and seen by c 25 birders between 08:23 and 09:00 from four positions at both Grenen and Nordstrand. The bird flew south-west into the Kattegat only c 100 m offshore. It turned and then amazingly flew inland but soon returned to the sea. After a short moment, it flew inland on the same route again, passing the car park and crossing c 2 km overland to the Skagerrak, and continuing north-west. Based on the good views and excellent photographs, it was easily identified as Black-browed Albatross. In the evening of 17 July, the bird turned up again at Skagen from 20:30 to 21:01 before flying west and was seen again at Skagen and nearby Hirtshals next morning (Rolf Christensen in litt).

**293** Black-browed Albatross / Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris*, adult, Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, 29 May 2014 *(Felix Jachmann)*

**294** Black-browed Albatross / Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris*, adult, with Herring Gull / Zilvermeeuw *Larus argentatus*, Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, 5 June 2014 *(Jochen Dierschke)*

**Helgoland**

Gotthard Krug lives and works on Helgoland and spends much of his free time in the field. The island is known for its rarities and GK has managed to find several – but what happened on 28 May 2014 was something extraordinary. The morning was not very promising for late May birding; the rather strong wind (7B) was blowing from the north-east and it was cold. At 06:47, GK had just left the park in the north-east of the island and looked over sea from Nordostgelände. There were several Northern Gannets *Morus bassanus* fishing offshore at c 200-400 m distance. GK noticed that one bird was different from the others. His first look was at the underside; it clearly was not a gannet. Then the bird turned and he could see the head, back and tail. But most important, now he could estimate its size. This could only be an albatross! His camera was safely packed in his rucksack but he took it out as quickly as never before. Fortunately, the bird remained in sight and GK was able to make a series of photographs. After a few minutes, he lost sight of it as it moved away north of Düne. He then had a look at the images on his camera display, showing an indisputable albatross. He tried to inform other birders but the connection failed, when suddenly the albatross re-appeared. It returned to the same area and he could make some more photographs and identify it as an adult Black-browed Albatross. The bird sailed away to the north-east and was lost out of sight. After successfully informing other birders on the island, GK had to go to work. Despite extensive search efforts, it was not before 17:00 that the bird was relocated by Martin Gottschling, the only birder to arrive from the mainland that afternoon. In the evening, the albatross showed more regularly, cruising along the western side of the island and the cliffs. All the birders on the island managed to see it, often at close range. Much to the delight of visiting birders, the albatross showed again next day, often flying close to the edge of the cliffs and sometimes just a few meters above the public! In the late morning, it disappeared for half an hour behind the famous Lange Anna bird cliff, where it had probably landed between the local gannets. Then the winds dropped and the bird was not seen the following days, disappointing many visiting Danish, Dutch and German birders. Surprisingly, it returned to the bird cliffs on several days in the first half of June, often performing its flight at close range. The large gannet colony was clearly an at-

**295** Black-browed Albatross / Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris*, adult, Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, 28 May 2014 *(Gotthard Krug)* **296** Black-browed Albatross / Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris*, adult, Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, 5 June 2014 *(Stefan Pfützke/Green-Lens.de)* **297** Black-browed Albatross / Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris*, adult, Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, 12 June 2014 *(Jochen Dierschke)*

**298** Black-browed Albatross / Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris*, adult, Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, 29 May 2014 *(Roef Mulder)*

**299** Black-browed Albatross / Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris*, adult, Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, 29 May 2014 *(Felix Jachmann)*

traction and it perched between the breeding gannets more regularly. Sightings were irregular, however, and to the frustration of visiting birders it only showed on 4-5 June and 12-13 June (cf Schäffer 2014). Possibly the same bird was seen from mainland Cuxhaven, Schleswig-Holstein, on 20 June.

**Identification**

In contrast with most WP sightings, the Skagen/Helgoland albatross was seen at close range which makes identification straightforward. The combination of very large size (much larger than Northern Gannet), long and straight wings, white plumage with all-dark back and upperwings (back slightly greyer than upperwings), dark uppertail, mainly dark underwing with paler central part, dark iris, greyish smudge in front of and behind the eye (eyebrow) and pale yellowish bill with pale pink-reddish tip only fit Black-browed Albatross (Onley & Scofield 2007).

Many albatrosses are extreme long-distance migrants or wanderers, so similar species of *Thalassarche* should be considered. Campbell Albatross *T impavida* is almost identical to Black-browed Albatross in appearance and both taxa were treated as conspecific until recently (see below). Adult birds are easily identified by the colour of the iris; dark in Black-browed and bright yellow in Campbell. Furthermore, the pattern around the eye differs, with Black-browed having a larger dark eye patch on average. Also, the dark pattern of the inner underwing is more extensive in Campbell (Onley & Scofield 2007). Immature birds are considered to be indistinguishable. The combination of the extended dark leading and trailing edge of the underwing and the white head excludes all other albatross species. Laysan Albatross *Phoebastria immutabilis* may look similar from a distance but shows a different pattern around the eye and the dark on the back extends well onto the rump.

**Global distribution and status**

Black-browed Albatross is globally the most common albatross and has a circumpolar range in the Southern Hemisphere. The population size is estimated at 2.1 million adult birds and the Falkland Islands hold the main breeding population (BirdLife International 2014). The species has two breeding populations, with birds breeding in the southern Atlantic Ocean (mainly on the Falkland Islands) exhibiting genetic differences from the population which breeds scattered on islands in the Pacific and Indian Ocean. In the field, birds of both populations cannot be told apart and the species is considered monotypic (Burg & Croxall 2001, Onley & Scofield 2007). Like most albatrosses, the species has been showing an alarming decline due to long-line fishing and the introduction of mammals on their isolated breeding grounds. The species is qualified as 'Near Threatened' (BirdLife International 2014).

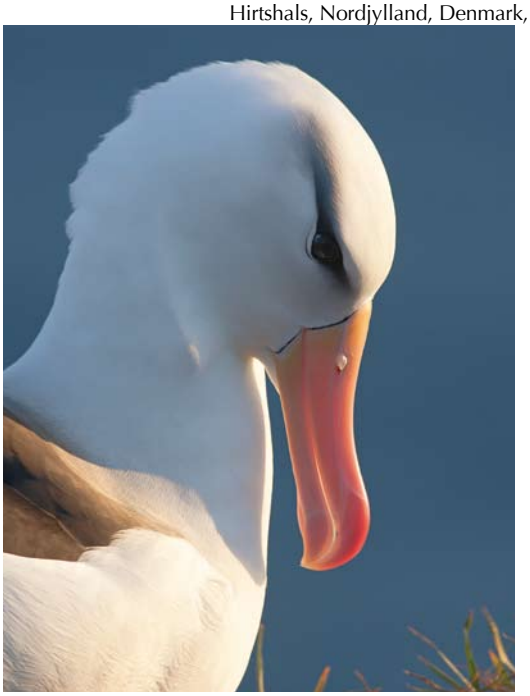
**Taxonomy**

Taxonomy of albatrosses is developing and surprisingly much is still to be learnt about identification, especially of immature birds. This is challenged by the fact that juveniles leave for the ocean only to return years later as an adult at the breeding sites, making studies of in-between plumages difficult and only possible at sea where it is impossible to know the exact age and origin. Black-browed Albatross used to include the distinct breeding population on Campbell Island and a tiny offshore islet, Jeanette Marie, New Zealand. This taxon is now considered a full species by many authors, following Robertson & Nunn (1998) and Brooke (2004). Campbell has not been recorded in the WP and is an unlikely vagrant but since there is hardly a limit to the wandering capacity of albatrosses, it may have the potential to reach the WP. Therefore, any 'Black-browed Albatross' in northern waters should be checked for the iris colour (which may be quite a challenge under most viewing conditions...).

**WP records**

Albatrosses need winds to fly and the relative calm equatorial waters form a natural boundary between the Northern and Southern Hemisphere. However, it is clear that some are able to make the crossing as several species of albatross have been recorded in northern waters. Black-browed Albatross is by far the most numerous albatross in the WP, and the frequency of records is increasing. There have been c 125 records and reports in the WP up to summer 2014. Of these, c 85 are from the years before c 2007 and have been accepted by the relevant rarities committees (collected by Marcel Haas). After c 2007, there have been c 40 reports (see, eg, WP reports in Dutch Birding, www.netfugl.dk, www.tarsiger.com) of which not all have (yet) been assessed by the relevant rarities committee. Of these, c 10 have been well documented by photographs and/or video. The analysis below includes all reports up to 2014; this number includes some sightings that may prove not to be acceptable, thus giving an 'exaggerated' picture. The true number of individual birds involved is probably much lower than the number of sightings and is impossible to establish accurately. This is

**300** Black-browed Albatross / Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris*, adult, with Northern Gannets / Jan-van-genten *Morus bassanus*, Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, 12 June 2014 *(Felix Timmermann)* **301** Black-browed Albatross / Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris*, adult, Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, 12 June 2014 *(Felix Timmermann)* **302** Black-browed Albatross / Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris*, adult, Hirtshals, Nordjylland, Denmark, 18 July 2014 *(Søren Kristoffersen)*



**303** Black-browed Albatross / Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris*, adult, off Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia, 25 August 2013 *(Roef Mulder)*

**304** Campbell Albatross / Campbellalbatros *Thalassarche impavida*, adult, off Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia, 24 August 2013 *(Roef Mulder)*

caused by the fact that many records may relate to long-staying and returning individuals and because individuals may live for several 10s of years.

Records and reports in the WP are from the Azores (two), Britain (27 accepted up to 2012; c five additional reports), Channel Islands (two or three), Denmark (three), Faeroes (two), France (c 19), Germany (two), Iceland (two), Ireland (18, concerning 19 individuals), Italy (two), Morocco (three), Norway (c 19), Portugal (one), Spain (c 13), Svalbard (one) and Sweden (two; birds in 2001 and 2004 considered as returning individual).

The data show that Black-browed Albatross was recorded most frequently in Britain, Ireland and Norway. This is partly because these countries have renowned seawatching sites. Remarkably, there are at least three records from the Mediterranean Sea. Several WP records relate to individuals which were recorded from vessels at open sea.

*Age and plumage*

Of 80 birds for which the age/plumage has been documented, 55 refer to adults and 25 to non-adults (either reported as first-year, immature, sub-adult (11) or third-calendar year).

*Records per year*

Figure 1 shows all WP records and reports per year. A steady increase since c 1980 is clearly vis-

**305** Black-browed Albatross / Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris*, adult, Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, 28 May 2014 *(Roef Mulder)*

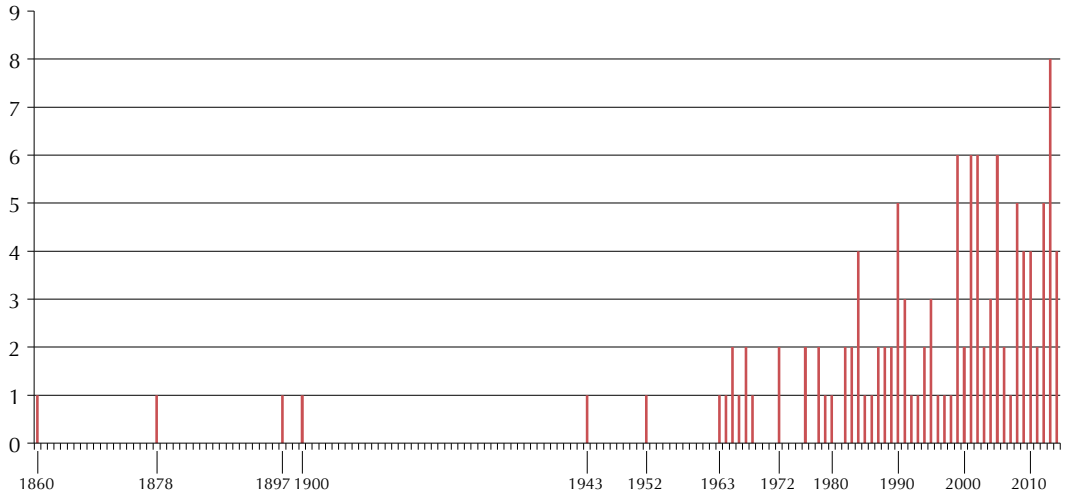


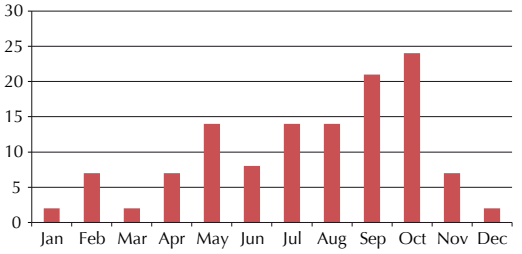

FIGURE 1 Records per year of Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris* in the Western Palearctic (1860 to July 2014; n=121); records after c 2007 not all accepted yet by rarities committees / gevallen van Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris* in het Westpalearctische gebied (1860-2014); gevallen na c 2007 nog niet alle aanvaard door dwaalgastencommissies

ible. The increase may be related to a genuine increase in numbers but will also be influenced by more seawatching activities, more pelagic birding trips, better optical equipment for seawatching and better equipment to document records, even of birds flying by at long range.

*Monthly distribution*

Birds have been recorded in every month of the year, with most records from spring to autumn. The monthly distribution (month of first sighting) of the WP records and reports is: January (two), February (seven), March (two), April (seven), May (12), June (nine), July (16), August (14), September (18), October (25), November (seven) and December (two) (see figure 2). The peak numbers in September and October may be (partly) explained by the increased seawatching activities in these months.

FIGURE 2 Records per month (month of first sighting) of Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris* in the Western Palearctic (1860 to July 2014; n=121); records after c 2007 not all accepted yet by rarities committees / gevallen per maand (maand van eerste waarneming) van Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris* in het Westpalearctische gebied (1860-2014); gevallen na c 2007 nog niet alle aanvaard door dwaalgastencommissies




*Long-stayers in the WP*

Four to five Black-browed Albatrosses have been known to summer in gannetries in the WP. From 1860 onwards, an adult female visited a gannetry at Mykineshólmi on Mykines, Faeroes, each summer until it was shot on 11 May 1894 (Anderson 1895; plate 307). From July 1966 to July 1968, one summered in Iceland. From 1967 to 1969, an adult frequented Bass Rock area, Lothian, Scotland (Waterston 1968). What is generally believed to be the same individual was seen every summer from 1972 to 1995 at Hermaness, Unst, Shetland, Scotland, except for the summers of 1988 and 1989. It was seen building a nest and displaying to Northern Gannets (Bourne 1977, Sutherland & Brooks 1979; plate 306). Some records off the east coast of Britain have been regarded as relating to this returning individual. From 2005 to 2007, an adult visited Sula Sgeir, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, for three summers (Scott 2005).

Albatrosses are able to acquire impressive ages and theoretically the presence of a handful of birds could be responsible for most of the WP sightings. However, the data show that immature birds are

**306** Black-browed Albatross / Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris*, adult, Hermaness, Unst, Shetland, Scotland, 8 April 1985 *(René Pop)*

regularly recorded so there must be a steady influx of new birds. It is unknown if any of the birds have successfully found their way back to the Southern Hemisphere.

There are indications that individuals that have become 'trapped' on the wrong hemisphere may switch to a 'northern' moult cycle (Howell et al 2014).

**Records in Greenland, North America and West Indies**

There are two records off Greenland, both of birds collected at sea, in August 1935 and July 1958. The species has been recorded c 10 times off the east coast of North America, mainly from June to September (Howell et al 2014). The first three were in September 1973 (off Massachusetts); in July 1976 (off Massachusetts); and February 1999 (off Virginia). In 2009 alone, there were five records. Several additional reports have not been accepted or have been only accepted as 'albatross spec' (Patteson et al 1999). In the West Indies, there is one specimen from Martinique, collected in November (Howell et al 2014) and, in July 2013, the first for the Bahamas was reported off Sandy Point, Abaco.

**Other albatross species in the WP**

Apart from Black-browed Albatross, three other albatross species have been recorded in the WP, but in much smaller numbers (cf Haas 2012). Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *T chlororhynchos* has been recorded in England (June-July 2007), Faeroes (July 2012), Norway (April 1994 and June-July 2007) and Sweden (July 2007, considered same individual as in England; Gantlett & Pym 2007). Shy Albatross *T cauta* has been recorded once, in February-March 1981 (bird staying off the coast of Sinai,

**307** Black-browed Albatross / Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris*, adult female (collected on Mykineshólmi, Mykines, Faeroes, on 11 May 1894), Zoological Museum, København, Denmark, 21 May 2008 (*Geert Brovad*)

Egypt, and Israel, and collected on 7 March 1981; Shirihai 1996). An immature male Tristan Albatross *Diomedea dabbenena* was collected at Palermo, Sicily, Italy, on 4 October 1957 (Haas 2009); of all *Diomedea* reports in the WP, this is the only one well documented as well as considered of presumed wild origin (cf Soldaat et al 2009).

## Samenvatting

Wenkbrauwalbatros in Denemarken en Duitsland in mei-juli 2014 Op 25-26 mei en 17-18 juli werd een adulte Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris* waargenomen te Skagen, Nordjylland, Denemarken. Dezelfde vogel (op basis van vergelijking van foto's) verbleef van 28 mei tot 13 juni onregelmatig op en rond Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Duitsland (waarnemingen op 28-29 mei, 4-5 juni en 12-13 juni). Op beide locaties liet de vogel zich vaak van dichtbij bekijken, vliegend over zee dicht langs de kust maar ook boven land en (op Helgoland) ook rustend in de kolonie van Jan-van-genten *Morus bassanus*. Het betreft het derde geval voor Denemarken en tweede voor Duitsland. Door de goede documentatie was de determinatie eenvoudig, op basis van het grote formaat, de donkere bovenvleugel en mantel, donkere staart, grijze 'wenkbrauw' voor en achter het oog, donkere ondervleugel met centrale lichte baan, gele snavel en donkere iris. De iriskleur onderscheidt deze soort van Campbellalbatros *T impavida* (broedvogel bij Nieuw-Zeeland) die een lichte gele iris heeft en kleine verschillen in koptekening en ondervleugel; deze soort is overigens niet als dwaalgast vastgesteld in het West-Palearctische gebied (WP).

Een overzicht van alle waarnemingen in de WP geeft aan dat er c 125 gevallen zijn (inclusief waarnemingen vanaf c 2007 die soms nog niet aanvaard zijn; figuur 1). De laatste decennia neemt de frequentie van gevallen toe, waarschijnlijk mede onder invloed van een toenemende activiteit van zeetrekwaarnemers en betere documentatiemogelijkheden. Er zijn gevallen van de Azoren (2), Brittannië (27 tot en met 2012; c 5 aanvullende waarnemingen), Denemarken (3), Duitsland (2), Faeroër (2), Frankrijk (c 19), Kanaaleilanden (2-3), Ierland (18; 19 individuen), IJsland (2), Italië (2), Marokko (3), Noorwegen (c 19), Portugal (1), Spanje (c 13), Spitsbergen (1) en Zweden (2). Ze zijn uit alle maanden met het zwaartepunt in mei-oktober (figuur 2). Vier of vijf individuen keerden jaren achtereen terug om te overzomeren in kolonies van Jan-van-genten (IJsland, Faeroër en Schotland). Van 80 gevallen waarbij de leeftijd is vermeld was ruim twee derde in adult kleed). Er zijn waarnemingen aan de westzijde van de Atlantische Oceaan (Groenland, Noord-Amerika en West-Indië) en gevallen van drie andere soorten albatrossen in de WP (in totaal zes gevallen).

