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STICHTING DUTCH BIRDING ASSOCIATION

Het eerste nummer van de derde jaargang van *Dutch Birding* (*DB*) dat nu voor u ligt, is, zoals u wellicht al hebt opgemerkt, niet uitgegeven door de Dutch Birding Association (DBA) maar door de Stichting Dutch Birding Association. Dit is een rechtstreeks gevolg van een Algemene Ledenvergadering (AV) welke op 20 november 1980 te Katwijk aan Zee (ZH) werd gehouden. Op die vergadering werd op voorstel van het bestuur de Vereniging DBA (op termijn) opgeheven. In een toelichting op het voorstel werd het 'waarom' uiteengezet. De verenigingsvorm werd destijds gekozen omdat het oprichten van een vereniging nagenoeg vormvrij is en met een minimum aan kosten een aanvaardbaar samenwerkingsverband leek te garanderen. Het *Burgelijk Wetboek* geeft de AV het recht het bestuur te kiezen en een aantal duidelijk omschreven bevoegdheden met betrekking tot statutenwijziging *et cetera*. Een van de belangrijkste gevolgen daarvan voor het lid is de mogelijkheid door zijn stemgedrag op de AV de koers van de vereniging te bepalen. Veelal kan een opbouwfase van welk samenwerkingsverband dan ook niet als een rustig kabbelend beekje worden omschreven. Het zou niet van realiteitszin getuigen te menen dat de DBA daarop een uitzondering vormt. Het uitbrengen van een tijdschrift van acceptabele kwaliteit maakt alert reageren op nieuwe omstandigheden en feiten noodzakelijk. In het bestuur en de redactie vonden in de beginfase wisselingen plaats zonder dat deze, voor wat het bestuur betreft, een legale basis hadden. In die fase vormt het teruggaan naar een AV om de bestuurswisseling te sanctioneren een zware belasting waarvan de benodigde tijd beter aan *DB* of het organiseren van andere activiteiten zou kunnen worden besteed. Daarop werd besloten de leden voor te stellen de vereniging op te heffen teneinde de weg vrij te maken voor de Stichting DBA. Het bestuursvoorstel met die inhoud werd door de leden op 20 november met overgrote meerderheid van stemmen aangenomen. Met het opheffen van de vereniging lijkt ook een van de voordelen van een vereniging, namelijk de gestructureerde wisselwerking tussen de leden en het bestuur, te verdwijnen. Wij denken dat wij dit bezwaar als volgt kunnen ondervangen. Een stichting kan donateurs of aangeslotenen hebben en deze kunnen zelfs invloed op bepaalde aspecten binnen het stichtingsgebeuren hebben, mits de totaliteit van die invloed niet overeenkomt met het wettelijk gegarandeerde minimum aan invloed van de leden en de AV van de vereniging. Wij denken die invloed te effectueren door op *ad hoc* basis bijeenkomsten te organiseren om over bepaalde aspecten die *DB* of de Stichting aangaan, te discussieren. Bovendien staat het natuurlijk een ieder vrij de pen of de telefoon te hanteren.

Rest ons nog een mededeling. Gezien het feit dat aan de opzet van *DB* als gevolg van de verandering van rechtsvorm van de DBA niets verandert, zijn wij ervan uitgegaan dat dit voor u geen aanleiding vormt *DB* niet meer te lezen. Wij beschouwen u dan ook zonder tegenbericht met ingang van de derde jaargang als donateur van de nieuw opgerichte Stichting Dutch Birding Association.

Bestuur

SOME GENERAL PROBLEMS OF FIELD IDENTIFICATION

It seems to me that most, if not all, field identification problems can be related to three factors: lack of knowledge, observational factors and psychological influences. Any birder can minimize (but never entirely eliminate) his field identification problems. All that is required, is work and an awareness of these factors. Let us look at each of them.

Knowing what to look for

The old saying 'If you do not know what you are looking for, you will not find it' does not apply in birding. The less that you know about sparrowhawks *Accipiter*, for example, the easier it is to find a 'Cooper's Sparrowhawk *A. cooperii*'. I base this statement on the number of Cooper's Sparrowhawks reported by beginning birders as compared to that reported by more knowledgeable and experienced observers. Long-billed Dowitchers *Limnodromus scolopaceus* are another example; these birds, too, are more easily found by the less knowledgeable. And, more than one author has noted (facetiously, of course) how many more rarities he saw in his early days of birding.

Seriously, though, it is obvious that the more you know, the more accurate your identifications will be and the fewer birds you will have to pass over. Nothing is more frustrating than discovering, long after the bird has vanished, that what you thought was your first-ever Le Conte's Sparrow *Ammospiza leconteii* might have been a Sharp-tailed Sparrow *A. caudacuta* because you did not know enough to look for the colour of the median crown stripe.

I assume that anyone who really wants to improve his identification skills, has already gone through the field guides to learn the distinguishing characteristics of the species that he might see and those of the species with which they might be confused. This is a necessary first stap in knowing what to look for but there will be still problems. I once set out to memorize all the important field marks for all the species in Peterson's guide. I thought that would be a panacea for all my field problems and I would be able to identify every bird from then on. My intentions were good but naive because field guides are limited out of necessity by their format. Guides do not have the space to illustrate or discuss all of the female, immature and juvenile plumages or the range of variation in each species. Furthermore, I know of no guide that is free from errors of fact, of omission or of emphasis.

Let me give two examples that show why you have to go beyond the field guides in order to become a more expert observer. (1) The Rough-legged Buzzards *Buteo lagopus* shown in the field guides are typical first-winter birds. But there are adults and young of both light and dark phases as well as intermediate forms. Furthermore, there is a great deal of variation even within any one of these types. So, many individuals appear appreciably different from the illustrations and are either left unidentified or are identified as other species. However, if you have access to an ornithological library and a good specimen collection, you can learn enough about this species' plumage to be able to identify correctly almost all the Rough-legged Buzzards that you will see. (2) One of the field guides says, in reference to Barrow's Goldeneyes *Bucephala islandica* and Goldeneyes *B. clangula*: 'In the winter it is not safe to tell females except by the males they are with'. In fact, female Barrow's Goldeneyes can be distinguished from female Goldeneyes *even in flight*, if you know what to look for and have the necessary experience. Unfortunately, one can not get that experience everywhere.

Before someone gets the impression that I am knocking the field guides, let me say most emphatically that I am not. They have to be any birder's primary identification aid. They are adequate for the vast majority of the birds that you

see but other sources will have to be consulted for those few that give you problems. What sources? I have already mentioned other ornithological references and a specimen collection. But most important are your careful observations over a long period of time. If you have learned to take field notes from careful observations, you can always turn later to other references and collections to identify a bird. And if you have the patience to make careful and critical examination of birds that you see in the field, you may even discover new identification marks.

Seeing what is really there

Several winters ago at Illinois Beach State Park, Lake County (Illinois), USA a bird quickly flew by a small group of birders. All called the bird a Goshawk *A. gentilis* but some said that its upperparts were brown and others said that they were grey. How could different observers, all capable and experienced, see different colours on a bright sunny day? Perhaps it had something to do with the fact that they had only a very quick look which always causes problems. But the eye can be fooled even under more leisurely circumstances. A few years ago, a Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* was reported in New Yersey, USA. This is a dark shorebird with red legs, about the size and shape of a Greater Yellowlegs *T. melanoleuca*. The bird was usually seen at a considerable distance through telescopes. Although quite a number of people identified it as a Spotted Redshank, it was finally determined that the dark colour was oil and the bird was a Greater Yellowlegs. But what about the apparently red colour. Well, those of you who examine birds carefully, may have noticed that the leg colour of yellowlegs varies from yellow to a more orange-yellow, and that late in the day, as the sunlight gets redder, so do other colours. Furthermore, the chromatic aberration in some telescopes can give a red tint to the leg colour.

These examples and others show that what you see, is not always what is really there. What you see, is affected by distance, duration, angle and quality of light and other factors. It is impossible to discuss all the possibilities but the following examples should give you an idea of the kinds of observational factors that can cause field problems.

Size. I often hear statements such as: 'It was too big to be a Crow *Corvus*'. We all get impressions of the size of a bird seen at a distance but those impressions are largely subjective unless the bird is next to a familiar object. Apparent size depends on apparent distance and that is often difficult to judge. I have been fooled so often on the size of a bird that I believe that the only reliable description of the size of a bird is one that compares it to other nearby birds or objects. Misimpression of size is not limited to instances where the bird is far away, either. From a blind, I once watched a Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis* only two feet away that I had at first thought must be a pygmy or runt bird because it seemed smaller than an American Robin *Turdus migratorius*. Only when the bird returned to its nest, at my accustomed viewing distance, could I see that it was of normal size.

Light. Trying to see colours on a bird against an overcast sky is a frustration to every birder. But strong bright sunlight can also cause problems by washing out colours. I find that bright sunlight sometimes makes the black wing-tips of adult gulls *Larus* almost impossible to see at a distance, for example. The angle of the sunlight is often important. I have before me two slides of a pair of Western Gulls *L. occidentalis* standing together. They were taken a few minutes apart, from the same place. During that time the gulls turned slightly but did not move their location. Yet the slight shift in the angle of reflection from their backs changed their apparent mantle colour. In one slide, it is dark grey expected for the particular subspecies involved; in the other slide, however, the mantle colour is slaty-black as in a Great Black-backed Gull *L. marinus*. The

angle of light especially affects the sheen of iridescent feathers. Look for a purple-headed drake Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* when one swims directly away from you, especially when it is backlit. After you find one, you will be more reluctant to identify scaup *Aythya* based on the head colours given in the field guides. Finally, reflected light from a bird's surroundings can effect the colours that you see on the bird. In Florida I saw House Sparrows *Passer domesticus* whose underparts were quite noticeably tinged with yellow. Before I could speculate about a possible different subspecies, I realisezed that they were standing on a yellow translucent plastic feeder tray! In a similar fashion, light filtering through the foliage of a tree can give a greenish or yellowish cast to the plumage of a bird.

Distance. Birds that are too far away, certainly can not be identified. But how far is too far, depends on what you need to see. An albatross *Diomedea* can be identified over two miles away but to see that the pale rump of a possible Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* is actually unstreaked, may require you to be within 30 feet. You may think that you see an unstreaked throat on a fairly close watertrush *Seiurus* and then put it down as a Louisiana *S. motacilla*. However, the spots on a Northern Watertrush's *S. noveboraeensis* throat often can not be seen more than 25 feet away (not to mention the fact that a few Northerns' throats are unspotted anyway).

Incomplete views. The problem here is *knowing* that your view has been incomplete. For example, a rounded-winged sparrowhawk - when flying away - may look more like a pointed-winged falcon *Falco* if it is viewed from behind. Foreshortening makes the separate primary feathers appear to overlap. Similarly, foreshortening can make the tail of a bird flying directly away seem shorter than it really is. Another example where an apparently adequate view can be misleading, is the tail of a Cooper's Sparrowhawk. If it is completely folded, it may appear more squared-off like a Sharp-shinned Sparrowhawk's *A striatus* tail; only when it is spread somewhat, does the rounded shape become apparent.

If the examples I have cited represent only some of the instances where our observations can be misleading, how can we trust our identifications? The answer, of course, is that an identification takes several factors into account. Furthermore, it is possible to minimaze observational problems if you make an effort. You must go into the field enough to learn by experience what the problem possibilities are, and you can develop a critical attitude that leads you to consider what the effects of light, distance and so forth might be at the time of an important observation. The question of attitude brings me to the last factor which gives rise to field identification problems.

Psychological factors

A particularly dangerous psychological phenomenon, and one that I find I have to guard against, is that of 'seeing' what you expect to see. If you know that an unusual bird has been seen in a certain area, it somehow becomes much easier to mistake a more common species for the rarity. Such a phenomenon was at work in the case of the Spotted Redshank mentioned previously. It can also manifest itself in other ways. Thus there is a tendency to agree with the judgement of the group one is with. Or sometimes a whole group of birders can be swayed by the pronouncements, right or wrong, of one individual who has a reputation as an expert. I have seen all of these things happen in the field more times than I would like to remember.

Finally, although I am not a psychologist, I would imagine that there are uncommon cases where an individual's personal psychological needs interfere with his field identifications. From a desire or need to tick off another species, standards are either consciously or unconsciously relaxed, or in some other way an

incorrect identification is accepted by the individual.

Dealing with these psychological factors is part of developing the critical attitude which I mentioned earlier. Set high standards for your own observations and maintain them. Be prepared to say: 'I do not care what others say that that bird is, I want to identify it *myself*, and unless *I* see everything that I want to, I am not going to count it'. The right attitude toward rarities is also important. Remember, by definition a rare bird is one that you are most unlikely to see. So think: 'Just a moment - this bird is not supposed to be here. I should better see everything that I can and not accept the identification unless everything fits in'. By adopting these statements as part of your general attitude toward field identification, you will become a better and more reliable observer. Accepting only those identifications which you can make with certainty, even if you have to let some birds go, is preferable to trying to identify every bird.