## References

Anderson, K 1895. *Diomedea melanophris* in the Faeroe Islands. Proc Royal Physical Soc Edinburgh 11: 91-114.

BirdLife International 2014. Species factsheet: *Thalassarche melanophris*. Website: www.birdlife.org. [Accessed 4 July 2014.]

Bourne, W R P 1977. Half a pair of Black-browed Albatrosses. Br Birds 70: 301-303.

Brooke, M 2004. Albatrosses and petrels across the world. Oxford.

Burg, T M & Croxall, J P 2001. Global relationships amongst black-browed and grey-headed albatrosses: analysis of population structure using mtDNA and microsatellites. Molecul Ecol 10: 2647-2660.

Gantlett, S & Pym, T 2007. The Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross from Somerset to Lincolnshire – a new British bird. Birding World 20: 279-295.

Haas, M 2009. Tristan Albatross collected in Sicily, Italy, in October 1957. Dutch Birding 31: 180.

Haas, M 2012. Extremely rare birds in the Western Palearctic. Barcelona.

Howell, S NG, Lewington, I & Russell, W 2014. Rare birds of North America. Princeton.

Onley, D, & Scofield, P 2007. Albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters of the world. London.

Patteson, J B, Patten, M A & Brinkley, E S 1999. Black-browed Albatross in North America: first photographically documented record. North Am Birds 53: 228-231.

Robertson, C J R & Nunn, G B 1998. Towards a new taxonomy for albatrosses. In: Robertson, G & Gales, R (editors), Albatross biology and conservation, p 13-19. Chipping Norton.

Scott, M 2005. The black-browed albatross on Sula Sgeir. Birding World 18: 382-384.

Schäffer, N 2014. Schwarzbrauenalbatros auf Helgoland. Falke 61: 50-51.

Shirihai, H 1996. The birds of Israel. London.

Soldaat, E, Leopold, M F, Meesters, E H & Robertson, C J R 2009. Albatross mandible at archeological site in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and WP records of *Diomedea* albatrosses. Dutch Birding 31: 1-16.

Sutherland, W J & Brooks, D J 1979. Nest of Black-browed Albatross in Shetland. Br Birds 72: 286-288.

Waterston, G 1968. Black-browed Albatross on the Bass Rock. Br Birds 61: 22-27.

*Gotthard Krug, Süderstraße 581, D-27498 Helgoland, Germany (gotkrug@googlemail.com)*
*Roef Mulder, Schoolstraat 3, 9844 PE Pieterzijl, Netherlands (roefmulder@home.nl)*
*Marcel Haas, Helmweg 12C, 1759 NE Callantsoog, Netherlands (zoodauma@gmail.com)*
*Enno B Ebels, Joseph Haydnlaan 4, 3533 AE Utrecht, Netherlands (ebels@wxs.nl)*

## Melanistic Greater Flamingo at Eilat, Israel, in October 2012-March 2014

On 23 October 2012, after a storm system had hit southern Israel causing some floods, Itai Shanni found a dark Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* among the regular large flock at the saltpans of K20, just north of Eilat (29.62°N, 35.00°E). It looked like a melanistic bird but, in order to rule out a stained or oiled bird, IS and Gert Ottens contacted Hein van Grouw, curator of the bird group at Natural History Museum, Tring, England, and expert on aberrant plumages in birds (see, eg, van Grouw 2006, 2013). He agreed with our conclusion that the dark plumage of this bird was caused by melanism. As far as we know, this is the first record of this plumage aberration for any flamingo species (Hein van Grouw in litt). The bird remained at Eilat saltpans with the flock (60-100 during summer and up to 1500 during winter) and was last seen in the first week of March 2014 (IS pers obs).

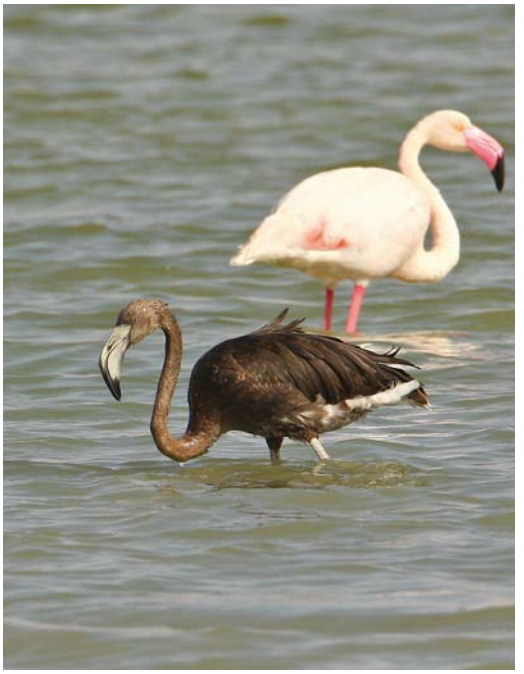
This description is based on a large series of photographs. Video images of the bird can be viewed at http://tinyurl.com/m5aof2e.

SIZE & SHAPE Like normally coloured Greater Flamingos.
HEAD & NECK Chocolate brown.
UPPERPARTS Mantle, back and rump sooty black.
UNDERPARTS Breast and flank dark brown. Belly dark brown.
WING Sooty black, both upper and under wings. Underwing dark grey-brown.
TAIL White with black mottling at base of feathers and dark fringes at tip (see plate 308).
BARE PARTS Bill mostly grey to greenish grey, with dark tip (more extensive on upper mandible, as in normally coloured birds). Leg grey. Eye yellowish brown.
BEHAVIOUR Behaving normally, associating with flamingo flock.

The greyish colour of the bill and legs suggests that it was an immature bird but some features, like the yellowish brown eyes, do not concur with that (Cramp 1977). When first seen (October 2012), the eyes appeared brown, so the bird was most likely an immature then. Normally at this age, Greater Flamingos show darker plumage than adult birds, until approximately three years of age (del Hoyo et al 1992). However, in immature flamingos, the darker parts of the plumage are usually restricted to the flight-feathers, and in any

**308** Melanistic Greater Flamingo / melanistische Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*, with normally coloured individuals, Eilat, Israel, 12 February 2014 *(Amir Ben Dov)*

[*Dutch Birding 36: 242-243, 2014*]



**309** Melanistic Greater Flamingo / melanistische Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*, with normally coloured individual, Eilat, Israel, 26 March 2013 *(Steve Arlow)*

**310** Melanistic Greater Flamingo / melanistische Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*, with normally coloured individuals, Eilat, Israel, 8 August 2013 *(Yoav Perlman)*

case much less dark and less extensive than in this bird. Between October 2012 and early 2014, the bird underwent moult but its features hardly changed (if at all). This indicates that the dark plumage was not caused by external factors, such as staining (dirt or oil), but was an intrinsic character of this individual. The dark colour was therefore probably caused by melanism (cf van Grouw 2006, 2013). Whether it was a hereditary type of melanism (by mutation) is hard to tell. This is most likely the case but melanism can also be caused by a shortage of vitamin D or other physical deformities (Hein van Grouw in litt).

As the bird gets older, its plumages may get paler coloured, and the coloration of the bare parts could turn pink as is the case in ageing normal birds. This is because a melanism mutation does not have to affect the production of carotenoids, which are responsible for the pink colours in flamingos. However, if the melanism in this bird was caused by physical abnormalities then this could also (but not necessarily) affect the colour of the bare parts (Hein van Grouw in litt).

Hein van Grouw (Natural History Museum, Tring) and Yoav Perlman (Israel Ornithological Centre) were most helpful in writing this note.

**References**

Cramp, S (editor) 1977. The birds of the Western Palearctic 1. Oxford.

van Grouw, H 2006. Not every white bird is an albino: sense and nonsense about colour aberrations in birds. Dutch Birding 28: 79-89.

van Grouw, H 2013. What colour is that bird? The causes and recognition of common colour aberrations in birds. Br Birds 106: 17-29.

del Hoyo, J, Elliott, A & Sargatal, J (editors) 1992. Handbook of the birds of the world 1. Barcelona.

*Gert Ottens, Ganzebloem 14, 3984 CG Odijk, Netherlands (glanskraai@hotmail.com)*
*Itai Shanni, Alaemon Birding, Eshel 22, Be'er Ora, Israel (itaish1@yahoo.com)*

# Least Bittern, Wilson's Phalarope and Merlin with Sora as prey on Aruba in October 2013

From 16-27 October 2013, a birding group of the Dutch travel company Stichting Vogelreizen paid an 11-day visit to the Caribbean islands of Aruba and Curaçao. Our goal was to get acquainted with bird species of regular Caribbean occurrence but also to look for rare or vagrant species and hopefully to discover species previously not reported from these islands.

It is certainly possible to find new species on these rather poorly and irregularly birded islands; Mlodinow (2006) recently documented no less than five new species (Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*, Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*, Greater Ani *Crotophaga major*, Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* and Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*). Another example is the observation on Aruba of Buff-breasted Sandpipers *Calidris subruficollis* in October 2010 and October 2011 (Dirks 2014). Both observations of Buff-breasted were included in the recently published guide for the ABC islands (Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao) (de Boer et al 2012).

*Least Bittern*

On 23 October 2013, we visited the northern part of Bubali Bird Sanctuary, Aruba, and encountered various bird species foraging on and along the waters of the reserve, which is partly overgrown with Water Lettuce *Pistia stratiotes*. We observed Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*, Caribbean Coot *Fulica caribaea*, Green Heron *Butorides virescens*, Pectoral Sandpiper *C melanotos* and Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*, after which we unexpectedly found a small heron. In size, shape and behaviour it resembled Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*, a species known to us from Europe, but it appeared somewhat paler. Arnold Klaren, one of our photographers, was able to make some photographs (plate 311). After checking our guidebooks (Sibley 2000, de Boer et al 2012) on the spot, there was no doubt that we were observing a Least Bittern *I exilis*. On the ABC islands, this species had been recorded only once, on Curaçao in 2005 (Prins et al 2009). Aruba lies only 27 km north of Venezuela's Paraguaná Peninsula and it is possible that this bird is a stray from that area, where it is a breeding species. Alternatively, as Hilty (2003) suggests that northern migrants might winter in Venezuela, it may also have originated from North America.

*Wilson's Phalarope*

On 24 October 2013, we were birding the lagoon area of Saliña Cerca, in the north-western part of Aruba. We encountered several wader species, most of them boreal migrants. Common species here were Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*, Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*, Lesser Yellowlegs *T flavipes* and Pectoral Sandpiper. Our attention was drawn to a wader swimming in a creek, apparently picking up food items from the surface. Every now and than the bird was spinning around. The thin, long and straight dark bill combined with the long neck, pale grey upperparts and typical head pattern with pale supercilium curving down to the neck identified it as a Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (eg, O'Brien et al 2006), another new species for Aruba (plate 313). Wilson's Phalarope is very rare in the Caribbean and northern South America. In both Suriname and Venezuela, it has been recorded only once (Haverschmidt & Mees 1994, Hilty 2003). On migration and during winter it can be found mainly along the South American coast of the Pacific Ocean (Restall et al 2006).

*Merlin and Sora*

Another observation worth mentioning of a northern migrant, though not concerning a new species, is a flying female Merlin *Falco columbarius*, also on 23 October 2013, at the edge of Bubali Bird Sanctuary. In her claws, it was carrying a Sora *Porzana carolina*, which was still alive. We did not see the Merlin taking the crake but, as it was apparently too heavy, the Merlin dropped it and it fell into the reeds (plate 312). As a species, Merlin has a circumpolar breeding distribution in the Northern Hemisphere. In the Nearctic, it winters south to northern South America (Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001) and on the ABC islands it is a fairly common non-breeding visitor, mostly between October and April (Prins et al 2009). Merlins mostly feed on small (sparrow-sized) songbirds and taking a bird as large as a Sora seems to be exceptional (cf, eg, Newton et al 1984, Bibby 1987, Sodhi & Oliphant 1993). Normally, preys taken weigh 15-50 g, mostly less than 30 g (Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001); Sora weighs 49-112 g (Robbins et al 1966).

*Acknowledgements*

I thank Arnold Klaren for his excellent work. My appreciation goes to all members of the travel group for their team effort in tracking and identifying all the species we encountered during our fas-

**311** Least Bittern / Amerikaanse Woudaap *Ixobrychus exilis*, Bubali Bird Sanctuary, Aruba, 23 October 2013 *(Arnold Klaren)* **312** Merlin / Smelleken *Falco columbarius*, female, dropping Sora / Soraral *Porzana carolina*, Bubali Bird Sanctuary, Aruba, 23 October 2013 *(Arnold Klaren)* **313** Wilson's Phalarope / Grote Franjepoot *Phalaropus tricolor*, Saliña Cerca, Aruba, 24 October 2013 *(Arnold Klaren)*

cinating biannual autumn trip. I thank Bill Clark for his comments on the identification of the Merlin.

**References**

Bibby, C J 1987. Food habits of breeding Merlins *Falco columbarius* in Wales. Bird Study 34: 64-70.
de Boer, B, Newton, E & Restall, R 2012. Birds of Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire. London.
Dirks, E 2014. Rare waders on Aruba: Buff-breasted Sandpipers in October 2010 and 2011 and Upland Sandpiper in October 2011. Dutch Birding 36: 120-121.
Ferguson-Lees, J & Christie, D A 2001. Raptors of the world. London.
Haverschmidt, F & Mees, G F 1994. Birds of Suriname. Paramaribo.
Hilty, S 2003. Birds of Venezuela. London.
Mlodinow, S 2006. Five new species of birds for Aruba, with notes on other significant sightings. J Carib Ornithol 19: 31-35.
Newton, I, Meek, E R, & Little, B 1984. Breeding season foods of Merlins *Falco columbarius* in Northumbria. Bird Study 31: 49-56.
O'Brien, M, Crossley, M & Karlson, K 2006. The shorebird guide. London.
Prins, T G, Reuter, J, Debrot, A, Wattel, J & Nijman, V 2009. Checklist of the birds of Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire, South Caribbean. Ardea 97: 137-268.
Restall, R, Rodner, C & Lentino, M 2006. Birds of northern South America: an identification guide. London.
Robbins, C S, Bruun, B & Zim, H S 1966. Birds of North America. New York.
Sibley, D 2000. The North American bird guide. New York.
Sodhi, N S & Oliphant, L W 1993. Prey selection by urban-breeding Merlins. Auk 110: 727-735.

*Emile M E Dirks, Schepenlaan 31, 1503 HK Zaandam, Netherlands (emile.dirks@stichtingvogelreizen.nl)*

## Kumliens Meeuw bij Scheveningen in december 2013

Op 24 december 2013 werkte ik (Vincent van der Spek) thuis. Tijdens de middagpauze fietste ik naar Scheveningen, Den Haag, Zuid-Holland. Het weer was niet ideaal, met een harde wind uit het zuidwesten (windkracht 7B), veel bewolking en zo nu en dan regen. Rond 12:15 besloot ik ondanks de wind – het is er niet ongevaarlijk tijdens storm – het Zuiderhavenhoofd op te gaan omdat ik rond de punt een flinke groep meeuwen zag. Daar aangekomen zag ik tot mijn verrassing een adulte Kleine Burgemeester *Larus glaucoides* vliegen. Mijn pauze was daarmee gelijk al geslaagd! De vogel landde vrij ver op zee. Af en toe vloog hij naar de achterste rand van de groep meeuwen, op c 40 m afstand, om zich vervolgens af te laten drijven, soms tot op meer dan 150 m. Ik gaf de waarneming door via zowel Dutch Bird Alerts als de Haagse Whatsapp-groep. Arjan Dwarshuis was binnen een kwartier ter plaatse. Na 10 min kwam de vogel weer aanvliegen. In vlucht meenden we nu enkele donkerdere delen in de handvleugel te zien. Wanneer de vogel zwom leken er ook grijze subterminale bandjes op enkele handpennen zichtbaar maar vanwege de afstand en het onstuimige weer was dit met alleen een verrekijker lastig met zekerheid vast te stellen. Inmiddels arriveerde ook Hemme Batjes. Rond 12:50 kwam de vogel voor het eerst én voor het laatst dichterbij en zwom op c 15 m naast de buitenzijde van het havenhoofd. Ik kon twee foto's maken; daarna vloog hij weer op en verdween langs het havenhoofd richting kust en uit ons blikveld. Ik maakte met mijn telefoon een foto van mijn camerascherm met daarop de vleugelpunt en stuurde die naar de Whatsapp-groep. Thuis kon ik na de verplichte kerstboodschappen de foto's beter bekijken. Van werken is het vervolgens niet meer gekomen! Mijn hart ging sneller kloppen toen op het grote beeldscherm op de buitenvlag van p8-10 een duidelijk donkerdere tekening te zien was dan op de binnenvlag. Ook was op p7-8 een grijze, gesloten subterminale band aanwezig. Ik besefte dat dit niet paste op een 'klassieke' Kleine Burgemeester (nominaat *L g glaucoides*, hierna *glaucoides*) en mogelijk wel op Kumliens Meeuw *L g kumlieni* (hierna *kumlieni*) maar omdat de tekening niet heel opvallend was en het een lichte vogel met een licht oog betrof hield ik een slag om de arm. Ik mailde de foto's daarom naar Peter Adriaens, Arnoud van den Berg, Martin Garner en Mars Muusse; al snel volgden de eerste positieve geluiden. Vervolgens startte ik discussies op de fora van www.dutchbirding.nl en www.waarneming.nl, die voor veel constructieve reacties zorgden. De sterk overheersende mening was ook hier dat de vogel paste binnen de variatie van *kumlieni* en niet binnen die van *glaucoides*. Zoekacties dezelfde dag en de dagen erna leverden niets meer op.

**314-317** Kumliens Meeuw / Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucoides kumlieni*, adult, Scheveningen, Den Haag, Zuid-Holland, 24 december 2013 *(Vincent van der Spek)*

*Beschrijving*

De beschrijving is met name gebaseerd op mijn foto's.

GROOTTE & BOUW Iets kleiner dan aanwezige Zilvermeeuwen *L argentatus*. Vrij gedrongen postuur met stevige borst. Vleugelpunt ten minste snavellengte voorbij staart stekend.

KOP Typische winterkop van grote meeuw, met witte grondkleur en bruingrijze vlekken (minst aanwezig rondom mondhoek, meest rondom oog).

BOVENDELEN Mantel en schouder lichtgrijs, iets lichter dan bij lichtste aanwezige Zilvermeeuwen.

VLEUGEL Bovenvleugel: dekveren grijs als bovendelen. In geheel vogel iets minder licht tonend dan verwacht van *glaucoides*, alhoewel slechts indruk (vergelijking niet mogelijk). Tertials, arm- en handpennen lichtgrijs met brede witte top. P9-10 met donkergrijze buitenvlag, beginnend vlak boven witte handpentop en doorlopend tot aan handpendekveren. P8 eveneens met donkerdere buitenvlag dan binnenvlag maar iets lichter van kleur en grijs niet geheel tot aan handpendekveren doorlopend. Op p7-8 lichtgrijze subterminale, gesloten smalle band, op p8 verbonden met donkerdere buitenvlag. Ondervleugel: wit, met doorschijnend patroon van bovenvleugel.

STAART Wit

NAAKTE DELEN Poot 'kauwgomroze', zelfde indruk makend als kleur van adulte *L a argentatus*. Snavel overwegend groenig met meer vaalgeel deel op punt van bovensnavel. Oranjerode gonysvlek beperkt tot ondersnavel. Oog licht, iets donkerder in tint dan bij adulte Zilvermeeuw. Op maximaal ingezoomde foto's geen donkere vlekjes in iris te zien maar voor accurate beoordeling foto's niet goed genoeg. Kleur oogrand niet vast te stellen.

RUI & SLEET Geen zichtbare rui of sleet.

GEDRAG Veelal zwemmend op zee. Daarbij hooguit rand van groep meeuwen opzoekend. Daarna vaak 10-tallen meters en soms tot meer dan 150 m afdrijvend en vervolgens weer terug vliegend. Eenmaal dichterbij, tot op c 15 m. Geen reactie op gooien van brood. Tweemaal natuurlijk voedsel uit water pikkend.

*Determinatie*
Het was evident dat de vogel behoorde tot het complex van *glaucoides*, *kumlieni* en Thayers Meeuw *L thayeri* (hierna *thayeri*). Dat de Scheveningse vogel geen *thayeri* was, was evident: *thayeri* heeft onder meer zwarte vleugelpunten op de bovenvleugel en doorgaans een donkere iris. Variatie in handpentekening bij adulte *glaucoides* is niet bekend: adulte vogels hebben geen donkere schacht op meerdere buitenvlaggen van de handpennen en vertonen geen subterminale band op handpentoppen. *Kumlieni* is een zeer variabel taxon met vogels die neigen naar *thayeri* (en soms nauwelijks daarvan te onderscheiden) aan de ene zijde van het spectrum en vogels die (zeer) sterk lijken op *glaucoides* aan de andere zijde, zowel wat betreft vleugeltekening als iriskleur. De vogel van Scheveningen paste binnen de variatie van *kumlieni* (cf Howell & Mactavish 2003, Olsen & Larsson 2004, Howell & Dunn 2007, Frémont & Verneau 2009, Svensson et al 2010, van Duivendijk 2011). De bovenzijde van de Scheveningse vogel was weliswaar vrij licht en de vleugeltekening vrij subtiel maar passend binnen de bandbreedte; dit type vogels komt bijvoorbeeld regelmatig voor in Newfoundland, Canada. Howell & Mactavish (2003) beschreven nog twee typen met minder tekening dan de Scheveningse vogel. Het type dat past op de Scheveningse vogel vormt samen met de twee lichtere typen 24% van de vogels in Newfoundland (overwinteraars) en is daarmee dus beslist niet zeldzaam.

Een kruising tussen *kumlieni* en *glaucoides* is bij de lichtste vogels wellicht niet uit te sluiten. Mogelijk komen die voor maar een gemengd broedgeval van *glaucoides* en *kumlieni* is nog nooit beschreven (cf Adriaens 2008). Wel is *kumlieni* een enkele keer vastgesteld in het broedgebied van *glaucoides*. Zo fotografeerde Jan Boertman op 4 juli 2005 een *kumlieni* aan de oostkust van Groenland in een kolonie van *glaucoides* (http://gull-research.org/glaucoides/glauc5cy/5cyjul001.html).

*Taxonomie*
Over het complex van *glaucoides*, *thayeri en kumlieni* wordt al 10-tallen jaren gedebatteerd. In Europa wordt Thayers Meeuw doorgaans als aparte soort beschouwd en Kumliens Meeuw als ondersoort van Kleine Burgemeester. In Noord-Amerika wordt *kumlieni* echter veelal beschouwd als een hybride populatie (inclusief terugkruisingen) van *thayeri* en *glaucoides* (eg, Pittaway 1999, Weir et al 2000, Snell 2002). Howell & Mactavish (2003) schreven over *thayeri* en *kumlieni*: 'We can't learn how much they interbreed until we can distinguish them, but we can't distinguish them because they appear to interbreed'. Snell (2002) behandelde het gehele complex als één monotypische soort. Adriaens (2008) bracht daar tegenin dat de in kleed en structuur verschillende *thayeri* en *glaucoides* gescheiden broed- én overwinteringsgebieden hebben: de broedgebieden liggen 2000-5000 km uit elkaar. Voor *kumlieni* geldt dat de broedgebieden op Baffin Island, Canada, vermoedelijk enige overlap vertonen met die van *thayeri* maar dat de broedgebieden gescheiden zijn van die van *glaucoides*: laatstgenoemde broedt op Groenland en *kumlieni* op Baffin Island en in het noordwesten van Quebec, Canada. Bij *kumlieni* is een bijkomend probleem dat vrijwel alle kennis van variatie afkomstig is uit overwinteringsgebieden zoals Newfoundland (eg, Howell & Mactavish 2003) en niet uit de broedgebieden. Verkennend onderzoek lijkt erop te wijzen dat de drie taxa vocaal van elkaar verschillen. Recent zijn de geluiden van de drie taxa met elkaar vergeleken. De 'long calls' en de vluchtroep van *thayeri* zijn lager dan die van *glaucoides*. Die van *glaucoides* en *kumlieni* zijn vergelijkbaar, waarbij *kumlieni* verrassend genoeg van de drie taxa niet intermediair maar mogelijk zelfs het hoogst klinkt (http://birdingfrontiers.com/2014/01/09/calls-of-thayers-kumliens-and-iceland-gulls).

*Status in Nederland*
De vogel van Scheveningen is door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) aanvaard als derde geval van Kumliens Meeuw. De waarneming was voor mij een mooie beloning voor het jarenlang bekijken van meeuwen en het aflezen van hun ringen in de Scheveningse haven. Eerdere gevallen waren een derde-kalenderjaar op 30 januari 2005 op Terschelling, Friesland (Bunskoek et al 2009), en een adult op 3 april 2011 in de Brabantse Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant (Muusse 2011).

*Dankwoord*
Allereerst gaat mijn dank uit naar mijn medewaarnemers Arjan Dwarshuis en Hemme Batjes. Peter Adriaens, Arnoud van den Berg, Martin Garner, Bruce Mactavish en Mars Muusse gaven hun mening over de determinatie. Vooral Mars voorzag mij van veel informatie. Voorts gaat mijn dank uit naar iedereen die via internetfora heeft gereageerd.

**Summary**
Kumlien's Gull at Scheveningen in December 2013
During strong wind on 24 December 2014, an adult

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides* was seen by three observers at sea at Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands, before it disappeared. Due to the weather and the lack of a telescope, it was not until the bird came close (15 m) before some dark markings on the outer primaries were noticed and photographs were made. Pictures showed a darker grey outer web on p8-10, and a grey, subterminal bar on p7 and p8. Although Kumlien's Gull *L g kumlieni* was immediately considered as a serious option, there was some uncertainty at first as the bird was pale, with a pale iris, and with relatively pale markings on the wing. Based on the opinion of consulted gull experts and discussions on the internet, it transpired that 24% of the wintering Kumlien's in Newfoundland, Canada, are comparable with this bird, some even being paler, and with even less markings on the primaries. After previous records in 2005 and 2011, the bird has been accepted as the third Kumlien's for the Netherlands.

**Verwijzingen**

Adriaens, P 2008. DB Actueel: Kumliens Meeuw bij Nieuwpoort. Dutch Birding 30: 63-65.

Bunskoek, M, Ebels, E B & Winters, R 2009. Kumliens Meeuw op Terschelling in januari 2005. Dutch Birding 31: 17-19.

van Duivendijk, N 2011. Advanced bird ID handbook – the Western Palearctic. London.

Frémont, J-Y & Verneau, A 2009. Éléments d'identification. Le Goéland de Kumlien *Larus glaucoides kumlieni*. Ornithos 16: 112-125.

Howell, S N G & Dunn, J 2007. Gulls of the Americas. Boston.

Howell, S N G & Mactavish, B 2003. Identification and variation of winter adult Kumlien's Gulls. Alula 9: 2-15.

Muusse, T O V 2011. Kumliens Meeuw in Brabantse Biesbosch in april 2011. Dutch Birding 33: 193-196.

Olsen, K M & Larsson, H 2004. Gulls of Europe, Asia and North America. Second edition. London.

Pittaway, R 1999. Taxonomic history of Thayer's Gull. Ontario Birds 17: 1-13.

Snell, R R 2002. Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*). In: Poole, A (editor), The birds of North America Online. Website: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/699a/articles/introduction.

Svensson, L, Mullarney, K, Zetterström, D & Grant, P J 2010. ANWB vogelgids van Europa. Vierde druk. Den Haag.

Weir, D N, Kitchener, A C & McGowan, R Y 2000. Hybridization and changes in the distribution of Iceland gulls (*Larus glaucoides/kumlieni/thayeri*). J Zool 252: 517-530.

*Vincent van der Spek, Acaciastraat 212, 2565 KJ Den Haag, Nederland (v.vanderspek@gmail.com)*

## Black-headed Gull of 33 years and re-appeal to stop using aluminium rings to mark gulls

Recently, van Dijk et al (2012) presented an overview with three longevity records of Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*. The oldest individual was a bird with ring Arnhem 3.275.396, ringed near Zandvoort, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, on 25 June 1978, and observed for the last time at Zoetermeer, Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands, on 21 March 2011. It had been ringed as a chick still unable to fly and reached an age of 32 years and 9 months. A new longevity record was established soon after the paper was published. The details are presented in this paper. We also present new data to underline our earlier recommendation that gulls should no longer be marked with aluminium rings.

*London EJ15299*

On 12 January 1980, the Worcester Gull Group ringed a second calendar-year Black-headed Gull with ring London EJ15299 at Hallow landfill site, Worcester, Worcestershire, England (52°12'N, 02°14'W). It was one of the 243 Black-headed Gulls caught on that day. On 21 May 2012, it was found dead by Giny Kasemir in a breeding colony on Griend, Friesland, an islet in the Dutch Wadden Sea (53°15'N, 05°15'E), 32 years, 4 months and 9 days after it had been ringed. It was dead for about a week and not much was left of the body. The cause of death was unknown and measurements were not taken as the wardens, GK and Date Lutterop, were not immediately aware that it concerned a very old individual. The ring was on the right tarsus and the inscription was very well readable (figure 1). It was not noted whether the ring was placed upside down or not. The ringing details were received from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) on 28 June 2012 but the record was not listed in Dadam et al (2013). The database of Vogeltrekstation Arnhem (the Netherlands) holds no other records for this bird but it is interesting to note that Black-headed Gulls ringed in Britain during the non-breeding season are common as breeding birds on Griend (van Dijk & Oosterhuis 2010; pers obs). The bird was aged as a second calendar-year when ringed in January

FIGURE 1 Incoloy ring London EJ15299 of Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, 32 years, 4 months and 9 days after ringing on tarsus *(Date Lutterop)*. Found dead on Griend, Friesland, Netherlands, on 21 May 2012.

1980. It was thus born in 1979 but the place of birth and the precise date of birth are unknown. The bird had reached an age of 33 years when it died. Currently, this individual is the oldest known Black-headed Gull (cf van Dijk et al 2012).

*Helgoland 5308939*

On 22 January 2006, Sönke Martens ringed a second calendar-year Black-headed Gull with ring Helgoland 5308939 in the city of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany (53°33'N, 10°00'E). Klaas van Dijk observed the bird in the city of Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands (53°13'N, 06°35'E), for the first time on 29 January 2007. In any of the subsequent non-breeding seasons it was recorded again by KvD and others in the city of Groningen. It was also sighted at the Curonian Split, Lithuania (55°23'N, 21°03'E), on 9 August 2008 by the late Vytautas Pareigis. There are no other records from Hamburg nor from elsewhere. Frank Majoor trapped this bird twice in the city of Groningen, for the first time on 20 December 2007; based on biometrics, he identified it as a male (cf Palomares et al 1997). The bird was released with a white colour-ring E9CS. The aluminium ring was almost totally illegible when it was retrapped on 17 January 2014 (figure 2). The ring was gaping heavily and was about to fall off very soon. It was replaced by a stainless steel ring Arnhem 2.506.463 on the tarsus and the colour-ring was replaced by white E4PU.

*Arnhem 3.398.919*

On 9 February 1985, the late Klaas Visser ringed an adult (older than second calendar-year) Black-headed Gull with ring Arnhem 3.398.919 along Hilversumsch Kanaal east of Kortenhoef, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands (52°13'N, 05°07'E). The bird was not reported for the next 23 years. On 27 March 2008, KvD observed the bird in the city of Groningen, where he saw it again on 24-27 June 2010, and it was trapped there by Rob Voesten on 28 June 2010. The ring was gaping and the second digit of the ring number was difficult to read (figure 3). Based on biometrics, he identified it as a male (cf Palomares et al 1997). The ring was replaced by a stainless steel ring Arnhem 3.693.294 on the tarsus and a colour-ring white E6EM was

FIGURE 2 Aluminium ring Helgoland 5308939 of Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, 7 years, 11 months and 26 days after ringing on right tarsus *(Henri Zomer)*. Photographs taken during retrap in Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands, on 17 January 2014; bird had been ringed as second calendar-year in Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany, on 22 January 2006.

added. The bird was seen at the same locality on 29 June 2010, on 15 and 26 March 2011 and on 23 May 2011 (in full adult summer plumage in May). KvD saw it again on 6 March 2014, and for the last time on 15 March 2014 (not yet in full adult summer plumage). The bird was born in 1983 or earlier, so it was at least 30 years and c 9 months old when seen for the last time (and possibly one or more years older).

*Arnhem 3.357.298*

On 12 June 1982, Tseard Hiemstra ringed a chick of a Black-headed Gull with ring Arnhem 3.357.298 on the saltmarshes near Holwert, Friesland, the Netherlands (53°23′N, 05°54′E). Klaas Koopman retrapped the bird at this site on 19 April 1996. On 2 May 2014, KvD and Derick Hiemstra observed this bird in a breeding colony at Eemshaven, Groningen, the Netherlands (53°27′N, 06°49′E). The bird was in full summer plumage and its behaviour indicated that it was a male. The aluminium ring was on the left tibia. The second digit of the ring number was almost illegible. The bird was 31 years and 11 months old. Van Dijk et al (2012) listed only two Black-headed Gulls of this age or older. It turned out that DH was assisting his dad at the day when this bird was ringed.

*Discussion*

Gaston et al (2013) recently published an extensive analysis on differences in survival and recovery rate between soft and hard metal rings of a huge dataset of various species of gulls ringed in Canada and the USA. They concluded that a continued use of aluminium rings on gulls reduces the value of ring-recovery data, including reliable information on longevity in gulls. The conclusions confirm our earlier findings (Majoor 1995, van Dijk et al 2012) and are in line with conclusions of many other studies on wear and loss of metal rings on gulls, terns and other long-lived seabirds (for references, see van Dijk et al 2012 and Gaston et al 2013). Black-headed Gulls in Britain and Ireland get incoloy rings, a nickel-iron-chromium alloy. To date, no examples of excessive wear of these type of rings are known to us. We repeat our recommendation that all ringing schemes only use rings of stainless steel or incoloy on Black-headed Gulls.

*Acknowledgements*

We thank Vogeltrekstation Arnhem for the ringing permits and Natuurmonumenten for their support to do research on Griend. We also thank all those who helped during the preparation of this paper and are grateful to all observers for reporting their sightings (please continue with reporting any sighting of a colour-ringed gull).

FIGURE 3 Aluminium ring Arnhem 3.398.919 of Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, 25 years, 4 months and 19 days after ringing on right tibia *(Ana Buren)*. Ring replaced on 28 June 2010, last observation of bird on 15 March 2014. Ringed as adult (after second calendar-year) near Kortenhoef, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, on 9 February 1985.

**Samenvatting**

KOKMEEUW VAN 33 JAAR OUD EN HERHAALDE AANBEVELING OM TE STOPPEN MET GEBRUIK VAN ALUMINIUM RINGEN BIJ MEEUWEN Dit artikel documenteert een nieuw leeftijdsrecord bij Kokmeeuw *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*. De vogel werd op 12 januari 1980 als tweede-kalenderjaar geringd in Worcester, Worcestershire, Engeland, en werd op 21 mei 2012 door Giny Kasemir gevonden in een broedkolonie op Griend, Friesland. De vogel was ongeveer een week dood; de doodsoorzaak was onbekend. Hij was in 1979 geboren en bereikte een leeftijd van 33 jaar. Het vorige leeftijdsrecord stond op 32 jaar en 9 maanden. De ring vertoonde enige slijtage maar de inscriptie was nog prima te lezen (figuur 1). Britse Kokmeeuwen worden al erg lang met incoloy ringen gemerkt. Dergelijke ringen gaan langer mee dan de maximale levensduur van Kokmeeuwen. Dit geldt niet voor aluminium ringen. Een aantal nieuwe voorbeelden wordt gepresenteerd om dit te illustreren (figuur 2-3). Er wordt (nogmaals) voor gepleit om Kokmeeuwen te voorzien van ringen van hard metaal (roestvrij staal of incoloy).

**References**

Dadam, D, Clark, J A, Robinson, R A, Leech, D I, Moss, D, Kew, A J, Barber, L J, Barimore, C J, Blackburn, J R, de Palacio, D X, Grantham, M J, Griffin, B M & Schäfer, S 2013. Bird ringing and nest recording in Britain and Ireland in 2012. Ringing & Migration 28: 113-155.

van Dijk, K & Oosterhuis, R 2010. Herkomst, aantallen en broedsucces van Kokmeeuwen op Griend. Limosa 83: 21-35.

van Dijk, K, Oosterhuis, R, Middendorp, B & Majoor, F 2012. New longevity records of Black-headed Gull, with comments on wear and loss of aluminium rings. Dutch Birding 34: 20-31.

Gaston, A, Francis, C & Nisbet, I 2013. Continued use of soft-metal bands on gulls in North America reduces the value of recovery data. J Field Ornithol 84: 403-415.
Majoor, F 1995. Ringslijtage bij Kokmeeuwen. Op het Vinkentouw 77: 6-9; 78: 2.
Palomares, L, Arroyo, B, Marchamalo, J, Sainz, J & Voslamber, B 1997. Sex- and age-related biometric variation of Black-headed Gulls in Western European populations. Bird Study 44: 310-317.