The road to succes in field observation requires knowledge, experience and a critical attitude. Only the first of these comes from a book. And the last is the most important. Without it, even a knowledgeable and experienced observer will never be an expert observer.

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The above paper was originally published in the *Illinois Audubon Bulletin* 179, winter of 1976/77. It is reprinted with kind permission of Lawrence G. Balch who is now First Vice-President of the American Birding Association. Editors

REACTIE OP 'WAARNEMING VAN WENKBRAUWALBATROS IN NEDERLAND IN OCTOBER 1971'

Ik heb met veel belangstelling het artikel door Slings (1981) gelezen. Bij de volgende punten plaats ik echter een kanttekening, respectievelijk vraagteken. (1) De waarnemer heeft de ondervleugeltekening en de juiste snavelkleur niet goed kunnen zien. Dit is erg jammer omdat het de twee belangrijkste kenmerken zijn om de vier middelgrote albatrossen *Diomedea* die in aanmerking komen, van elkaar te onderscheiden. (2) De beschrijving van de vogel in de vlucht, te weten: (a) tamelijk stompe vleugeluiteinden; (b) niet geknikte vleugels; en (c) betrekkelijk snelle en ondiepe vleugelslagen, afgewisseld door geregelde glijpauzen. Naar mijn mening kunnen deze bijzonderheden nauwelijks betrekking hebben op een (Wenkbrauw)albatros *D. (melanophris)*. En wat punt 2c betreft, zeker niet bij harde wind met een ruwe zee.

Verwijzing

Slings, Q.L. 1981. Waarneming van Wenkbrauwalbatros in Nederland in october 1971. *Dutch Birding* 2: 122-125.

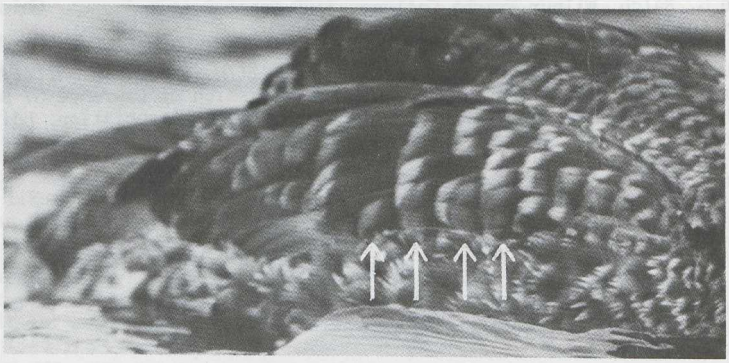
Piet Meeth, Bramenlaan 5, 2116 TR Bentveld

SECOND CALENDAR-YEAR WHITE-BILLED DIVER SUMMERED IN NETHERLANDS IN 1980

A second calendar-year White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* stayed at Nederhorst den Berg (Noord-Holland) from 24 February until 4 April 1980 (Blankert & van IJzendoorn 1980) and at Kortenhoef (Noord-Holland) from 23 July until 24 September 1980. The long stay and its tameness provided excellent opportunities of studying the plumage changes. Photographs giving details of the plumage were taken throughout the period. It was found that the bird moulted twice during its stay and acquired a distinguishable first-summer plumage.

February - April

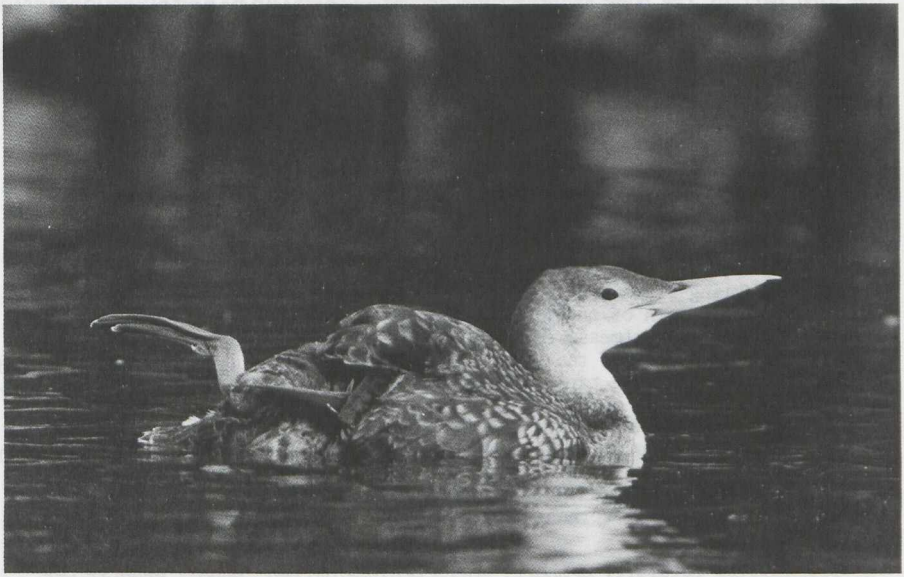
When the White-billed Diver was discovered, it showed the typical first-winter pattern on the upperparts, formed by the rounded and broadly whitish-tipped feathers of back, scapulars (with one or two missing) and upper wing-coverts (see *Dutch Birding* 2: plate 1). During the second half of March many scapulars were lost, disturbing the regular pattern of the upperparts. At the same time throat and upper foreneck became largely grey-brown and an almost complete dark brownish collar was formed (through wear?) (see *Dutch Birding* 2: plate 3). The remiges stayed intact. The distal half of the bill became yellow.



1. White-billed Diver/Geelsnavelduiker *Gavia adamsii*, second calendar-year, Kortenhoef (Noord-Holland), August 1980 (*Edward van IJzendoorn*). Note the difference between scapulars of first-summer plumage and darker fresh ones of second-winter plumage (see arrows)

July - September

At its rediscovery the White-billed Diver did not look as in April. Head and neck were like a bird in winter plumage; the dark collar had gone and hardly any yellow was visible on the bill. (The bill shape had not changed; the culmen was evenly slightly curved down and the upper mandible projected notably.) The feathers of the back were broadly whitish-tipped, more or less as in the first-winter plumage. The majority of the scapulars, especially those in front, was rectangular and showed whitish, vaguely bordered blockings, one on each side of the shaft. These blockings were more prominent than those of the adult-winter plumage but less than the markings of the first-winter plumage. On most scapulars, especially the ones in front, these markings were at the tip of the feather but on several there was a just discernable darker terminal bar. More to the back of the scapular region there was a mixture of these 'first-summer' feathers and fresh adult-winter type scapulars with larger pale grey subterminal blockings.



2. White-billed Diver/Geelsnavelduiker *Gavia adamsii*, second calendar-year, Kortenhoef (Noord-Holland), August 1980 (*Edward van IJzendoorn*)

3. White-billed Diver/Geelsnavelduiker *Gavia adamsii*, adult, moulting into summer plumage, Hartlepool (Cleveland), England, February 1981 (*Graham Catley*)

The hind part of the body and the wing-coverts were heavily moulting; the left half of the lowerback was merely showing downy feathering. The white axillaries showed dark streaks along the shafts. The remiges had been renewed and seemed to have reached their appropriate length. The bird held its wings crossed and in an asymmetrical position (probably due to moult).

During August and September more scapulars were changed; progressing gradually towards the front of the scapular region. On the upperwing some rows of the (first-winter plumage) lesser coverts had not been moulted and stood out as a pale inner wing-panel each time the bird flapped its wings. In mid-August bastard wing and under wing-coverts, unlike those of the upperwing, were not yet full-grown.

On 8 September, with the help of Norman van Swelm, the bird was trapped to free it from an angling-line which was strangled around its bill. The following data were taken. The length of the upper mandible was 94 mm (measured from tip to feathering) and 119 mm (measured from tip to skull); the upper mandible projected 7 mm beyond the tip of the lower. The length of the wing was 363 mm; that of the tail 89 mm and of the tarsus 90 mm. All primaries of the right wing were renewed; p9 had a notched outerweb. All primaries of the left wing were renewed except p8, p9 and p10 which were old and heavely abraded. Three rowes of lesser upper wing-coverts were not yet renewed. Practically all other coverts were full-grown as was the bastard wing. The bird was still in body moult. The inner surface of the foot was pinkish-white; the outer surface greyish-brown. The bird was ringed and released. Perhaps this was the first White-billed Diver ringed ever.

The bird uttered regularly a short, soft, medium-pitched 'whoo'. When it was trapped and held, the bird uttered loud, long, weird, moaning calls. Unlike in February - April, it was never seen flying in July - September (possibly due to the fact that the outer three primaries of the left wing were still unmoulted).

Reference

Blankert, J.J. & van IJzendoorn, E.J. 1980. Geelsnavelduiker *Gavia adamsii* bij Nederhorst den Berg. *Dutch Birding* 2: 1-2.

Edward J. van IJzendoorn, 3e Schinkelstraat 45, 1075 TK Amsterdam

CORRECTIE/CORRECTION

Het onderschrift bij de platen 56-57 (*Dutch Birding* 2: 123) moet zijn: Wenkbrauwalbatros *Diomedea melanophris*, 46.15 S, 168.32 W = 1500 zeemijl ten zuiden van Friendship Islands, 25 november 1975 (*Piet Meeth*).

The caption to the plates 56-57 (*Dutch Birding* 2: 123) should be: Wenkbrauwalbatros *Diomedea melanophris*, 46.15 S, 168.32 W = 1500 zeemijl ten zuiden van Friendship Islands, 25 november 1975 (*Piet Meeth*).

Redactie/Editors

ON DISCOVERING BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPERS IN NETHERLANDS

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* is a scarce migrant in the Netherlands. The bird is recorded both in spring (May) and in autumn (August-September). It is worth pointing out that a number of spring records refers to birds which were seen in migrant flocks of Ringed Plovers *Charadrius hiaticula*. It seems reasonable to assume that these 'mixed' flocks were of northern Fennoscandian origin. These records may indicate that the winter ranges of northern Fennoscandian populations of Broad-billed Sandpiper and Ringed Plover at least partly overlap. Birders in the Netherlands regard searching of spring migrant flocks of northern Ringed Plover as the most productive way of discovering Broad-billed Sandpipers. This probably also holds for other parts of western Europe (including probably southeastern England).

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ATLAS OF THE BREEDING BIRDS OF MOROCCO

An atlas of the breeding birds of Morocco is actually (1980-84) in preparation. Any bird-watcher visiting this country during the breeding season is kindly invited to contact Michel Thévenot (address, see below) or to communicate his observations. All other observations outside the breeding season are also welcome.

Michel Thévenot, Laboratoire de Zoologie et d'Écologie, Institut Scientifique, Boîte Postale 1014, Rabat, Morocco

ON GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL WITH ORANGE LEGS

On 6 February 1979 a Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* with orange legs was seen at Culemborg (Gelderland) (van Kreuningen 1980). Barth (1968) pointed out that in northern Norway several gulls including Great Black-backed, may show yellow feet and legs. This feature is also observed in Glaucous-winged *L. glaucescens* and American Herring Gull *L. argentatus smithsonianus*. In these gulls the carotenoid is 'activated' by a still not fully understood factor.

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Barth, E.K. 1968. The circumpolar systematics of *Larus argentatus* and *Larus fuscus* with special reference to the Norwegian populations. *Nytt Mag. Zool.* 15 (supplement 1): 1-50.

van Kreuningen, J. 1980. Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* with orange legs. *Dutch Birding* 2: 14.

Paul de Heer, Hendrik Casimirstraat 160, 3136 BE Vlaardingen

OVER HERKENNING VAN ONVOLWASSEN KLEINE EN KLEINSTE JAGER

ON IDENTIFICATION OF IMMATURE ARCTIC AND LONG-TAILED SKUA

Volgens de meeste veldgidsen is een onvolwassen Kleine Jager *Stercorarius parasiticus* niet of nauwelijks van een onvolwassen Kleinste Jager *S. longicaudus* te onderscheiden. Veel waarnemers doen dientengevolge weinig of geen moeite om een 'kleine' jager te herkennnen. Meestal besluit men tot *parasiticus* omdat de kans op deze soort het grootst wordt geacht. Het is voorgekomen dat een *longicaudus* welke onder optimale omstandigheden kon worden waargenomen, pas als zodanig werd gedetermineerd nadat hij was bemachtigd. Toch is de herkenning van onvolwassen 'kleine' jager minder moeilijk dan veelal wordt gedacht. In dit artikel noemen wij een aantal kenmerken waarmee onvolwassen *parasiticus* en *longicaudus* van elkaar kunnen worden onderscheiden. In hoeverre deze in het veld gebruikt kunnen worden, hangt van de waarnemingsomstandigheden af. Onze aandacht is vooral uitgegaan naar eerste kalenderjaar vogels (welke van de onvolwassen vogels het meest worden waargenomen).