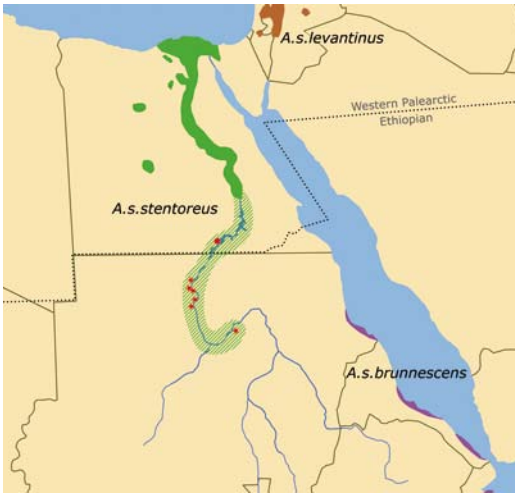
*Klaas van Dijk, Vermeerstraat 48, 9718 SN Groningen, Netherlands (klaas.vdijk@hetnet.nl)*
*Date Lutterop, Natuurmonumenten, Lopsterweg 31, 9921 RN Stedum, Netherlands (d.lutterop@wxs.nl)*
*Rob Voesten, De Cuyperstraat 47, 5861 CL Wanssum, Netherlands (rob_voesten@yahoo.com)*
*Frank Majoor, Sovon, Postbus 6521, 6503 GA Nijmegen, Netherlands (frank.majoor@sovon.nl)*

## Clamorous Reed Warblers breeding in Nile valley, Sudan, in April 2013

During a stay in northern Sudan in April 2013, we (Jens Hering and Heidi Hering) checked several stands of reed *Phragmites* along the Nile river between the Merowe dam and Sai island for reed warblers *Acrocephalus*. At six locations, the presence of Clamorous Reed Warbler *A stentoreus* was confirmed. On 17 April, we heard two singing individuals on reed islands near Tumbus. On the same day, at least three individuals sang at the Third Cataract near Sabu (plate 318-321). We also saw a bird in flight carrying food but the reed bed on the island it flew to was not accessible for a nest search. As expected, our search on 18-19 April near Wawa was also successful. With the help of sound luring and a mist net, we trapped two birds that had been intensively singing (plate 323-324). Blood samples for DNA analysis were taken from both. Altogether, six individuals were heard singing in a stretch of c 1000 m of patchy but pronounced reed beds. Further occurrences were recorded at Soleb on 19 April, where two birds sang loudly in reeds and in an acacia thicket. On Sai to the north of this location, six territories in island-like reed beds were registered. The most southerly record was north of Nuri, immediately below the Merowe dam, on 22 April (plate 322). Here, sound luring encouraged two individuals to sing. Details of all locations can be found in figure 1 and table 1. Accompanying breeding bird species recorded in the Clamorous Reed Warbler habitats, mostly in immediately adjacent wooded areas, were Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida* and Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis*. There were no indications of breeding by Eurasian Reed Warbler *A scirpaceus* or African Reed Warbler *A baeticatus*.

Before the sightings mentioned above, nominate Clamorous Reed Warbler *A s stentoreus* was known as a breeding bird in the Western Palearctic only from Egypt: along the Suez Canal, in oases west of the Nile, and especially from the Nile delta south as far as Lake Nasser (Goodman & Meininger 1989, Cramp 1992, Urban et al 1997, Kennerley & Pearson 2010). Breeding in the border area with Sudan was to date only suspected (Nikolaus 1987, Kennerley & Pearson 2010) and supported by the collection of two individuals on the Sudanese side of the border at Wadi Halfa on

FIGURE 1 Breeding season and breeding records of Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus stentoreus* along Nile river in Sudan in April 2013 (red star) and at Abu Simbel, Egypt, in April 2012 (red dot). Breeding areas of *A s levantinus* (brown), *A s brunnescens* (purple) and *A s stentoreus* (green; presumed extended range of nominate *stentoreus* into Sudan hatched green) (based on Urban et al 1997, Kennerley & Pearson 2010; boundary of Western Palearctic according to Cramp 1992).



**318** *Phragmites* islands at Third Cataract near Sabu, Sudan, 17 April 2013 *(Jens Hering)* **319** *Phragmites* islands at Third Cataract near Sabu, Sudan, 17 April 2013 *(Jens Hering)* **320-321** Clamorous Reed Warbler / Indische Karekiet *Acrocephalus stentoreus stentoreus*, Third Cataract near Sabu, Sudan, 17 April 2013 *(Jens Hering)* **322** *Phragmites* islands at Merowe dam, Sudan, 22 April 2013 *(Jens Hering)*

TABLE 1 Records of Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus stentoreus* along Nile river in northern Sudan in April 2013

| Date | Locality | Coordinates; elevation (m above sea level) | Note |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17 April | Tumbus Cataract | 19°42′54.93″N, 30°23′5.75″E; 219 m | two singing |
| | Third Cataract near Sabu | 19°57′18.49″N, 30°33′18.95″E; 200 m | at least three singing, one with food |
| 18-19 April | Wawa | 20°26′26.55″N, 30°20′41.70″E; 198 m | six singing, two trapped and blood samples taken |
| 19 April | Soleb | 20°26′15.05″N, 30°20′12.89″E; 196 m | two singing |
| | Sai island | 20°44′15.33″N, 30°19′56.93″E; 191 m | six singing |
| 22 April | near Merowe dam | 18°35′53.75″N, 32°1′9.53″E; 251 m | two singing |

11 September 1986 (Ash & Nikolaus 1992; Gerhard Nikolaus in litt; archived in Natural History Museum Stuttgart, Germany). The fact that Clamorous Reed Warbler breeds in this area was also proven by recent nest finds in April 2012 at Abu Simbel in southernmost Egypt (22°20′48.49″N, 31°37′10.39″E, 181 m above sea level) during reed warbler studies in which Hans-Jürgen Eilts, Elmar Fuchs, Wieland Heim and JH found two nests and caught six individuals in small reed beds; blood samples for DNA analysis were also taken (cf figure 1). Ash & Nikolaus (1992) also observed three Clamorous Reed Warblers on the Nile in Abu Gussi near Debba in Sudan in mid-September 1986. The now available breeding records from Sudan show that the nominate subspecies also occurs several 100s of kilometres upstream along the Nile and it is consequently also an Afrotropical (Ethiopian) breeding species. The distance between the previous most southerly find at Wadi Halfa and the Merowe dam is c 700 km measured along the course of the river (c 370 km linear distance). The species very probably also occurs further upstream. The question whether the new occurrences represent a southward expansion or 'old' breeding grounds must remain open,

**323** Clamorous Reed Warbler / Indische Karekiet *Acrocephalus stentoreus stentoreus*, Wawa, Sudan, 18 April 2013 *(Jens Hering)*

**324** Clamorous Reed Warbler / Indische Karekiet *Acrocephalus stentoreus stentoreus*, Wawa, Sudan, 18 April 2013 *(Jens Hering)*

as a deliberate search for this species in Sudan has not been conducted before.

The first results of the DNA analysis (mitochondrial cytochrome *b* (cytb), 361 positions, and cytochrome oxidase subunit I (COI), 748 positions; sequences will be deposited in GenBank upon publication) showed that the individuals from Wawa and Abu Simbel have identical nucleotide sequences but differ in one nucleotid from the Levant 'subspecies' *A s levantinus* that is now merged with nominate *stentoreus* (del Hoyo et al 2006). Comparisons made with the genetic data of the coastal subspecies *A s brunnescens* available in Genbank revealed differences at more than 10 nucleotids in a comparable 333 positions long section of the cytb gene, and at three nucleotids in a 612 nucleotid comparison at the more conservative COI gene. It is therefore obvious that these birds are, as expected, of the nominate subspecies. In contrast, the subspecies *A s brunnescens* of Clamorous Reed Warbler in Sudan is to date exclusively known to breed in mangrove stands along the Red Sea (Kennerley & Pearson 2010; Gerhard Nikolaus in litt). Because of the lack of a comparative study between the occurrence and breeding biology of nominate *stentoreus* and *brunnescens*, further investigations are required, above all because of the imminent large-scale habitat destruction as a result of the planned Nile reservoirs in northern Sudan.

I am grateful to my wife Heidi for her support during field work. Hans Winkler undertook the molecular genetic research. For additional assistance, my thanks go to David Conlin, Gerd Fanghänel, Thomas Kraft, Jochen Martens, Gerhard Nikolaus, Dieter Saemann and Karl Schulze-Hagen.

**References**

Ash, J S & Nikolaus, G 1992. Birds in the hot season along the Nile in the Sudanese eastern Sahara. Scopus 16: 22-28.

Cramp, S (editor) 1992. The birds of the Western Palearctic 6. Oxford.

Goodman, S M & Meininger, P L 1989. The birds of Egypt. Oxford.

del Hoyo, J, Elliott, A & Christie, D A (editors) 2006. Handbook of the birds of the world 11. Barcelona.

Kennerley, P & Pearson, D 2010. Reed and bush warblers. London.

Leisler, B & Schulze-Hagen, K 2011. The reed warblers. Diversity in a uniform bird family. Zeist.

Nikolaus, G 1987. Distribution atlas of Sudan's birds with notes on habitat and status. Bonn Zool Monogr 25. Bonn.

Urban, E K, Fry, C H & Keith, S 1997. The birds of Africa 5. London.

*Jens Hering, Wolkenburger Straße 11, D-09212 Limbach-Oberfrohna, Germany (jenshering.vso-bibliothek@t-online.de)*

# Varia

## On display: Guianan Cock-of-the-rock and Andean Cock-of-the-rock

The cotingas Cotingidae are a family of often spectacularly bright-plumaged passerines living in Central and South America. Many are considered prize birds for visiting birders. The two cock-of-the-rock species *Rupicola* surely occupy very high ranks in the pecking order of 'most wanted', based on the combination of their electrifying colourful plumages, weird appearance and elaborate display behaviour. The genus *Rupicola* holds only two species, Guianan Cock-of-the-rock *R rupicola* and Andean Cock-of-the-rock *R peruvianus*. The two cock-of-the-rock species used to be placed in a family of their own, the Rupicolidae, but are now firmly placed within the Cotingidae.

**Guianan Cock-of-the-rock**

Guianan Cock-of-the-rock is an endemic of the Guianan Shield, occurring in French Guiana, Suriname, Guyana, southern Venezuela, eastern Colombia and northern Amazonian Brazil (Kirwan & Green 2011). Its preferred habitats are humid forests near rocky outcrops. It is c 30 cm in length, stout-bodied and with an obvious half-moon crest, an orange-tipped black tail, black, orange and white wings and silky-orange filaments of the inner flight-feathers. The bill, legs and skin are orange. The female is dark brownish-grey overall and has a yellow-tipped black bill and a smaller crest. The diet consists mainly of fruits but also small snakes and reptiles. By selectively feeding on nearby fruit trees and then defecating or regurgitating the seeds within the leks, birds can actively influence the regeneration and succession of the forest habitat where they breed, like almost all fruit-eating cotingas (cf BirdLife International 2014a).

The species breeds around the first months of the year. Females and males live separately. During the height of the mating season, several males gather in leks (aggregations of males that gather to engage in competitive displays), defending a social display arena much larger than that of a lone male. While lekking, males purposely contrast themselves from the background to attract females. During mating season, the females fly in to observe and choose a male to mate with. The males stand firmly and present themselves rigidly. The displaying male shows its crest and plumage off so much that its bill and tail become obscured, almost making it difficult to recognize it as a bird. Within the lek, each bird has its own perch on a low branch with a 'court' on the ground below. This area is cleared of dead leaves by the draughts of each male taking off and landing. They also have a variety of calls and movements, showing off the crest and elongated filaments on the rump and secondaries and snapping their bills. Males display on branches c 2.5 m from the ground until a female approaches; the males then come down and display and call from individual plots on the ground. Young males of highly promiscuous species such as the cocks-of-the rock often fail to mate in their first year, likely because of the fact that older more experienced males will enjoy the majority of matings (BirdLife International 2014a). After making their choice, the females tap the male from behind and insemination quickly follows. Mating success is dependent on a variety of factors that range from the plumage exhibited by a male to the composition of the lek itself. One possible evolutionary advantage of lek formation is severe selection and consequent rapid evolutionary advancement, all of which is possible due to the high expendability of males. Only a few males are needed to fertilize the females for the next generation. Courtship behaviour is similarly theorized to have evolved from differences in division of labour between the two sexes. Females spend their energy on building nests and rearing young, while males spend most of their time and energy on finding mates and caring for their plumage. Since there have been no successful attempts to breed Guianan Cock-of-the-rock in captivity, there is speculation that male-male competition is important in their breeding system and that artificial environments may not properly reconstruct or imitate the natural ones (Kirwan & Green 2011, BirdLife International 2014b).

Unlike other species of the Cotingidae, both cock-of-the-rock species make their nest on rocky cliff faces and caves rather than in trees. The ideal nesting sites can usually be found in a cave or on a vertical rock face with crevices that provide some shelter and protection. Females Guianan Cock-of-the-rock lay one or two eggs in a nest of mud/plant material which is attached by saliva to a vertical rock. Males do not participate in the building of the nest nor with incubation of the eggs. Incubation takes c 27-28 days. Nests typi-

**325-327** Guianan Cock-of-the-rock / Oranje Rotshaan *Rupicola rupicola*, male, Raleigh Falls, Central Suriname Nature Reserve, Suriname, 19 November 2011 *(Roland Wantia)*

**328-329** Guianan Cock-of-the-rock / Oranje Rotshaan *Rupicola rupicola*, male, Raleigh Falls, Central Suriname Nature Reserve, Suriname, 19 November 2011 *(Roland Wantia)* **330** Guianan Cock-of-the-rock / Oranje Rotshaan *Rupicola rupicola*, female, Raleigh Falls, Central Suriname Nature Reserve, Suriname, 19 November 2011 *(Roland Wantia)*

cally persist from one breeding season to the next but females will make repairs as the breeding season begins.

Being locally fairly common in its range, Guianan Cock-of-the-rock is categorized as 'Least Concern' (BirdLife International 2013a). Despite the species not being rare, there are only few places where it can reliably be found, including Brazil (three sites), Guyana, Suriname (c 15 known sites) and Venezuela (Kirwan & Green 2011). A well-known site to observe displaying birds is the former nature reserve Raleigh Falls in Suriname, now part of the Central Suriname Nature Reserve, where the accompanying series of photographs was taken. Situated on the Coppename river and including the isolated granite rock Voltzberg (240 m above sea level), it contains a large variety of habitats, hence the area has long been famous for its rich birdlife. From Fungu Island (the place to stay for visitors), the research station where nearby the birds can be seen is c 15 min by boat and then 2-4 h (c 6 km) on foot over a small path through tropical forest rich in birdlife (not too difficult but a good condition is helpful; a local guide is necessary). It is possible to combine a visit to the cocks-of-the-rock with a climb to the Voltzberg (4 km from the lek and 8 km back to the starting point) in one day but organized tours stay a night at the research station. This site is the largest known lek of this species to date, with 50-60 males being active (also during the afternoon) in the breeding season from at least half November until April (www.planktonik.com/birdingsuriname/spots/raleighfalls.html). Birds may appear within 10 m distance and many aspects of the lekking behaviour, such as the extended call repertoires, floor cleaning and interaction with visiting females can be observed. If birders book a trip to Raleigh Falls without being part of an explicit birding tour, it is recommended to make sure that there will be the opportunity to visit the cock-of-the-rock site; most tourists are only interested in walking to and climbing up the Voltzberg or doing other activities in the area of Fungu Island.

**Andean Cock-of-the-rock**

Andean Cock-of-the-rock inhabits subtropical forests of the Andes ranging from Venezuela south to Bolivia. It is principally found in montane areas (c 350-2400 m elevation) but has also been recorded accidently in the lowlands (Kirwan & Green 2011). The species is most easily seen at the lekking grounds during display in the early morning and late afternoon. Males display on a daily basis year-round and activity at the lek usually lasts for a couple of hours before birds disperse in the forest. Away from the lek, birds are usually shy and inconspicuous even though males are brightly coloured, and individuals are infrequently encountered inside the forest, usually first noticed by their loud wing beats when flushed. Birds are mainly found in the lower and middle forest strata but get higher up in the canopy during intense display or while feeding in fruiting trees.

Andean Cock-of-the-rock is a relatively large, stocky songbird (c 32 cm) that shows a marked sexual dimorphism. Males are unmistakable by their bright orange-red plumage and remarkable head shape with a disk-like crest that is permanently raised and which usually conceals the entire bill. The body is fiery orange to deep scarlet, depending on the subspecies. The obvious silvery-grey tertials are notably large and square. The wing and tail are jet black. The iris is usually pale and the strong legs are bright yellow. Females are similar to the males in size and shape but have a shorter, less elaborate crest. Females are significantly darker and duller in plumage, more uniformly orange-brown. The species shows a polygamous breeding system in which parental care is carried out by the female only, like in Guianan Cock-of-the-rock. However, the courtship display is different from Guianan in not being ground based. Males gather at traditional lek sites in lower forest levels at dawn and again in the afternoon where they perform noisy and elaborate display rituals. Birds occupy several favoured arboreal perches, often lianas, forming their individual court within a hierarchical system based on dominance. Males usually distribute themselves in pairs (occasionally in trios) while performing so-called 'confrontational displays' (Benalcázar & Silva de Benalcázar 1984, Rodríguez-Ferraro & Azpiroz 2005, Kirwan & Green 2011). These displays consist of males facing each other while bowing, jumping and flapping their wings, sometimes even snapping their bills, at the same time producing various squawking and grunting calls (cf www.xeno-canto.org/species/Rupicola-peruvianus). When a female approaches, display becomes even more intense and the lek turns into a cacophony of brightly-coloured and frenzied activity filled with very strange sounds. Hill & McGraw (2006) reported that the display activity is dependent on light intensity, with the morning display period occurring during the same light intensity level as the afternoon period. The nests are made of mud plastered to cave entrances, rocky outcrops in forested ravines or even under man-made bridges. The female typically lays two white

**331-332** Andean Cock-of-the-rock / Rode Rotshaan *Rupicola peruviana sanguinolentus* male, Refugio Paz de las Aves, Pichincha, Ecuador, 13 July 2013 *(Dušan M Brinkhuizen)* **333** Andean Cock-of-the-rock / Rode Rotshaan *Rupicola peruviana aequatorialis*, female, Paquisha, Zamora-Chinchipe, Ecuador, 2 August 2013 *(Dušan M Brinkhuizen)*

**334** Andean Cock-of-the-rock / Rode Rotshaan *Rupicola peruviana saturatus*, male, Cock of the Rock Lodge, Manu, Peru, 4 July 2007 *(Harvey van Diek)*

eggs (BirdLife International 2014b).

Andean Cock-of-the-rock has four subspecies, from north-west to south-east *R p sanguinolentus*, *R p aequatorialis*, nominate *R p peruvianus* and *R p saturatus*; they differ mainly in the tone of red of plumage parts (varying from reddish orange to bright scarlet) in males as well as in iris colour, ranging from red over orange and yellow to bluish-white in males and whitish over reddish to brown in females. Females show more subtle differences in plumage colour tone (Kirwan & Green 2011).

The worldwide population size and trends in population numbers have not been established but it is believed that the species is not threatened and it is evaluated as 'Least Concern' (BirdLife International 2014b). In the 1970s, an encounter with this species was a rare occurrence but with increased interest from birders several reliable sites (especially leks) have been disclosed in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. There is a lodge in Manu NP, Cuzco, Peru, aptly named 'Cock of the Rock Lodge', within easy walking distance to a lek (www.inkanatura.com/cock-oftherockslodge). Other places where it can be seen rather easily are Aguas Calientes near Machu Picchu, Peru; Cueva de los Guacharos, Huila, Jardín, Antioquia, and Montezuma road, Risaralda, all in Colombia; San Isidro road in Barinas in western Venezuela; Mindo and Tandayapa area, including Refugio Paz de las Aves, in Pichincha province, western Ecuador; and several sites along the eastern slope of the Andes in Ecuador; (cf Kirwan & Green 2011).

**Cotingas**

The two cock-of-the-rock species are examples of the wide variety in plumages and behaviour of the cotingas. Members of this group are renowned for their often splendid colours, weird plumages and elaborate lekking behaviour in many members. The cotingas can be considered the 'birds-of-paradise of the New World', with the two cock-of-the-rock species holding most similarities. Probably, when birds evolve in habitats with an abundance of food, especially of fruit, some species may evolve lekking behaviour wherein males spend most of the year displaying to the female. The female chooses a mate, and this may have resulted in males evolving spectacularly ornamental plumage. This 'explains' the gaudy birds-of-paradise, as well as the most colourful cotingas: the

two cock-of-the-rocks, the seven blue or purple cotingas in the genus *Cotinga* and the striking black-and-red species such as Black-necked Red Cotinga *Phoenicircus nigricollis*, Guianan Red Cotinga *P carnifex*, Crimson Fruitcrow *Haematoderus militaris* and Red-ruffed Fruitcrow *Pyroderus scutatus* (Roberson 2007, Kirwan & Green 2011). In contrast, there are several all-black cotingas, including fruitcrows and umbrellabirds (mirroring the all-black birds-of-paradise, such as the manucodes), and some are essentially all-white, including Yellow-billed Cotinga *Carpodectes antoniae,* Black-tipped Cotinga *C hopkei* and the *Procnias* bellbirds.

Some cotinga species are very drab in appearance, including the nine pihas (in two genera). The voice of the Screaming Piha *Lipaugus vociferans* is *the* voice of the South America lowland rainforest. It is so loud and explosive that it is almost impossible to miss (www.xeno-canto.org/species/Lipaugus-vociferans). Other well camouflaged cotingas are the 10 fruiteaters *Pipreola*, most garbed in exquisite but non-conspicuous greens, the plantcutters *Phytotoma* and two berry-eaters *Carpornis*, black-hooded with brown-and-yellow bodies. There are quite a few cotingas that sit out in the open, including Red-crested Cotinga *Ampelion rubrocristatus* of the high Andes, which catches flying insects and snaps both fruit and bugs during short sallies. Most of the 'core cotingas' (genus *Cotinga*) are primarily fruit-eaters. Some cotingas are very rare and endangered, including the recently discovered Chestnut-bellied Cotinga *Doliornis remseni* of the central Andes of Colombia and Ecuador (Robbins et al 1994, Roberson 2007, Kirwan & Green 2011).

*Systematics*

There has been much uncertainty about the species composition of the cotingas, especially since some 'difficult' groups traditionally placed within Cotingidae also have similarities to tyrant flycatchers or manakins. Contrary to many other avian groups, the systematic dispute rarely regards the species status – which, apart from a few cases, has been remarkably stable throughout history – but instead focuses on higher-rank systematic. This 'difficult' group included, eg, purpletufts *Iodopleura* and Shrike-like Cotinga (or Elegant Mourner) *Laniisoma elegans*, as well as *Schiffornis* mourners, becards and tityras (eg, Snow 1982, Prum & Lanyon 1989). Recent molecular evidence has proved that most of these 'difficult' taxa are members of a new family, the Tityridae (Ericson et al 2006, Kirwan & Green 2011, SACC 2014). Ohlson et al (2007) investigated the phylogenetic relationships of members of the Cotingidae. Strong support was found for a monophyletic clade including 23 traditional cotingid genera, corresponding with the Cotingidae sensu SACC (2014). Recently, Kirwan & Green (2011) include 24 genera in the family Cotingidae in four subfamilies: Pipreolinae with 12 species, Cotinginae with 38, Rupicolinae with six, and Phytotominae with eight.

There are three remaining cases that need systematic evaluation: the position of the three species in the genus *Piprites*, of the tiny (7.5-8 cm) Kinglet Calyptura *Calyptura cristata* (once thought extinct but recently rediscovered and seemingly disappeared again; cf Lambert & Kirwan 2010) and of Swallow-tailed Cotinga *Phibalura flavirostris*. It has been suggested that one of the latter two or both are actually better placed in the Tityridae, or elsewhere (Roberson 2007, Kirwan & Green 2011; www.museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SACCBaseline08.htm). For Swallow-tailed Cotinga, however, recent research shows it to be a true cotinga, most closely related to *Ampelion* and *Doliornis* (cf Perv & Prum 2014).

**References**


Benalcázar, C E & Silva de Benalcázar, F 1984. Historia natural del Gallo de Roca Andino (*Rupicola peruviana sanguinolenta*). Cespedesia 13: 59-100.

BirdLife International 2014a. Species factsheet: *Rupicola rupicola*. Website: www.birdlife.org. [Accessed 27 June 2014.]

BirdLife International 2014b. Species factsheet: *Rupicola peruvianus*. Website: www.birdlife.org. [Accessed 27 June 2014.]

Ericson, P G P, Zuccon, D, Johansson, U S, Alvarenga, H & Prum, R O 2006. Higher-level phylogeny and morphological evolution of tyrant flycatchers, cotingas, manakins, and their allies (Aves: Tyrannida). Mol Phylogenet Evol 40: 471-483.

Hill, G E & McGraw, K J 2006. Bird coloration. Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Kirwan, G M & Green, G 2011. Cotingas and manakins. London.

Lambert, F & Kirwan, G 2010. The twice-vanishing 'pardalote': what future for the Kinglet Calyptura? Neotropical Birding 6: 3-17.

Ohlson, J I, Prum, R O & Ericson, P G 2007. A molecular phylogeny of the cotingas (Aves: Cotingidae). Mol Phylogenet Evol 42: 25-37.

Perv, J & Prum, R 2014. A comprehensive multilocus phylogeny of the Neotropical cotingas with comparative analysis of breeding system and plumage dimorphism. In: An annual meeting presented by the Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE), the Society of Systematic Biologists (SSB), and the American Society of Naturalists (ASN), Abstracts Raleigh Convention Center, June 20-24, 2014, p 60; Website: http://tinyurl.

com/p74dskh.
Prum, R O & Lanyon, W E 1989. Monophyly and phylogeny of the *Schiffornis* group (Tyrannoidea). Condor 91: 444-461.
Rios, M, Londoño, G & Biancucci, L 2008. Notes on birds that follow army ants in the northern Andes. Ornitol Neotropical 19: 137-142.
Robbins, M B, Rosenberg, G H & Sornoza Molina, F 1994. A new species of cotinga (Cotingidae: *Doliornis*) from the Ecuadorian Andes, with comments on plumage sequences in *Doliornis* and *Ampelion*. Auk 111: 1-7.
Roberson, D 2007. Bird families of the world. Cotingas Cotingidae. Website: http://creagrus.home.montereybay.com/cotingas.html.
Rodríguez-Ferraro, A & Azpiroz, A B 2005. Notes on the natural history of the Andean Cock-of-the-Rock (*Rupicola peruviana*) in western Venezuela. Ornitol Neotropical 16: 105-108.
SACC 2014. A classification of the bird species of South America. Website: www.museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SACCBaseline.htm. [Accessed 27 June 2014.]
Snow, D W 1982. The cotingas: bellbirds, umbrella birds and their allies. London.

*Enno B Ebels, Joseph Haydnlaan 4, 3533 AE Utrecht, Netherlands (ebels@wxs.nl)*
*Dušan M Brinkhuizen, Casilla Postal 17-07-9345, Quito, Ecuador (d.m.brinkhuizen@gmail.com)*
*Roland Wantia, Valkenboskade 582, 2563 JN Den Haag, Netherlands (roland.wantia@gmail.com)*

# Corrigenda

In het het bijschrift bij plaat 180 (Dutch Birding 36: 150, 2014) in het artikel over Lachsterns *Gelochelidon nilotica* werd de verkeerde soort vermeld. De foto toont een kuiken van Visdief *Sterna hirundo*.

In het bijschrift bij plaat 211 (Dutch Birding 36: 176, 2014) werd niet de juiste fotograaf vermeld. De foto werd gemaakt door Martin van der Schalk. Redactie

In the caption of plate 180 (Dutch Birding 36: 150, 2014) in the paper on Gull-billed Terns *Gelochelidon nilotica* the wrong species was mentioned. The photograph shows a Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* chick.

In the caption of plate 211 (Dutch Birding 36: 176, 2014) the wrong photographer was mentioned. The photograph was taken by Martin van der Schalk. Editors

# WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic mainly in **June-July 2014**. The reports are largely unchecked and their publication here does not imply future acceptance by a rarities committee. Observers are requested to submit their records to each country's rarities committee. Corrections are welcome and will be published.

DUCKS A **Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis* photographed at Oualidia on 5-6 June was the first for Morocco and Africa. A female **King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis* photographed at Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland, on 28 June constituted the 15th for the Netherlands. The first (Atlantic) **Dresser's Eider** *S mollissima dresseri* for the Pacific Ocean was photographed at Crescent City, Del Norte County, California, USA, on 20-29 November 2011 (its differences with Pacific Eider *S m v-nigrum* were discussed in Western Birds 45: 90-99, 2014). In Iceland, the adult male **American White-winged Scoter** *Melanitta deglandi deglandi* at Njarðvík from 20 December 2013 stayed until at least 14 June. Adult male **American Scoters** *M americana* occurred at Tranum Strand, Nordjylland, Denmark, from 27 May to at least 1 June, and off Redcar, Cleveland, England, on 16-18 June. A **Harlequin Duck** *Histrionicus histrionicus* stayed at Varanger, Finnmark, Norway, on 6-16 June; possibly it concerns the same individual as the one present here in two previous summers. On Jan Mayen, Norway, a male was seen on 3 July.

GREBES TO CRANES The long-staying **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* at Saint-Martin-de-Crau, Bouches-du-Rhône, France, from July 2012 remained through June. On 4 July, two **Red-billed Tropicbirds** *Phaethon aethereus* occurred at North Beach, Eilat, Israel. The third **Pacific Swift** *Apus pacificus* for Denmark was photographed at Skagen on 27 May. Subsequently, one was reported on Mellum, Germany, on 28 May and on Mandø, Syddanmark, Denmark, on 29 May, and possibly the same individual was photographed at Kvismaren, Närke, Sweden, on 30 May. Two **Pallid Swifts** *A pallidus* photographed at Enisala, Dobrogea, on 11 June constituted the fifth record for Romania. In Sweden, a **Demoiselle Crane** *Grus virgo* was twitched by many birders at Kvismaren, Närke, on 11-15 June. The second for Norway was photographed in Vestfold on 6 July. As in England and the Netherlands, **Common Cranes** *G grus* increased rapidly in numbers in recent years in Denmark, where the species returned as a breeding bird in 1952 after an absence of at least a century; until 1990, 3-4 pairs were breeding but from then onwards numbers increased to 200 pairs in 2012. In the south of Denmark, the first breeding in Sonderjylland occurred in 2002 after which

**335** Royal Tern / Koningsstern *Sterna maxima*, second-year, Hyères, Var, France, 3 June 2014
*(Aurelien Audévard)*

**336** Royal Tern / Koningsstern *Sterna maxima*, second-year, Hyères, Var, France, 14 June 2014
*(Aurelien Audévard)*

**337-338** Crab Plover / Krabplevier *Dromas ardeola*, adult, Ma'agan Michael, Israel, 26 June 2014
*(Eyal Bartov/eyalbartov.com)*

**339** Great Knot / Grote Kanoet *Calidris tenuirostris*, adult summer, Vistula mouth, Pomerania, Poland, 17 July 2014 *(Wojciech Janecki Jr)*

**340** Bridled Tern / Brilstern *Onychoprion anaethetus*, adult summer, Inner Farne, Northumberland, England, 6 July 2014 *(Paul Hackett)*

**341** Black-browed Albatross / Wenkbrauwalbatros *Thalassarche melanophris*, adult, with Northern Gannets / Jan-van-genten *Morus bassanus*, Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, 12 June 2014 *(Felix Timmermann)*

there was also a rapid increase to 21-24 pairs, raising 15 young in 2013 (Dansk Ornithol Foren Tidsskr 108: 157-163, 2014). The first nesting of the species for England was in 1979 in Norfolk, where the numbers gradually increased since, while recent nesting in western England relates to (re)introductions. In the Netherlands, where the species bred for the first time in 2001, 44 wild-origin individuals were present since March at Fochteloërveen, Drenthe/Friesland, including nine pairs of which six successfully raised young.

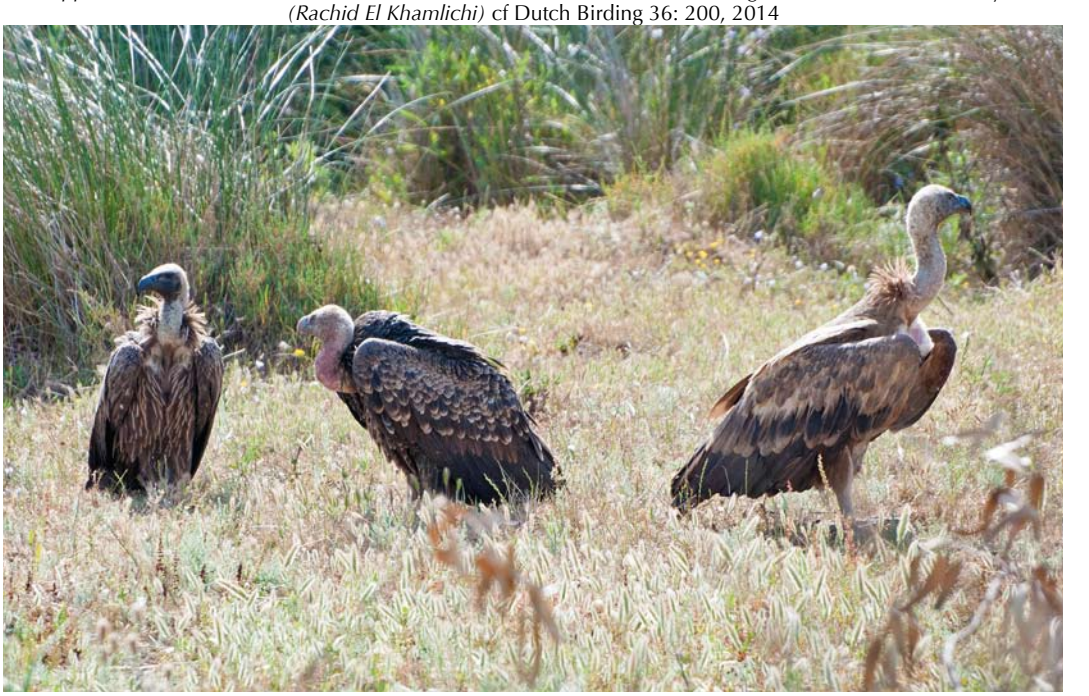
TUBENOSES No less than 25 **White-faced Storm Petrels** *Pelagdroma marina* (up to six together) were seen 10-30 km off Agadir, Morocco, on 8 June. An adult **Black-browed Albatross** *Thalassarche melanophris* flew past Skagen, Nordjylland, Denmark, and off Bohuslän, Sweden, on 25 May and back over land again in Skagen on 26 May, and was then giving excellent views on Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, on 28-29 May and 4-5 and 12-13 June; on 20 June, it flew south-west past Cuxhaven, Niedersachsen, Germany, and it was reported again at Skagen from 17 July. In England, possibly the same bird flew north past Portland Bill and Durlston, Dorset, and Dungeness, Kent, on 5 July and was reported at Worthing, West Sussex, on 6 July. On Fair Isle, Shetland, Scotland, the same **Swinhoe's Storm Petrel** *Oceanodroma monorhis* trapped between 7 August and 3 September 2013 was retrapped in the early hours of 9 July; the species was trapped here again on 12, 14, 16, 18 and 25 July. Possibly the northernmost **Leach's Storm Petrel** *O leucorhoa* ever was photographed at 80°08.9'N near Svalbard, on 3 July. The **Bermuda Petrel** *Pterodroma cahow* photographed at sea 170 nautical miles off Slea Head, Kerry, on 19 May was regarded as the first for Ireland and the second for the WP (cf Dutch Birding 36: 197, 2014). It was preceded not only by a bird seen six times at a burrow in the Azores between November 2002 and December 2006 but also by at least four satellite-tagged individuals logged in Azorean waters, while others were tracked to within 125 miles south-west of Ireland. A **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus* off North Beach, Eilat, from 27 May to 20 June was the first for Israel.

STORKS TO CORMORANTS In Israel, a juvenile **Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis* was photographed at Wadi Kana, Samaria, on 25 April and then this or another individual was present at Ein Hanzaiv, Bet She'an Valley, on 20-21 June. A **Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra* stayed for 10 successive winters, from 2004 to 2014, in Sologne, Loir-et-Cher, France (Alauda 82: 147-149, 2014). Scarce breeding bird surveys in the Netherlands in 2010-11 resulted in, eg, 235 pairs of **Eurasian Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*, 18(-60) of **Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*, 32 of **Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*, 79 of **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*, 157 of **Western Great Egret** *Casmerodius albus*, 2578 of **Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*, 63 of **Montagu's Harrier** *Circus py-*

**342** Harlequin Duck / Harlekijneend *Histrionicus histrionicus*, adult male, Sandfjord, Varanger, Finnmark, Norway, 16 June 2014 *(Ton Eggenhuizen)*

**343** Caucasian Grouse / Kaukasisch Korhoen *Tetrao mlokosiewiczi*, female, Kazbegi, Georgia, 30 April 2014 *(Tom Bedford)*

**344** Saunders's Tern / Saunders' Dwergstern *Sternula saundersi*, adult, Ras Sudr, Sinai, Egypt, 5 July 2014 *(Kris De Rouck)* **345** Saunders's Tern / Saunders' Dwergstern *Sternula saundersi*, juvenile, Ras Sudr, Sinai, Egypt, 6 July 2014 *(Kris De Rouck)* **346** White-backed Vulture / Witruggier *Gyps africanus* (left), Rüppell's Vulture / Rüppells Gier *G rueppelli* (centre) and Griffon Vulture / Vale Gier *G fulvus*, Tétouan, High Rif, Morocco, 25 May 2014 *(Rachid El Khamlichi)* cf Dutch Birding 36: 200, 2014



**347** Short-toed Snake Eagle / Slangenarend *Circaetus gallicus*, Kalkense Meersen, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium, 19 July 2014 *(Kris De Rouck)* **348** Short-toed Snake Eagle / Slangenarend *Circaetus gallicus*, third calendar-year, Ashdown Forest, East Sussex, England, 18 June 2014 *(Steve Ashton)* **349** Short-toed Snake Eagle / Slangenarend *Circaetus gallicus*, third calendar-year, Pig Bush area, Hampshire, England, 1 July 2014 *(Alan Lewis)*

**350** Abyssinian Roller / Sahelscharrelaar *Coracias abyssinica*, adult, Barranco de la Torre, Antigua, Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, 14 June 2014 *(Juan Sagardía)*

**351** Abyssinian Roller / Sahelscharrelaar *Coracias abyssinica*, adult, Barranco de la Torre, Antigua, Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, 16 June 2014 *(David Pérez)*

**352** Spectacled Warbler / Brilgrasmus *Sylvia perspicillata*, male, Burnham Overy, Norfolk, England, 8 June 2014 *(Kit Day)*

**353** Asian Common Whitethroat / Oostelijke Grasmus *Sylvia communis icterops/rubicola*, Blåvand, Vestjylland, Denmark, 4 June 2014 *(Henrik Knudsen)*

*gargus*, 87 of **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* and 112 of **Corn Crake** *Crex crex* (Limosa 87: 1-19, 2014). A male **Little Bittern** at Hviding Engsø, Syddanmark, on 1 June was the first for Denmark since 1988. The first breeding of **Western Great Egret** for Denmark concerned two pairs on Saltholm this spring. It is worth mentioning that the two **Intermediate Egrets** *Mesophoyx intermedia* at Barragem de Poilão, Santiago, Cape Verde Islands, in March are likely to have been present since spring 2011, when up to five were reported at this site (cf Dutch Birding 33: 258, 2011, 35: 131, 2013, 36: 197, 2014). In Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, a **Pygmy Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* was found on 21 May.