Kenmerken

De volgende kenmerken zijn onder meer uit de literatuur bekend. De verlengde middelste staartpennen zijn bij de eerste en tweede kalenderjaar *parasiticus* scherp gepunt terwijl ze bij *longicaudus* afgerond zijn; de overige staartpennen hebben alleen bij *parasiticus* een klein spits puntje (Løppenthin 1932). De buitenste handpennen zijn bij *parasiticus* puntig en bij *longicaudus* afgerond. Als de armvleugel langer is dan 105 mm, dan wijst dit op *parasiticus*; korter dan 100 mm, dan op *longicaudus*. Bij *parasiticus* varieert de lengte van de middenteen tussen 35 en 42 mm en bij *longicaudus* tussen 31 en 36.6 mm. Wat betreft de maten van handvleugel, snavel en tarsus bestaat er zoveel overlapping dat op grond hiervan de bepaling van de soort in de meeste gevallen niet mogelijk is. Ook de schachtkleur van de handpennen geeft hierover geen zekerheid (Walter 1962).

Wij hebben in het Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie te Leiden (ZH) en het Zoölogisch Museum te Amsterdam (NH) de balgen onderzocht van 32 eerste kalenderjaar *parasiticus* en 33 eerste kalenderjaar *longicaudus*. De resultaten van dit onderzoek staan vermeld in tabel 1.

Tabel 1. Verschillen in het verenkleed tussen eerste kalenderjaar Kleine Jager *Stercorarius parasiticus* en Kleinste Jager *S. longicaudus*.

	Parasiticus	*Longicaudus*
Algemeen	Variabel; donker- tot geelbruin - met geel- tot kastanjebruine tekening.	Minder variabel; grijsbruin met wit - zonder warmbruine kleuren.
Kop en hals	Vrij duidelijk gevlekt of gestreept; gehele kop soms zeer licht; hals meestal warmbruin	Gewoonlijk slechts vaag gevlekt, snel egaal lijkend; bovenkop vaak wat donkerder dan rest van kop, nooit zo licht als bij sommige *parasiticus*.
Bovendelen (met inbegrip van stuit)	Licht- tot kastanjebruin geschubd.	Witachtig geschubd.
Borst	Veelal duidelijk gebandeerd of gevlekt; zijborst meestal warmbruin.	Vrijwel egaal grijsbruin of heel zwak gebandeerd.

Buik	Veelal duidelijk gebandeerd of gevlekt.	Gewoonlijk vrij egaal, eventuele bandering duidelijkst op flanken; wit (afstekend tegen borst) tot grijsbruin.
Onderstaart	Meestal weinig of niet opvallender gebandeerd dan onderdelen; meestal duidelijk bruinachtig.	Altijd opvallend 'zwart-wit' gebandeerd.
Bovenvleugel	Licht- tot kastanjebruin geschubd; kleine dekveren meestal breed geschubd en lichte voorvleugel vormend.	Witachtige schubtekening, hoogstens even duidelijk als schouders, vaak minder duidelijk.
Handpennen	Meestal met duidelijk lichte top.	Gewoonlijk hooguit zeer smal licht randje aan top.
Oksel en ondervleugel	Intensief gebandeerd, soms net zo contrastrijk als bij *longicaudus*.	Intensief en gelijkmatig gebandeerd; 'gemarmerd'.
Middelste staartpennen	Doorgaans zonder lichte top (niet meer dan twee cm uitstekend en spits toelopend).	Vaak met lichte top (halve tot drie cm uitstekend en afgerond).

Bespreking

Samenvattend kunnen wij het volgende zeggen. Eerste kalenderjaar *parasiticus* hebben in meer of mindere mate warmbruine kleuren, vooral op hals, stuit, zijborst, onderstaart en kleine vleugeldekveren. De bandering op de bovendelen is bruinachtig, soms erg licht. Borst en rest van de onderdelen zijn gewoonlijk gebandeerd of gevlekt. De toppen van de handpennen zijn licht. Eerste kalenderjaar *longicaudus* missen de warmbruine kleuren en hebben een witachtige bandering op bovendelen en onderstaart, min of meer op de flanken en soms vaag op borst en buik. Bij *parasiticus* is soms de gehele kop zeer licht; bij *longicaudus* is de bovenkop vaak wat donkerder dan de rest van de kop ('pet'). De middelste staartpennen bij *longicaudus* steken niet noodzakelijk verder uit dan die bij *parasiticus*.

De meeste van de in tabel 1 genoemde punten blijven van toepassing op tweede kalenderjaar vogels - met dien verstande dat bij *longicaudus* de lengte van de middelste staartpennen aanzienlijk toeneemt en dat *parasiticus* altijd een donkere kruin heeft en minder bandering op rug en schouders krijgt (*cf.* Walter 1962). In het derde kalenderjaar beginnen beide soorten veel op een volwassen vogel te lijken.

Dankzegging

Hierbij danken wij het Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie te Leiden en het Zoölogisch Museum te Amsterdam die ons in de gelegenheid stelden de balgen van Kleine en Kleinste Jager te bekijken.

Summary

First calender-year Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* shows more or less warm-brown colours, especially on neck, rump, sides of breast, undertail and lesser wing-coverts. Upperpart feathers are tipped brownish, sometimes very light. Breast and belly are often well marked. Primaries are light-tipped. The greyish toned first calendar-year Long-tailed Skua *S. longicaudus* lacks the warm-brown colours and has a whitish barring on upperparts and undertail, more

or less on the flanks and sometimes diffusely on breast and belly. Head and neck appear rather uniform in *longicaudus* with often a slightly capped appearance whereas in *parasiticus* head and neck are more clearly marked and sometimes the head is very light all over. In *longicaudus* the projection of the rounded central rectrices varies from a half to three cm; in *parasiticus* the pointed central rectrices do not project more than two cm.

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WINTERVOORKOMEN VAN STERNS IN NEDERLAND EN BELGIË: VERZOEK TOT MEDEWERKING

Om een beter inzicht te krijgen in het wintervoorkomen van een aantal sternsoorten in Nederland en België, verzoek ik om toezending van *alle* waarnemingen en vondsten van Grote Stern *Sterna sandvicensis*, Visdief *S. hirundo*, Noordse Stern *S. paradisaea*, Dwergstern *S. albifrons* en Zwarte Stern *Chlidonias niger* in november, december, januari en februari gedurende de periode november 1950 - februari 1981 in beide landen. Men gelieve bij toezending datum, plaats, aantal, verenkleed (eerste winterkleed, winterkleed of zomerkleed), omstandigheden, waarnemer(s) en eventuele andere gegevens te vermelden. Alle toezenders zullen worden bedankt.

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VOORKOMEN VAN LACHSTERN IN NEDERLAND EN BELGIË: VERZOEK TOT MEDEWERKING

Om een beter inzicht te krijgen in het voorkomen van de Lachstern *Gelochelidon nilotica* in Nederland en België, verzoek ik om toezending van *alle* waarnemingen en vondsten gedurende de periode 1951-80 in beide landen. Men gelieve bij toezending datum, plaats, aantal, verenkleed, omstandigheden, waarnemer(s) en eventuele andere gegevens te vermelden. Alle toezenders zullen worden bedankt.

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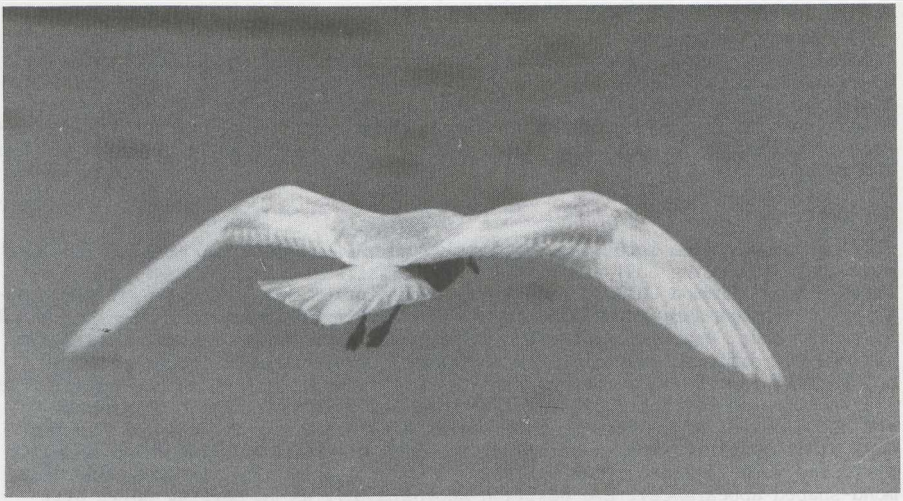
SECOND-WINTER ICELAND GULL AT IJMUIDEN FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 1981

From 17 January to at least 5 March 1981 a second-winter Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides* was present at IJmuiden (Noord-Holland). It was first seen and identified by Teus Luyendijk. Many observers saw the bird. During its stay it was mainly seen flying in one of the fishing harbours or sitting on the roofs of adjacent buildings. The subjoined description is based on detailed field notes and photographs.

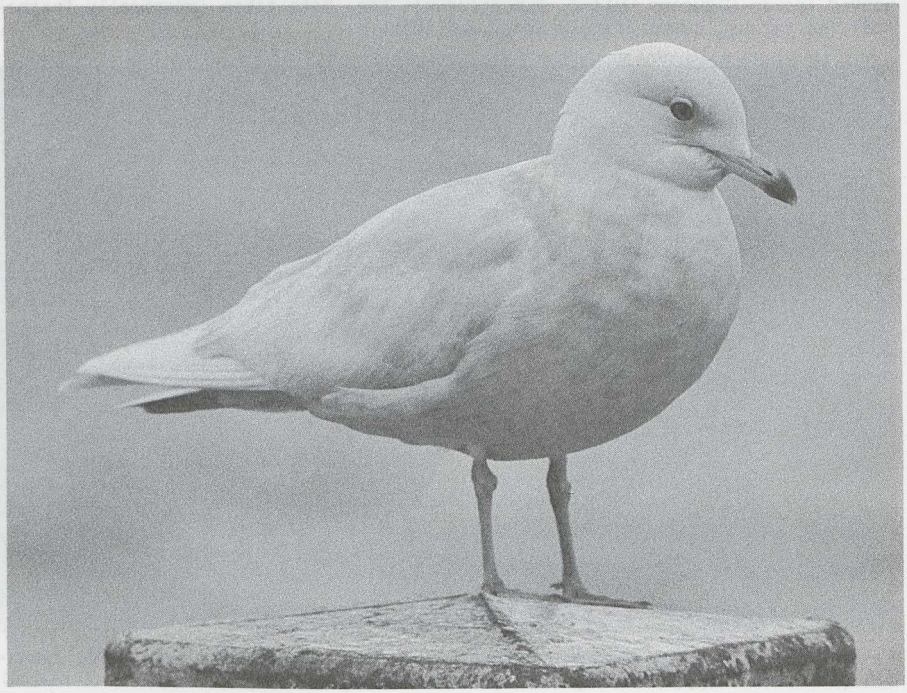
Description

Size and build. Size about that of Herring Gull *L. argentatus*. Head not smaller than that of Herring Gull and with distinctly circular outline; forehead more steep than in Common Gull *L. canus*; highest point of crown behind eye. Neck comparatively short and, especially lowerneck, relatively thick (both in flight and at rest). Wing, especially innerwing, comparatively broad and with rounded tip (p9 and p10 differed only slightly in length); projection of 'hanging' wings beyond tail (not further than in Herring Gull) when standing; secondaries little 'raised' (as in Herring Gull) when swimming and primaries almost horizontally and not crossed; angle between undertail and water more acute than in Herring Gull. Tail length corresponded almost to width of innerwing; innertail normally depressed when flying (giving spread tail wedge-shaped and sometimes even diamond-shaped appearance). Eye position approximately as in Herring Gull. Bill slender and length (measured along lower ridge of lower mandible) about two-fifth of that of head; proximal half of culmen straight and distal half evenly downcurved; gonys weakly developed; tip not pointed (as in Common Gull) and not hooked (as in Glaucous Gull *L. hyperboreus*). Leg, both tibia (proximally feathered) and tarsus, comparatively short and thin.

4. Iceland Gull/Kleine Burgemeester *Larus glaucoides*, second-winter bird, IJmuiden (Noord-Holland), February 1981 (*Edward van IJzendoorn*)



5-6. Iceland Gull/Kleine Burgemeester *Larus glaucoides*, second-winter bird, IJmuiden (Noord-Holland), February 1981 (*Edward van IJzendoorn*; *René Pop*)



Plumage. Head (near and around eye not darker as in Glaucous Gull) and neck whitish; lower hindneck whitish with pale brown mottling. Back and scapulars uniform pale grey (in certain lights almost white) and paler than in Herring Gull; rump and upper tail-coverts whitish (coverts with pale brown mottling). Breast, flank, belly and under tail-coverts whitish with pale brown mottling. Lesser and median wing-coverts mixed pale brown, whitish and pale grey; tertial coverts and inner greater wing-coverts whitish, outer ones increasingly tipped and edged with pale brown; bastard wing whitish with pale brown; primary coverts whitish, towards tips pale brown; axillaries and under wing-coverts whitish pale brown markings towards tips; tertials, secondaries and primaries full-grown and almost white (secondaries, especially outer ones, slightly darker). Rectrices full-grown, very pale brown and edged with white; both central ones almost white.

Bare parts. Eye brown and appeared dark most of time (between pupil and iris very slight contrast on some photographs); eye-ring whitish. Bill pale yellowish-green and distal third (including gonys) dark brown and well-defined (pattern like that of first-winter Glaucous Gull); gonys with some reddish according to some observers; culmen and extreme tip pale. Leg and foot deep pink; nails dark.

Behaviour. Flight compared to that of Herring Gull stable and calm and with slower and less deep wingbeats. Dominated by first-winter and older (including adult) Herring Gulls when feeding.

Ageing and sexing

The bird was a second-winter Iceland Gull on the grounds of its general colouration and that of hindneck, tail-coverts, rectrices (except both inner ones) and eye and of bill pattern.There are, however, strong indications that it had finished the (partial) 'spring' moult and was already wearing its second-summer plumage. The supposition is strongly supported by the fact that back, scapulars and some upper wing-coverts were already pale grey and that both inner rectrices were already almost white. According to Hume (1980), the first grey on the mantle of Iceland Gull appears during the second summer. The above suppostion is further supported by the fact that the proximal two-third of the bill was already pale yellowish-green. Iceland Gulls in their second-winter plumage should have a light grey or pale horn bill (Hume). The bird was probably a male on account of its comparatively large body and head size and relatively broad wings.

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WAARNEMING VAN ROSS' MEEUW TE CAMPERDUIN IN JANUARI 1981

OBSERVATION OF ROSS'S GULL AT CAMPERDUIN IN JANUARY 1981

Op zaterdag 17 januari 1981 ontdekte Ko Klitsie vanuit Paviljoen 'Minkema' te Camperduin (NH) om 13:15 een Ross' Meeuw *Rhodostethia rosea*. KK heeft de meeuw vrijwel onafgebroken kunnen waarnemen tot 15:30 (toen hij helaas weg moest). Ook de ouders van Maarten Platteeuw hebben de vogel enige tijd kunnen waarnemen. Op zondag 18 januari waren, behalve KK, de volgende mensen aanwezig toen de Ross' Meeuw van 10:00 tot 10:02 in noordelijke richting langs kwam vliegen: Johan Apperloo, Kees Camphuysen, Nick van der Ham en Maarten Platteeuw (hiervan waren alleen KC en MP op de hoogte gesteld van de waarneming op zaterdag). De waarnemingen betroffen een volwassen vogel in winterkleed met een lichte oliebevuiling.

Omstandigheden

Op 17 januari is de Ross' Meeuw langdurig waargenomen terwijl deze voor Camperduin boven de zeereep rondvloog en slechts zo nu en dan korte tijd uit het oog verdween. De vogel werd vanuit het paviljoen ontdekt maar is vervolgens vanaf het terras, het strand en de piertjes waargenomen (met 8.5 x 44- en 10 x 40-verrekijkers). De waarnemingsafstand bedroeg minimaal zes m; hij kwam zelden meer dan 25 m uit de kust. Op 18 januari werd de Ross' Meeuw welke vanuit het zuiden aan kwam vliegen, vanuit het paviljoen ontdekt door KC en KK. Hij werd door de overige waarnemers (JA, NvdH en MP) - die buiten aan het zeetrek-tellen waren - gemist omdat de vogel 'te dichtbij' was. Deze waarnemers werden gewaarschuwd waarna de vogel vanaf het terras gevolgd kon worden terwijl deze traag naar het noorden vloog. Al met al kon de vogel een kleine twee minuten waargenomen worden (met 8.5 x 44-, 15 x 80- en 16 x 70-verrekijkers) met als minimum afstand 60 m. Aan de hand van de oliebevuiling kon worden vastgesteld dat het het zelfde exemplaar betrof als zaterdag.

Beschrijving

Kleiner dan Kokmeeuw *Larus ridibundus* (waarmee direct vergelijkbaar); compacte haast duifachtige indruk. Snavel klein en donker (waarschijnlijk zwart); oog donker; voor en achter oog enkele vage donkere vlekjes; nek en zijkanten van hals lichtgrijs, als voortzetting van mantel; ook aan zijkant van hals, gescheiden van de grijs-tekening, donker streepje, als restant van nekbandje; rest van kop, met inbegrip van kruin, zuiver wit; kop klein en rond, snavel klein en nek vrij kort. Vleugels vrij spits en lang; rug en bovenvleugels, uitgezonderd smalle achterrand, egaal lichtgrijs; weinig opvallend zwart lijntje aan handvleugelboeg; ondervleugels eveneens egaal lichtgrijs (waarschijnlijk zelfde kleur als rug en bovenvleugels); smalle achterrand van zowel boven- als ondervleugels wit. Staart en stuit van boven zowel als van onderen zuiver wit; vrij lange staart, niet alleen in samengevouwen maar ook in uitgespreide toestand opvallend wigvormig. Onderdelen (borst en buik) eveneens wit, echter met uitgesproken roze gloed (met name in zonlicht opvallend). Poten donker. Tussen poten plekje olie (waardoor pootkleur mogelijk beïnvloed); ook op rechterflank, ter hoogte van vleugel, kleine olievlek.

Gedrag

In directe vlucht vloog de Ross' Meeuw rechtlijnig met vrij diepe flappende vleugelslagen. Tijdens het foerageren vloog de vogel rustig maar was toch zeer beweeglijk, zeilde vrij veel en dook vaak op bijna sternachtige wijze naar het wateroppervlak waarbij hij vlak boven het water inhield, de staart gespreid en de poten los van het lichaam hangend (zie ook Grant (1981): platen 50-53), en

met de snavel iets uit het water oppikte (of er inderdaad iets eetbaars opgepikt werd, kon niet gezien worden; eenmaal pikte de vogel een sliertje groen plastic op uit het water maar liet dat vervolgens snel weer vallen). Op 17 januari werd de vogel constant vlak onder de kust waargenomen, zelden meer dan 25 m van het strand; hij vloog zo nu en dan ook over de piertjes en het strand. Geen enkele maal werd de vogel op het water of op het land gezien: hij bleef voortdurend in de lucht. Gedurende de tijd dat de meeuw voor Camperduin verbleef, werd hij voortdurend fouragerend en rondvliegend en -zeilend waargenomen. Een paar maal zakte hij af naar het zuiden totdat hij uit het zicht verdwenen was, en zonder dat gezien werd dat hij terug keerde, was hij steeds binnen 10 minuten weer aanwezig. Op 18 januari kwam de meeuw vanuit het zuiden, vlak onder de kust langs vliegen. De vlucht was gericht maar niet snel en zo nu en dan zeilde hij even. Eenmaal dook de vogel naar het wateroppervlak maar hervatte daarna zijn vlucht naar het noorden totdat hij uit het oog verdween. Hij werd overigens niet meer waargenomen ondanks verwoede pogingen hem langs de kust terug te vinden.

Bespreking

De hier beschreven waarneming van een volwassen Ross' Meeuw in winterkleed is, voor zover mij bekend, de tweede waarneming voor Nederland. Het eerste geval betrof een volwassen vrouwtje in zomerkleed dat van 6 juni tot 15 juli 1958 op Vlieland (F) verbleef.

Aardig is in dit verband ook het (zelfs voor Engelse begrippen) hoge aantal van tot nu toe tenminste zes waarnemingen deze winter in Groot-Brittannië en Ierland. Opmerkelijk mag in dit geval vooral de waarneming genoemd worden van een volwassen vogel in winterkleed te Filey Brigg (Yorkshire), Engeland op 7 en 8 december 1980 (Hume & Allsopp 1981). Dit exemplaar had namelijk ook een olievlekje op de buik (Gerald Oreel *pers. med.*) en zou dus mogelijk hetzelfde individu kunnen zijn als de hier beschreven vogel.

Dankzegging

Voor het schrijven van dit artikel wil ik vooral Ko Klitsie bedanken voor diens beschrijving van de vogel en zijn gedrag. Bovendien hebben ook Kees Camphuysen en Gerald Oreel mij geholpen met hun opmerkingen. (Voor een prima artikel over de herkenning van de Ross' Meeuw in het algemeen kan ik verwijzen naar Grant (1981).)

Summary

On 17 and 18 January 1981 an adult Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* in winter plumage was observed at Camperduin (Noord-Holland). The bird was a little oiled on belly and right flank. Both the bird and its behaviour are described. The possibility that this record concerned the same individual as the one observed at Filey Brigg (Yorkshire), England on 7 and 8 December 1980, is mentioned. This was the second record of Ross's Gull for the Netherlands.

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Nick van der Ham, Fritz Conijnlaan 17, 1815 AS Alkmaar

ON FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF COMMON AND ARCTIC TERN

Most field guides fail to mention or to depict that Common *Sterna hirundo* and Arctic Tern *S. paradisaea* in summer plumage can be separated on head pattern alone. The white area between the black lore and the base of the upper mandible is generally broad in Common and narrow in Arctic. This difference (depicted slightly exaggerated in figure 1) is especially useful in identifying birds with an aberrantly-coloured bill, *i.e.* Commons with reduced or no black on bill and Arctics with black on it. (It should be noted that the black on bill ends abruptly in Common and grades gradually into red in Arctic.) It is also useful in identifying birds of which bill colour and pattern (scarlet- or orange-red and black-tipped in Common and blood-red and not black-tipped in Arctic) can not be established. Other useful differences between the heads of Common and Arctic are provided by throat colour and bill length. Common has a white or slightly greyish-white throat and Arctic a greyish-white one (which gives the latter a more 'white-cheeked' appearance). Common has a longer bill than Arctic. This gives the head of the former a long and sleek appearance and that of the latter a rounded and delicate one. (The following works contain useful information on the field identification of Common and Arctic Tern: Devillers (1978), Sharrock (1980), Stallcup (1976) and Vandenbulcke (1979).)

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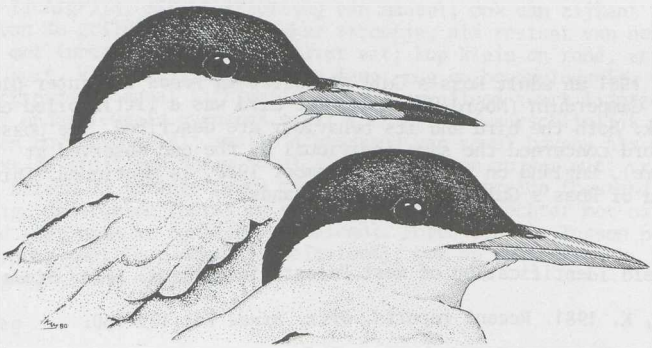

Figure 1. Heads of Common Tern/Visdief *Sterna hirundo* (left) and Arctic Tern/Noordse Stern *S. paradisaea* (right) in summer plumage (*Karel Mauer*)

DUNN'S LARK IN ISRAEL IN APRIL 1980

When birding in the Ma'agan Micka'el Nature Reserve in Israel on 7 April 1980, Gerry Hinchon and I discovered a bird which at first sight looked like a thick-billed Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti*. It was sitting on a track along the beach; later on, it moved down to the beach. After some time GH warned Steve Howell and Keith Lyon who were birding nearby. We were later joined by Mr Igal of the Ma'agan Micka'el Kibbutz (who kindly lent me his telephoto lens). I was able to take some photographs. The bird was identified as Dunn's Lark *Eremalauda dunni*.

General size and colour of Desert Lark. Crown and neck light pinkish-buff with darker streaks; cheeks whitish; eye-ring conspicuous, broad and whitish, extending in short stripe behind eye; line bordering underside of eye-ring small and dark; one moustachial stripe starting from base of bill and one from small dark line under eye-ring (both stripes only clearly visible when bird was seen head-on). Back and scapulars (as crown and neck) light pinkish-buff with darker streaks. Underparts whitish and unmarked. Wings more rufous than back and unstreaked; underwing pale rufous. Tail dark; central rectrices concolorous with back and scapulars and margin of outer ones pale. Bill clearly thicker than that of Desert Lark, pink-flesh and gradually darker towards tip; legs flesh-coloured.

The literature on Dunn's Lark is poor. The striking facial pattern is, for instance, neither described nor illustrated. The Ma'agan Micka'el bird showed a great resemblance to ones photographed in Jordan (Nelson 1973) and Saudi Arabia (Silsby 1980). Its status in the Middle East is also poorly known. The nomadic Dunn's Lark has been found breeding at Azraq in Jordan (Nelson). Its status in Israel is obscure; there are no records for Elat (Krabbe 1980). It is a resident bird of southwestern Arabia and the southern Sahara (Courtenay-Thompson 1972, Hall & Moreau 1970, Meinertzhagen 1954). Two subspecies are recognized. The Arabian birds belong to *E.d. eremodites*; the Saharan ones to *E.d. dunni*.