WADERS Scarce breeding bird surveys in the Netherlands in 2010-11 also resulted in, eg, 24 pairs of **Black-winged Stilts** *Himantopus himantopus* (2011), c 5000 of **Pied Avocets** *Recurvirostra avocetta*, 1040 of **Little Ringed Plovers** *Charadrius dubius*, 176 of **Kentish Plovers** *C alexandrinus*, 6(-25) of **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* and 7-10 of **Common Sandpipers** *Actitis hypoleucos* (Limosa 87: 1-19, 2014). **Sociable Lapwings** *Vanellus gregarius* stayed, eg, at Baie de Seine, Seine-Maritime, France, from 30 April to 30 May and at Liessel, Noord-Brabant, the Netherlands, on 3-4 July. An adult **Semipalmated Plover** *C semipalmatus* at Heimaey from 12 July onwards was the second for Iceland. Adult summer **Great Knots** *Calidris tenuirostris* were seen at Ottenby, Öland, on 11-12 June (third for Sweden), at Breydon Water, Norfolk, on 13-16 July, and at Vistula mouth, Pomerania, Baltic coast, on 17 July (second for Poland; first was in September 2001). In Norfolk, England, a **Stilt Sandpiper** *C himantopus* stayed at Hickling Broad on 11-12 July. An adult **White-rumped Sandpiper** *C fuscicollis* at Świnoujście, Western Pomerania, Baltic coast, on 14 July was the third for Poland. A **Least Sandpiper** *C minutilla* at Grimsey on 22-23 June was the fifth for Iceland. A **Crab-plover** *Dromas ardeola* briefly at the Mediterranean coast of Ma'agan Michael on 26 June constituted the fourth record for Israel; apart from one bird at Eilat in 1987, there were two previous records of two individuals also at Ma'agan Michael in June 1987 and July 1997. If accepted, an adult **Oriental Pratincole** *Glareola maldivarum* photographed at Baie de Somme, Somme, on 25-26 May will be the first for France. **Black-winged Pratincoles** *G nordmanni* were found, eg, at Groene Jonker, Zuid-Holland, on 1 June, at Öfjärden, Ångermanland, Sweden, on 11 June and at Fetzer Flachsee, Bavaria, Germany, on 13 July. In England, one was seen at Hauxley, Northumberland, on 12 June, at Saltholme, Cleveland, on 13 June, at Hurworth Burn Reservoir, Durham, on 5-6 July, again in Northumberland from 6 July, at Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, on 14 July and at Cley and Stiffkey, Norfolk, from 15 July.

AUKS TO TERNS A **Tufted Puffin** *Fratercula cirrhata* photographed several times from 17 June to at least mid-July at or near the Atlantic Puffin *F arctica* colony on Machias Seal Island in the Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick, Canada, was the second for North America away from the west coast. Adult **Slender-billed Gulls** *Chroicocephalus genei* turned up on De Kreupel, Enkhuizen, Noord-Holland, on 25 May, at Titchwell, Norfolk, on 26 May (10th for Britain) and on Fiilsø, Syddanmark, on 27 May (first for Denmark). In Devon, England, a first-summer **Ross's Gull** *Rhodostethia rosea* stayed at Bowling Green Marsh from 29 May into July. In Norway, at least one was present at Berlevåg, Finnmark, from 21 April to 27 June. **Laughing Gulls** *Larus atricilla* occurred, eg, on Fair Isle on 19 June (adult), at Kilcoole, Wicklow, Ireland, on 22 June (first-summer) and at Ballycotton, Cork, Ireland, from 27 June (first-summer). An adult **Franklin's Gull** *L pipixcan* stayed at Hyères, Var, France, on 14-15 June. An adult **Bridled Tern** *Onychoprion anaethetus* on Fair Isle on 16-19 June appeared on Farne Isles, Northumberland, on 20 June and stayed here into the second week of July (probably the same individual was present on Farne Isles from 1 July to 19 August 2013); on 10 July, it was seen at sea in Lothian and, on 13 July, at Whitburn, Durham, and Hartlepool Headland, Cleveland. In Germany, one flew north past Norderoog, Schleswig-Holstein, on 26 July. Two **Little Terns** *Sternula minula* at Melrakkaslétta on 21-22 June constituted the second record for Iceland. **Saunders's Terns** *S saundersi* bred again at Ras Sudr, Sinai, Egypt, where breeding was first recorded in 2012 (cf Dutch Birding 36: 20-24, 2014). For the third year in succession, at least 24 pairs of **Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida* nested at Kropswolderbuitenpolder, Foxhol, Groningen, the Netherlands, from late May into July. This year, also c eight pairs of **White-winged Tern** *C leucopterus* were nesting and producing young in this area, which for both species is Europe's north-westernmost colony. The second **Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii* for Iceland was an adult photographed at Jökulsárlón on 13-14 June. The second **Royal Tern** *S maxima* for France was a second-year in a Sandwich Tern *S sandvicensis* colony at Hyères, Var, on 3-17 June.

RAPTORS A **Short-toed Snake Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus* in Dorset, Hampshire, East Sussex and Surrey from 31 May through July was the third for England and Britain; the previous two were in Scilly on 7-11 October 1999 and in Devon on 16 October 2011. A subadult **Rüppell's Vulture** *Gyps rueppelli* at O Sixto, Ourol, Spain, was the first for Galicia. As in most years, several **Griffon Vultures** *G fulvus* wandered into mainland north-western Europe with, eg, in the Netherlands up to 16 roosting at Korendijksche Slikken, Zuid-Holland, on 6-7 June. On 8 June, a **Lesser Spotted Eagle** *Aquila pomarina* was photographed flying over Losser, Overijssel, the Netherlands. A late adult **Greater Spotted Eagle** *A clanga* was seen at Villaz, Haute-Savoie, France, on 17 May. In the USA, an average 67 **Golden Eagles** *A chrysaetos* are killed annually at a single wind farm, the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area in central California (Doyle et al 2014, PLoS ONE 9 (4): e95599, http://tinyurl.com/kwp5d83). The displaying subadult male **Pallid Harrier** *C macrourus* near Finsterwolde, Groningen, the Netherlands, from 25 April disappeared by 18 May and reports of it nesting and being paired with a female Montagu's Harrier *C pygargus* were unsubstantiated (cf Dutch Birding 36: 200, 2014).

OWLS TO SHRIKES Scarce breeding bird surveys in the Netherlands in 2010-11 (Limosa 87: 1-19, 2014) resulted in, eg, 2310 pairs of **Western Barn Owls** *Tyto alba*, eight of **Eurasian Eagle-Owls** *Bubo bubo*, 2068 of **Little Owls** *Athene noctua* (2011), 12-25 of **Short-eared Owls** *Asio flammeus*, 1-3 of **Tengmalm's Owls** *Aegolius funereus funereus*, 1156 of **European Nightjars** *Caprimulgus europaeus*, 298 of **Common Kingfishers** *Alcedo atthis*, 4-5 of **European Bee-eaters** *Merops apiaster*, 1-3 of **Eurasian Hoopoes** *Upupa epops*, 13(-50) of **Eurasian Wrynecks** *Jynx torquilla*, 357 of **Middle Spotted Woodpeckers** *Dendrocopos medius* and 369 of **Red-backed Shrikes** *Lanius collurio*. In Skagen, the latest-ever **Northern Hawk-Owl** *Surnia ulula* for Denmark in early May was found dead as a roadkill on 10 June; it had been ringed here in October 2013. In Scotland, **Eurasian Scops Owls** *Otus scops* were trapped on North Ronaldsay, Orkney, on 15 June and photographed in Shetland on 24 June. The first **Abyssinian Roller** *Coracias abyssinica* for the Canary Islands was photographed at Barranco de la Torre, Antigua, Fuerteventura, on 9-16 June. In Sweden, a male **Lesser Kestrel** *F naumanni* was photographed on Öland on 13 June. Intriguingly, the male **American Kestrel** *F sparverius* flying north-east over c 12 birders on the northern tip of Texel, Noord-Holland, on 19 May (cf Dutch Birding 36: 200, 205, plate 258, 2014) was preceded by a female photographed at Baardegem, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium, on 18 May. In France, seven **Eleonora's Falcons** *F eleonorae* were seen in May and 35 in June, nearly all in the south and a few in the south-west. Interestingly, **Alexandrine Parakeet** *Psittacula eupatria,* a species which is feral in some areas (eg, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands), has now been uplisted to 'Near Threatened' by BirdLife International due to it being heavily persecuted by the cagebird trade in India. A juvenile female **Indian Pitta** *Pitta brachyura* collected in Khuzestan province, Iran, on 19 November 1968 concerns the species' first record for the Middle East (cf Bull Br Ornithol Club 134: 160-162, 2014).

PENDULINE TITS TO WARBLERS Scarce breeding bird surveys in the Netherlands in 2010-11 also resulted in, eg, 75 pairs of **Eurasian Penduline Tits** *Remiz pendulinus*, 486 **Cetti's Warblers** *Cettia cetti*, five of **Melodious Warblers** *Hippolais polyglotta*, 153 of **Great Reed Warblers** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*, 15-40 of **Zitting Cisticolas** *Cisticola juncidis*, 72(-200) of **European Treecreepers** *Certhia familiaris macrodactyla*, 223 of **Grey Wagtails** *Motacilla cinerea*, 10-12 of **Yellow Wagtails** *M flavissima* and 6-7 of **Common Rosefinches** *Erythrina erythrina* (Limosa 87: 1-19, 2014). An **Arabian Dunn's Lark** *Eremalauda dunni eremodites* was seen at Wadi Zin, central Negev, Israel, on 14 June. On 22 May, a **Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra* stayed on Fair Isle. A **Lesser Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella rufescens* photographed on Rammu on 4 June was the first for Estonia. An **Eastern Bonelli's Warbler** *Phylloscopus orientalis* heard and photographed at Barranco de la Torre, Fuerteventura, on 13 June was the first for the Canary Islands. A singing male **Spectacled Warbler** *Sylvia conspicillata* at Burnham Overy Dunes, Norfolk, on 2-18 June was the eighth for Britain. DNA analysis on feathers of an adult male subalpine warbler in heavy body, wing and tail moult trapped at Vrs Van Lennep in Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland, on 6 August 2013 showed that it concerned (one of) the first **Western Subalpine Warbler(s)** *S inornata* for the Netherlands (see Dutch Birding 35:

**354** White-throated Sparrow / Witkeelgors *Zonotrichia alibicollis*, Otter Ferry, Argyll & Bute, Scotland, 19 June 2014 *(Jim Dickson)*

**355**White-rumped Sandpiper / Bonapartes Strandloper *Calidris fuscicollis*, summer plumage, Świnoujście, Cispomerania, Poland, 14 July 2014 *(Zbigniew Kajzer)*

**356** Red-headed Bunting / Bruinkopgors *Emberiza bruniceps*, male, Westkapelle, Zeeland, Netherlands, 24 July 2014 *(Phil W Koken)*

354, plate 454, 2013). A **Sardinian Warbler** *S melanocephala* turned up on Rott, Rogaland, Norway, on 11 July. An **Asian Common Whitethroat** *S communis icterops/rubicola* was trapped on Blåvand, Ribe, Denmark, on 4 June. Between 28 June and 21 July, at least 10 **Lanceolated Warblers** *Locustella lanceolata* were singing in Finland. A **Saharan Olivaceous Warbler** *Iduna pallida reiseri* photographed at Barranco de la Torre on 14 June was the first for the Canary Islands. From mid-May, an influx of **Blyth's Reed Warbler** *A dumetorum* occurred in north-western Europe, with record numbers of singing males in, eg, Britain (c 20), Denmark (16), Germany and the Netherlands (five; the earliest ever) and also one in France (in Meurthe-et-Moselle on 8-15 June). The first for Romania was trapped at Sfântu Gheorghe, Danube delta, on 23 May. DNA analyses of 348 **Eurasian Reed Warblers** *A scirpaceus* trapped for ringing in Germany showed that one was a **Caspian Reed Warbler** *A s fuscus*, the first evidence of this Asian subspecies in Central Europe (see Arabi et al 2014, Ibis Early Online: http://tinyurl.com/not5np9); moreover, DNA sequences demonstrated that no less than 6.8% of Eurasian Reed were misidentified at the species level, Marsh Warbler *A palustris* accounting for most of the misidentified birds.

THRUSHES TO BUNTINGS The 12th **Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus* for Britain on Fair Isle from 13 May stayed until 16 May (cf Dutch Birding 36: 205, 2014); it had a damaged left eye. The fourth **Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius* for Sweden (and first twitchable) was a male at Hallands väderö, Skåne, on 31 May. On 20 June, an adult **Moroccan Wagtail** *Motacilla subpersonata* was photographed at La Alcaidesa, Cádiz, Spain. In France, three **Trumpeter Finches** *Bucanetes githagineus* were seen this spring: a male at Leucate, Aude, on 13-15 May, a female at the same locality (!) from 25 May to 1 June, and at Alex, Haute-Savoie, on 25 May. Two subspecies of **White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys* in Washington State, USA, *Z l pugetensis* and *Z l gambelii*, appear to occur sympatrically, which suggests that White-crowned as currently defined might include two (or more) species (Western Birds 45: 132-140, 2014). On 19 June, **White-throated Sparrows** *Z albicollis* turned up at Landguard, Suffolk, England (trapped), and at Otter Ferry, Argyll, Scotland (singing male). The second **Cretzschmar's Bunting** *Emberiza caesia* for Sweden was a male trapped at Haparanda Sandskär, Norrbotten, on 15 June; the first was in May 1967. On 23-24 July, a male **Red-headed Bunting** *E bruniceps* stayed at Westkapelle, Zeeland, the Netherlands.

For a number of reports Birdwatch, British Birds, Go-South Bulletin, Sovon-Nieuws, www.birdguides.com, www.netfugl.dk, www.rarebirdalert.co.uk and www.trektellen.nl were consulted. We wish to thank Mohamed Amezian, Arjan Boele, Richard Bonser, Bart Brieffies, Dušan Brinkhuizen, Rolf Christensen, Dirk Colin, Martin Collinson, Mark Constantine, José Luis Copete, Andrea Corso, Avin Deen, Kris De Rouck, Klaas van Dijk, Philippe J Dubois (France), Enno Ebels, Ton Eggenhuizen, Lee Evans, Natalino Fenech, Dick Forsman, Tommy Frandsen, Raymond Galea, Geert Groot Koerkamp, Marcello Grussu, Ricard Gutiérrez, Gerry Hinchon, Zbigniew Kajzer, Leander Khil, Henrik Knudsen, Łukasz Ławicki (www.clanga.com), Vincent Legrand, André van Loon, Ronald Messemaker, Gerby Michielsen, Dominic Mitchell, Geir Mobakken (Norway), Paul Morton, Killian Mullarney, Tor A Olsen, Gert Ottens, Yoav Perlman, Stuart Piner, Magnus Robb, Luciano Ruggieri, Michael Sammut, Roy Slaterus, Iben Hove Sørensen, Lars Svensson, Rinse van der Vliet, Roland van der Vliet, Peter de Vries and Steven Wytema for their help in compiling this review.

*Arnoud B van den Berg, Duinlustparkweg 98, 2082 EG Santpoort-Zuid, Netherlands (arnoud.vandenberg@planet.nl)*
*Marcel Haas, Helmweg 12C, 1759 NE Callantsoog, Netherlands (zoodauma@gmail.com)*

# Recente meldingen

Dit overzicht van recente meldingen van zeldzame en interessante vogels in Nederland beslaat voornamelijk de periode **mei-juni 2014**. De vermelde gevallen zijn merendeels niet geverifieerd en het overzicht is niet volledig. Alle vogelaars die de moeite namen om hun waarnemingen aan ons door te geven worden hartelijk bedankt. Waarnemers van soorten in Nederland die worden beoordeeld door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) wordt verzocht hun waarnemingen zo spoedig mogelijk in te dienen via www.dutchavifauna.nl.