7. Dunn's Lark/Dunns Leeuwerik *Eremalauda dunni*, Ma'agan Micka'el (Israel), April 1980 (*Hans ter Haar*)

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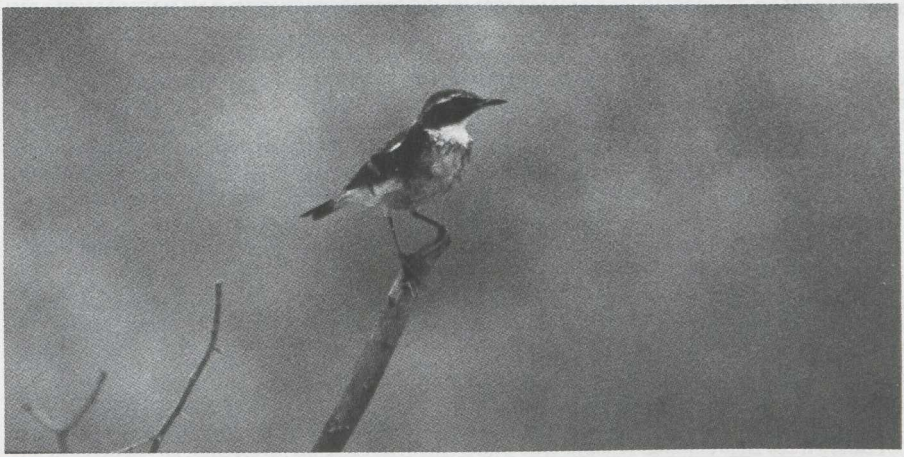
RECORD OF STOLICZKA'S WHINCHAT IN RAJASTHAN, INDIA IN AUGUST 1978

The Stoliczka's Whinchat or White-browed Chat *Saxicola macrorhyncha* is a very little known species. It became known to science in 1872 on account of specimens collected by Ferdinand Stoliczka at Rapar and Bhuj, Kachh (Kutch) in northwestern India. The species was first placed among the genus *Pratincola*.

Ali & Ripley (1973) define the breeding range of Stoliczka's Whinchat as follows: Pakistan east of the Indus and Haryana (Hissar), eastern Uttar Pradesh (Aligarh), eastern Rajasthan and Gujarat (Deesa, Kutch and Kathiawar) in India; they mention also two extralimital records from Kandahar, Afghanistan. The records from Afghanistan are based on specimens collected on 19 April 1881 at Kandahar and on 24 April 1881 at Dubrai (Ticehurst 1926). Whistler (1922) mentions records from Bolan and Chaman in western Pakistan and again from Kandahar and Dubrai. Possibly on account of these records, Hüe & Etchécopar (1970) refer to this species as 'Nidificateur: Sud de l'Afghanistan: Résident mais très local'. Whistler - on whose findings most of the account of the species in Ali & Ripley is based - gives as other localities: Khiwa, Mukhiana, Mochiwala, Bhowana, Ludhamani and Winoka.

All authors agree that Stoliczka's Whinchat is a very rare and local bird. Its habitat is described as being arid plains with sparse bushes and also reedbeds. It is often referred to as 'desert-loving' - hence its German name 'Wüstenbraunkehlchen'.

On 2 August 1978 - when travelling through western Rajasthan in search of the rare Great Indian Bustard *Choriotes nigriceps* - we recorded a male and several juvenile Stoliczka's Whinchats near Khara, along the road from Phalodi to Pokaran. They perched on low bushes along the road in desert-like habitat which supported a lofty vegetation of grasses due to the heavy rains earlier that year. The habitat was also frequented by Grey-backed Finch Larks *Eremopterix grisea*, Rufous-tailed Desert Larks *Ammomanes phoenicurus* and Small or Lesser Skylarks *Alauda gulgula*. The birds were fairly tame and allowed quite close approach which enabled ABvdB to take photographs of the male.



8. Stoliczka's Whinchat/Stoliczkas Paapje *Saxicola macrorhyncha*, adult male, Rajasthan, India, August 1978 (*Arnoud van den Berg*)

Description of male. Fairly large slim *Saxicola* chat with long bill and tail. Crown, nape and back dark brown with lighter feather edges; side of head and ear-coverts blackish-brown, sharply demarcated from white chin; supercilium white, narrow and long (from base of bill to end of ear-coverts). Chin, throat and upperbreast strikingly white, rest of underparts light with greyish cast on lowerbreast, belly and flank. Wing-coverts and remiges blackish-brown with well-defined shoulder patch and light primary coverts. Tail white with dark central rectrices, pattern not unlike that of wheatear *Oenanthe*. Bill conspicuously long and black; legs black.

The above description of the male corresponds well with that in Whistler (1922). The bird was probably an adult male. This on account of the amount of white in wings and tail (Ali & Ripley 1973). Its plumage resembled to that of Grey Bush Chat *S. ferrea*.

The only illustration in the literature of Stoliczka's Whinchat is, as far as we know, the one by Paul Barruel in Hüe & Etchécopar (1970). But this illustration depicts only birds in winter plumage. The accompanying photograph is probably the first-ever published of the species.

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PARTIALLY ALBINISTIC WHEATEARS NEAR KATWIJK AAN ZEE IN AUGUST 1980

From 2 until 17 August 1980 a partially albinistic Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* was present in the dunes near Katwijk aan Zee (Zuid-Holland). The bird had a strikingly black and white appearence recalling that of a male Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*, especially in flight. The throat was white and sharply demarcated from the normally coloured breast and belly. Remiges and tail pattern were black. The rest of the plumage was whitish with only very few little brownish markings on crown, back and wing-coverts. The bare parts were black.

On 10 August two partially albinistic Wheatears were observed in the same area. One bird differed from the described one in having a more buffish back and wing-coverts and a few more markings (Kees Schonenberg *pers. comm.*).

It is interesting to note that also in 1979 a partially albinistic Wheatear was seen in the same area. A bird with a completely white head was present on 25 August (Kees de Mooy *pers. comm.*).

So far, only one record of a partially albinistic Wheatear in the Netherlands was published. On 3 September 1968 a bird with a white head (except black ear-coverts), throat and neck was observed in the Noordhollands Duinreservaat (Noord-Holland) (Sevinga; Voous 1968). For more information on albinism in Wheatear, see Menzel (1964).

The above records clearly demonstrate that, when observing an unfamiliar wheatear, one should be aware of an aberrantly coloured Wheatear.

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Gijs van der Bent, E.A. Borgerstraat 71, 2225 AP Katwijk aan Zee

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WAARNEMINGEN VAN ORPHEUSSPOTVOGEL IN 1960 EN 1968 TEN ONRECHTE AANVAARD

OBSERVATIONS OF MELODIOUS WARBLER IN 1960 AND 1968 WRONGLY ACCEPTED

Volgens de *Avifauna van Nederland* (1970) werd de Orpheusspotvogel *Hippolais polyglotta* tweemaal in Nederland vastgesteld. Op 12 en 14 augustus 1960 werd te Wierden (O) een exemplaar waargenomen (Kist & Maaldrink 1961) en op 9 juni 1968 een te Epse (Gld) (Coldewey 1968). Mede naar aanleiding van de ringvangst van een Orpheusspotvogel op 2 september 1979 in Zuidelijk Flevoland (ZIJP) (Osieck 1979) heb ik deze waarnemingen opnieuw op hun aanvaardbaarheid onderzocht. Ik ben hierbij tot de conclusie gekomen dat ze onvoldoende zijn gedocumenteerd en derhalve ten onrechte zijn aanvaard.

Waarneming in 1960

Voor een beoordeling van de waarneming van een Orpheusspotvogel op 12 en 14 augustus 1960 te Wierden zijn de volgende punten in de door Kist & Maaldrink (1961) gegeven beschrijving van belang: (1) '... de zang van de vogel, welke met half geopende bek en dikwijls 'binnensmonds' werd voortgebracht. Het was een niet onwelluidend, zéér zacht en vlug gebabbel zonder scherpe uithalen of crescendo's, vermengd met enigszins tjilpende en Kneu *Carduelis cannabina*-achtige tonen'; (2) '... korte vleugels (...) slechts tot op het midden van de bovenstaartdekveren ...' (3) '... van onderen van kin tot onderstaartdekveren lichtgeel, tussen de poten meer geelwit'; (4) 'Van boven ... olijfbruin ...'; (5) 'Op de vleugel was niets te zien van een door de lichte zomen van de kleine slagpennen gevormde vlek ...'; en (6) '... kleur der poten ... niet grijsachtig blauw'.

Mijns inziens geeft de beschrijving onvoldoende aanknopingspunten om de determinatie als *polyglotta* te rechtvaardigen. (1) De beschreven zang doet erg aan 'subsong' denken en kan nauwelijks als bewijs gelden. De suggestie van subsong - welke ook is terug te vinden in Kist & Maaldrink - werd op de vergadering van de Commissie voor de Nederlandse Avifauna (CNA) van 28 october 1961 bestreden. In de notulen van deze vergadering staat vermeld: '... zijn typerende zang (werd) ook op ruime afstand gehoord' (vergelijk deze uitspraak met het citaat uit Kist & Maaldrink). (2) *Polyglotta* heeft een kortere vleugel dan de Spotvogel *H. icterina* (Svensson 1975) maar dit is in het veld echter moeilijk te zien. Bij *icterina* reikt de vleugel in zit tot aan de toppen van de bovenstaartdekveren of er net iets voorbij (en niet, zoals Kist & Maaldrink stelden, tot het midden van de staart); bij *polyglotta*: '... the folded primaries either fall short of or only just reach the tips of the uppertail-coverts ...' (Wallace 1980). Bij de Wierdense vogel reikten de vleugeltoppen slechts tot het midden van de bovenstaartdekveren (nadrukkelijk werd in Kist & Maaldrink gesteld dat dit goed zichtbaar was). Dit is wel erg kort en men kan zich afvragen waarom het geen jonge *icterina* met nog onvolgroeide vleugels betrof (in de notulen van de eerdergenoemde CNA-vergadering wordt zelfs opgemerkt dat de vleugels 'afgeknipt' leken, welke indruk ontstaan kan zijn door de nog afgeronde vleugels van een jonge vogel). (3) De lichtgele onderdelen komen zowel bij jonge *icterina* als bij jonge *polyglotta* voor (Wallace) en vormen dus geen kenmerk om beide te onderscheiden. (4) De olijfbruine bovendelen zijn typisch voor *polyglotta* (Wallace) maar een vergelijking van enkele balgen in de collectie van het Zoölogisch Museum te Amsterdam (NH) laat zien dat dit ook voorkomt bij jonge *icterina*. (5) De afwezigheid van lichte zomen aan de kleine slagpennen bij jonge vogels in de herfst duidt op *polyglotta* (Wallace). Als wij de beschrijving er nauwkeurig op na lezen is het echter niet duidelijk of vleugelvlek èn lichte zomen ontbraken of alleen de vleugelvlek. Een citaat uit Wallace maakt duidelijk dat dit essentieel is: 'In the case of immature birds in autumn, *icterina* shows no continuous wing-panel, but the separate and 'parallel' whitish edges of the tertials and innermost secondaries are broad enough to attract attention at considerable range. With

immature *polyglotta* even the closest examination fails to reveal any marked character in this region'. Dus de afwezigheid van een vleugel*vlek* zegt niet veel omdat een jonge *icterina* dat kenmerk ook niet heeft. (6) De pootkleur wijst op *polyglotta* maar het is mij niet bekend wanneer jonge *icterina* de karakteristieke pootkleur krijgen.

Waarneming in 1968

De beschrijving van de waarneming van een Orpheusspotvogel op 9 juni 1968 te Epse (Coldewey 1968) maakt op het eerste gezicht een betere indruk. De vogel trok de aandacht door een '... zeer langdurig, zacht, zeer vlug, binnensmonds Spotvogelgebabbel'. Coldewey beschreef verder de zang van *polyglotta* maar het is niet duidelijk of dit ook betrekking heeft op de waargenomen vogel. Afgezien hiervan kan de zang in het algemeen geen doorslaggevende factor zijn bij de beoordeling van een nieuwe soort of dwaalgast tenzij een bandopname is gemaakt. Verder wordt melding gemaakt van de volgende kenmerken: (1) '... hoge ronde kop ...'; (2) '... miste de lichte vleugelvlek ...'; en (4) '... bovendelen ... effen olijfbruin'.

Bij de volgende bespreking moet er rekening mee worden gehouden dat het hier om een volwassen vogel moet gaan. (1) Een kruin als boven beschreven schijnt karakteristiek te zijn voor *polyglotta* maar Wallace (1980) geeft echter aan dat er uitzonderingen zijn: 'I have seen the crown shape reversed in all three species so far described, *particularly when individuals have been in song or displaying*, and that there are published descriptions of 'permanent' exceptions' (cursivering door mij). Dit kenmerk is dus niet erg betrouwbaar. Sharrock (1965) stelde zelfs: '... I have found head-shape very variable and of little value as a field character'. (2) 'De vleugelpunten reikten tot aan de bovenstaartdekveren en waren dus beslist korter dan die van *icterina*'. Afgezien nog van het feit dat punten niet korter kunnen zijn, is dit een nietszeggende omschrijving: vleugels reiken in de meeste gevallen tot aan de bovenstaartdekveren. (3) Een andere onnauwkeurigheid is een citering uit Wallace waarmee de indruk wordt gewekt dat dit de mening van Wallace vertolkt: '... the light patch in the closed wing or midwing-panel (here called wing-panel) of *icterina* in spring or summer as a useful character to distinguish that species from *polyglotta*' (citaat naar Coldewey). De zin begint echter met de woorden: 'In recent years much emphasis has been placed on '...'. De waarde van dit kenmerk moet namelijk niet overschat worden omdat *polyglotta* in wisselende mate ook een lichte vleugelvlek heeft - hoewel minder aangesloten dan bij *icterina*. Bovendien hebben sommige *icterina* in het voorjaar een onduidelijke vleugelvlek (Wallace). De vogel te Epse '... miste de licht vleugelvlek, die *icterina* kenmerkt (lichte zomen van kleine slagpennen), ook dit is voor *polyglotta* kenmerkend'. Dit wijst sterk op *polyglotta* maar als dit betekent dat de lichte zomen in het geheel ontbraken, wordt het bijna verdacht. (4) De beschreven bovendelen zijn weliswaar typisch voor *polyglotta* maar Wallace gaf aan dat zowel bij *icterina* als bij *polyglotta* de groene tint soms nauwelijks aanwezig is en in het veld dan bijna onzichtbaar is. Dit schijnt samen te gaan met blekere onderdelen: '... upperparts usually greenish-olive (these colours associated with paler underparts)' (*icterina*) (Wallace). Dit is opmerkelijk omdat de vogel te Epse 'crème- of roomkleurige' onderdelen had. Nu komen lichte onderdelen ook bij *ployglotta* voor maar dat gaat dan wel samen met lichte bovendelen: '... upperparts usually greenish-brown often with a bright olive wash, but in some the suffusion is yellowish or, rarely, greyish (these paler overtones associated with paler underparts)' (Wallace). Het is de vraag of de combinatie die is beschreven - olijfbruine boven- en bleke onderdelen - bij *ployglotta* voorkomt. In ieder geval was de vogel geen typisch exemplaar en moet aan dit kenmerk (kleur van de bovendelen) niet te veel waarde worden gehecht.

Summary

After a thorough study of the descriptions of the records of Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* in the Netherlands in 1960 and 1968, the author is of opinion that both are insufficiently documented and therefore wrongly accepted.

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VOORKOMEN VAN ORPHEUSSPOTVOGEL IN BENELUX

OCCURRENCE OF MELODIOUS WARBLER IN BENELUX

De Orpheusspotvogel *Hippolais polyglotta* vervangt in Zuidwest-Europa en Noord-Afrika de Spotvogel *H. icterina* (Voous 1960). Zijn broedgebied lijkt zich in Frankrijk in noordelijke richting uit te breiden; de meest noordelijke broedplaatsen bevinden zich thans dicht bij de Frans-Belgische grens (Devillers & Terschuren 1979). Ondanks de nabijheid van het broedgebied in Frankrijk is de Orpheusspotvogel nog steeds een dwaalgast in België, Nederland en het Groothertogdom Luxemburg. In dit artikel zal het voorkomen van de soort in de Benelux worden samengevat en kort besproken.

Gevallen

Hieronder staan in chronologische volgorde de aanvaarde of te aanvaarden waarnemingen en ringvangsten (r) van de Orpheusspotvogel in de Benelux (Paul Herroelen *in litt.* & *pers. med.*, Melchior 1977, Kees Scharringa *pers. med.*). De aanvaarde waarnemingen in Nederland in augustus 1960 en juni 1968 zijn niet opgenomen (*cf.* Osieck 1981).

1	14 jul	1970	1	Herstal (Luik) (r)
2	11 mei	1973	1	Lembeke (Oost-Vlaanderen) (r)
3	8 jun - 3 jul	1975	1	Bettembourg (Groothertogdom Luxemburg)
4	5 jun	1977	1	Sombreffe (Namen) (r)
5	19 mei - 14 jun	1978	2	Hanzinelle (Namen) (r)
6	3 jun - 9 jun	1979	1	Villers-la-Loue (Luxemburg)
7	12 jun - 12 jul	1979	1	Vlagtwedde (Groningen)
8	22 jun - 27 jun	1979	1	Frasnes-les-Couvin (Namen)
9	2 aug - 3 aug	1979	2	Het Zwin (West-Vlaanderen)
10	2 sep	1979	1	Zuidelijk Flevoland (Zuidelijke IJsselmeerpolders) (r)
11	3 aug	1980	1	De Panne (West-Vlaanderen) (r)
12	18 aug - 19 aug	1980	2	Het Zwin (West-Vlaanderen)

Bespreking

Tot en met 1980 zijn in de Benelux 12 gevallen (en in totaal 15 exemplaren) van de Orpheusspotvogel vastgesteld. Hiervan hebben zes betrekking op een waarneming en zes op een ringvangst. Acht gevallen zijn vastgesteld in de periode mei - juli. Deze hebben waarschijnlijk betrekking op vogels welke tijdens de voorjaarstrek zijn doorgeschoten ('spring overshooting') of tijdens en na het broedseizoen zijn gaan zwerven. De vier gevallen in de periode augustus - september hebben waarschijnlijk betrekking op vogels welke als gevolg van omgekeerde trek ('reversed migration') in de Benelux zijn terecht gekomen.

Het voorkomen van de Orpheusspotvogel in de Benelux wijkt sterk af van dat in Groot-Brittannië en Ierland. Hier worden de meeste exemplaren niet in de periode mei - juni vastgesteld maar in de periode augustus - october (Sharrock 1974). Deze opvallende discrepantie is waarschijnlijk voor het grootste deel terug te voeren op twee omstandigheden. (1) Het ontbreken van gebieden in de Benelux waar tijdens het najaar als gevolg van omgekeerde trek regelmatig grote concentraties zangvogels uit het zuiden en zuidoosten voorkomen. In Groot-Brittannië en Ierland worden de meeste Orpheusspotvogels waargenomen aan de zuidkust waar in de nazomer en herfst regelmatig dergelijke zangvogelconcentraties voorkomen (Sharrock). (2) De meeste veldwaarnemers en ringers in de Benelux zijn onvoldoende op de hoogte van de kenmerken van de Orpheusspotvogel. Dit heeft waarschijnlijk tot gevolg dat een waargenomen of gevangen Orpheusspotvogel meestal niet als zodanig wordt herkend. Het is in dit verband opvallend dat vijf van de acht voorjaarsgevallen in de Benelux betrekking hebben op een zingend exemplaar en de resterende drie op een gevangen exemplaar.

Dankzegging

Hierbij dank ik Paul Herroelen (secretaris van het Belgisch Avifaunistisch Homologatie Comité) en Kees Scharringa (archivaris van de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna) voor het ter beschikking stellen van de in dit artikel genoemde gevallen van de Orpheusspotvogel.

Summary

The records of Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* in the Benelux are summarized and shortly discussed. Up to and including 1980 12 records were established; eight refer to the period May - July and four to the period August - September. The author shortly discusses the discrepancy between the occurrence of Melodious Warbler in the Benelux and Great Britain and Ireland.

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LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE IN GUATEMALA IN DECEMBER 1979

On 7 December 1979 I was driving on the Inter-American (or Pan-American) Highway in Departemente Huehuetenango in western Guatemala. At 13:20 CT I was about five km south of the town Huehuetenango (where the road is climbing a rather prominent ridge). Suddenly, I noticed a Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus* perching on the top of a maize *Zea mays* blade. I parked the car and walked back along the road. I could observe the bird in good light for *c.* 15 minutes through 12 x 40 binoculars at a distance of 15-40 m. The subjoined description is based on notes taken in the field.

Description. Size about that of Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*. Build *Lanius* shrike-like and with strong hooked-tipped bill and long tail. Forehead, crown and nape plain grey and unmarked; area from above and behind base of bill through eye to and including ear-coverts black. Back and scapulars plain grey and unmarked; rump much paler than back and grading to white at base of tail. Chin and throat and rest of underparts almost white and unmarked. Wings mainly coal-black with white tips to secondaries and with white area on base of primaries. Tail coal-black with white edges to all but central rectrices. Bill all black. Call not heard. Perching horizontally on top of maize blade; swooping down to ground twice but not observed with prey.

The description fits that of Loggerhead Shrike completely. The possibility of confusion with the similar Great Grey (or Northern) Shrike *L. excubitor* is excluded on account of the bird's head pattern and bill colour. (This is also on geographical grounds highly unlikely. The Great Grey is a rare bird in the southern USA and has never been recorded in Mexico.)

Figure 1. Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*, Guatemala, December 1979 (*Stefan Ericsson*)

This was probably the first record of Loggerhead Shrike for Guatemala. The species was, for instance, not mentioned in the *Birds of Guatemala* by Land (1970). The Loggerhead breeds from southern Canada to northern Oaxaca and southwestern Veracruz in southern Mexico; and it winters south to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (Oaxaca/Veracruz) (Blake 1953, Davies 1972, Edwards 1972, Peterson & Chalif 1973, Rand 1960, Robbins *et al.* 1966). There are no Loggerhead records from other parts of Central America (*cf.* Davies, Peterson & Chalif, Rand, Ridgely 1976). It was therefore probably also the most southern record ever. The bird's subspecific identity could not be established but it probably belonged to one of the more northern subspecies.

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CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF EGYPT

In collaboration with the Egyptian Wildlife Service, the Holy Land Conservation Fund and the Ornithological Society of the Middle East we are collecting data on the birds of Egypt (including Sinai) in order to compile a checklist of the birds of this country. We would, therefore, greatly appreciate receiving unpublished records and other relevant information for inclusion in the cheklist. Bird-watchers intending to visit Egypt are requested to contact us so that we can send them standard forms for the survey in behalf of the planned atlas of the breeding birds in this country. (The collected information will also be used for summarizing the status of the birds in Egypt in *The birds of the Western Palearctic* by S. Cramp & K.E.L. Simmons (1977-).) Contributors will be fully acknowledged.

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BIRDING IN NORTH YEMEN

North Yemen (Yemen Arab Republic) is situated in the south-west of Arabia. Its avifauna is interesting in that it contains elements of both Palearctic and Afrotropical origins and that all 11 species of Arabian endemic birds can be found there. The Afrotropical species of North Yemen include several species which may be difficult to see today on a conventional tour of eastern Africa, *i.e.* Kenya, because of their affinities with the fauna of Ethiopia (at the nearest point, only *c.* 40 km away on the other side of the Red Sea).

During a visit to North Yemen - organised by Sunbird Holidays (Executive Travel (Holidays) Ltd, 141 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9BJ, England) - from 6 until 20 April 1980 our party returned with a list of 169 species which included many 'quality' birds although our list was on the low side in that we did not record a single waterfowl species as no freshwater areas were visited.

We found little evidence of a marked raptor passage and migrant passerines were poor in numbers on the coast, indicating little migration through the country; although we might just have been unlucky in the few days we were on the coast and just hit a 'lull' in any passage that might have been taking place.

The purpose of this short paper is to point out some of the most interesting sites that we visited where we found a good selection of species including the Arabian endemics. It must be remembered that many discoveries have yet to be made on the bird life of this wild and beautiful country and that any bird-watcher visiting The Yemen will come across many other interesting sites. During our short visit we did little more than select a few 'key' sites of varied habitats in which to bird-watch.

San'a area

Without doubt the most interesting site in the immediate vicinity of the country's capital is the green Wadi Dahr. It is easily reached by taxi, being only a few km from the town and a favourite 'picnic' spot for the Yemenis on their holy day. An escarpment overlooks the wadi before the road drops down into the valley floor; it is worth stopping there for an hour or so searching the arid slopes and small fields by the roadside above the escarpment. About these slopes we had a good selection of birds including Philby's Rock Partridge *Alectoris philbyi*, Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea* and Red-breasted Wheatear *Oenanthe bottae*. Descending into the head of the wadi, heavily cultivated including orchards and small fields, we found a wealth of birds including Hammerkop *Scopus umbretta*, Dusky Turtle Dove *Streptopelia lugens*, Yellow-bellied (or Bruce's) Green Pigeon *Treron waalia*, Little Rock Thrush *Monticola rufocinerea*, White-breasted White-eye *Zosterops abyssinica* and Violet (Amethyst or Plum-coloured) Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* (only two) and the endemics Arabian Waxbill *Estrilda rufibarba* (two), Arabian Canary *Serinus rothschildi* (up to three), Yemen Serin *S. menachensis* (common) and Yemen Linnet *Carduelis yemenensis* (common).