EENDEN TOT STORMVOGELS Een ontsnapt mannetje **Witkopeend** *Oxyura leucocephala* (met ring) werd op 29 juni gefotografeerd in een sloot in de wijk Ypenburg, Den Haag, Zuid-Holland, waar hij waarschijnlijk al jaren zwom... Over de Eemshaven, Groningen, trokken op 4 mei maar liefst 39 930 **Brandganzen** *Branta leucopsis* en een dag later nog eens 31 283. Op de meeste plekken waren **Roodhalsganzen** *B ruficollis* rond half mei verdwenen maar bij Goedereede, Zuid-Holland, verbleef van 22 juni tot in juli nog een exemplaar tussen Brandganzen. Een ongeringde **Ross' Gans** *Anser rossii* trok enige bekijks van 13 tot 19 mei bij Westdorpe, Zeeland. Late **IJseenden** *Clangula hyemalis* werden onder meer gemeld op 25 mei en 6 juni op De Kreupel, Noord-Holland, op 1 juni langs Camperduin, Noord-Holland, en van 20 juni tot zeker 2 juli op de Klinkenbergerplas bij Oegstgeest, Zuid-Holland (twee). Een vrouwtje **Koningseider** *Somateria spectabilis* zwom op 28 juni zeker 1.5 h langs het Zuiderhavenhoofd bij Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland, maar vloog weg voordat de waarnemer voldoende overtuigd was van de determinatie om het nieuws bekend te maken. Het mannetje **Buffelkopeend** *Bucephala albeola* bij Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland, werd voor het laatst gemeld op 3 juni. Van 8 tot 26 mei verbleef een – mogelijk ongeringd – vrouwtje op de Hellegatsplaten, Zuid-Holland. Ook dit jaar vond in Friesland weer een broedgeval plaats van **Nonnetje** *Mergellus albellus* en werden overzomerende exemplaren gemeld bij Zwolle, Overijssel (vrouwtje), en in de Brabantse Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant (mannetje). Er werden c 10 **Witoogeenden** *Aythya nyroca* doorgegeven, waaronder tot 30 mei op het Dwingelderveld, Drenthe (mannetje); tot 7 juni in Amsterdam, Noord-Holland (vrouwtje); en vanaf 23 juni bij Enschede, Overijssel (mannetje). **Amerikaanse Wintertalingen** *Anas carolinensis* werden nog gezien tot 1 mei bij Vlaardingen, Zuid-Holland, en op 4 en 5 mei bij Kampen, Overijssel. Van een kleine 200 gevangen **Kwartels** *Coturnix coturnix* werd ongeveer de helft in de Kennemerduinen bij Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland, geringd. Vanaf trektelposten werden een schamele 69 **Zomertortels** *Streptopelia turtur* opgemerkt (bijna de helft langs Breskens, Zeeland). Net als vorig jaar werden twee zingende **Kleine Waterhoenders** *Porzana parva* vastgesteld in De Wieden, Overijssel, en ook in de Weerribben, Overijssel, was een exemplaar aanwezig. **Kleinst Waterhoen** *P pusilla* was onder meer waar te nemen op Texel, Noord-Holland, van 31 mei tot 8 juni (eerste waarneming voor dit Waddeneiland). In het Fochteloërveen, Drenthe/Friesland, broedden voor het 14e jaar achtereen **Kraanvogels** *Grus grus* met een recordaantal van negen paren op een totaal van c 44 vogels die in en rondom het gebied verbleven; de zes paren die daadwerkelijk tot broeden kwamen kregen in totaal acht kuikens. Vanaf telposten werden in de eerste helft van mei nog 20 **Parelduikers** *Gavia arctica* gezien, waaronder een exemplaar op 2 mei langs Kamperhoek, Flevoland. Zeetrektellers noteerden in totaal 10 **Noordse Stormvogels** *Fulmarus glacialis* (merendeels langs Camperduin) en een **Noordse Pijlstormvogel** *Puffinus puffinus*.

PELIKANEN TOT VORKSTAARTPLEVIEREN Een ongeringde **Roze Pelikaan** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, die op 20 mei langs Breskens vloog en in juni op verschillende plekken in Noord- en Zuid-Holland verbleef, was waarschijnlijk in België uit gevangenschap ontsnapt. **Ralreigers** *Ardeola ralloides* werden gezien op 31 mei en 1 juni bij Stevensweert, Limburg, op 7 juni langs Camperduin en in de Hilversumse Bovenmeent, Noord-Holland, en van 20 juni tot in juli bij Heeg, Friesland. Op maar liefst c 60 plekken doken **Koereigers** *Bubulcus ibis* op, met op verschillende plekken zelfs groepjes tot vijf exemplaren. Tot ver in juni werden de twee geringde en gezenderde Oostenrijkse **Heremietibissen** *Geronticus eremita* afzonderlijk van elkaar gemeld in de omgeving van Stadskanaal, Groningen, en vanaf 26 juni hield een van beide zich op bij Dwingeloo, Drenthe. In totaal werden c 50 **Zwarte Ibissen** *Plegadis falcinellus* waargenomen. In de meeste gevallen betroffen het eenlingen of duo's. Alleen in de omgeving van Nieuwkoop, Zuid-Holland, waren grotere aantallen aanwezig (maximaal zeven). Een **Griel** *Burhinus oedicnemus* bracht de avond van 10 mei door bij Arcen, Limburg. Het aantal **Steltkluten** *Himantopus himantopus* liep op tot ruim 150; op ten minste vijf plaatsen werden jongen grootgebracht. In mei werden c 110 **Morinelplevieren** *Charadrius morinellus* doorgegeven. De grootste groep verbleef tot 20 mei op Texel (maximaal 35 op 8 mei) en op 6 mei vlogen er 28 over de Emmapolder, Groningen. Er doken weer aardig wat **Breedbekstrandlopers** *Calidris falcinellus* op: op 16 mei bij Middelburg, Zeeland; van 16 tot 20 mei in de Eempolders, Utrecht (twee); op 18 mei bij Tienhoven, Utrecht; op 25 mei bij Den Oever, Noord-Holland; op 6 juni op de Steile Bank, Friesland; op 8 en van 17 tot 20 juni in de Ezumakeeg, Friesland; en op 22 en 23 juni op Terschelling, Friesland. **Blonde Ruiters** *C subruficollis* bevonden zich op 8 mei in De Slufter op Texel en op 11 juni bij Herkingen, Zuid-Holland. **Gestreepte Strandlopers** *C melanotos* werden gezien op 2 en 3 mei op de Dijkgatsweide bij Den Oever; op 4 en 19 mei en 8 juni in de Ezumakeeg; van

**357** Koningseider / King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*, vrouwtje, Scheveningen, Den Haag, Zuid-Holland, 28 juni 2014 *(Wim van Yperen)*

**358** IJseend / Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*, onvolwassen vrouwtje, Klinkenbergerplas, Oegstgeest, Zuid-Holland, 21 juni 2014 *(Johnny van der Zwaag)*

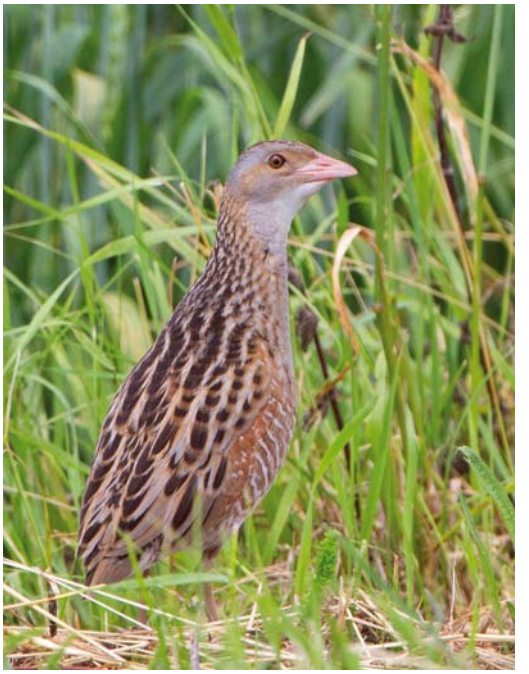
**359** Vale Gieren / Griffon Vultures *Gyps fulvus*, Korendijkse Slikken, Zuid-Holland, 7 juni 2014
*(Chris van Rijswijk/Birdshooting.nl)*

**360** Steppekiekendief / Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*, subadult mannetje, Finsterwolde, Groningen, 16 mei 2014
*(Jaap Denee)*

**361-362** Steppekiekendief / Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*, subadult mannetje, Finsterwolde, Groningen, 9 mei 2014 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

**363** Slangenarend / Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*, Holterberg, Overijssel, 9 juni 2014
*(Martin van der Schalk)*

**364** Slangenarend / Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*, Holterberg, Overijssel, 8 juni 2014
*(Edwin Winkel)*



**365** Kwartelkoning / Corn Crake *Crex crex*, Buggenum, Limburg, 9 juni 2014 *(Phil W Koken)* **366** Poelruiter / Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*, zomerkleed, Stinkgat, Tholen, Zeeland, 20 juni 2014 *(Hans Gebuis)* **367** Ralreiger / Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*, adult zomerkleed, Bovenmeent, Hilversum, Noord-Holland, 7 juni 2014 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

**368** Breedbekstrandloper / Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus*, zomerkleed, Terschellinger Polder, Terschelling, Friesland, 22 juni 2014 *(Arie Ouwerkerk)*

**369** Kleine Geelpootruiter / Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*, zomerkleed, Ezumakeeg, Friesland, 9 juni 2014 *(Jaap Denee)*

18 tot 22 mei in het Wormer- en Jisperveld, Noord-Holland (twee); en op 29 mei bij Oudega, Friesland. Er waren slechts zes meldingen van **Grauwe Franjepoten** *Phalaropus lobatus*; behalve op 7 mei op Tiengemeten, Zuid-Holland, waren alle in het noorden. Een vrouwtje **Rosse Franjepoot** *P fulicarius* in zomerkleed verbleef op 26 juni in de Vreugderijkerwaard bij Zwolle; zowel wat tijd als locatie betreft was dit een aangename verrassing. **Terekruiters** *Xenus cinereus* verbleven op 15 mei bij Julianadorp, Noord-Holland, en op 21 juni bij Lemmer, Friesland. **Kleine Geelpootruiters** *Tringa flavipes* bevonden zich op 7 mei bij Den Oever, van 1 tot 22 juni in de Ezumakeeg en op 28 en 30 juni bij Callantsoog, Noord-Holland. Er waren waarnemingen van **Poelruiters** *T stagnatilis* op 3 mei in de Ezumakeeg (alleen gehoord); tussen 26 mei en 19 juni op diverse plekken in het Lauwersmeergebied, Friesland/Groningen; op 9, 10 en 18 juni in Polder Hardenhoek, Noord-Brabant; en van 18 tot 24 juni in het Stinkgat op Tholen, Zeeland (twee). Een **Grote Grijze Snip** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* werd op 10 mei gefotografeerd bij het Zuidlaardermeer, Groningen. Op 17 mei volgde een melding in de Breebaartpolder, Groningen. Een **Steppevorkstaartplevier** *Glareola nordmanni* bevond zich in de ochtend van 1 juni in de Groene Jonker bij Zevenhoven.

ALKEN TOT STERNS Een **Zwarte Zeekoet** *Cepphus grylle* (mogelijk de bekende overwinteraar) werd op 9 mei gefotografeerd langs de Brouwersdam, Zuid-Holland. Een andere werd op 16 juni gemeld bij Westkapelle, Zeeland. Een adulte **Kleinste Jager** *Stercorarius longicaudus* verbleef in de avond van 28 mei enige tijd bij Schaijk, Noord-Brabant, en op 15 juni werd een exemplaar gefotografeerd op de Noordzee vanaf de veerboot tussen IJmuiden en Newcastle, Tyne and Wear, Engeland. Vanaf telposten langs de kust werden 57 **Kleine Jagers** *S parasiticus*, twee **Middelste Jagers** *S pomarinus* en twee **Grote Jagers** *S skua* gemeld. Uitzonderlijk voor de tijd van het jaar was een tweede-kalenderjaar **Vorkstaartmeeuw** *Xema sabini* op 7 mei langs Camperduin. Een **Dunbekmeeuw** *Chroicocephalus genei* werd op 25 mei gefotografeerd tijdens een vaarexcursie naar De Kreupel maar kon tijdens een zoektocht 's avonds niet meer worden teruggevonden. De bekende tweede-kalenderjaar **Kleine Burgemeesters** *Larus glaucoides* bleven nog tot 5 mei aanwezig bij IJmuiden, Noord-Holland, en tot 29 mei in de omgeving van Katwijk, Zuid-Holland. Andere vogels werden opgemerkt op 5 mei bij IJmuiden (derde-kalenderjaar), op 6 mei op Texel en op 11 en 13 mei bij Bergen, Noord-Holland. Meldingen van **Grote Burgemeesters** *L hyperboreus* kwamen op 1 mei van Vogelplas Starrevaart bij Leidschendam, Zuid-Holland, en op 4 mei van Ameland, Friesland. **Lachsterns** *Gelochelidon nilotica* vlogen nog langs de Eemspolder, Groningen, op 1 mei; langs telpost Noordkaap, Groningen, op 6 en 20 mei; en langs Camperduin op 19 mei (twee). In Friesland waren er waarnemingen op de Steile Bank op 6 juni en bij het nabijgelegen Mirns op 7 juni. In de Kropswolderbuitenpolder, Groningen, werden minimaal 20 bezette nesten van **Witwangsterns** *Chlidonias hybrida* geteld (voor het derde achtereenvolgende jaar). Elders in het land verschenen nog c 75 exemplaren, de meeste in de tweede helft van mei. Half mei arriveerden grote aantallen **Witvleugelsterns** *C leucopterus* maar zo snel als ze kwamen, verdwenen de meeste ook weer. In totaal waren het er c 250. Voor het eerst sinds 2007 werd weer gebroed: bij het Zuidlaardermeer brachten c zeven broedparen jongen groot. Het aantal van 6539 langsvliegende **Noordse Sterns** *Sterna paradisaea* dat op 7 mei werd genoteerd bij Camperduin, betekende een landelijk record voor een telpost. Het vorige record stamde van 4 mei 1996 met 4834 op dezelfde locatie.

VISARENDEN TOT VALKEN Vanaf telposten werden in totaal 38 **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus*, 622 **Wespendieven** *Pernis apivorus* (waarvan 195 op 24 mei over de Eemshaven), 401 **Bruine Kiekendieven** *Circus aeruginosus*, 38 **Blauwe Kiekendieven** *C cyaneus,* 16 **Grauwe Kiekendieven** *C pygargus,* 28 **Rode Wouwen** *Milvus milvus*, 40 **Zwarte Wouwen** *M migrans*, één **Velduil** *Asio flammeus*, vier **Roodpootvalken** *Falco vespertinus*, 102 **Smellekens** *F columbarius* en 30 **Slechtvalken** *F peregrinus* doorgegeven. Een **Slangenarend** *Circaetus gallicus* trok van 31 mei tot 2 juli veel bekijks op de Sallandse Heuvelrug, Overijssel. Op 8 juni kreeg deze gezelschap van een tweede exemplaar. Overtrekkende vogels werden gemeld op 20 mei bij Groesbeek, Gelderland; op 24 mei bij Olst, Overijssel; en op 8 juni bij Oostvoorne, Zuid-Holland. **Vale Gieren** *Gyps fulvus* werden waargenomen op 31 mei boven de Groene Jonker; op 6 juni bij Alphen, Noord-Brabant; op 6 en 7 juni 15 of 16 exemplaren overnachtend op en rond de Korendijksche Slikken, Zuid-Holland; op 7 juni drie vliegend in de omgeving van Dordrecht, Zuid-Holland, Gorinchem, Zuid-Holland, Werkendam, Noord-Brabant, en Hooge Zwaluwe, Noord-Brabant; op 7 juni twee langs de A6 bij Swifterbant, Flevoland; op 7 juni vier boven Annen, Drenthe; en op 26 juni bij Stadskanaal, Groningen. Een **Schreeuwarend** *Aquila pomarina* werd op 8 juni gefotografeerd boven Losser, Overijssel, en hetzelfde gold voor lichte vorm **Dwergarenden** *A pennata* op 25 mei boven de Strabrechtse Heide, Noord-Brabant, en op 3 juni bij Hulst, Zeeland. **Steppekiekendieven** *C macrourus* verbleven tot 1 mei bij Azewijn, Gelderland, en tot 20 mei bij Finsterwolde, Groningen (derde-kalenderjaar mannetje). In mei werden nog c vijf langsvliegende vogels gemeld. Het aantal bezette nesten van **Zeearend** *Haliaeetus albicilla* breidde zich dankzij de vestiging van een nieuw paar in de Dordtse Biesbosch, Zuid-Holland, uit van vier naar vijf. Twee van de legsels mislukten. De Biesbosch is nu het enige gebied dat twee paren herbergt. Op 19 mei werd een **Arendbuizerd** *Buteo rufinus* gemeld boven Groningen, Groningen, en op 21 mei boven de Eemshaven. Dankzij een muizenpiek deden veel broedende roofvogels en uilen het goed dit voorjaar. Er klonken voor het eerst in jaren weer eens positieve geluiden over **Ransuilen** *A otus* en ook **Velduilen** deden het weer eens goed met onder andere zelfs broedparen buiten het Waddengebied in Friesland, Overijssel en Utrecht. Een **Hop** *Upupa epops* verbleef nog tot 3 mei bij Ooststellingwerf, Friesland. Andere werden gemeld op 10 mei bij Havenhoofd, Zuid-Holland; op 16 mei bij

**370-371** Dunbekmeeuw / Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*, De Kreupel, Noord-Holland, 25 mei 2014 *(Oscar & Jolanda Balm)* **372** IJseenden / Long-tailed Ducks *Clangula hyemalis*, Klinkenbergerplas, Oegstgeest, Zuid-Holland, 21 juni 2014 *(Sjaak Schilperoort)* **373** Breedbekstrandlopers / Broad-billed Sandpipers *Calidris falcinellus*, zomerkleed, Eemnes, Utrecht, 19 mei 2014 *(Rob Halff)*

Zoutkamp, Groningen, en Meeden, Groningen; op 17 mei op Ameland; en op 6 juni bij Wilhelminadorp, Zeeland. Daarnaast was er een vondst van een verkeersslachtoffer op 18 mei bij Sellingen, Groningen, en was op ten minste één plaats een zingende vogel voor langere tijd aanwezig. Er werden weer volop **Bijeneters** *Merops apiaster* gemeld. In mei ging het om c 70 vogels, met als grootste groep acht op 16 mei langs Katwijk, Zuid-Holland. In juni volgden er nog eens 13. Een mannetje **Amerikaanse Torenvalk** *F sparverius* trok op 19 mei in noordoostelijke richting over de noordpunt van Texel; indien aanvaard betreft dit een nieuwe soort voor Nederland. Een valk die op 26 maart dood werd gevonden bij Dirksland, Zuid-Holland, werd aan de hand van de ring (Reykjavík 577085) gedetermineerd als **IJslands Smelleken** *F c subaesalon*; hij bleek op 16 juli 2012 als nestjong te zijn geringd bij Hundastapi, Vesturland, IJsland.