Not far from San'a (*c.* 40 km north-west) are the villages of Shibam and Kawkaban, the latter perched atop a steep cliff, overlooking the former with a footpath connecting the two; additional species noted about scrubby bushes along this trail included Red-eyed Dove *S. semitorquata*, Arabian Warbler *Sylvia leucomelaena* and Brown Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus umbrovirens*. We also had several Lammergeiers *Gypaetus barbatus*, Lanners *Falco biarmicus*, Dusky Turtle Doves, Tristam's Grackles *Onychognathus tristramii*, Yemen Serins and Yemen Linnets here. Red-breasted Wheatears were quite numerous *en route* from San'a.

Yarim

Yarim (Kitab on some maps) lies *c.* 120 km south of San'a. A few km to the east

lie the upper reaches of wadis which connect up with Wadi Bana. A search of one of these wadis produced several Philby's Rock Partridges, Long-billed Pipits *Anthus similis*, Arabian Accentors *Prunella fagani* (five), Yemen Thrushes *Turdus menachensis* (two) and Brown Woodland Warblers. The well-irrigated fields of a European-run cattle-farm held a number of migrants including several harriers *Circus* and Lesser Kestrels *F. naumanni* ans small parties of Red-throated Pipits *A. cervinus* and Yellow Wagtails *Motacilla flava* (of various subspecies) as well as parties of Yemen Serins and Yemen Linnets.

Wadi Rafood

Still further south, passing over the Sumara Pass, and turning off on a side-road to the west at about the second village south of the pass, it is possible to reach some of the wadis which run westwards towards the coastal plain of The Yemen. The wadi that we inspected had tropical vegetation (large trees) on the floor of the wadi but with rather steep and semi-arid slopes on either side. The tropical feel to the wadi was enhanced by the birdlife which included Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*, Dusky Turtle Dove, Yellow-bellied Green Pigeon, Grey Hornbill *Tockus nasutus*, Gambage Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa gambagae*, African Paradise Flycatcher *Tersiphone viridis*, Shining Sunbird *Nectarinia habessinica*, Violet Starling, Rüppell's Weaver *Ploceus galbula* ans Cinnamon-breasted (or African Rock) Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi*, as well as the endemics Arabian Woodpecker *Dendrocopus dorae* (about five), Yemen Thrush, Arabian Waxbill, Arabian Canary and Yemen Serin.

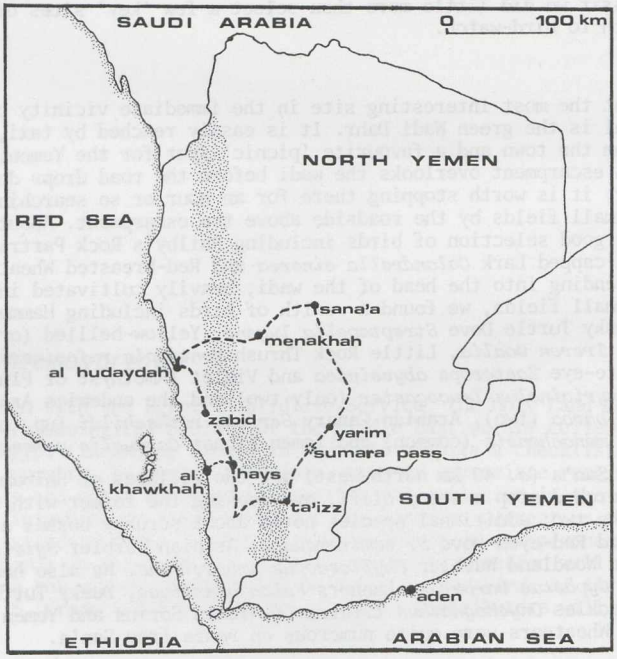


Figure 1. Map of North Yemen showing the coastal plain (west of stippled band) and the ground above 1 000 m (east of stippled band) (*Steve Madge*)

Manakhah

A picturesque town in the mountains about midway between the Red Sea port of Al Hudaydah and San'a. A couple of days spent in exploring the mountains slopes above Manakhah were most rewarding, we found Arabian Red-legged Partridge *A. melanocephala* on the upper slopes and just above the town on the south side of it, in a scrubby gulley, we had at least two Arabian Tit Warblers *Parisoma buryi* - a little known species indeed. Other interesting birds noted about Manakhah included Dusky Turtle Dove, Arabian Accentor, Yemen Thrush, Scrub Warbler *Scotocerca inquieta*, Brown Woodland Warbler, Shining Sunbird, Yemen Serin and Yemen Linnet.

Tihama

The coastal plain, known as the Tihama, is very arid although certain parts of the plain, particularly the northern and eastern parts, are cultivated. Birds noted along the roadside from the vicinity of Hais to Zabid are typical of the more cultivated parts of the Tihama and included: Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii*, Chanting Goshawk (quite numerous), Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* (of the subspecies *A.r. belisarius*), African Collared (or Pink-headed Turtle) Dove *S. roseogrisea*, Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*, Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*, Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus*, Black Bush Robin *Cercotrichas podobe* and Nile Valley Sunbird *Anthreptes metallicus*. Amongst desert scrub to west of Hais we came upon small flocks of Arabian Golden Sparrows *Passer euchlorus*. Between Hais and the coastal town of Al Khawkhah, in the desert, we saw several parties of Black-crowned Finch-larks *Eremopterix nigriceps* and there were several Hoopoe Larks *Alaemon alaudipes* and a few Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*.

Red Sea coast

We spent several days camping on the coast near Al Khawkhah where date palms *Phoenix* grew up to the shore. Amongst the palms were Nubian Nightjars *Caprimulgus nubicus*, Black-headed Bush Shrikes *Tchagra senegala* and African Silverbills *Euodice cantans* and very small numbers of migrant passerines. The shore was most interesting; at the town itself and a little to north were some small lagoons that held flocks of terns *Sterna* including Crested *S. bergii*, Lesser Crested *S. bengalensis*, White-cheeked *S. repressa* and Saunder's Little *S. saundersi*. Flocks of Sooty *Larus hemprichii* and White-eyed Gulls *L. leucophthalmus* and plenty of waders including Crab Plovers *Dromas ardeola* and Terek Sandpipers *Xenus cinereus* and a small flock of Lesser Golden Plovers *Pluvialis dominica*. Pink-backed Pelicans *Pelecanus rufescens* and Western Reef Herons *Egretta gularis* added to the variety of shorebirds. Offshore movements of seabirds included several Brown Boobies *Sula leucogaster* and a single Masked (or Blue-faced) *S. dactylatra*, distant feeding flocks of Audubon's (or Dusky) Shearwaters *Puffinus lherminieri* and Bridled Terns *S. anaethetus* and three Red-billed Tropicbirds *Phaethon aethereus*.

Endemics

The following 11 species are the Arabian endemics which can be seen in North Yemen and are mentioned in this short paper: Philby's Rock Partridge *Alectoris philbyi*, Arabian Red-legged Partridge *A. melanocephala*, Arabian Woodpecker *Dendrocopus dorae*, Arabian Accentor *Prunella fagani*, Yemen Thrush *Turdus menachensis*, Arabian Tit Warbler *Parisoma buryi*, Arabian Golden Sparrow *Passer euchlorus*, Arabian Waxbill *Estrilda rufibarba*, Arabian Canary *Serinus rothschildi*, Yemen Serin *S. menachensis* and Yemen Linnet *Carduelis yemenensis*.

Steve C. Madge, 1 Caudle Hill, Fairburn, Knottingley, West Yorkshire WF11 9JQ, England

RECENT REPORTS

This report on rare and interesting birds in the Netherlands and Flanders covers mainly the last two decades of January, February and the first two of March. The records included are largely unchecked, not authenticated. No claim for the completeness of this report is made. The Dutch and scientific names and their order correspond with the *Dutch Birding Association Checklist* (1980). The English names correspond with *The 'British Birds' list of birds of the Western Palearctic* (1978).

Divers

A Great Northern Diver/IJsduiker *Gavia immer* stayed near Oostvoorne (Zuid-Holland) from 7 until 12 January. Another was seen at the Eemshaven on 2 February and from 8 February onwards a Great Northern frequented Lauwersoog (Friesland).

Albatrosses through storm petrels

Winter records of Leach's Petrel/Vaal Stormvogeltje *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* are rare. The observation of one at Scheveningen (Zuid-Holland) on 14 January is therefore noteworthy.

Gannets through frigatebirds

A Shag/Kuifaalscholver *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* seen on De Maasvlakte (Zuid-Holland) on 17 January is so far the only one reported last winter.

Herons through ibisses

A Great White Egret/Grote Zilverreiger *Egretta alba* was observed in Friesland on 3 and 4 March at Oudega and on 14 March at Eernewoude.

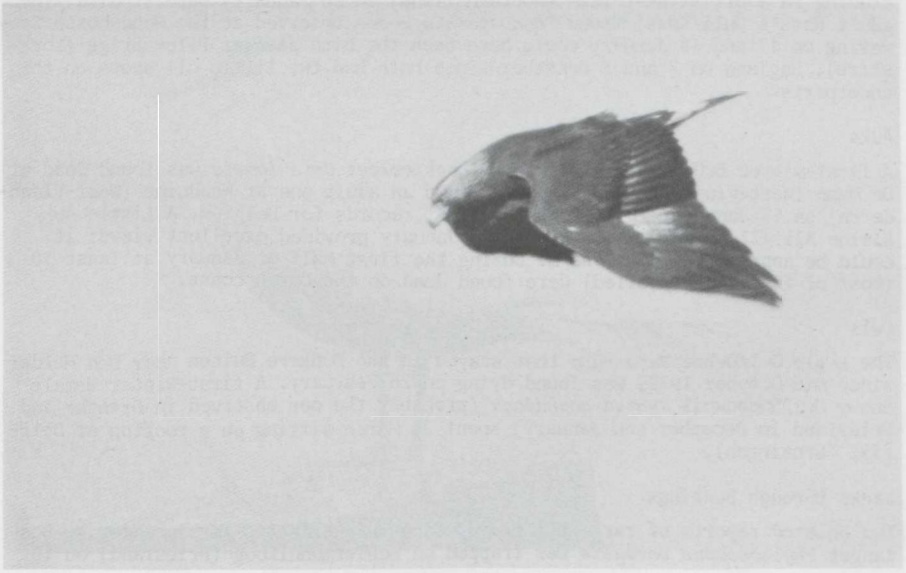
Ducks

Single Lesser White-fronted Geese/Dwergganzen *Anser erythropus* were regularly reported in Friesland (mainly in the triangle Makkum - Bolsward - Workum). White phase Snow Geese/Sneeuwganzen *A. caerulescens* were seen in the Mastenbroekpolder (Overijssel) throughout January and near Greonterp (Friesland) on 1 March. The blue phase bird of the Plaat van Scheelhoek (Zuid-Holland) was still present. Pale-breasted Brent Geese/Witbuikrotgans *Branta bernicla hrota* were seen at Wons (Friesland) on 25 January and in Zuidelijk Flevoland (Zuidelijke IJsselmeerpolders) on 7 February. An adult Black-breasted Brent Goose (Black Brant)/Zwartbuikrotgans *B.b. nigricans* was well studied on 16 February near Hee on Terschelling (Friesland). Two Red-breasted Geese/Roodhalsganzen *B. ruficollis* were seen in Oostelijk Flevoland (Zuidelijke IJsselmeerpolders) on 14 February. Possibly the same birds were observed near Lemmer (Friesland) on 7 March. A single Red-breasted was seen near Gaast (Friesland) on 17 March. A male Ferruginous Duck/Witooogeend *Aythya nyroca* was observed in Zuidelijk Flevoland on 16 and 18 February.

Sparrowhawks through falcons

An early Black Kite/Zwarte Wouw *Milvus migrans* was closely observed at Velsen (Noord-Holland) on 28 February. The Red Kite/Rode Wouw *M. milvus* which stayed at Amelisweerd (Utrecht) from 10 December onwards, was last seen on 11 January. During the second decade of March Red Kite numbers suddenly rose. Individuals were reported in Zuidelijk Flevoland on 13 March, on Texel (Noord-Holland), at Lemmer (Friesland) and at Leiden (Zuid-Holland) on 14 March and in the AW-duinen (Noord-Holland) on 15 March. On 21 March a bird was seen in the Alblasserwaard

9-10. Black-throated Diver/Parelduiker *Gavia arctica*, first-winter, Medemblik (Noord-Holland), January 1981 (*René Pop*); Golden Eagle/Steenarend *Aquila chrysaetos*, Zuidelijk Flevoland (Zuidelijke IJsselmeerpolders), March 1981 (*René Pop*)



(Zuid-Holland). A migrant group of 10 individuals was observed at the Haaselaarsbroek (Limburg). White-tailed Eagles/Zeearenden *Haliaeetus albicilla* were seen at Markelo (Overijssel) on 4 January, in the Ooypolder (Gelderland) from mid-January until 19 February, at Cromstrijen (Zuid-Holland) on 20 February and in the Oostvaardersplassen (Zuidelijke IJsselmeerpolders) area throughout the period. On 27 February an adult was observed in Zuidelijk Flevoland. An eagle present near Den Nul (Overijssel) from 12 January onwards and identified as a Golden Eagle/Steenarend *Aquila chrysaetos* turned out to be a White-tailed. The bird was joined by another White-tailed from 1 March onwards. An immature Golden Eagle was present along the Spiekweg in Zuidelijk Flevoland from 16 January onwards.