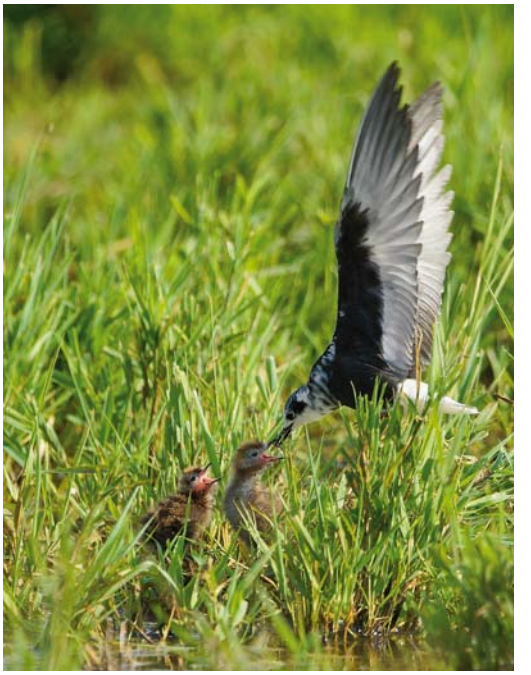
KLAUWIEREN TOT ZANGERS De overwinterende **Bruine Klauwier** *Lanius cristatus* bij Azewijn bleef tot 8 mei, en de **Steppeklapekster** *L lahtora pallidirostris* die op 29 april werd ontdekt langs de Stuifdijk op de Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, tot 3 mei. Het was een goed voorjaar voor **Roodkopklauwier** *L senator*, met waarnemingen op 24 april bij Goirle, Noord-Brabant; op 3 en 18 mei (andere vogel) op Texel; op 5 mei op de Slikken van Flakkee, Zuid-Holland; op 13 mei in De Groote Peel, Limburg; op 21 mei bij Leidschendam; op 24 mei bij Amsterdam; op 30 mei bij Rijssen, Overijssel; op 15 juni bij Oostvoorne; en op 22 juni bij Groet, Noord-Holland. Een exemplaar dat zich van 25 tot 27 juni ophield in Solleveld, Westland, Zuid-Holland, droeg een rode kwekersring. De **Kuifleeuwerik** *Galerida cristata* in Haverleij bij Den Bosch, Noord-Brabant, was de gehele periode aanwezig. Waarnemingen van **Roodstuitzwaluwen** *Cecropis daurica* werden gedaan op 5 mei langs Breskens; op 8 mei tijdens regenachtig weer langdurig in de Kennemer-

**374** Vale Gieren / Griffon Vultures *Gyps fulvus*, Korendijkse Slikken, Zuid-Holland, 7 juni 2014 *(Martin van der Schalk)* **375** Amerikaanse Torenvalk / American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*, mannetje, Texel, Noord-Holland, 19 mei 2014 *(Willem Hartholt)* **376** Schreeuwarend / Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*, vierde kalenderjaar, Losser, Overijssel, 8 juni 2014 *(Wim van der Woning)*

duinen bij Bloemendaal; op 10 mei nabij de Punt van Reide, Groningen; op 13 mei langs telpost Noordkaap; op 19 mei bij Raamsdonk, Noord-Brabant; en op 28 juni bij Amerongen, Utrecht. **Grauwe Fitissen** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* zongen op 28 mei bij het dorp en 30 mei bij Lange Paal op Vlieland; van 8 tot 26 juni op Schiermonnikoog, Friesland; op 12 juni bij Hargen, Noord-Holland; en op 13 en 14 juni in het dorp op Vlieland. Een roepende **Bergfluiter** *P bonelli* bevond zich van 7 tot 10 juni op Schiermonnikoog. Een late **Siberische Tjiftjaf** *P tristis* zong op 29 mei bij IJmuiden. Een **Zwartkop** *Sylvia atricapilla* die op 25 augustus 2013 bij Overdinkel, Overijssel, werd geringd werd op 18 en 19 mei teruggevangen bij Jeruzalem in Israël: een hoogst opmerkelijke trekrichting voor deze soort. **Krekelzangers** *Locustella fluviatilis* zongen op 17 mei en op 12 juni in de Millingerwaard bij Kekerdom, Gelderland; van 22 mei tot 4 juni bij Biddinghuizen, Flevoland; van 25 tot 31 mei bij Dordrecht; van 30 mei tot ten minste 15 juni bij Anloo, Drenthe; op 1 juni bij Apeldoorn, Gelderland; en op 23 en 24 juni bij Maarssen, Utrecht. Het was een goed voorjaar voor **Orpheusspotvogels** *Hippolais polyglotta*. Vanaf 25 mei werden er in Limburg op c vijf plekken zingende vogels gemeld (en twee broedgevallen vastgesteld) maar ook buiten deze provincie deed de soort het uitstekend, met waarnemingen op 3 juni bij Leende, Noord-Brabant; op 9 juni bij Koarnwertersân (Kornwerderzand), Friesland (vangst); van 10 tot zeker 12 juni bij Kamperland, Zeeland (tweede voor Walcheren); van 10 tot 21 juni bij Baarn, Utrecht; op 11 juni in de Kennemerduinen bij Bloemendaal (vangst); van 19 tot 24 juni in de Blauwe Kamer, Gelderland; en op 25 en 26 juni op Planken Wambuis, Gelderland. Het was een uitstekend voorjaar voor **Struikrietzanger** *Acrocephalus dumetorum* met zingende vogels op 22 mei in de Eemshaven, op 24 en 25 mei en op 6 en 7 juni op drie locaties bij De Cocksdorp op Texel en op 13 juni bij Westkapelle. Op 25 mei werd

**377** Roodstuitzwaluw / Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*, Vogelmeer, Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland, 8 mei 2014 *(Herman Bouman)* **378** Roodstuitzwaluw / Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*, met Boerenzwaluw / Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* en Huiszwaluw / Eurasian House Martin *Delichon urbicum*, Vogelmeer, Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland, 8 mei 2014 *(Arnoud B van den Berg)*

**379** Witvleugelstern / White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*, adult, Zuidlaardermeer-Oostpolder, Groningen, 1 juni 2014 *(Sander Bot)* **380** Zwarte Ooievaar / Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, tweede-kalenderjaar, De Cocksdorp, Texel, Noord-Holland, 17 mei 2014 *(René Pop)* **381** Witvleugelsterns / White-winged Terns *Chlidonias leucopterus*, adult en twee jongen, Zuidlaardermeer-Oostpolder, Groningen, 12 juli 2014 *(Jan den Hertog)*



**382** Orpheusspotvogel / Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*, Ospel, Limburg, 30 mei 2014 *(Co van der Wardt)* **383** Roodkopklauwier / Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*, Diemerpark, Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, 24 mei 2014 *(Rob Halff)* **384** Krekelzanger / River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis*, Dordtse Biesbosch, Zuid-Holland, 25 mei 2014 *(Hans Gebuis)*

**385** Roodmus / Common Rosefinch *Erythrina erythrina*, adult mannetje, Katwijk, Zuid-Holland, 26 mei 2014 *(Hans Overduin)* **386** Kleine Vliegenvanger / Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*, adult mannetje, Castricum, Noord-Holland, 2 juni 2014 *(Jaap Denee)* **387** Roodmus / Common Rosefinch *Erythrina erythrina*, adult mannetje, Dishoek, Zeeland, 30 mei 2014 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

bovendien een exemplaar geringd in de Eemshaven. Sovon en Vogelbescherming luidden de noodklok voor **Grote Karekiet** *A arundinaceus*; er werden maar iets meer dan 100 territoria geteld. Buiten de reguliere broedgebieden werd op 8 juni een exemplaar geringd in het Zwanenwater, Noord-Holland.

SPREEUWEN TOT GORZEN Adulte **Roze Spreeuwen** *Pastor roseus* werden waargenomen op 30 mei bij Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland; van 4 tot 7 juni op Vlieland; op 7 juni op de noordpunt van Texel; en op 8 juni in Solleveld. Na meldingen van **Roodbuikwaterspreeuwen** *Cinclus cinclus aquaticus* in het Geuldal in Zuid-Limburg in maart werden hier in juni zowel een adult als een juveniel waargenomen. Een **Noordse Nachtegaal** *Luscinia luscinia* zong op 17 mei aan de rand van het Hoornse Bos op Terschelling. Een vrouwtje **Oostelijke Blonde Tapuit** *Oenanthe melanoleuca* liet zich van 20 tot 22 mei uitvoerig bestuderen bij Westkapelle; er werden zelfs poep en een braakbal verzameld voor DNA-analyse (vierde geval, indien aanvaard). Maar liefst acht **Kleine Vliegenvangers** *Ficedula parva* werden opgemerkt: op 16 mei bij Katwijk, Zuid-Holland (adult); van 17 mei tot 6 juni op Terschelling (tweede-kalenderjaar); op 22 mei bij Noordwijkerhout, Zuid-Holland (tweede-kalenderjaar); op 23 mei op Rottumerplaat, Groningen (adult), en in het Zwanenwater (tweede-kalenderjaar, vangst); op 24 mei bij IJmuiden (adult); van 25 mei tot 3 juni bij Castricum, Noord-Holland (adult); en op 2 en 3 juni op de Sallandse Heuvelrug (adult). Een **Witkeelkwikstaart** *Motacilla cinereocapilla* bevond zich op 9 mei aan de rand van de Kroon's Polders op Vlieland (vierde geval, indien aanvaard). Een mannetje **Citroenkwikstaart** *M citreola* liet zich op 29 mei aan flink wat vogelaars zien bij Arcen. In mei werd slechts een handvol waarnemingen verricht van **Grote Pieper** *Anthus richardi*, **Duinpieper** *A campestris* en **Roodkeelpieper** *A cervinus*; twee pleisterende Grote Piepers op 3 mei bij het Kennermeer te IJmuiden zijn het vermelden waard. Het was een goed voorjaar voor **Roodmus** *Erythrina erythrina*, met waarnemingen in meer dan 90 kilometerhokken. De meldingen kwamen uit alle provincies behalve Utrecht. Er waren vangsten op 24 mei bij Kamperhoek; op 6 juni bij Castricum (twee); op 7 juni in de Kennemerduinen bij Bloemendaal (twee); en op 27 juni in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen bij Zandvoort, Noord-Holland. Vanaf telposten werden in mei slechts twee overtrekkende **Ortolanen** *Emberiza hortulana* gemeld, waarmee het voorjaarstotaal voor de trektellers uitkwam op vijf. Van 21 tot en met 31 mei was een zingend exemplaar aanwezig op een niet vrijgegeven locatie in Noord-Brabant. Een mannetje **Bruinkopgors** *E bruniceps* werd op 14 juni gemeld op Rottumerplaat, Groningen, en een mannetje **Zwartkopgors** *E melanocephala* op 10 juni op de oostpunt van Schiermonnikoog. Een – vermoedelijk per schip gearriveerd – vrouwtje **Bootstaarttroepiaal**

**388** Steppeklapekster / Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius lahtora pallidirostris*, eerste-zomer, Stuifdijk, Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, 2 mei 2014 *(Phil W Koken)*

**389** Oostelijke Blonde Tapuit / Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe melanoleuca*, eerste-zomer vrouwtje, Westkapelle, Zeeland, 21 mei 2014 *(Edwin Schuller)* **390** Oostelijke Blonde Tapuit / Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe melanoleuca*, eerste-zomer vrouwtje, Westkapelle, Zeeland, 21 mei 2014 *(Phil W Koken)* **391** Orpheusspotvogel / Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*, Maarnsche Berg, Utrecht, 12 juni 2014 *(Herman Bouman)* **392** Citroenkwikstaart / Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, eerste-zomer mannetje, Arcen, Limburg, 29 mei 2014 *(Ran Schols)*

*Quiscalus major* bevond zich op 15 mei in Vlissingen, Zeeland.

Voor hun hulp bij het samenstellen van deze rubriek bedanken wij Arjan Boele, Bram Ubels en Rinse van der Vliet. Ook is dankbaar gebruikgemaakt van de websites dutchbirdalerts.nl, waarneming.nl, trektellen.nl, sovon.nl, lauwersmeer.com en hetfochteloerveen.nl en het tijdschrift Op het Vinkentouw.

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

# DB Actueel

**Influx van zingende Struikrietzangers in Nederland** Op 22 mei 2014 deden Dušan Brinkhuizen (een paar weken over vanuit zijn vaste woonplaats in Ecuador) en Lazar Brinkhuizen hun gebruikelijke rondje Eemshaven, Groningen. De bekende plekjes werden gecheckt maar tot in de middag leverde het niet veel op. Hoewel het gunstig weer was, met een matige zuidenwind, was er weinig zichtbare trek. Aangekomen bij de brede singel naast de Eemscentrale op het Oostelijk Eemshaventerrein zat een vogel te zingen die ze niet direct konden identificeren. Logischerwijs ging de eerste gedachte uit naar een anders dan normaal zingende Bosrietzanger *Acrocephalus palustris,* die opvallend veel andere soorten aan het imiteren was. Na een paar minuten goed luisteren werd duidelijk dat het best iets anders kon zijn. Wat Bert de Bruin ooit aan ze had verteld paste goed op de zang: 'Struikrietzanger *A dumetorum* lijkt op Bosrietzanger maar zingt langzamer, Zanglijster *Turdus philomelos*-achtig en doet veel aan imitaties'. Vanwege de vele imitaties was het moeilijk de zang goed te analyseren maar hij leek inderdaad iets langzamer te zingen dan Bosrietzanger, zonder al te veel versnellingen en met regelmatige hoge fluittonen. De volgende stap was de determinatie op zicht. Om de vogel in beeld te krijgen werd met een richtmicrofoon eerst een aantal opnamen gemaakt. Vervolgens werd de eigen zang afgespeeld waarop de vogel direct reageerde met een alarmerend *ttrrrrr*. Hij kwam uit het dichte struikgewas tevoorschijn en liet zich een paar maal kort maar goed zien. DB slaagde erin enkele bewijsplaatjes te maken. De platte kop met relatief lange snavel, opvallende witte wenkbrauwstreep en korte handpenprojectie wezen op Struikrietzanger. LB plaatste een geluidsopname en foto's op de lokale whatsapp-groep en stuurde daarnaast een Dutch Bird Alert uit. Toen de eerste vogelaars arriveerden was de vogel al weer druk aan het zingen. Tot in de vroege avond werd hij door c 30 vogelaars regelmatig gehoord en soms ook gezien. Dit betrof het eerste geval voor de provincie Groningen en de eerste in mei voor Nederland. De volgende dag leek de vogel onvindbaar, maar op 25 mei werd een (of de?) Struikrietzanger gevangen en geringd in dezelfde singel door Marcel Sandifort en Lex Tervelde.

In de ochtend van zaterdag 24 mei hoorde Diederik Kok in De Tuintjes, Texel, Noord-Holland, kort een trage *Acrocephalus*-achtige zang met imitaties die hem direct aan Struikrietzanger deed denken. De toevallig in de buurt zijnde Ruud van Beusekom en Han Zevenhuizen werden gewaarschuwd en al snel begon de vogel weer te zingen. Bij het horen van de kenmerkende, luide, fluitende toonladders, afgewisseld met klikkende geluiden in de consistent rustige zang waren zij direct overtuigd: dat kon niet missen! Gedurende de rest van de dag liet de vogel zich aan vele bezoekers regelmatig horen. Hij was doorgaans onzichtbaar maar liet zich een enkele keer leuk zien, waarbij de belangrijkste kenmerken in kleed en structuur konden worden vastgesteld. In de avondschemering was de vogel stil. De volgende dag was hij verdwenen maar rond 12:00 ontdekte Ruud van Beusekom een zingend exemplaar in een wilgenbosje langs het fietspad door de Eierlandse Duinen, eveneens op de noordpunt van Texel. Deze vogel liet wat andere imitaties horen dan de vogel van De Tuintjes, zoals regelmatig van Bijeneter *Merops apiaster*. Op een foto van Han Zevenhuizen leek de snavel van deze vogel een lichter culmen te hebben dan de vogel van De Tuintjes. Ook deze vogel zong regelmatig gedurende de dag, liet zich nauwelijks zien en was de volgende dag verdwenen.

Groot was het ongeloof toen DK aan het begin van de avond op vrijdag 6 juni en vrijwel direct na aankomst op Texel wederom een Struikrietzanger hoorde zingen, ditmaal bij het Reddingsboothuis op de noordpunt. De rest van de avond liet deze vogel zich regelmatig fraai horen. Ook de volgende dag was hij nog aanwezig maar toen zong hij slechts zeer sporadisch. Deze drie Texelse

**393** Struikrietzanger / Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum,* Eemshaven-Oost, Groningen, 22 mei 2014 *(Dušan M Brinkhuizen)*

**394** Struikrietzanger / Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum,* De Tuintjes, Texel, Noord-Holland, 24 mei 2014 *(Diederik Kok)*

[*Dutch Birding 36: 292-293, 2014*]

waarnemingen in slechts twee weken tijd betekenden het vierde, vijfde en zesde geval voor het eiland, waarbij opvallend genoeg alle zes gevallen betrekking hebben op veldwaarnemingen vanaf september 2013, dus binnen 10 maanden.

Op de ochtend van 13 juni was Jaco Walhout aan de beurt om een zingende Struikrietzanger te ontdekken, ditmaal op opslagterrein Erika in Westkapelle, Zeeland. De vogel zong frequent gedurende de ochtend, was overwegend stil in de middag maar kon tijdens de WK-voetbalwedstrijd Nederland-Spanje enkele fraaie strofen niet onderdrukken. De vogel was vrijwel onzichtbaar in dicht duindoornstruweel en werd alleen een paar keer vluchtig waargenomen. Ook deze vogel was de volgende dag onvindbaar.

Tot en met 2013 zijn er 24 gevallen van Struikrietzanger in Nederland, onder voorbehoud van enkele 2013-waarnemingen die nog in behandeling zijn bij de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA). Het merendeel van deze gevallen betreft vangsten; veldwaarnemingen blijven zeldzaam. Er zijn slechts vier eerdere voorjaarsgevallen, één vangst (Lelystad, Flevoland, 26 juni 1990) en drie zingende vogels (Walem, Limburg, 20 juni tot 1 juli 1996; Nieuwegein, Utrecht, 14 juni tot 23 juli 1998 (gepaard met Bosrietzanger); en Scherpenissepolder, Zeeland, 17 juni 2009). De vijf zingende vogels in het voorjaar van 2014 waren dus de vroegste ooit. Deze kleine influx viel samen met bovengemiddeld veel waarnemingen in onder meer Brittannië (c 20 in mei-juni), Denemarken en Duitsland (meer dan 25 tussen 20 mei en 15 juni). In Polen daarentegen was de soort dit voorjaar niet algemener dan in andere jaren (Zbigniew Kajzer in litt) hoewel het hoogste aantal (zes) voor een ringstation op een dag (18 mei) werd gevangen in Krynica Morska, Vistula Split (zie Dutch Birding 36: 205, 2014). De influx houdt waarschijnlijk verband met de toename van Struikrietzanger aan de westrand van het verspreidingsgebied in Noord-Europa. Zo werd in Estland het aantal broedparen in 2012 geschat op 60 000-120 000, tegenover 2000-3000 in 1991 (Trinus Haitjema op http://tinyurl.com/lk3qqrn). Aangezien de vijf voorjaarsvogels maar korte tijd bleven zijn het hoogstwaarschijnlijk doortrekkers geweest. Geluidsopnamen van de vijf gevallen zijn beschikbaar op www.dutchbirding.nl, www.waarneming.nl en www.xeno-canto.org. Dušan M Brinkhuizen, Lazar Brinkhuizen, Diederik Kok, Ruud van Beusekom & Jaco Walhout

Blyth's Reed Warblers In May-June 2014, an influx of Blyth's Reed Warblers *Acrocephalus dumetorum* occurred in the Netherlands. Six were recorded: five were singing birds and one was mist-netted (possibly the same bird that was singing and seen nearby two days before). The birds were observed for only one day (four) or two days (one) suggesting that they were migrants passing through. Singing activity was most pronounced during daytime and birds got quiet after dusk. There have been 24 accepted records until 2013, with the vast majority being mist-netted birds and only four previous spring records of singing birds. The increase of observations in north-western Europe in recent years is probably related to the species' expansion at the western edge of its breeding range in northern Europe.