Oystercatchers through sandpipers

Grey Phalaropes/Rosse Franjepoten *Phalaropus fulicarius* were observed at IJmuiden (Noord-Holland) from 18 until 22 January and at Naaldwijk (Zuid-Holland) on 14 February.

Skuas through terns

Mediterranean Gulls/Zwartkopmeeuwen *Larus melanocephalus* were noted from mid-February onwards at their usual coastal sites: Scheveningen, Katwijk aan Zee (Zuid-Holland) and Hondsbosse Zeewering (Noord-Holland). Noteworthy, however, was the record of an adult at Markelo on 2 February. A second-winter Iceland Gull/Kleine Burgemeester *L. glaucoides* showed up at IJmuiden on 17 January and stayed until at least 5 March. On 24 February it was joined for a few hours by a first-winter bird. On 14 March a second-winter Iceland was observed at Lauwersoog. There were more than usual numbers of Glaucous Gulls/Grote Burgemeesters *L. hyperboreus*: four at Lauwersoog, two on Texel, one at Den Helder (Noord-Holland), two at IJmuiden, one at Scheveningen, two or three on De Maasvlakte and two at Oostende (West-Vlaanderen). Furthermore, one or two leucistis Herring Gulls/Zilvermeeuwen *L. argentatus* and two or three Herring x Glaucous Gulls (including an adult at Amsterdam (Noord-Holland) on 20 January) were studied. The adult Ross's Gull/Ross' Meeuw *Rhodostethia rosea* observed at the Hondsbosse Zeewering on 17 and 18 January could have been the bird seen at Filey Brigg (Yorkshire), England on 7 and 8 December since both had two little oil spots on the underparts.

Auks

A first-winter Brünnich's Guillemot/Dikbekzeekoet *Uria lomvia* was found dead at De Haan (West-Vlaanderen) on 4 January and an adult one at Wenduine (West-Vlaanderen) on 18 January. These were the first records for Belgium. A Little Auk/Kleine Alk *Alle alle* at IJmuiden on 25 January provided excellent views: it could be approached up to one m. During the first half of January at least 10 (most of them heavily oiled) were found dead on the Dutch coast.

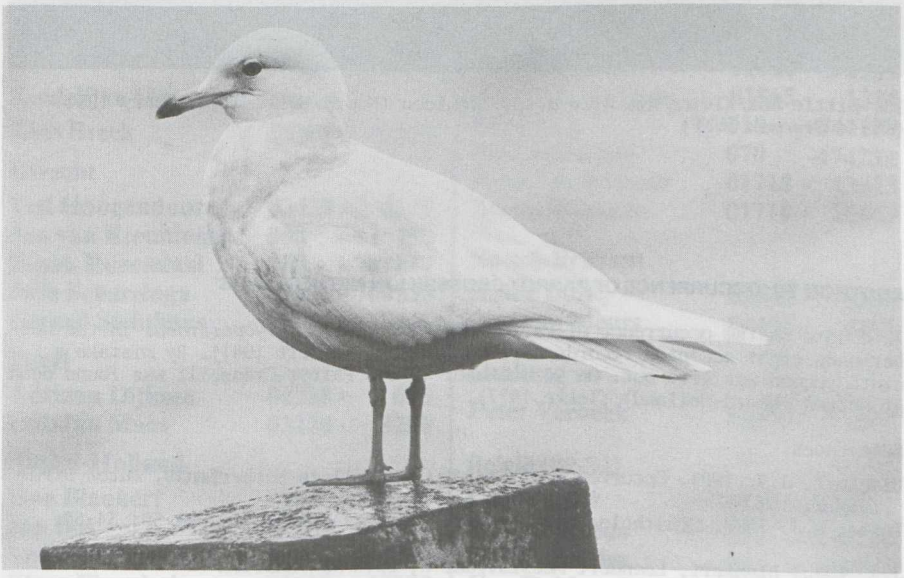
Owls

The Eagle Owl/Oehoe *Bubo bubo* that stayed in the Donkere Duinen near Den Helder since mid-October 1973, was found dying on 26 February. A first-winter female Snowy Owl/Sneeuwuil *Nyctea scandiaca* (probably the one observed in Drenthe and Friesland in December and January) spent 21 March sitting on a rooftop at Delfzijl (Groningen).

Larks through buntings

Two belated reports of rare *Phylloscopi* came in. An Arctic Warbler/Noordse Boszanger *Phylloscopus borealis* was trapped on Schiermonnikoog (Friesland) on 10

11-12. Grey Phalarope/Rosse Franjepoot *Phalaropus fulicarius*, IJmuiden (Noord-Holland), January 1981 (*Jan Mulder*); Iceland Gull/Kleine Burgemeester *Larus glaucoides*, second-winter bird, IJmuiden, January 1981 (*Hans Schouten*)



October. And a Pallas's Warbler/Pallas' Boszanger *P. proregulus* was trapped on 19 November in Het Zwin (West-Vlaanderen). An Alpine Chough/Alpenkauw *Pyrrhocorax graculus* was claimed by several observers near Retie (Antwerpen) from 13 until 16 March.

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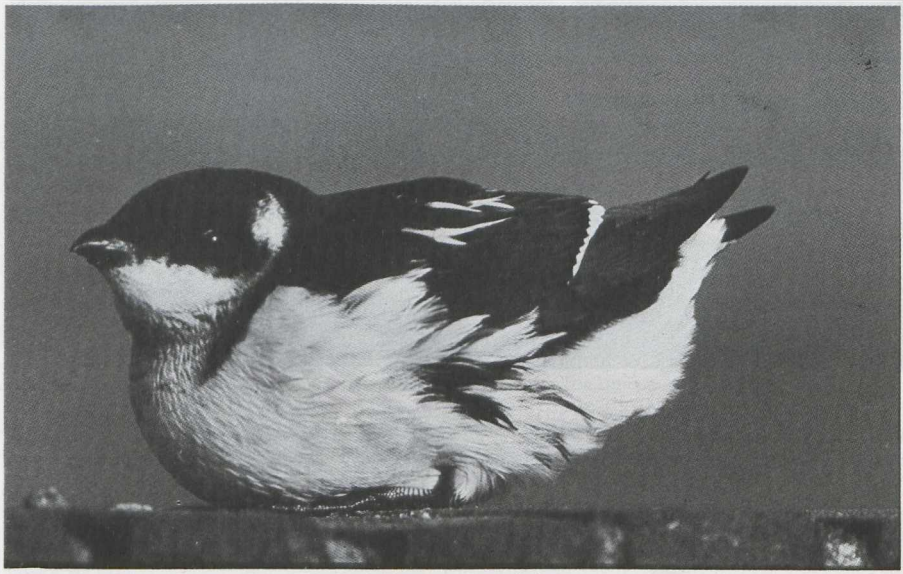

13. Little Auk/Kleine Alk *Alle alle*, IJmuiden (Noord-Holland), January 1981 (*Chris Steeman* BVNF)

ADDITION TO 'OCCURRENCE OF PARROT CROSSBILL IN NETHERLANDS'

In a note on the occurrence of Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus* in the Netherlands eight accepted records were mentioned (Blankert 1981). By mistake a ninth record was left out. On 10 December 1975 a Parrot Crossbill was found dead at Bergen (Noord-Holland) (Tekke 1977).

References

Blankert, J.J. 1981. Occurrence of Parrot Crossbill in Netherlands. *Dutch Birding* 2: 151.
Tekke, M.J. 1977. Ornithologie van Nederland 1974 en 1975. *Limosa* 50: 34-60.

J.J. (Han) Blankert, Leendert Meeszstraat 8, 2015 JS Haarlem

DBA-telefoonsysteem

In de onderstaande lijst staan de telefoonnummers vermeld van personen die deel uitmaken van het DBA-telefoonsysteem. Ze kunnen gewaarschuwd worden bij het waarnemen van een zeldzame vogel. Dit geldt ook bij waarnemingen van locaal of regionaal belang. Deelname aan het telefoonsysteem is vrijwillig en staat open voor iedereen.

Groningen

Egge Boerma	050 - 258286
HarmJan Wight	050 - 567533

Friesland

Trinus Haitjema	05142- 1708
Jan de Jong	05138- 4788
Meindert Swart	05120- 15932

Drenthe

Arend van Dijk	05215 - 331

Overijssel

Anton Conings	053 - 351300
Jowi de Roever	053 - 358703

Gelderland

Toon van Dijk	08894 - 2621
Kees Tiemstra	03455 - 2174

Zuidelijke IJsselmeerpolders

Kees Breek	03200 - 42375

Utrecht

Ted Hoogendoorn	03430 - 4521
Jan van Kreuningen	030 - 615493
Frank Rozendaal	030 - 781247
Jelle Scharringa	030 - 760230
Gerard Steinhaus	03404 - 17149

Texel

Adriaan Dijksen	02228 - 676
FritsJan Maas	02220 - 3236

Noord-Holland

Han Blankert	023 - 242132
Jan Bos	035 - 61011
JanJaap Brinkman	020 - 433079
Klaas Eigenhuis	02977 - 23238
Ronald Geskus	02550 - 22765
Hans ter Haar	020 - 457318
Kees Hazevoet	020 - 139599
Edward van IJzendoorn	020 - 727239
Joop Kooijman	02209 - 2084
Jan van der Laan	072 - 334023
Peter Meijer	02278 - 441
Jan Mulder	023 - 266124
Gerald Oreel	020 - 461278
Cock Reijnders	02518 - 50600
Kees Roselaar	020 -5222423
Kees Scharringa	072 - 330022
Rienk Slings	02510 - 40063
Joop Swaab	020 - 224944
Peter Zwitser	02518 - 55199

Zuid-Holland

Gijs van der Bent	01718 - 75186
Paul de Heer	010 - 747031
Peter de Knijff	01720 - 92186
Henk van der Lee	01865 - 1324
René Pop	010 -341128
Adri Remeeus	070 -474282
René van Rossum	01718 - 13523
Arend Wassink	01718 - 26463

Noord-Brabant

Hidde Bult	01645 - 3388
Rini van Meurs	04192 - 4165

Limburg

Peter Verbeek	04755 - 524

België (09-32)

Luc Matthé	014 - 218385
Hubert Meeus	014 - 415758
Sjef de Ridder	031 - 516935
Guy Robbrecht	052 - 301036

Engeland (09-44)

Steve Gantlett	0842 - 5854

Dutch Birding **Jaargang/Volume 3** **Nummer/Number 1** **Maart/March 1981**

1 Stichting Dutch Birding Association *Bestuur*

2 Some general problems of field identification *Lawrence G. Balch*

5 Reactie op 'Waarneming van Wenkbrauwalbatros in Nederland in october 1971' *Piet Meeth*

6 Second calendar-year White-billed Diver summered in Netherlands in 1980 *Edward J. van IJzendoorn*

9 On discovering Broad-billed Sandpipers in Netherlands *Gerald J. Oreel*

9 On Great Black-backed Gull with orange legs *Paul de Heer*

10 Over herkenning van onvolwassen Kleine en Kleinste Jager/On identification of immature Arctic and Long-tailed Skua *Edward J. van IJzendoorn & Paul de Heer*

13 Second-winter Iceland Gull at IJmuiden from January to March 1981 *Edward J. van IJzendoorn & Gerald J. Oreel*

16 Waarneming van Ross' Meeuw te Camperduin in januari 1981/Observation of Ross's Gull at Camperduin in January 1981 *Nick van der Ham*

18 On field identification of Common and Arctic Tern *Gerald J. Oreel*

19 Dunn's Lark in Israel in April 1980 *G.J. (Hans) ter Haar*

20 Record of Stoliczka's Whinchat in Rajasthan, India in August 1978 *Arnoud B. van den berg, Cecilia A. W. Bosman & Frank G. Rozendaal*

22 Partially albinistic Wheatears near Katwijk aan Zee in August 1980 *Gijs van der Bent*

23 Waarnemingen van Orpheusspotvogel in 1960 en 1968 ten onrechte aanvaard/Observations of Melodious Warbler in 1960 and 1968 wrongly accepted *Eduard R. Osieck*

25 Voorkomen van Orpheusspotvogel in Benelux/Occurrence of Melodious Warbler in Benelux *J.J. (Han) Blankert*

27 Loggerhead Shrike in Guatemala in December 1979 *Stefan Ericsson*

29 Birding in North Yemen *Steve C. Madge*

32 Recent reports *J.J. (Han) Blankert, Edward J. van IJzendoorn & Gerard H. Steinhaus*

36 Addition to 'Occurrence of Parrot Crossbill in Netherlands' *J.J. (Han) Blankert*

Exemplaren van de *Dutch Birding Association Veldlijst* kan men bestellen door overmaking van *f* 1,50 per stuk op postgirorekening 41 48 343 ten name van de Stichting Dutch Birding Association (Postbus 71927, 1008 EC Amsterdam).